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the Montrose Mirror

RE-1J ENROLLMENT CLIMBS AS IMMIGRANT STUDENTS ARRIVE; PARENTS ASK BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR CLEAR, FAIR, AND CONSISTENT RULES ON BULLYING AND SELF DEFENSE



Montrose High School Sophomore Kayla Braaten (and previous Montrose's Got Talent winner) sang for the Board of Education on Feb. 6. Meeting screenshot.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-The regular meeting of the Montrose County School District RE-1J Board of Education on Tuesday, Feb. 6 opened on a high note, with a fearless and enjoyable rendition of "I Could Have Danced All Night," (From the musical, *My Fair Lady*) by Montrose High School Sophomore Kayla Braaten.

"I just want to say, that's a great way to start a board meeting!" District A Director Neisha Balleck said of the performance, which was part of the monthly Student Spotlight.

Board President Sarah Fishing said, "This is a super awkward setting..."

[Continued pg 42](#)

GOLDEN SLEDGEHAMMER CEREMONY KICKS OFF COURTHOUSE RENOVATIONS

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE-On Monday, Feb. 5, 2024, Montrose County held the Golden Sledgehammer Ceremony to commemorate the start of renovations to the Historic 100-year-old Montrose County Courthouse. In a sidebar conversation prior to the ceremony, Montrose County Treasurer Rosemary Murphy shared bittersweet feelings. She said, "I've worked in this building for 25 years."

The more than 40 people in attendance included elected officials, county staff, and construction workers. Montrose County Commissioner Sue Hansen opened the ceremony, "We're here...a rebirth of this old building. This building represents a cycle of life [as it has] recorded birth certificates and death certificates. Doing this [event] as a commissioner is one of the highlights of my term."

Commissioner Keith Caddy said, "We've been waiting for this day for a long time. Stryker [Stryker & Co, Inc.] is a local company. It's very important to keep money local. This is a great day. This [courthouse] was a war memorial in the beginning. We're not having to incur any debt. We

[Continued pg 6](#)



On Monday, Feb. 5, Montrose County held the Golden Sledgehammer Ceremony which commemorated the start of renovations to the Historic County Courthouse. Following opening remarks from officials, Montrose County Commissioner Sue Hansen was given the honor of striking the first demolition blow. Still, damage to the sheetrock wall to the left of the electrical outlet was less than impressive. BOCC Chair Roger Rash said, "Sue, you hit the stud!" After other participants helped Hansen's first attempt at demolition look more respectable, she was determined to leave her own mark. She said, "Let me try it again!" Photo by Gail Marvel.

[Red Hawks Sports
with Cliff Dodge!](#)

[Proposed Zoning Change Draws
Crowd to Council meeting!](#)

[West Slope Poet Laureate Wendy Vidlock:
Valentine's Day Reminds us that love has many faces!](#)

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THE MONTROSE MIRROR

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We encourage contributions and commentary. Submitted content may not necessarily reflect the opinion of the publisher.

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ST. PATRICK'S DAY BREWFEST AND PARADE

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE—On Saturday, March 16 the Black Canyon Homebrewers Association & Horsefly Brewing are hosting a St. Patrick's Day Brewfest and Parade. Non-motorized Parade starts at 11:30am at Centennial Plaza in Montrose and ends at the festival site — Junction Avenue next to Horsefly Brewery. Parade participants will get \$5 off and early entry into the brewfest (12:30). Admission for the unlimited tasting brewfest will be \$35 beginning at 1pm and ending at 4pm. Non-drinkers and adults 18-20 will be admitted for \$20, accompanied children under 18 are admitted free. Music by Crazy Like a Fox and food options will be available for purchase. For more information email info@blackcanyonbrewers.com.

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LOCAL CANDIDATE BIOS-BIG LOU STARK



Big Lou Stark Courtesy photo.

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-I am Lou Stark. American. Born and raised in Western Colorado.

I am Republican. I believe in fiscal conservatism and limited government. I am committed

to ensuring that every tax dollar is spent wisely, prioritizing the safety and well-being of our communities above all else. From maintaining essential infrastructure to supporting law enforcement.

I am a businessman. At 18 I became the youngest bondsman in the State of Colorado. I have owned and operated small businesses, driven not by monetary gain but by the desire to overcome challenges and help those around me prosper. Currently I am the Program Director for Western Slope Communications.

As Commissioner, my objective is to serve as a faithful steward of our tax dollars, ensuring that every penny is respected.

Government exists to serve the people, not the other way around.

I make decisions guided by logic and reason, right and wrong. Not a profit margin or lining my pockets.

I will be your voice. To listen more than speak. To engage conversation with open dialogue and ensure your voice is heard

and understood.

In Western Colorado we know we have to amplify our voices to be heard in Denver. I intend to do just that.

I am driven by helping people succeed.

As I approach 50 without a family of my own, I am committed to making Montrose County my purpose.

I will own no business and have no side job. You will be my purpose and this County will be my family.

I am running for commissioner to defend our way of life and to ensure what makes this County great is not tread upon. From the West End to Olathe, let us work towards a Montrose County that prospers while remembering who we are and where we came from.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve.



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GOLDEN SLEDGEHAMMER CEREMONY KICKS OFF COURTHOUSE RENOVATIONS

From pg 1

saved up our money. We're going to do it."

Scott Stryker, President and owner of Stryker & Co, introduced his team and thanked local entities (City of Montrose, Delta Montrose Electric Association, engineering and design firms, etc.).

Stryker read an account that had been published during the original construction of the courthouse. He said, "This was built with Montrose home products — lumber, sandstone, bricks, sand, and gravel. Home products and home people [local labor]."

Stryker noted that the same resolve will be carried over into the renovations. He said, "Five percent of the project, about \$800,000, is outside contracts (i.e. elevator, doors). Seven percent, about \$1 M, goes to Grand Junction. Eighty-two percent goes to Montrose contractors and subcontractors."

Stryker employs 26 locals and they, along with their families, contribute to the community financially. He said, "The Montrose spirit is here. Thank you for your confidence and trusting Stryker and Company [with this project]."

Commissioner Roger Rash said, "I am so grateful for all the work of our staff and that we will actually get to be in this building. This was a monumental task. This is



For years county employees have put maintenance Band-Aids on the historic courthouse. Following a huge swing and imbedding his sledgehammer into the sheetrock, County Manager John Waschbush walked away with a sense of satisfaction, "I have some emotional issues with this building!" Photo by Gail Marvel.

wonderful to kick-off to this project. What a big day. Wow!

Hansen was given the honor to strike the first demolition blow. Unfortunately, she

made a direct hit on a stud and the blow hardly marred the sheetrock. After other participants had taken their turn Hansen said, "Let me try it again!"



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

COUNCIL, STAFF PRESENT STATE OF THE CITY EVENT

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE — The City of Montrose will host a State of The City presentation to present Montrose residents with a current assessment of city operations and give locals the opportunity to engage with City representatives from every department. The State of The City will be held from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 26, at the Montrose Pavilion located at 1800 Pavilion Dr. City leadership will deliver a presentation from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. which will cover some of the most important issues facing the Montrose community.

The event is open to the public. "We are very excited to host this 1st Annual State of the City Presentation for our

community," said City Manager Bill Bell. "This event gives our Montrose residents an opportunity to share in our accomplishments from the prior year and to learn about a few of our major projects for the upcoming year."

Following the presentation, each department will host tables where residents are encouraged to ask questions and receive informative materials about how each department operates and how each department is staffed. City staff representing Finance and Utility Billing, Police Department, Water, Sewer and Wastewater Treatment, the City Clerk's office, Public Works, Human Resources, Information Technology (IT), Community Development, Development and Revitalization Team

(DART), Guest Relations, Engineering, and from the Montrose Urban Renewal Authority (MURA) will be on hand and available to speak with residents.

"City Staff are looking forward to gathering and talking with residents during the open house portion of the evening," said Deputy City Manager Ann Morgenthau. "We hope to see habitually engaged citizens as well as residents who are learning about City activities for the first time."

Members of the Montrose City Council will also be in attendance.

Anyone looking for a career with the City of Montrose is welcome to visit the Human Resources table to view new and current employment opportunities.

Refreshments will be provided.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE REPUBLICAN WOMEN TO HOST BROWN BAG LUNCH WITH LOCAL POLICE

Montrose Republican Women

Friday, February 16th monthly lunch program and meeting

Noon - 1:30pm at Montrose Hampton Inn

All are invited to hear Olathe Chief of Police Frank Rodriquez and Montrose Police discuss sex trafficking and other criminal activities in our area.

Brown bag lunch.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

SPECIAL MOVIE SCREENING AT FOX THEATER

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

COLORADO ENERGY & CARBON MANAGEMENT COMMISSION ANNOUNCES CUMULATIVE IMPACTS NOTICE OF RULEMAKING

Special to the Mirror

DENVER - The Colorado Energy and Carbon Management Commission (ECMC) announced the Notice of Rulemaking for Cumulative Impacts has been submitted to the Secretary of State. The Commission is mandated by HB 23-1249 to conduct a rulemaking on Cumulative Impacts by April 28, 2024.

"We are excited to have formally started the Cumulative Impacts Rulemaking by filing with the Secretary of State," said ECMC Deputy Director Mimi Larsen. "ECMC incorporated feedback received from all stakeholders, over the past year, which has been critical to inform this rulemaking and draft cumulative impacts rules. ECMC is looking forward to working alongside stakeholders in this rulemaking process in order to further its mission of protecting public health, safety, welfare, wildlife and the environment."

Cumulative Impacts Timeline:

Feb. 8, 2024: Formal Notice of Rulemaking submitted to the Secretary of State with revised draft rules.

Mid-April: An evening and a daytime public comment session will be held by the Commission on the proposed Cumulative Impact rules

April 22-26: Rulemaking Hearing.

Cumulative Impacts Rulemaking Info:

All Rulemaking information can be found under "Hearings/ Rulemaking" tabs. This will be updated periodically as new information becomes available.

Want to be involved? Learn how to provide comments or receive notifications about

rulemakings and hearings:

Email: dnr_ecmc@state.co.us. Be sure to include "Cumulative Impacts" in the email subject.

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Paid for by the Committee to Elect
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The Montrose County Democratic Party is conducting a food and cash donation drive from **February 7 through March 8, 2024**. 100% of the proceeds will be given to **Kids Aid Montrose***.

Your donations will help them in their vital work in ensuring that Montrose County public school children have food for the weekends.

These specific items are requested for the most benefit and ease of preparation:



- Ready to eat tuna/ham/chicken salad with crackers and spoon
- Easy mac-n-cheese single-serving size or boxes
- Soups, individual cups or cans, or Ramen noodles
- Cans of tuna or chicken
- Fruit cups or applesauce
- Single-serving spaghetti, SpaghettiOs, ravioli or chili
- Granola bars or cereal bars

Donations are gratefully accepted on Wednesday through Friday from 10 AM to 4 PM at the Montrose County Democratic Headquarters, 1500 East Main in Montrose. They are located next to Buckaroos Pizza.

Checks made out to **Kids Aid Montrose** may be mailed to:

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* Kids Aid Montrose is a ministry of Common Ground Montrose, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. For more details, visit kidsaidmontrose.com.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

NEW STUDY SHOWS MONTROSE REGIONAL HEALTH ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION TOTALED MORE THAN \$720 MILLION BETWEEN 2019-2022

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE – Montrose Regional Health's economic contribution totaled over \$720 million to the state between 2019-2022, according to a new report.

The study, performed by the Leeds School of Business at the University of Colorado Boulder, reviewed the labor and capital portfolio of multiple hospitals in Colorado and how it translates to local expenditures on other local goods and services. Other hospitals who participated in the study include:

- Animas Surgical Hospital, Durango
- Vail Health, Vail
- San Luis Valley Health, Durango
- Valley View Hospital, Glenwood Springs
- Community Hospital, Grand Junction

All hospitals evaluated in the study are members of the Western Healthcare Alliance, whose committee coordinated the study.

Between 2019 and 2022, the economic impact of these member hospitals totaled an estimated \$6.8 billion in economic output and contributed \$3.8 billion to the state's GDP. In 2022, they generated \$1.9 billion in economic output and contributed \$1 billion to the state's GDP. As some of the largest employers in their communities, these hospitals directly employed

6,150 employees and supported an additional 4,724 employees in the state in 2022.

Highlights from the study include:

In 2022 alone, Montrose Regional Health's economic contribution to the state totaled \$207.4 million

Between 2019-2022, Montrose Regional Health's economic contribution to the state totaled \$724.9 million

Montrose Regional Health directly employed 622 workers and supported an additional 594 (for a total of 1,216 jobs over the year) in 2022

Every \$1 spent directly within Montrose Regional Health produces an overall economic impact of approximately \$1.90 in the state.

"Montrose Regional Health is proud of all the ways we support our communities," said Jeff Mengenhause, CEO of Montrose Regional Health. "As we continue to add services, locations and caregivers, we expect that economic impact and benefit to continue to grow for our region. We are honored to invest in our caregivers, invest in great care and invest in the lives of those in Montrose and our surrounding communities."

"Hospitals invariably have a positive impact on health in rural communities. This



Montrose Regional Health courtesy photo.

study focuses on their impact to rural economies," said Brian Lewandowski, Executive Director of the Business Research Division at Leeds School of Business. "The impact of these rural hospitals stems largely from their local employment base, as well as from the other local businesses that supply goods and services to these hospitals."

Over 93 percent of the total economic impact generated by independent hospitals in Colorado is generated in rural counties.

The impact of independent rural hospitals for local economies is imperative to keep healthcare local in the communities thousands call home in our beautiful state.

View the full study and individual hospital findings at MontroseHealth.com/Study.



ANONYMOUS

Download The APP. **P3TIPS** 

**MONTROSE REGIONAL
CRIME STOPPERS**

see something, say something

READER PHOTO SPOTLIGHT: DEB REIMANN



Deb snapped this photo of Heart Mountain, near Lake City.

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**ELECT RICK
DUNLAP**

For
**MONTROSE COUNTY COMMISSIONER
District #3**

**FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE & COMMITTED
TO ALL OF MONTROSE COUNTY**

I Need Your Support!

The first step is going through the Montrose County Caucus and Assembly.

1. **Show up to the Republican Caucus** on Thursday, March 7, 2024 at 5:30-8:30PM at Montrose High School Cafeteria and become a delegate to the Republican County Assembly.
2. **All delegates need to be present for the County Assembly** on Saturday, March 23, 2024 at Centennial Middle School Gym at 8AM-3PM.
3. **Cast your vote for Rick Dunlap**, Montrose County Commissioner for District 3.

NOTE: All delegates will be voting for Districts #1 AND #3.

Thank You!

Professional Service

- 28 years Law Enforcement, Retired (including 3 terms as the Montrose County Sheriff)
- Past President of County Sheriffs of Colorado
- 21 years U.S. Army, Retired - Awarded Bronze Star

Volunteer Service to Montrose Community

- Current President of West Montrose Sanitation District
- Current Board Member for Welcome Home Alliance for Veterans
- Current Board Member of Grace Community Church
- Past Montrose County Fair Board Member
- Past Volunteer Firefighter - Montrose Fire Protection District
- Past Member of Montrose County Sheriff's Posse
- Past Board Member CASA of the 7th Judicial District

More About Rick

- Associates Degree in Business Management
- Married to my wife, Karen, for 52 years
- Proud father of 3 sons, with 8 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren
- Resident of Montrose County for 42 years.

VOTE FOR PROVEN LEADERSHIP!

PAID FOR BY COMMITTEE TO ELECT RICK DUNLAP



The poster features a dark background with a grid pattern. At the top, there are two large blue stars with white dots, flanking a central logo for 'MONTROSE BLACK CANYON ROTARY' which includes a blue silhouette of a mountain. Below the logo is a large, stylized yellow and red star. A blue arc of smaller white stars connects the top corners to the central star. Below the central star are four playing card symbols: a red diamond, a black club, a black spade, and a red heart. The entire graphic is framed by a red and gold border with white dots. The text 'CASINO NIGHT' is in large, yellow, serif font. Below it, 'FRIDAY FEBRUARY 23' is in red, '6-10PM' is in red, and 'MONTROSE PAVILION' is in red. A yellow box contains the text '\$25 PER PERSON'. At the bottom, there is a section with yellow text on a black background, followed by red text on a black background.

**MONTROSE
BLACK CANYON
ROTARY**

CASINO NIGHT

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 23

6-10PM

MONTROSE PAVILION

\$25 PER PERSON

TICKET PRICE INCLUDES "\$100" IN GAMING CHIPS. CASH BAR AVAILABLE. PRIZE FOR MOST CHIPS AT END OF NIGHT AND CHANCE TO WIN RAFFLE FOR EVERYONE!

21 YEARS OR OLDER

PROCEEDS GO TOWARDS BC ROTARY HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP FUND & INTERACT BELIZE PROJECT

BOCC CONTINUES TWO MINOR SUBDIVISIONS; CITIZEN ASKS COUNTY TO DECLARE 2ND AMENDMENT SANCTUARY

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-As Chair of the Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC), Roger Rash called the regular meeting to order on Wednesday, Feb. 7; Commissioner Sue Hansen led all in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

Pastor Garrett Agajanian of St Stephens Anglican Church delivered the invocation. "Heavenly Father...Thank you for our lives...thank you for the ability to be involved in useful work and for the honor of bearing appropriate responsibilities. Thanks as well for the freedom to embrace you and the privilege of living in freedom..."

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Brian White addressed the board; White said that he was there to petition commissioners.

"I would like to see you do a sanctuary city in our county under the Second Amendment, that this is a Second Amendment county. The other thing I would like to petition you on, is that I'd like you to make a petition that this is not a Sanctuary City as is happening in our country today. A good example is Denver, Colorado and what they're going through."

White shared information about Denver and about New York City, "These people coming across our border are...aliens to our country...please, we need to do something right here in this county...to indicate that this is not a sanctuary for these people...we're paying for that...I feel sorry for

these people, but this is our country, that's our border down there. We have the same at the northern border now too...they're good people, probably a lot of them...but we can't afford this. Who's going to pay for this?

"Right now, the inflation in our country is crazy, and it's going to get worse..."

COUNTY MANAGER

Assistant County Manager Emily Sanchez had no changes to the meeting agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda items were approved unanimously, with Resolution No. 09-2024 assigned to Item 16 and Resolution No. 10 assigned to Item 30.

GENERAL BUSINESS & ADMINISTRATIVE ITEM

Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the Chair's signature on the General Contract with East Island Aviation Services, Inc for the design, fabrication, and delivery of a patented, genuine FX passenger walkway system.

The system will include FX (fixed) sections, and all anchor components for a total cost of \$250,450.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Planning Director Tallmadge Richmond presented the Waterfront Way Minor Subdivision [MI21-058] proposal to divide 4.33 acre into three lots at Parcel 376720308004. Applicant Mark Covington was present to discuss the proposal, a representative of the HOA, Patty Hill, was present as well. Neighbor Beverly Farley

spoke to express concerns. After some discussion, commissioners voted to continue the item.

"I think we need a finalized plat if we're going to approve it,"

BOCC Vice Chair Keith Caddy said. The Waterfront Way Minor Subdivision [MI21-058] proposal to divide 4.33 acre into three lots at Parcel 376720308004 was continued until Feb. 21.

Also continued until Feb. 21 was the Bal-lantyne Minor Subdivision [MI21-059] proposal to divide a 6.11 acre parcel into three lots at Parcel 376720308003.

Commissioners voted to approve the three remaining minor subdivisions, including:

-Odneal Minor Subdivision [MI23-029] proposal to divide 40 acres into three lots at Parcel 349731200009;

- Avanti Uno Minor Subdivision [MI23-034] proposal to divide two lots from 40.50 acres at Parcel 376525100026; and

- High Point View Minor Subdivision [MI23-035] proposal to divide three lots from 31.890 at Parcel 376509105001.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



Brian White addressed the board during the public comment period. Meeting screenshot.

SEE SOMETHING - SAY SOMETHING



970-249-8500

ANONYMOUS CALL

MONTROSE REGIONAL CRIME STOPPERS



LOT #815 • \$185,000

- 1,500 Sq. Ft.
- Corner Lot Adjacent Cul-de-Sac
- 3 Bedroom, 2 Bathroom
- Vaulted Ceilings
- Separate Living Room, Dining Room, and Entertainment Area
- Master Bath has Double Vanity and Walk-In Shower



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MEDC's 2024 Annual Meeting Luncheon!

March 7, 2024 (Thursday) at the Montrose Pavilion
located at 1800 E. Pavilion Place, Montrose, CO 81401



Caring for you like family.

Keynote Speaker:
Jeff Mengenhausen
CEO - Montrose Regional Health

"Navy SEAL's approach to Creative Business Growth"

"Find out why Montrose Regional Health is growing so fast, where they are going and the positive economic impact to our community. Also, discuss how the Navy SEAL approach on creative endurance will elevate any business."

\$45 for Investors * \$55 for Non-Investors

RSVP by 3-1-24: patriciac@MontroseEDC.org or (970) 249-9438

Check-in begins at 11:30 a.m. - Plated Lunch & Program - 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.
(Catered by the Stone House)



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Montrose Business Times

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

BRUCE'S SMALL ENGINE JOINS U-HAUL DEALER NETWORK

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE — U-Haul Co. of Colorado is pleased to announce that Bruce's Small Engine signed on as a U-Haul® neighborhood dealer to serve the Montrose community.

Bruce's Small Engine at 3000 Aerotech Place, Unit A will offer essential services like U-Haul trucks, trailers, towing equipment, moving supplies, and in-store pickup for boxes.

Normal business hours are 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday. Reserve U-Haul products at this dealer location by calling (970) 249-8137 or visiting <https://www.uhaul.com/Locations/Truck-Rentals-near-Montrose-CO-81401/047527/> today.

Bruce's Small Engine partners Bruce and Jennifer Koehn are proud to team with the industry leader in do-it-yourself moving and self-storage to better meet the demands of Montrose County.

U-Haul has teamed with independent dealers to offer rental equipment to do-it-yourself movers since 1945. During these challenging times for small businesses, more than 21,000 dealers across the U.S. and Canada are generating supplemental income through their U-Haul affiliation. When customers rent from a U-Haul dealer, they are directly supporting an independent small business in their community.



Photo courtesy Bruce's Small Engine.



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www.IntegratedDermatologyofMontrose.com



The Mirror

now weekly

Making sure readers don't bury their heads in the sand.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

AVALANCHE MITIGATION WORK MONDAY, FEB. 12



Special to the Mirror

SAN MIGUEL COUNTY-Avalanche mitigation work will take place in two locations, Monday, February 12. Ophir Road (County Road D65) will be closed at 8:30 a.m. for load reduction work and debris clearance. Ajax Peak will be bombed at 3:30 p.m. The area in the far east end of the Telluride valley will reopen at 5:30 p.m.



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Mosaic Montrose
21 N. Cascade Ave.



5:30-7:30 pm, Thur., March 21

Beginning Watercolor



Step-by-step instructions to paint a beautiful watercolor San Juan Mountains scene. No experience necessary. Everything included plus a drink. \$45 (\$40 with discount)

with Kate Burke



Register in store or online <https://kathrynrburke.com/product/032124m>

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

THE BEAT OF A DIFFERENT DRUM

Editor:

In her 1967 song, Different Drum, Linda Ronstadt sings about a relationship. A relationship that is not working for her, one that needs to do things differently.

I liken that song to the relationship the Montrose City Council has with its constituents. Those of us who reside here certainly see things different than council which to paraphrase the song - cries and moans, and says it will work out."

In a pre-article commentary, Jeremy Morrison (Editor of MDP), talks about the City's zeal for investing tax payer dollars or other public funds in private enterprise – restaurant kitchens. He poses the question, should the City pitch in?

I say NO! While it's difficult to argue against the need for more options for dining, it's easy to argue against local govern-

ment risking tax dollars on private enterprise, particularly high-risk businesses such as restaurants. Afterall, "The National Restaurant Association estimates a 20% success rate for all restaurants. About 60% of restaurants fail in their first year of operation, and 80% fail within 5 years of opening."

Our current mayor as well the former, Dave Frank, try to convince the citizenry of the success of their investment endeavor. In March of 2023 I met with Frank to discuss the abundance of tax revenue brought in by the City and a means to fairly redistribute that wealth to the residents of the City – a tax holiday. He argued it would be too cumbersome for the merchants. I disagreed. We also discussed the risk of investing tax dollars toward private enterprise. He argued, in general, tax reve-

nues were up because of local policies. I countered revenues were up due to post Covid inflation. He had no response.

In my opinion it is not government's responsibility to promote the welfare of private enterprise. Government's responsibility is to ensure the well-being of its constituents.

The City needs to focus on infrastructure and to supply clean water (which it does through the water fund). If it continues to exceed revenue expectations then it should follow the spirit of TABOR and re-fund the excesses. If that is too cumbersome then invest the excess funds in the Public Schools.

I really don't expect the City to listen to the public. Perhaps I and those that are like minded need to beat a larger drum.

Dave Stockton, Montrose



Membership Drive

One of 11 Original 1936 National Charters

Educating Women in Good Governance

Awarding High School Educational Scholarships

Supporting Republican Officials & Candidates

Celebrating American Ideals & Traditions

Join Our Team!

**Get Involved
Sign Up**



Yearly Membership Dues for Women: \$30

- Women receive news and information from our local chapter, the Colorado and National Federation of Republican Women

All Members can enjoy:

- Monthly meetings, activities and events
- Actively educating ourselves and the community
- Being on the frontline of political issues
- Conducting programs for elected officials & candidates
- Participating in community events
- Reaching out and educating young Republicans
- Volunteering and supporting charitable organization

Contact Kerri 970-209-5170 or

Bring dues to our monthly program - 3rd Friday, Noon-130p - Hampton Inn Montrose

GEORGIA RAE

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**HEALTHY
RHYTHM**
ART GALLERY

3.21.24

**\$15 ADVANCED
\$20 DAY OF SHOW
TICKETS AT
HEALTHYRHYTHM.NET**

**DOORS 7:00
SHOW 7:30**



Georgia Rae performs solo, alone on stage with a pedal board and some fancy footwork. She loops the tracks right in front of you and builds each song into flight with beautiful sounds, grooving bass lines, and mystic fiddle solos. Come looking to answer your curiosities and leave inspired and full of creativity.

Montrose County REPUBLICAN

CAUCUS

Caucus is the Colorado grassroots electoral process to become a delegate, to elect candidates to political offices, and become a member of the Republican Central Committee

Thursday, March 7th

Montrose High School Cafe

600 So Selig Ave - parking in stadium lot

6:00p - 7:00p Registration

7:00p Precinct Caucus

Come meet Candidates and find out more

- ◆ Pre-register, find your precinct,
& find your caucus location

caucus.cologop.org

For more info: 970-596-5504



West End Caucus for Precinct 1 only - Nucla Community Center
1045 Main St., Nucla

GOP COUNTY ASSEMBLY - Sat March 23rd - 8 am

Delegates must be registered by 8:45a

Or Alternate delegates will be assigned

Centennial Middle School Gym - 1100 S. 5th Montrose

- ◆ Delegates/Alternates please bring \$25 cash or check

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DELTA HEALTH RECOGNIZES COMPASSIONATE NURSES WITH DAISY AWARD



Special to the Mirror

DELTA— Seventeen nurses at Delta Health were honored with nominations for The DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses® to recognize the extraordinary, compassionate nursing care they provide patients and families every single day.

The fourth quarter's DAISY nominees were Anna Wiltse, RN, David Broadhead, RN, Courtney Castle, RN, Mindy Smith, RN, Scott Hammerich, RN, Jason Birchem, RN, Pam Bean, RN, Andrea Wood, RN, Arienne Huff, RN, Sierra Mathias, RN, Amber Ham, RN, Mercedes Zunich, RN, Carol Swingle, RN, Jan Humphrey, RN, Lyndsie Spine, RN, Stephanie Looney, RN and Isabel Portillo, RN.

The overall DAISY Award winner for the fourth quarter of 2023 was Stephanie Looney, RN in Delta Health's Labor and Delivery unit, Stork's Landing. "Stephanie is such an amazing part of the team at Stork's Landing and we are so proud of her for receiving this recognition. She provides knowledgeable and kindhearted care to all of her laboring mothers, their newborn infants, and the families that support them." Jan Humphrey, RN OB Director.

"Stephanie really made an impact on us during our stay at Delta Hospital. She made us feel supported and empowered during our first baby delivery. She trusted our birth plan, gave us space, and responded to our

questions with very knowledgeable answers. She was selfless, doing what we wanted and needed without reserve. She showed passion for her job, keeping us calm throughout, even during the more challenging moments. She was the perfect support partner during the hardest moment of our lives. Thank you so much Stephanie."

The award is part of the DAISY Foundation's mission to recognize nurses who go above and beyond in the care of their patients. Nurses may be nominated by patients, families, and colleagues, and the quarterly DAISY award recipient is chosen through a select Daisy Committee and DCMH's T.E.A.M. M.A.S.H through a scoring rubric recognizing the nurses

P.E.T.A.L.S., (Passion, Empathy, Trust, Admirable attributes, Love and Selflessness). Applications are blinded to these committees and scored.

Awards are then presented four times throughout the year to celebrate the nominees.

"The DAISY Awards are a great tradition that we are proud to continue here at Delta Health," said Dawn Arnett, RN, BSN, Director of In-Patient Services at Delta Health. "Each nominee is a model for what it means to provide compassionate, quality healthcare that our community trusts. They go above and beyond and we are honored to have the DAISY program where we can honor all of our amazing staff."

The certificate that each honoree receives commends her or him as an "Extraordinary Nurse." The certificate reads: "In deep appreciation of all

you do, who you are, and the incredibly meaningful difference you make in the lives of so many people." Honorees also receive a DAISY Award pin and a beautiful and meaningful sculpture called A Healer's Touch, hand-carved by artists of the Shona Tribe in Zimbabwe. To nominate a nurse for a DAISY Award, go online to deltahealth-co.org/bee-daisy-awards/ and submit a digital nomination form.

Nomination forms can also be found throughout the hospital.

DELTA HEALTH PRIMARY CARE CLINICS ARE NOW OFFERING

ANNUAL WELL-CHILD VISITS



To get the most out of your time with the health care team during the visit, take a few simple steps to prepare.

HOW TO PREPARE FOR THE WELL-CHILD VISIT

- 1** Make notes about what you've noticed about your child's health and development. Include any changes in behavior or family routines.
- 2** Write a list of questions. You will have time to ask them during your visit. If you have many questions, ask the most important ones first and plan for another time for a longer discussion. Encourage your teen to ask questions about his/her own health.
- 3** Gather information that might be helpful for your health care professional. Share information from school or child care to help your health care professional learn more about your child.



CALL YOUR HOMETOWN CLINIC TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT

FAMILY MEDICINE
970.874.5777

DELTA HEALTH PEDIATRICS
970.546.4000

WEST ELK HOTCHKISS
970.872.1400

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DISTRICTS 1, 2, AND 5 ARE UP FOR ELECTION THIS YEAR ON DMEA BOARD

Special to the Mirror

REGIONAL-Delta-Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) is your member-owned rural electric cooperative. It is governed by a nine-member, democratically-elected board of directors. Every year, members must elect three local representatives to serve on the board. These board members guide the strategic direction of DMEA, set policies, and make decisions in the members' best interests. Districts 1, 2, and 5 are up for election this year. Members with a primary residence in one of these areas can submit a nomination petition to run for the board. To confirm if your primary residence is within one of these districts, call [877-687-3632](tel:877-687-3632) or visit dmea.com/service-area. Starting March 4, 2024, visit dmea.com/selfnomination to begin your nomination petition.

Once your membership is confirmed, you can access your nomination form and signature petition. Complete the form and

collect at least 15 member signatures. Submit your nomination petition and signatures by April 7, 2024. A complete list of director qualification requirements can be found in DMEA's Bylaws, Article 4, Section 4.3 at dmea.com/bylaws.
 Be 21 years of age or older
 Be a member of DMEA in their individual capacity
 Cannot be a DMEA employee within the past 3 years
 Cannot be employed by DMEA/Elevate within 3 years of leaving the board
 Cannot be a relative of a DMEA/Elevate employee
 Cannot be convicted of or plead guilty/no contest to a crime within the past 5 years
 Cannot have filed bankruptcy within the past three years
 Cannot be a party to any contract for profit with DMEA
 Must comply with DMEA's Conflict of Interest Policy

This year, you'll be able to vote online for your board representatives. Here's what you need to know.

SmartHub: Starting May 3, all eligible voters will see a 'Vote Now' button in their secure SmartHub account. To access your electronic ballot, simply click the button, cast your vote, and submit.

Web Portal: If you have an email address registered to your DMEA account, you will receive an email with your unique secure link. To access your ballot, click the link, enter the credentials provided in your email, and cast your vote. Be on the lookout for an email from noreply@directvote.net and add it to your contacts!

You will still receive a mailed ballot and can return your vote by mail. If you prefer voting in person, be sure to attend the Annual Meeting on June 6 - stay tuned for details! Remember, you can only vote once, and only your first ballot cast will be counted if you submit multiple ballots.

Your representative form of government starts at your County Caucus and then to the County Assembly. In this critical election year, sitting on the sidelines allows someone else to decide who represents you in County, State, and Federal Government.

SUPER TUESDAY

Tuesday, March 5, 2024 • Colorado Presidential Primary Election

MONTROSE COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY CAUCUS

Thursday, March 7, 2024 • Registration starting at 5:30 PM
 Montrose High School Cafeteria for all Precincts except Precinct 1
 Naturita Community Center for Precinct 1

MONTROSE COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY ASSEMBLY

Saturday, March 23, 2024 • Credentialing starts at 8:00 AM
 Centennial Middle School Gym for all Montrose County

**SCOTT
RIBA FOR**

970-596-9998

scott@scottformontrose.com

MONTROSE COUNTY COMMISSIONER
 Paid for by the Committee to Elect Scott Riba Montrose County Commissioner

LOCAL CANDIDATE BIOS: SCOTT RIBA



in Agricultural Plant Science from California State University Fresno, specializing in plant pathology. He also holds an Associate of Science in Forestry/Natural Resources from Reedley College. In college, Scott earned a place on the Dean's List for Academic Achievement many times. He has completed coursework toward a Master of Business Admin-

istration and chaired the FFA Plant Judging Competition and the FFA Forest Surveying competition in College.

To pay for college and support his family, Scott learned horseshoeing at a Regional Occupational Program (ROP) in Clovis CA. He provided farrier services to horse owners for several years while in college, working on everything from backyard hobby horses and ponies to performance horses. Prior to graduation, Scott was offered and began working for an international agricultural chemical company as a Product Specialist. His education and experience lead to serving on the management team of a \$700,000,000 international ag chemical company and a start-up ag bio-technology company.

Scott started a crop diagnostic and agronomy service assisting ag producers with aircraft based remote sensing and field research of various crops. His company also provided agronomic investigations for crop insurance companies. This agricultur-

al experience led to him and Linda opening their own insurance agency in Montrose in 2008, specializing in farm properties and business.

Scott's community involvement includes being appointed by the Montrose County Commissioners to the County Fair Board and the County Weed Commission- no, not that kind of weed, *noxious* weeds. He worked as a volunteer firefighter/EMT in California and volunteer firefighter for the Montrose Fire Protection District earning a Firefighter I and II certification. He was also appointed to the Montrose Downtown Development Authority, serving as a Board Member and Chair. He and Linda served on the Montrose Chapter of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and were past Annual Banquet Chairs.

Scott has been active in the political process in Colorado with the Colorado Republican Party. He has served the Montrose County Republican Party as a Precinct Committee Person, the 1st Vice Chair, Chair and State Assembly Delegate since 2012. He is also the Chair of Colorado House District 58 Committee (Marc Catin's seat) which nominates and places HD 58 candidates on the Primary Ballot and Past Vice Chair of Congressional District 3 Committee (Lauren Boebert's seat). Scott is also a Member of the Colorado Republican Party State Executive Committee representing the small Counties in Colorado.

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Scott Riba grew up in a military family. His father served in the US Navy for 32 years. As a child, he moved around California, then to Florida and back to California with his military family. He and his wife Linda Riba grew up in Fresno California.

Scott and Linda Riba have been married 45 years. They have been residents of Montrose for 23 years after escaping from the Peoples Republic of California. Scott and Linda moved to the Western Slope to enjoy and participate in the wonderful outdoor life and create and build their farming and ranching operation. Scott owns and custom farms 100+ acres, growing quality Certified Weed Free Hay and provides farming and harvest services to local landowners. Scott owns and understands the critical importance of water rights in Montrose County and the Western Slope.

Scott holds a Bachelor of Science degree


SEE SOMETHING - SAY SOMETHING



970-249-8500

ANONYMOUS CALL

MONTROSE REGIONAL CRIME STOPPERS

 **CWPAC**
Colorado West Performing Arts Company
Western CO's Premier Ballet Company

LITTLE MERMAID

Avalon Theatre | Montrose Pavilion
Grand Junction Montrose
FEB 23 & 25 March 2 & 3

Scan Me

TIX: ColoradoWestPAC.org

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

INSOFAR AS PSST ADMINISTRATION, SHERIFF LILLARD DOES NOT STAND ALONE. CITIZENS HAVE UNITED IN HIS SUPPORT

Editor:

FROM WHERE I SIT: We, the citizens (voters and taxpayers) are ultimately responsible for the county government that we get. It is our collective responsibility to know what is going on and to speak up collectively when we recognize the need for change.

I have got to be fair, most of our county is run quite well but that is nothing to brag about when at least part of that 'well' is at the expense of the Sheriff's Department which provides for a lot of our safety in Montrose.

The administration of the PSST funds (amounting to many millions of dollars since 2007) its intended use and the division of the monies collected between the county administration (30%) and the Sheriff's Department (70%) began to be corrupted soon after the funds began to be collected. Until today when there is virtually NO PSST money left, the fund which was to be used to even out the variations in both the needs of the Sheriff's Dept. and the variations in collections, IS GONE. There is little thought that the funds have

been squandered. NO. It was spent on probably needed county projects, but it had neither been spent on PUBLIC SAFETY ISSUES nor had it been spent, nurtured and used to the benefit of the Sheriff's Department. Nor had the Sheriff the opportunity to put away funds for a rainy day, emergencies or departmental improvement.

WHEREVER AND WHY DID THE MONEY GO BYE-BYE? ---THE NEXT THREE FROM LAST LETTER---

4. PSST funds used to RESURFACE a parking lot! No safety issue, here. You can park on dirt.

5. PSST funds used to create street access! No safety issue here. Street Accesses should be paid for from the General Fund (Road and Bridge).

6. \$5.4 million from the PSST to fund the County Jail Project out of the PSST tax receipts of \$7,927,925. No public safety issue here either. PSST is not and never was designed to be a building fund.

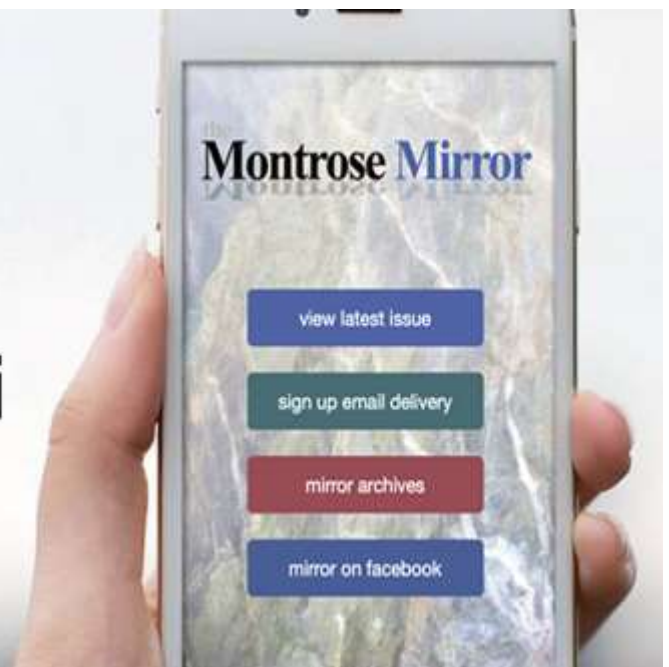
Now my wonderful taxpaying public be it known that the PSST (Sheriff's portion) which since inception should have accrued

in excess of \$50,000,000 is almost in the RED. The PSST has been drained almost into non-existence by paying for NON-PUBLIC SAFETY related projects or by using the PSST money to substitute the required General Fund support of the Department.

This maneuver by OUR elected County Commissioners (likely concurred in by staff and attorneys) is not what the voters voted for in 2007 when the PSST was passed. Past commissioners and citizens who were party to the PSST passage all singing the same tune on this---PSST was passed by telling the public that 70% of the funds collected would go to the sheriff and be in addition to the General Fund as it then stood (to be increased by inflation annually)---AND THE SHERIFF WAS TO HAVE CONTROL---with only commissioner review and approval.

And as I read my property tax bill---which most of us anticipated---received last Saturday I wonder why anyone would have to 'swipe' the Sheriff's PSST funds. My taxes went up by over 1/3! Oooouch!
Bill Bennett, Montrose

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PROPOSED ZONING CHANGE DRAWS CROWD, PUBLIC COMMENT



With a proposed zoning change on the agenda, Montrose City Council welcomed a packed house to the regular meeting of Tuesday, Feb. 6. Meeting screenshot.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-With a packed house and a proposed zoning change on the agenda, the regular Montrose City Council meeting of Tuesday, Feb. 6 was called to order at 6pm by Mayor Barbara Bynum.

"We start every meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance, so please join me in rising," Mayor Bynum said.

All City Councilors were present; Youth City Councilor Shiloh Warthen was in attendance as well.

Mayor Pro Tem J. David Reed had no changes to the meeting agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council voted to approve the minutes of the January 16, 2024, special City Council meeting and the January 16, 2024, regular City Council meeting.

CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Bynum thanked all who showed up to watch the meeting. Although there were no comments heard on non-agenda items, she read the rules for public commentary as many of those present were present to address an agenda item.

SPECIAL EVENTS ALCOHOL PERMIT APPLICATION

As previously discussed in work session, Council voted to approve a Special Events Alcohol Permit in conjunction with the closure of South Junction Avenue on Saturday, March 16, 2024, for the St. Patrick's Day Beer Fest event.

RESOLUTION 2024-03

Council voted to approve Resolution 2024-03, authorizing the City Manager and staff to pursue a Community Development

Block Grant through the Colorado Department of Local Affairs, Division of Housing on behalf of Volunteers of America for the Rendezvous Apartments acquisition, rehab, and construction project on 2366 Robins Way in Montrose. The City is serving only as a fiscal sponsor for the grant application; funds will be passed through to Volunteers of America.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONTRACT FOR THE SALE OF HISTORIC CITY HALL

As discussed in work session on Feb. 5, Council voted to approve proposed amendments to the contract for the sale of the Historic City Hall building at 433 S. First Street in Montrose, returning a portion of earnest monies to the purchaser Rathbone PropCo LLC in exchange for the option to market the Historic City Hall.

ORDINANCE 2656 - SECOND READING

Council voted to adopt Ordinance 2656 on Second reading, authorizing the conveyance of an interest in City-owned real estate pursuant to § 1-9-2 of the Official Code of the City of Montrose. The ordinance conveys a sewer easement to Rathbone PropCo LLC, which is renovating the Knights of Pythias Building and must upgrade sewer lines as part of the renovation.

ORDINANCE 2657 - SECOND READING

Also approved was Ordinance 2657 on Second reading, authorizing the conveyance of an interest in City-owned real estate pursuant to § 1-9-2 of the Official Code of the City of Montrose. (Access Easement).

TRIBUTARY STREET EXTENSION CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT

Council voted to approve the Tributary Street Extension contract, approving \$698,645.88 in expenditures for construction of the Tributary Street Extension Project. This includes the award of a construction contract to Oldcastle SW Group (dba United Companies) in the amount of \$639,645.88, a survey and engineering support contract to Del-Mont Consultants in the amount of \$24,000, natural gas extension expenditures of \$10,000, and up to \$25,000 in expenditures to Delta-Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) for powerline extensions. A memo from City Engineer Scott Murphy to Council states, "As development and buildout of Colorado Outdoors continues, the next required infrastructure project is the extension of Tributary Street for approximately 275 feet towards the west. This work includes relocation and upsizing of the City's sanitary sewer trunkline, extension of storm drain piping, a short waterline extension, extension of dry utilities (communications conduit, natural gas, power), and construction of the roadway (curb, gutter, sidewalk, base and paving)."

ORDINANCE 2659 - FIRST READING

The final item on the agenda was Ordinance 2659, which would amend the zoning district designation of a portion of the Sugarpine Subdivision from R-2 Low Density District to R-3 Medium Density District. The City's Planning Commission had recommended approval, but nearby property owners were opposed. Some of the citizen comments are included in the meeting packet.

Council held a public hearing.

Background- A memo from Planner II William Reis to Council states that the amendment would "rezone a portion of the property located northwest of the corner of Miami Rd and 6700 Rd from R-2 Low Density District to R-3 Medium Density District. The property is currently split-zoned, and a portion of the property is already zoned as R-3 Medium Density District. The property as a whole is approximately 37.31 acres. The portion currently zoned as R-2 Low Density District is approximately 20.61 acres..."

Applicant Chris Koch said that density change is coming to the entire United

PROPOSED ZONING CHANGE DRAWS CROWD *From previous pg*

States. "I hate to be the bearer of bad news..." He discussed the intent behind the proposed change, and at one point took a question from Youth City Councilor Shiloh Warthen, who said, "I don't entirely understand what need this subdivision is fulfilling for the people of Montrose at this moment."

Koch said that the increased density gives someone who just graduated from college an opportunity to buy their first home and build equity, while also filling a need for many retired, active adults.

Prior to opening the floor to public comment, Bynum canvassed her fellow councilors as to their support or opposition to the proposed zoning change.

Bynum said, "I'm asking you all to comment, because, no matter what our decision is tonight it needs to be really clear why we made the decision we made to-night...the record needs to reflect...everyone being on the record and citing particularly why you might feel like voting one way or the other...I'm trying to create a record for our decision."

Council spent time in discussion. "I do not believe the burden of satisfying the rezone criteria has been met," Mayor Pro

Tem J. David Reed said, adding that reasonable minds can differ. Reed praised staff for their work on the matter.

Bynum said that the City's Comprehensive Plan could be used to support either decision, and that Council would make a decision based on facts and the discussions they have had, "The room doesn't have a vote."

She then welcomed speakers to the floor, one by one, row by row, keeping all to a two-minute time limit.

In the end, Council voted unanimously to deny the zoning request.

Bynum said, "Thank you for participating in local government. I hope that you felt heard tonight... Sometimes it goes your way, sometimes it doesn't. But in every case, I would hope that you think about local government as not being them, but as being your neighbors, that we're elected by you, we're volunteers doing our very best to fulfill this job, sometimes you're going to agree with us and sometimes you don't. But I really want to thank you for being part of the process tonight."

As Mayor Bynum relinquished the floor to Youth City Councilor Shiloh Warthen, there was a small round of applause from

the floor.

Warthen shared information on a planned Youth Council food drive.


Councilor Ed Ulibarri said that he liked the proposed design of the higher density units proposed by Koch. Bynum agreed, "I can definitely appreciate the need, it just struck me that the rezone wasn't appropriate."

Councilor Dave Frank said that the City of Montrose will hold a one-day Citizens' Police Academy on March 23. "You now have the opportunity to go to a one-day police academy. Registration is available right now...it is going to be a great opportunity to see what our police force does, how they do it, and why they do it."

"It's a great opportunity also to bond with some of local officers and get to know them a little better. Because knowing the people who are guarding you makes a big difference," Frank said.

"Citizens Police Academy is super fun," Bynum said.

As Mayor Bynum asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting, the room erupted in louder applause and happy shouts from the audience. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



Where Wallflowers Grow

A Coming of Age Memoir
Gail Marvel


Where Wallflowers Grow is the coming of age story of a shy, introverted, 12-year-old girl. A 1960's latch-key kid, Gail's mom agreed to let her leave her home-alone existence and live in her grandma's boarding house.

The Shelly Boarding House, located in rural southeastern Colorado, was home to male pensioners and Social Security recipients who themselves were loners and had nowhere else to go.

For three years Gail lived in this unconventional family environment where she comes of age, while the old-timers age in place.

GAIL MARVEL
Montrose Author & Reporter

Where Wallflowers Grow is available online at
Amazon.com and
wingedpublications.com.



REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

LOCAL STUDENTS NAMED TO FALL 2023 DEAN'S LIST AT FORT LEWIS COLLEGE

Special to the Mirror

DURANGO-- More than 430 students were named to Fort Lewis College's Dean's List for the Fall 2023 semester. These students took at least 15 credits of gradable hours and achieved a 3.60 or higher grade point average. The following local students made the list:

Josie Coulter of Montrose, CO is majoring in Integrative Biology.

Autumn Eddy of Olathe, CO is majoring in Business Administration.

Grace Hotsenpiller of Montrose, CO is majoring in Undecided.

Keyla Luna of Montrose, CO is majoring in Psychology.

Jonnie Trujillo Johnston of Montrose, CO is majoring in Environmental Conservation and Management.

Sage Wilber of Montrose, CO is majoring in History Secondary Education.

Fort Lewis College is the Southwest's leading undergraduate institution with its low student-to-faculty ratio and one-on-one, affordable instruction. The experience students gain here is responsive to industry demand and the ever-shifting landscape of higher education. FLC is also one of the country's most diverse campuses, with over half of its students identifying as people of color. With more than 55 majors to choose from, students become industry professionals, community leaders, and cutting-edge academics.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DELTA HEALTH ANNOUNCES EXPANSION OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

Special to the Mirror

DELTA— Delta Health announces changes to its Behavioral Health Department and creation of a temporary Behavioral Health Resource Line in response to the urgent needs of the community. With the recent closure of Integrated Insight Therapy, Delta Health recognizes the critical importance of expanding its behavioral health services to meet the needs of Delta County residents.

"While we are disappointed to lose the valuable services and partnership that Integrated provided in the community, we are excited for the opportunity to expand our behavioral health services in Delta County," said Julie Huffman, Delta Health Interim CEO and Chief Legal Officer. "In these kinds of critical situations, it is our duty to consider what we can do and to act quickly. It is about doing the right thing."

The expansion includes the addition of four

Behavioral Health Therapists to the existing primary care clinic team and two Peer Support Specialists for the Emergency Department. In addition, Delta Health is recruiting a psychiatric provider to collaborate with Delta Health primary care providers in addressing the psychiatric medication needs of patients.

To ensure effective crisis management, Delta Health is collaborating with Mind Springs in Grand Junction and exploring additional community partnerships to strengthen its crisis support network.

The Delta Health Behavioral Health Resource Line provides information to individuals seeking assistance finding community resources for their mental health concerns. Delta Health encourages patients to contact their primary care clinic for any medication refills. The resource line will not be able to provide patients with refills on their medica-

tions. To contact Delta Health Behavioral Health Resource Line, call 970.874.6008, Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. For future updated information about the expanded Behavioral Health Program, continue to check Delta Health's website at <https://deltahealthco.org/behavioral-health/> and social media platforms.

"Although we are working quickly, establishing a new program will require some time. We want to make sure this is done correctly," "We anticipate releasing more information about the program and services soon. As the program continues to develop and welcomes new team members, more updates will be made available to the community," says Huffman.

Delta Health Hospital remains committed to providing high-quality healthcare services and addressing the evolving needs of Delta County residents.

CHANGING NEEDS?

At a certain stage of life- many people are ready to make a change. To downsize their home, or simply choose a community that better suits their new lifestyle, interests, and needs. Sounds familiar? If you're ready to make a move, I invite you to call me today. I specialize in helping folks make the most from the changes and choices they have at all stages of life. I'd love to do the same for you.

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(1385 sq ft), sheds, hay storage, frost free waterer for the animals. This property is so nicely landscaped with ilium, iris' and more. Notice the aspens lining the drive, just part of the mature landscape. This beautiful modular has oak cabinetry, wood grained vinyl plank flooring, carpet and wonderful windows for light and views. The split floor plan shows a spacious main suite with soaker tub. So much storage in this home, even the laundry is roomy.



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PARENTS ASK RE-1J BOARD FOR CLEAR, FAIR, AND CONSISTENT RULES ON BULLYING AND SELF DEFENSE *From pg 1*

I really appreciate you! That was amazing!"

Directors present for the meeting included Board President Fishing; Vice President Stephen Bush; District A Director Neisha Balleck; District B Director Ted Valerio; District C Director Alice Murphy; and District D Director Tom West. District F Director Jody Hovde was absent.

The board voted unanimously to approve the meeting agenda.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Kayla Braaten sang to promote the sixth annual Montrose's Got Talent competition, which is the primary fundraiser for the Montrose Education Foundation's Teacher of the Year celebrations. A former Montrose's Got Talent prize winner, Braaten was also scheduled to compete in the 2024 competition on Saturday, Feb. 10, where she took Fourth Place.

RECOGNITION & DONATIONS

In addition to a vocal performance, the Board of Education heard an update on awards and donations.

The February Altrusa Apple Awards were given to **Oak Grove Elementary 5th grade Teacher Nathan Kay** and to **Centennial Middle School 8th grade English Teacher Jennifer Easton**.

School Resource Officer (SRO) Award Winner Miguel Ramirez, a 7th grader at Centennial Middle School, was recognized for his efforts to alert other students to the dangers of vaping after being caught with a vaping device. "He is an exceptional student who is in advanced math and is an example to others in the school."

The District has received the following donations:

- Centennial Middle School received a check for \$1,000 from the National Christian Foundation of the Rocky Mountains for the CTMS's Ski Club.
- The Edecker Family (Bret & Brook) collected and donated six large bags of hats, scarves, gloves, mitten/hat sets, handmade purses and socks to distribute to students (Pk-5). This donation worth is over \$1,000 dollars and this is the 26th year they have made this generous donation.

QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORTS

RE-1J Finance Director Emily Imus presented the Quarterly Financial Reports by Fund and by Investment.

COMMUNITY INPUT

The Board of Education heard feedback from parents over recent instances in which students have defended themselves against documented instances of physical bullying in school hallways only to face charges themselves.

First to speak was Beth Godbey, a parent of three students. "...I support law enforcement, I support law enforcement in schools. I also loved the SRO presentation of the award that was given to the young man that came...I wish that that was our experience also. Sadly, what we have experienced this year in our family because of SRO's in the schools has been really stressful and difficult..."

Godbey said that her middle school student, who has never been in trouble, pushed back in self-defense after he was shoved up against a locker by a bully who had targeted him since grade school.

"We had encouraged him to stand up for himself because he had been picked on for quite awhile by this other student," Godbey said. "...when we got the call that he had been in a fight and we showed up at school..."

Godbey was cut short mid-sentence due to exceeding the time limit for speakers to address the board.

"Thank you," Board President Fishing said. "We do have an agenda item that discusses the SRO's, and we have SRO's in the room today who are going to be talking to us."

Next to speak to the board was Ron Henderson. He asked about an item on the Consent Agenda, the Recommendation to purchase 14 Translate Live Interpretation Devices in the amount of \$30,786. "I am here tonight to bring forward a situation that's not really very clear, why you have to buy 14 translation live interpretation devices. I thought this was America and we all spoke the same language and we're all supposed to be citizens. Evidently there must be something going on that's of such magnitude that you're going to spend the amount of money for three students to buy the devices...I think a little background information would be terrifically informative to the general public..."

Ashley Briggs spoke next. A mother of four, Briggs asked about transparency, and where meeting minutes are kept.

"They're not easily available for the public...I've had friends whose children have never been an example, never had a strike against them, yet they've had the full book thrown at them...I would prefer guidance over harsh treatment...and I would prefer the District and the SRO's and the Police Department, which we back 100 percent, to give me a heads up, we can communicate and we can find what's best for my child...the mental health aspect needs to be addressed on either side...to get these kids in the right direction before putting a sentence on them for life... Kids should not have to deal with an adult charge in middle school, let alone high school..."

Next to speak was Annie Tanner, who said school board meetings are very difficult to hear on Facebook Live. She questioned the amount of information that was shared about the SRO award winner, who is a minor. "I don't like really like the resource officer embarrassing that boy on Facebook, saying what he did...I'm here...to support Beth...basically her son was pushed in a hallway...I have the video...it's pretty ugly...if I didn't know Beth, and I just saw the video, I would say wow, why didn't the vice principal take care of this? It's a six-second push match. And P.S. the boy that was being attacked was defending himself."

"So why would he go to court for something like this? I could see that happening to my own child...I do think this is something that we need to all know about and say hey, I don't want that to happen to my kid..."

When Tanner turned to ask Godbey a question, Board President Fishing said, "This is your time to speak, three minutes per person."

"The bell has not rung yet," Tanner said, and continued. "...Colt was issued a disorderly conduct citation and read his Miranda rights by the School Resource Officer...he was talked to about what happened without his parents there...Colt has a restraining order against him put in place by the judge even though he had several classes with the other student...he's on probation, he has community service, they have court and lawyer fees. Also, they issued a two-day suspension, and he missed his first middle school

Continued next pg

PARENTS ASK RE-1J BOARD FOR CLEAR, FAIR, AND CONSISTENT RULES ON BULLYING AND SELF DEFENSE *From previous pg*

football game—and he had never been in trouble before...I hope you pay attention. I hope you can figure this out."

Several more speakers took the podium to express support for Colt Godbey, including Kevin Pankey who said he serves on a board that Colt participates in, and has two boys of his own.

"I am here to get answers from you. What is the protocol? I want my boys to stand up for themselves, but are they going to have to go to adult court if they do it?"

A parent of two students in the district, Susan Sherman spoke, "...I assume most of you are aware of this situation and how it was handled within the district. There may be different versions of what occurred and the steps taken, however the end result that no one can deny is that a 12-year-old boy with no history of behavioral issues ended up in a courtroom defending his actions in self-defense."

Sherman asked the district to implement clear, fair, consistent, and communicated policies regarding bullying, fighting, and defending oneself in RE-1J schools.

"...Depending on who you talk to, where the incident occurs, or what authority figure is present, the outcome varies," Sherman said. "There is not a clear, fair, consistent and communicated policy for these incidents." Local parents are alarmed and appalled that this situation has taken place in their community, she said.

"...If this was your child, would you feel he or she was getting fair treatment...I urge you to take action...you owe it to the kids you work with, you owe it to the parents who entrust their children to your care, and you owe it to the community that you serve.

"Please do the right thing; our community is watching."

Joel Norton shared an experience from his own school days, in which he stood up against a bully. "I walloped him." Norton's parents told him they were proud of him for standing up against an abuse of power, but that he needed to learn to use the appropriate level of force. "I learned a lesson that day, the bully learned a lesson that day...now I am standing more responsibly before you, and I'm telling you, you abused your power. Power comes in many

different forms, but you walloped these two kids...it was an opportunity as an educator to teach a lesson..."

Dan Hatch spoke about an incident that happened to his own son, which was captured on video. "My son...had three kids chase him down the hall who he had...done nothing to...it looks as though they're hunting him. They see him walk past...one of the kids kicks his back leg trying to trip him, my son turns around...a pushing and shoving match ensues...the kid continues even though my son has pushed him away three times...the only way my son can get this kid off him is he does end up punching the kid. But this is after the kid has now assaulted him three separate times and has his hand in my son's face and he can't get him to let go..."

"Our experience was, we went back down to the school to sign our kid back in from being suspended. No one told us law enforcement would be involved. When we got there the SRO was the one who met us, he told us he was giving our kid a ticket without any explanation...you cannot be charged criminally when you are acting in self-defense.

"There has been a clear abuse of power happening here in the Montrose School District," Hatch said. "That is against multiple rulings of the Supreme Court both in the state and the Federal Supreme Court...my son was forced to write a statement in the moment which was then used against him in court without us being present, without us being notified...our attorneys have now advised our kids they need to refuse to communicate with our SRO officers..."

The bell rang, and the time allotted for Hatch to speak came to an end.

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER PRESENTATION

Executive Director of Operations James Pavlich introduced a School Resource Officer (SRO) Presentation. Joining Pavlich were Safety Team members, including Montrose Deputy Police Chief Matt Smith, Safety and Wellness Manager Megan Farley, and Montrose County Sheriff's Office Administrative Sergeant Chuck Searcy.

The full SRO presentation, which continued past 8pm, is included in the meeting

packet.

CONSENT AGENDA

District A Director Neisha Balleck asked to pull Consent Agenda Item 3 for further discussion; the board voted to approve the remaining Consent Agenda items, including Personnel Report and job description for Criminal Justice Teacher.

NEW BUSINESS

Consent Agenda Item 3, a recommendation to purchase 14 Translate Live Interpretation Devices in the amount of \$30,786, was considered. Balleck said she has used translation devices in her work as a nurse, and finds them very, very helpful. "I just had some questions around the cost." She asked about upfront costs and the annual fee; Executive Director of Academic Services Jessica Kalb discussed the fees and answered Balleck's questions. The district presently has around 600 non-English speaking families in need of translation services, Kalb said in response to a question from Balleck.

"In the past two months Colorado has been receiving enormous amounts of immigrants from Mexico and Venezuela...We've seen over 49 families in the last month," Kalb said, "They could have three or four kids, and they could be in three or four different schools."

She said district schools that don't normally receive non-English speakers, due to their locations, are now seeing them. "Oak Grove alone has six brand-new non-English speakers, Pomona has four. That's huge for them; they're not probably staffed to provide that service to their current students—they're challenged to have those interpreters for their families."

Balleck said she appreciates the district looking at the translation devices. "It's just so important to connect with them and have that relationship with them in their own language...I just really appreciate that the district is looking at this."

Although most of the local schools do have Spanish speaking personnel, Kalb said that the district now has a number of students who speak languages other than Spanish. Students come from Vietnam and the Philippines, and students from Ukraine are arriving.

"We need to serve all of our students,

Continued next pg

PARENTS ASK RE-1J BOARD FOR CLEAR, FAIR, AND CONSISTENT RULES ON BULLYING AND SELF DEFENSE *From previous pg*

students, regardless of the language that they speak," Fishing said. "And their parents and families."

The Board of Education voted to approve the purchase of 14 Translate Live Interpretation Devices in the amount of \$30,786.

The Board voted to adopt Resolution 06-2024 and Resolution 07-2024 Supplemental Budget Adoption 2023-2024.

Directors spent time in review of Revised Board Policy BDA, Board Organizational Meeting (First Reading), which will be revised to incorporate the changes that were agreed upon by the board.

The Board voted to approve revised Board policy IKF, Graduation Requirements.

Also approved was the purchase of two new activity buses in an amount not to exceed \$250,000. The meeting agenda provides background information:

Background—"We are requesting the purchase of two new activities buses, one 14 passenger and one 14 passenger with wheelchair access. Montrose/Olathe activities had 856 trips for a little over 108,000 miles in 2023 (8% increase from the previous year). Many of those trips were local and the average trip is 127 miles. The

district currently owns two wheelchair buses of the 14-passenger variety; one is a 1997 and the other a 2004. Both currently run well but the 1997 is difficult to find parts for when needed. Purchasing a new wheelchair accessible bus will provide much needed reliability to our fleet as well as the option of 14-passenger loading for activity trips. MCS D currently maintains 11 14-passenger and eight 24-passenger activity buses. The 14-passenger buses are more popular as they do not require a CDL license to operate. The fleet has an average mileage of 108331 and an average age of 15 years. The demand for activity buses increases each year as educators look for hands on learning experiences for their students. The plan will be to take the oldest buses out of service or limit them to local travel. Funding for the replacement buses will come from the general fund."

DISTRICT UPDATES

Enrollment Report

Finance Director Emily Imus presented the Enrollment Report. Current enrollment is 6,071, which is an increase of 57 students over last month but only 16 students higher than last year at this time.

Imus added, "As we talked about, 37 in late January from Mexico and Venezuela, but only 16 higher than last year."

"How do the immigrants get here? They just show up?" District D Director Tom West asked.

"Good question," Imus said. "I do not know."

District C Director Alice Murphy asked, "Where did most of those kids end up? Are they non-English speaking?"

"They need services," Murphy said as her question was affirmed.

The immigrant students were enrolled in Johnson Elementary School, Centennial Middle School, and Northside Elementary School, Imus said.

ECC Report

ECC Director Penny Harris discussed the latest information and answered questions.

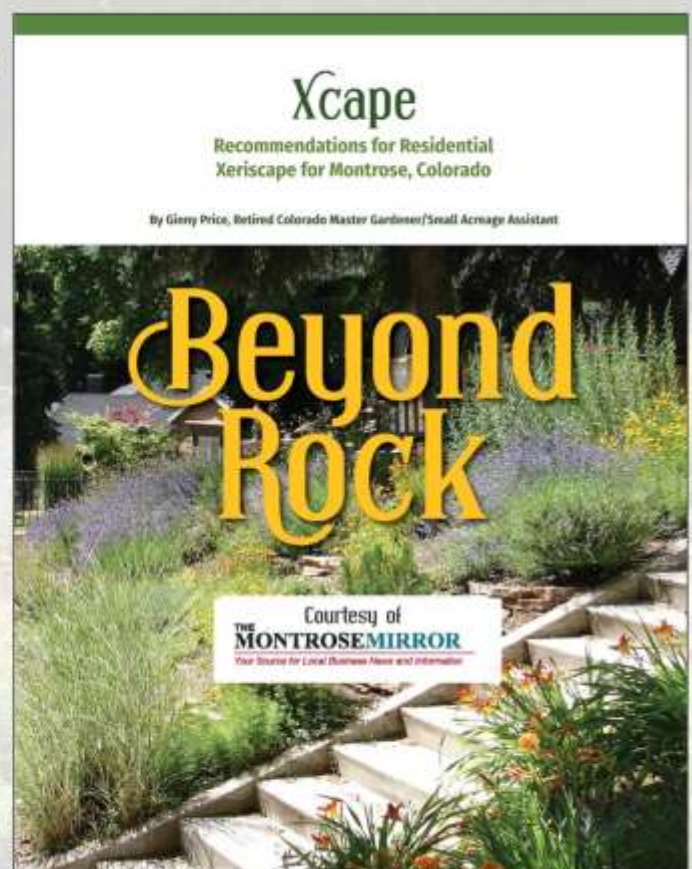
With no further business, the Board voted to adjourn.

The Montrose County School District RE-1J board of Education will meet again on Feb. 23 for a regular meeting/work session and for a regular business meeting on March 12.

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RED HAWK GIRLS SPLIT 3 GAME HOMESTAND

By Cliff Dodge

MONTROSE RED HAWKS GIRLS 47, FRUITA MONUMENT WILDCATS 42

The Montrose Red Hawks used a stout defensive effort and some timely long range shooting to claim a 47-42 victory over the visiting Fruita Monument Wildcats on Tuesday evening at the Fieldhouse. The game was virtually even during the first two quarters of play as the two teams tied at 9 points after one period and the Red Hawks leading 19-18 at the halfway point. The third period was crucial as the Red Hawks pushed their scoring advantage to 8 points heading down the stretch. Maggie Legg hit from long range twice to lead the offensive assault. She ended up with a game high total of 21 points to lead all scorers. Sophomore Mayce Oberg scored 8 points, Taygan Rocco added 7 points and Lilly Nelson chipped in with 6 points. Oberg and Rocco led all rebounders with 7 and 5 caroms respectively. The Red Hawks went to the free throw line 39 times but only managed to sink 18. The Red Hawks passed out 7 assists while creating 10 steals. The Red Hawks turned the ball over to the opposition 17 times.

DELTA PANTHERS 45, MONTROSE RED HAWKS GIRLS 36

The Montrose Red Hawks ran into a well prepared Delta Panthers basketball team on Thursday evening at the Fieldhouse as the Panthers hard-nosed defense and speed and quickness kept the Red Hawks a day late and a dollar short as they fought gamely to stay with the Panthers to no avail, losing by 9 points, 45 to 36. The Panthers led 15-11 after one period and 24 to 19 at the halfway point. The Panthers increased their lead to 33-25 with one quarter to play and closed out the Red Hawks making the final score the Panthers 45, the Red Hawks 36. Senior Taygan Rocco let all Red Hawk scorers with a dozen points. She was followed closely by Sophomore Mayce Oberg who tallied 11 points and chipped in with 3 rebounds. Maggie Legg added 6 points to the team total, while senior Kenzie Bush led all Red Hawk rebounders with 7. The Red Hawks passed out 6 assists and created 13 steals while turning the basketball over 17 times.

MONTROSE RED HAWKS GIRLS 53, ALAMOSA MEAN MOOSE 28

The Montrose Red Hawks regained their winning ways with a 53 to 28 victory over the Mean Moose of Alamosa, Colorado on Saturday afternoon at the Fieldhouse. The Red Hawks sprinted away from the starting gate and led 12-2 after one quarter of play. Things got no better as the two teams approached the halfway point with the Red Hawks ahead 26 to 6. Things turned dramatically to the Red Hawks in the third stanza as they outscored the Mean Moose 25 to 6 and put away the visitors with a final score of 53 to 28. Eight Red Hawks hit the scoring parade with Taygan Rocco leading the way with 17 points and followed closely by Mayce Oberg with 15 points. Maggie Legg chipped in with 7 points and Lilly Nelson and Haven Johnson each added 4 points to the Red Hawks total. The two wins this week increase the Red Hawks overall record to 14-6 and 3-3 in league action. The Red Hawks travel to Grand Junction on Tuesday to take on the Grand Junction Tigers.



Left, Red Hawk Mayce Oberg fires a 12-foot jump shot vs the Delta Panthers.

Above, Red Hawk Lilly Nelson is in perfect position to capture a rebound vs the Fruita-Monument Wildcats.

RED HAWKS BOYS SPLIT 3 GAME HOMESTAND

By Cliff Dodge

FRUITA MONUMENT WILDCATS 53, MONTROSE RED HAWKS 33

The Montrose Red Hawks three game home-stand got off to a very rocky beginning as the Fruita Monument Wildcats came to visit on Tuesday evening at the Fieldhouse. The tall and talented visitors used their speed and quickness to disrupt the Red Hawks offense and prevented the Red Hawks from using their low post offense which has featured Junior Kaleb Ferguson both scoring and rebounding. The Cats lead 13-9 after one period of play and stretched the margin to 29-16 at the half. Things became progressively worse in the third quarter as the Wildcats increased their lead to 26 points. The Red Hawks cut the lead to 20 points in the final quarter as the Wildcats sat on the basketball and basically played keep-away and scored only 4 points in the final canto. Senior Jaxon Kattner led all Red Hawk scorers with 12 points including three bombs from behind the three-point line. Sophomore C. J. Rocco had 8 points while Ferguson tallied 5 points. The rebounding for the Red Hawks had Ferguson, Brekin Hutto and Jaxon Killen accounting for 10 of the 12 rebounds in the Red Hawk column. The Red Hawks passed out only four assists while making six steals and turning the basketball over 14 times.

MONTROSE RED HAWKS 60, DELTA PANTHERS 30

The difference between the game on Tuesday evening and the visit from the Delta Panthers was like the difference between night and day as the Red Hawks stormed out of the gate and led 12-4 after the initial period of play. The low post game came back with a vengeance as Kaleb Ferguson dominated in the paint both offensively and defensively. The margin at the half was 27 – 19 and the Red Hawk continued to pressure the Panthers to the final whistle as they racked up a 30-point win, 60 to 30. Junior Kaleb Ferguson roamed the paint and scored 23 points in addition to grabbing seven rebounds and making four steals of the basketball. Jaxon Killen added 12 points to the scoring fest and Brekin Hutto chipped in with 10 points. Junior Cooper Ross had 8 points and senior Jaxon Kattner added 5. The Red Hawks passed out a dozen assists and combined for 17 steals while turning the basketball over only eight times.

MONTROSE RED HAWK BOYS 54, ALAMOSA MEAN MOOSE 39

The Montrose Red Hawks continued their winning ways as they defeated the visiting Mean Moose of Alamosa, Colorado by the score of 54 to 39 on Saturday afternoon at the fieldhouse. The game got off to a glacial beginning as each team only managed 5 points in the opening quarter. The Red Hawks broke out of their scoring slump as they scored 16 points in each of the second and third quarters to basically put the game away. Junior Center Kaleb Ferguson led all scorers with an eye-popping 27-point output. Ferguson turned the paint into his private office and scored early and often from the low post, the high post and everywhere in between. Brekin Hutto, Cooper Ross and Jaxon Kattner each added 7 points to the Red Hawks total while Brody Cooling added 6 points. The weekend wins bring the Red Hawks overall record to 15 – 5 and 2 – 4 in league action. The Red Hawks travel to Grand Junction on Tuesday and take on the Grand Junction Tigers.



At right, Jaxon Killen goes up for a rebound vs the Delta Panthers .

Above, Jaxon Kassner's 3-point shot heads for the basket as players await a rebound.



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ULIBARRI ASKS STAFF FOR LIST OF BUSINESSES THAT THE CITY HAS INVESTED IN ALREADY, WHETHER THOSE ARE STILL IN BUSINESS, AND HOW THEY ARE DOING



Montrose now has two city halls. Photo by Harry Switzer.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-As she has done in previous work sessions, Montrose Mayor Barbara Bynum began the City Council work session of Monday, Feb. 5 by thoroughly explaining what a work session is and why the city does not allow public comment at work sessions.

"It's a Monday, and it is February 5th, it is ten o'clock...and work sessions are the meetings that Council has with staff, and we go over many of the items that will be on upcoming City Council meetings, and we don't vote in work session, it gives council a chance to ask questions and hear about each item in depth and prepare us for future city council meetings when we would vote on an item. And therefore, since we're not voting we don't do any public comment...we ask the public to hold their comments to our meetings when we're voting. But we do hear from guests during these meetings, like an applicant for the grant will be with us this morning.

"And so that's what work sessions are all about," Bynum said. "And we just jump right in and start."

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Commercial Kitchen Grant Application

Bynum moved Discussion Item C, Commercial Kitchen Grant Application - Stockmen's and Ruby Junes Restaurants, to the top of the agenda to accommodate the availability of guests and staff. Council spent time in discussion. Information on the project, to be located at 346 East Main Street, was presented by business devel-

opment employee Anthony Russo. Applicant Ben Holley was present virtually. Councilor Ed Ullibbarri said, "I was just concerned with the fact that businesses like construction and restaurants have the highest failure rates in the State of Colorado as well as in the United States. I just wanted to make sure that the City's investment, almost a quarter of a million dollars...is worth the effort for the community...I don't want to take and invest a bunch of money in a business and then three years later it closes down..."

Other restaurants are struggling to find employees, Ullibbarri said. Mayor Bynum tried to interrupt. "Can I stop you? Because you've had the mic for awhile."

Ullibbarri asked for a list of businesses that the city has invested in already, whether they are still in business, and how are they doing. "I think the community would be interested in finding out that information."

Russo said that only two of the restaurants supported by the city are currently open, Pomona and Trattoria Sofia. He did not mention the Rusty Putter at the Golf Course, which is owned and operated by the city. Other restaurants are still in the construction phases, Russo said. "Right now anyone we have worked with is doing very, very, well, with no issues or concerns...The kitchen equipment staying with the building is imperative."

Bynum said, "Can I talk about that Anthony? That's the part I wanted to talk about...We are not investing in the business as much, in my opinion, as we are investing in the infrastructure of the city to have businesses...when I hear from constituents they want to see more restaurant choices, they want to see a different kind of restaurant than fast food...and I am really excited and think that our kitchen grant program is exactly addressing that need because we are not in the business as a city of opening up and operating restaurants, with the exception of the golf course. But when a private developer/restauranteur with extensive knowledge and background in the industry is willing to make a substantial investment in our community and the city can be part

of that and be a catalyst for making that happen, I am really excited about it...I am fully supportive of the city continuing to make kitchen grant investments..."

Mayor Pro Tem J. David Reed also expressed support. "There's been a lot of staff time involved in looking at these, analyzing the data...I feel comfortable that we are relying on the experts...don't think it's my job as a city council person to look behind it...I'm relying on staff to tell us that is a good investment...I don't think we should be looking behind the curtain so to speak but to move forward with staff recommendations."

Background-A summary sheet from the office of the City Manager states, "if approved as requested, the applicant will receive \$200,972 to support the purchase of a kitchen to be used by El Dorado Holdings, LLC - Stockmen's and Ruby June Restaurants. The kitchen will be the property of Alexander Main & Chutes and will remain with the building. The cost of the Grease Trap is higher than usual as the installation is obstructed by a coal chute that runs down the building. This chute will be removed/stabilized during the installation which will help to ensure that the building's historic features are preserved. There is currently no grease trap in the building. Some of the work is also being performed by Alexander & Chutes as they are acting as General Contractor for portions of the project. This was done to reduce costs The ask is 10.48% of the total known investment needed for the project."

Land Development Code Update Status Council heard an update on the Land Development Code, presented by Community Development Director Jace Hochwalt.

Background-A memo from Hochwalt to council states, "In 2019, the City of Montrose initiated the process of revising the 2008 Comprehensive Plan. This process involved extensive community outreach and participation, and developed a new vision, guiding principles, goals, and objectives to address community issues. This plan, known as the Envision 2040 Montrose Comprehensive Plan, was adopted by City Council in June of 2021, and has an entire chapter dedicated to Land Use and

ULIBARRI ASKS STAFF FOR LIST OF BUSINESSES THAT THE CITY HAS INVESTED IN

From previous pg



Council discussed an item that was fast-tracked to appear on the Feb. 6 council meeting agenda for approval, the Amendments to the Contract for the Sale of the Historic City Hall. Photo by Harry Switzer.

Growth, as well as an entire chapter specific to Housing and Neighborhoods... Following the adoption of the Envision 2040 Plan, the City applied for and received an Innovative Housing Planning (IHOP) grant through the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) in the Spring of 2022. This grant specifically focuses on the implementation of affordable housing strategies such as expedited development review, accessory dwelling unit (ADU) uses by right, and the accommodation of "missing-middle" housing in more locations/zone districts. To better understand the housing needs of the entire Montrose community, the City of Montrose, in partnership with Points Consulting, completed the City of Montrose Housing Needs Assessment in the summer of 2023, with the use of the IHOP grant funds mentioned above. The purpose of the assessment was to evaluate current housing conditions and needs, make projections of future housing needs, and provide recommendations for policies, practices, and regulatory changes that can be implemented to address gaps between housing needs and supply. With the housing needs assessment completed, City staff is now moving forward with a Land Development Code update that specifically focuses on housing initiatives based on those

recommendations from the assessment, as well as those recommendations and goals outlined in the Envision 2040 Plan. Many topics were discussed at the City Council retreat on October 11, 2023. Since that date, staff have been working with the hired consultant team, Plan Tools, LLC, on code amendments to implement those items that were discussed..."

2023 Development Report

Hochwalt presented the 2023 Development Report.

Background-A memo from Hochwalt to council states, "This report gives an update on the building and planning activity and trends over the last several years in the Montrose area. It also provides information about demographic and economic changes seen over the same time period. While development slowed slightly in 2023 (compared to 2022), it still remains strong. Major subdivision developments are working their way through the pipeline, multi-family projects are under construction with significant interest in new multi-family proposals, and commercial interest is still plentiful with businesses (large and small) relocating to Montrose. As such, it appears that Montrose is positioned for another successful year of development in 2024."

CDBG Grant Application for VOA Rendezvous Apartments

Council considered a request for fiscal sponsorship of a Community Development Block Grant Application for the Volunteers of America Rendezvous Apartments. The grant is intended to secure funding to acquire the Rendezvous Apartments, formerly Pavilion Gardens, located at 2366 Robins Way which is being redeveloped to provide more essential low-to-middle income senior housing in the City of Montrose.

Background-A memo from Community development Specialist Christopher Ottinger to council states, "Volunteers of America currently owns the Pavilion Gardens Apartments and its adjacent undeveloped land. The existing building is due for rehabilitation due to age, so VOA is taking the opportunity to redesign it for senior housing. With that, VOA secured 4% State Tax Credit funding to rehabilitate the existing building as well as constructing a new 22-unit building adjacent to the existing property. The City of Montrose aims to secure a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to provide sub-grant funding to VOA for this acquisition. The CDBG program, administered by the State of Colorado for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), provides funding to local governments to address a wide range of community development needs, including affordable housing initiatives. By leveraging this grant opportunity, the City of Montrose can support Volunteers of America's efforts to preserve and expand affordable senior housing options in our community."

Public Works Manager Jim Scheid presented a Vehicle and Equipment Disposal Authorization and Vehicle Purchase Recommendation.

Background-Memos from Scheid to Council state, "Throughout the year, City departments replace equipment and vehicles that are scheduled for replacement in the 2024 budget. The replaced items are disposed of in various ways. Most items are auctioned through Govdeals.com, on occasion select items are sold at the local Jim's Auction, or donated or sold to surrounding communities. As items are sold the amounts collected

Continued next pg

ULIBARRI ASKS STAFF FOR LIST OF BUSINESSES *From previous pg*

from resale are included in the fleet fund and are used for the next replacement of that vehicle. All items are disposed of in accordance with Section 1-16-5 of the Municipal Code...Council will also consider the approval of the purchase of two Ford F-150 pickup trucks from Montrose Ford in the amount of \$108,060... The City of Montrose Fleet Division has budgeted for the replacement of 2 F-150s in the 2024 budget. These two F-150s are utilized by the Police Department and are scheduled for replacement in 2024. The City issued an Invitation for Bid in December of 2023 and received one bid from Montrose Ford on January 11, 2024. The bid received matches the required specification and the price for the vehicles is what was expected and is considered competitive."

Historic City Hall Sales Contract Amendment
Council discussed an item that was fast-tracked to appear on the Feb. 6 council meeting agenda for approval, the Amendments to the Contract for the Sale of the Historic City Hall. To be considered was an amendment to the sales contract for Historic City Hall between the City and Rathbone PropCo LLC.

Background- A memo from City Attorney Chris Dowsey to council notes, "In March 2023, the City entered into an agreement with Rathbone PropCo LLC for the sale of the Historic City Hall building located at 433 S. 1st Street, Montrose, CO 81401 with a closing date in August 2023. The costs of the renovations for the Rathbone Hotel began to exceed the expectations of the owners. They approached the City to extend the contract, where the City had granted that request. In January 2024, the construction costs of renovations for the Rathbone hotel have continued to exceed expectations and the owners have requested a portion of the earnest money to pay for such unforeseen costs. The amendment to the contract would return a portion of the earnest money to Rathbone PropCo LLC in exchange for the City to have the option to market Historic City Hall. If there is a secondary buyer, Rathbone PropCo LLC, will have the right to execute the sale under the terms of the current agreement."

New Citizen Interactive Session Format
Council considered changes to the Citizen Interactive Session Format.

Childcare Discussion

City Manager Bill Bell said that the city would like to start preliminary research into a city-owned and operated day care facility. Council expressed support, "It's something we should look into," Ulibarri said.

Mayor Bynum said, "I've been pushing for more childcare from day one...I am excited to see us continue to work on providing childcare...this time it's personal...I would hope that we could continue to focus on childcare across our community... As someone who relied on

childcare so I could work and provide for my family, yeah, I'm all in favor..."

Bell said, "I'll probably talk with Lori Sharp right away, I know she's helping with the Unify America study as well... and is really a big player in tying all the entities together. So her and I'll meet right away and start strategizing, and then I'll research the idea of partnering with other public employers...those would be benefited, full-time positions, so I'd like to talk to Lori...Chrissy Symons would be a big part of that as well..."

GENERAL COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Bynum reviewed some upcoming events for council to attend. Also, "There's an upcoming State of the City."

City Manager Bill Bell said that this will be the first year for the State of the City address.

"This year we've reserved the Pavilion on Feb-

ruary 26 at 530pm for the State of the City address...we're going to be doing this every year," Bell said.

Bynum said, "...it might be the perfect opportunity to wear our matching polos."

City Engineer Scott Murphy gave an update on city projects. The really challenging storm line at the roundabout is done, he said. Flex Park construction has begun.

Bynum asked about snow removal now that the city is relying mostly on private contractors. Public Works Manager Jim Scheid said, "...It's a little bit of a challenge...I almost wish it would snow more so we could practice a little bit..." City Attorney Chris Dowsey reminded Council not to engage in any ex-parte communication with any community members about upcoming agenda items that are quasi-judicial in nature.

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COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

JUANITA “MISSY” HERNANDEZ

May 5, 1982- February 3, 2024

JUANITA “MISSY” HERNANDEZ, 41, of Montrose, CO passed away peacefully on February 3, 2024.

Missy was born in Craig, CO on May 5, 1982, to Leroy Hernandez and Olivia (Romero) Trujillo, both of Montrose.

Following high school, Missy spent years working as a customer service associate. A vivacious and spirited soul who connected easily with others, Missy was often sought out by managers to handle the toughest customers. Missy was a genuine person who possessed an energy and confidence to which so many of her friends and loved ones were drawn.

Family and friendship were always of the utmost importance to Missy, and she was always trying to do right by and what was best for her three beautiful children. A bright light, she touched the lives of all she encountered and will be greatly missed.

Taken too soon to be with the angels, Missy was predeceased by grandfather, Frank Hernandez, grandparents Carlos and Juanita Romero, brother, Manuel Hernandez and granddaughter, Willow Hernandez-Hess.

She is survived by her grandmother Tina Ochoa, parents Leroy Hernandez and Olivia Trujillo, brother Francisco, and her three children Mariah, Olivia, and Case. Married in 2023, Missy is also survived by husband David Dunham of Colorado Springs.

A private viewing and memorial has been set for the immediate family.



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COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

THOMAS KEITH SWANSON

September 8, 1955 – February 4, 2024



THOMAS (TOM) KEITH SWANSON passed away on February 4, 2024 at the age of 68 years old as he was surrounded by family, pets, and a lot of love.

On September 8, 1955, Tom was born in Williston, North Dakota to his mother, Evelyn M. (Rehurek) Swanson, father, Delbert (DK) Swanson and siblings. The family soon moved to Manitou Springs and Black Hills areas in Colorado in 1957 and finally settled in the Swink/Cheraw/La Junta, Colorado area for the remainder of Tom's childhood.

Growing up, Tom loved to play with his siblings and other friends and family members engaging in many innocent and mischievous activities children tended to get themselves into before video games and cell phones were around. It is also when his love for sports began. The sport he enjoyed playing the most was Basketball but he was also known as a pretty good catcher/second baseman in baseball and running back in football as well.

Tom graduated from La Junta High School in 1973 and then began a career in construction, starting with building steel buildings around Eastern Colorado and the Front Range areas. While working in Burlington, Colorado, he met his soul-mate, Jenny Kay Davis, and the rest was

history. Tom and Jenny dated for about five years and officially tied the knot on July 7, 1979. That year proved to be a busy one for them as they also moved to Montrose, Colorado where they welcomed their first son, Jacob (Jake) Keith Swanson, into the world in December of 1979. Then they welcomed their second son, Dylan Elias Swanson, into the world in December of 1981.

Tom continued to work in other various construction fields including excavation work alongside his father in the Montrose and Telluride area. He had a wicked work ethic and provided a good honest life for his family. In November of 1990 Tom was working in the Gunnison, Colorado area on a rock crusher and a rather large boulder fell off of one of the conveyor belts and struck him on his head/hard hat causing a traumatic brain injury. He was taken to Grand Junction, Colorado by Flight For Life and escaped near death with the help of the amazing doctors and nurses that helped save his life and by being surrounded by love from friends and family that visited him. He eventually went to the Hilltop Rehabilitation Center in Grand Junction to rehab before moving back home to Montrose.

Due to the extent of the head injury, Tom wasn't able to formally work anymore but didn't hesitate to help with chores around the house and whatever it took to help raise (and contain) his sons. Even though the injury caused Tom disabilities that restricted what he could do for the remainder of his life, he never once complained or felt sorry for himself and handled it with the utmost strength, class, humility, kindness, and especially humor. These are just a few amazing qualities that Tom stoically brought to the world and

even inspired many other people that knew him to try and adopt themselves, especially his sons.

Tom's love for sports made him an avid Denver Broncos, Denver Nugget, and Colorado Avalanche fan and he enjoyed sharing that same bond with his sons. He also really enjoyed being in the Mountains, especially with a fishing pole in his hands, and taking a drive over the Million Dollar Highway (which he helped pave at one time) to Silverton and Durango, amongst many other places.

Tom was a man of very few words but the words he did have were meaningful, logical, authentic, and more often than not hilarious. He was quick and witty and a master at deploying his humor at the right time because he knew laughter is always the best medicine. He has had such a positive and profound impact on many, many people and hardly had to say a word in doing so. He will be sorely missed by his family and friends but absolutely never forgotten. We love you Dad/Husband/Grandpa/Brother/Uncle/Friend/Hero/Legend!!!

Tom was preceded in death by his mother, Evelyn, father Delbert, brother Lee Swanson, daughter-in-law Celeste Swanson (wife of Jacob), and grandson Waylon Keith Swanson (son of Jacob). He is survived by his wife Jenny, son Jacob, son Dylan, granddaughter Laynie Parnell-Stanger (daughter of Dylan), granddaughter Kylie Parnell (daughter of Dylan), brother Frank Swanson (wife Sue), sister Gloria Phillips (husband Chas), and many nieces, nephews and other family members. Contributions can be made in memory of Tom Swanson to: Hilltop: Life Adjustment Brain Injury, 1331 Hermosa Ave., Grand Junction, CO 81506.

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

WERNER KEN BURGHOFF

August 11, 1930- December 16, 2023



WERNER KEN BURGHOFF passed away on December 16th, 2023, peacefully in his sleep. He was born on August 11th, 1930, in Hückeswagen, Germany.

Werner is survived by his brother, Friedhelm Burghoff, and sister-in-law, Ellen Lindenberg Mann. Also by his three daughters: Coni Janzen (spouse Dale), Linda Granzow (spouse Drew), and Dorothy Ramus (spouse Kevin), ten grandchildren and twenty-one great-grandchildren.

We will remember Dad as someone who was always willing to help anyone in need. He also had a desire to always have work to do and give it his best whether during his career as a tool and die maker or gardening during retirement. Werner loved to sing. Starting from early on and throughout his life, he would sing songs and hymns of praise. He had such a passionate love for his Lord and Savior, and was always willing to share his faith with others and ask them if they too believed.

We are so thankful that he left us with the legacy of his love for family, music, and his desire that all will know the love of Jesus and be eternally with Him. Dad, may you now be singing and praising God in heaven with all who have gone before you!

We love you Dad!!!

Auf Wiedersehen (until we see you again)

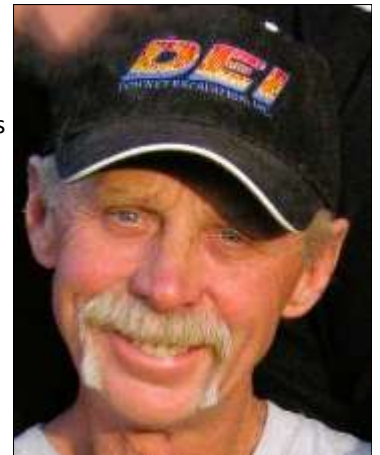
MONTE L MELANSON

June 30, 1955- February 3, 2024

MONTE L MELANSON peacefully passed away February 3, 2024. Born June 30, 1955, in Montrose, CO, to William L. Melanson and Billie M. (Combs) Engberg, he will be dearly missed by family and friends. Monte was a graduate of Olathe High School and a State level wrestler. Monte loved the outdoors, spending numerous days traversing the Uncompahgre Plateau, cutting firewood with his brother and exploring the surrounding areas of the Western Slope. He was a mountain man born 100 years too late. Monte always raised a variety of livestock and truly enjoyed the farming/ranching lifestyle.

He leaves behind his beloved family: His wife Lee Ann Loupe; his daughter Jessica (Jake) Jordan; grand-daughter Jemma Jordan; sisters Mona (Sam) Palmer and Glenda (Jim) Melanson and Pam (Perry) Nissler; stepmother Reola Melanson; stepfather Don Engberg, Carmen Hull; numerous nieces and nephews who all loved him dearly.

He was preceded in death by his father and mother, and brother Dean Melanson. No funeral or memorial services are planned. Crippin Funeral Home & Crematory of Montrose is assisting the family. (970) 249-2121



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COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

BARBARA ANNE VAN SCHAİK

April 21, 1930 – December 23, 2023

BARBARA ANNE VAN SCHAİK (NEE DALEY) died on Dec. 23, 2023, after a fall that proved one too many. Born Ap. 21, 1930 in Montreal, Canada and immigrating to the United States as a young wife, Barbara is immediately survived by five children: Caroline (Christopher, Minnesota), Bobbie (Chris, Colorado), Claire (Brad, New York), Suzanne (Chris, Colorado), and Peter (Jessica, Connecticut); 13 grandchildren and four great grandchildren; and two close nephews, Jan van Schaik (Michigan) and Paul van Schaik (France). She was preceded in death by her husband of 61 years, Peter; their infant daughters, Elizabeth Ann and Mary Ann; and her one sibling, Frederick Gerard Daley.

A contributing member of many communities over her 93 years, Barbara started her American life in Indiana and California before taking her young family to Iran and India for her husband's work with the US Department of Agriculture. Her two youngest children were born overseas. Those years included adventurous travels to Lebanon, Syria, and Israel and gave her lifelong friends across many continents.

Barbara's own identity included degrees in Plant Pathology (McGill University, Quebec, Canada), Clinical Psychology (California State University), and Psychiatric Rehabilitation (Boston University). She went on to direct the Psychiatric department of Kings View Hospital, Reedley, Ca., pioneered a long-term discharge program for psychiatric patients, and taught psy-

chology.

The plant world, though, was always at hand, as a Master Gardener in California and Colorado, and as a Colorado Advanced Master Gardener and Native Plant Master. She took deep pride in being a founding member of the Montrose Botanic Gardens; she served as its first vice president, a Weed Warrior volunteer, a Weed Warrior goodie-baker, and a voice in and for the organization throughout. Native plants, gambol oaks and yucca from seed, grafting, bonsai, coaxing anything to grow, and communing with dear friends striving for botanical perfection marked her best days. At her death, her refrigerator hosted an Enstrom's box of seed experiments, and her work bench had new pots for lemon tree and date palm seedlings on her windowsill.

Barbara was a faithful member of St. Mary's Catholic Church, relished her days with the Monday Morning Crew at Christ's Kitchen (forerunner to Shepherd's Hand), taught many children and adults alike how to swim, led her children's Brownie troop in Iran, and developed gardens for Hmong immigrants in California. Dogs and Abby the cat were a constant part of her life. Many people will remember her guidance proffered at kitchen tables and in offices alike. Within her family, her legacy includes homemade quilts for every child, grandchild, and great grandchild. The last one, designed by her of all those quilt remnants, will be finished by her daughter,

Suzanne.

While many people were a part of our mother's rich life, the family makes a special acknowledgement of Julie Wetterlund, friend and facilitator of Bar-

bara's independence these past many years, and to Maria Dolan, whose help arrived just when we needed more. Our appreciation, too, to "Dr. B." for 30 years of care, and to the kindly floor staffs of Montrose Regional Health Hospital and Colorow Care Center, who cared for us all during those final days.

A funeral Mass will be said at St. Mary's Catholic Church, 1855 St. Mary's Drive, Montrose, on Friday, Ap. 12, 2024, at 10 a.m., followed immediately by a private ceremony. Please join the family at 2 p.m. at the Montrose Botanic Gardens for refreshments. Cremation and funeral arrangements are by Crippin Funeral Home. Donations in Barbara's honor may be made to the Montrose Botanic Gardens (<https://www.montrosegardens.org>) or to Shepherd's Hand (<https://www.shepherdshandmontrose.org/ways-to-help>).



Thank you for reading

THE MONTROSE MIRROR

ISSUE 456 Feb. 12, 2024

ART & SOL

THE BAREFOOT LAUREATE: VALENTINE'S DAY REMINDS US LOVE HAS MANY FACES



By Wendy
Videlock

REGIONAL-It is said that the most recognizable symbol in the world is the iconic heart symbol. Heart shapes were used in ancient societies, (often upside-down) and seem to have represented not just romantic or erotic love, but all the various kinds of love.

The actual physical heart, (which bears only a slight resemblance to the symbol we've come to know) was seen by the ancients as the seat of the soul and the emotional center.

Here lies the month of February, wedged between something meek and a distinct kind of roaring — as though wars might cease and peace might land in the palm of the hand when lions are smitten with lambs.

The heart-shape we now all recognize only became a symbol of romantic love in 1250. The first known case of the romantic love association was discovered in a French manuscript in which a young man offers his lover a pine cone. The pine cone was in the shape of a heart.

In Northern Africa, the city-state of Cyrene, best known for growing fennel which produces silphium, and was thought to be useful for contraception, produces heart-shaped seed pods. These seed pod-shapes were depicted on their coins, and might have helped contribute to the heart shape becoming connected to sexuality.

The Medieval notion of courtly love often used the heart-shape as a symbol for romance, further popularizing the association. Tarot cards and playing cards both contained the blood-red suit of Hearts.

*I can be knee-deep in misery, on a whim,
sky high or medium, frumpy, glumpy, full
of grandeur, wracked with candor, showing
all my years, grinding all my gears, bumbled
as a bee, consumed with some idea, and still
you give to me a gentle kind of sigh, a
slant kind
of rhyme, those gentling I-love-you eyes.*

The establishment of Valentine's Day to honor the martyred saint who performed secret marital ceremonies for lovers, further deepened the connection between the heart-shape and romantic love.

But love, (as a concept —and as both a noun and a verb), clearly contains multitudes.

*In my daughter's eyes I am the wise,
the one who knows who put the moon
inside the sky, but does not tell.*

She thinks I keep a secret when I say

*I do not know. Some things I know.
I have been told one does not brace*

*for sudden falls. When her day comes
to take this throne from under me,
I wish, upon a little star*

*that it might be a gentle sort of fall,
and that she'll recognize me there
without the crown at all.*

A well known bit of wisdom attributed to the Sioux declares that the longest journey you will ever make in your life is from the mind to the heart.

In practical terms, this doesn't mean that intelligence or knowledge is a negative thing, but that without the depth of feeling or empathy we associate with the heart, any learning or progress is a cold and perhaps even dangerous endeavor. *I don't buy it says the CEO.*

*As tender as it is hale,
the heart replies,
"It's not for sale."*

The ancient Greeks believed that there were eight different kinds of love:

Eros, erotic or romantic love
Philia, or Platonic love, the love between close friends
Storge, or familiar love, associated with love of family
Ludus, associated with the early stages of falling in love
Mania or obsessive love, in which jealousy and possessiveness are destructive

VALENTINE'S DAY REMINDS US LOVE HAS MANY FACES

From previous pg

Pragma, or enduring love, as in long marriage or long lasting romance

Philautia, or self love, which is distinguished from vanity or narcissism and instead refers to respecting the self and practicing self compassion.

Agape (pronounced uh-GAH-peh), selfless love. The Greeks considered Agape the highest form of love, a universal love, a spiritual love that transcends all other forms of love. Today the concept might be known as benevolence or *Christ Consciousness* or In Buddhism, *Loving Kindness*.

Valentine's Day is as good a time as any to be reminded that there are endless ways of expressing love-- and many dialects that fall within the language of the heart.

*I Dedicate These Words
to all the beautiful lovers
whose gentle fingers turned
to claw at one another.*

*I have left these notes
for the ordinary Joe
who forked the other road*

*and still became his father.
I am singing for the woman
stubborn as a pile of bricks*

*who in her zeal to live
has forgotten to forgive.
I am sister to those*

*half broken and half whole,
given to the mead,
sweating in the sheets,*

*or raking in the leaves
of joyousness, and sorrow.
I am counting on those*

*for whom the bell tolls,
who've settled near the river,
having failed to walk on water.*

Wendy Vidlock is poet laureate of the Western Slope. She teaches and advocates for the arts across Colorado and believes that language informs our thoughts, our behaviors and our ways of perceiving the world. Contact her at: westernslopeword@gmail.com



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MONTROSE CENTER FOR ARTS SPOTLIGHT ON PHOTOGRAPHY SHOW

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Montrose Center for Arts invites you to experience the "Spotlight on Photography" show featuring images by some of your favorite local photographers, alongside others who are showing for the first time at MCA. This juried show has a great range of subjects and techniques, so stop by and enjoy the beautiful display of fine art photography. "Spotlight on Photography" officially opens during First Friday from 4:30 - 6:30 pm, March 1 and runs through March 30. First Friday also features the sounds of Mixed Bag, the tastes of Dented Face plus select libations. Admission is free. The MCA is located at 11 S. Park Ave and is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Image courtesy of Gary Ratcliff.

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MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY

ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH

Address: 2057 S. Townsend, Montrose, CO 81401.

Office Hours: By appointment.

Contact Information: (970) 249-2451
[https:// www.allsaintsmontrose.org/](https://www.allsaintsmontrose.org/) Rec-
 tor: The Rev Preston Gordon, [pgor-
 don@allsaintsmontrose.org](mailto:pgor-

 don@allsaintsmontrose.org)

Worship Service Times: Sundays 9AM,

Sunday Worship. Wednesdays 11AM, Mid-
 week prayer and communion, Wednes-
 day, Noon, Multi-denominational Commu-
 nity Prayer Hour.

All Saints Anglican Church is an Evangelical
 Anglican Church committed to the minis-
 try of Word, Sacrament, and Spirit. Our
 music is a combination of traditional
 hymns, contemporary, and modern songs.

We invite kids preschool and up to join
 our kids worship time during the 9am Sun-
 day service. We would love to welcome
 you here. Following the service, join us for
 snacks and conversation. On the third Sun-
 day of the month we celebrate a potluck
 meal together.

Vision: We see Jesus Christ restoring
 hope: in us and in our world.

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Independent Baptist
 112 Main St.
 P.O. Box 262

Olathe, Co 81425

Tuesday-Friday Phone: 970-808-1021
www.biblebaptistchurcholathe.com

Pastor Gabe Skillo

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Sunday 6 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Study/Prayer 7 p.m.

CELEBRATION CHURCH

Denomination: Southern Baptist Church
 (SBC – Southern Baptist Convention)
Address: 2900 Sunnyside Road, Mont-
 rose, CO 81401

Office Hours: By appointment

Phone: (970) 497-4925

Email: celebrationmontrose@gmail.com

Website: [https://
 celebrationmontrose.org/](https://celebrationmontrose.org/)

Worship Service Times: 9am and 10:45am

Senior Pastor:

Pastor Brandon Mathis

Church Description/Mission: Celebration
 Church makes disciples that make disci-
 ples. Our core values include the Scrip-

ture, discipleship, community, service,
 prayer, love, and unity.

Demographics: Multi-generational

Celebration Kids: (age birth to 5th grade)
 programs offered both services.

Student (middle & high school) at 9am.

Adult -Discipleship classes 8am and
 10:45am.

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Denomination: Christ Lutheran Montrose
Affiliation: Lutheran Church Missouri Syn-
 od

Address: 1980 N. Townsend Ave., Mont-
 rose, CO 81401

Contact: 970-633-0226

Website: www.montroselutheran.org

Email: montroselutheran@gmail.com

Pastor: Tim Onnen

Worship: Sundays at 9 AM

Sunday School and Adult Bible Class at
 10:15 AM; Women's Bible Study Fridays at
 9 AM. At Christ Lutheran Montrose you will

find friendly people gathered in a welcom-
 ing environment being comforted and en-
 couraged by the forgiveness and love of
 Jesus, and sharing that with one another.

We are a small congregation of seniors
 and middle-aged, sprinkled with young
 children and teenagers.

FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

Denomination: Church of the Nazarene

Address: 705 South 12th Street

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9 am-
 Noon and by Appointment

Contact Information: Office Phone 970 249
 -9213, mncfirst@gmail.com,
www.montrosenazarenechurch.org

Pastor: Buddy Cook

Services Sunday: Worship 10 AM, Adult
 Bible Study 11:30 AM Worship includes age-
 appropriate children's ministry during
 adult worship.

Wednesday: Prayer Boot Camp - 7 PM

Mission Statement: *Montrose First Church
 of the Nazarene exists to make Christlike*

*disciples in Montrose Colorado and around
 the world.*

Demographics: Our church consists of old-
 er and younger people. We have younger
 families with children and young teens and
 older adults as well. We also support the
 work of Calvary Ranch Colorado and its
 addiction recovery ministry.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MONTROSE

Affiliation: Presbyterian

Address: 1840 E Niagara Rd. Montrose CO.
 81401 **Office Hours:** M-Thu 9AM -
 12PM **Contact:** 970-249-4732, [in-](mailto:in-

 form@fpcmontrose.com)

form@fpcmontrose.com,

www.fpcmontrose.com

Pastor: Jesse Mabanglo

Worship Service times: 9:30AM,

Student Worship at 6PM. *We strive to en-
 courage, challenge and support one ano-*

*er through spiritual growth, worship, and
 service in our community, country, and
 world. We also encourage children and
 youth to grow their relationship with Christ
 through our children and student minis-
 tries.*

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY From previous pg

HILLCREST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Denomination affiliation: United Church of Christ

Address: 611 South Hillcrest Drive, Montrose, CO 81401

Office hours: By appointment

Contact information:

Phone number: (970) 249-9047

Email address: office@montroseucc.org

Website: montroseucc.org

Current Pastor: Rev. Wendy Kidd

Worship service times: Sunday, 10 a.m.

Hillcrest Congregational UCC is a welcoming, open and affirming church, open to all no matter who you are or where you are

on life's journey.

Church demographics: HCUCC welcomes all ages to worship with us. (predominately family, youth, seniors, singles)

We offer inter-generational worship with a children's "prayer-ground" and activity packets. A cry room is also available.

MONTROSE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Denomination Affiliation: United Methodist

Address: 19 S. Park Avenue Montrose CO. 81401

Office Hours: M-Thu, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Contact Information: 970-249-3716, office@montroseumc.org, [mont-](http://montroseumc.org)

montroseumc.org

Current Senior Pastor: Rev. Kevin Young

Worship service times:

8:30 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual

9:45 a.m. Christian Education & Fellowship

11 a.m. Sanctuary

Montrose UMC is a leader in being fully inclusive, loving, and just servants of

Christ. Our church family welcomes people from various cultural and faith backgrounds: single, married, remarried, with or without children, from diapers to dentures.

Wherever you are on your spiritual journey we invite you to come discover hope, joy, peace, purpose.

ROSEMONT BAPTIST CHURCH

Affiliation: Southern Baptist

Address: 1598 E. Niagara Road, Montrose, CO 81401

Office Hours: Tues-Thurs, 9am-4pm

Contact information:

Phone: 970.249.4887

website: www.RosemontBaptist.org

email: office@rosemontbaptist.org

Senior Pastor: Rolland Kenneson

Worship Service Times: Our engaging and relevant Sunday Worship Service is at

10:45 AM. We also have Bible Study for All Ages Sunday mornings at 9:15 AM. We provide a professionally-staffed nursery throughout both.

Rosemont Baptist's desire is to passionately bring people face-to-face with the life-changing power of Jesus Christ.

We are a multigenerational church from different walks of life who love Jesus, love each other, and love our community. Everyone comes dressed in whatever is comfortable. We love meeting new people no

matter what stage of life they are in.

Children's services: We have a fun Sunday School for children from four years old through youth. We provide Children's Church during the Sunday Worship Services where children four years old through 9 years can learn to be worshipers of Jesus.

We provide a nursery for children under four years old with paid staff providing excellent care during Sunday Morning Bible Study and Worship Service.

SPIRITUAL AWARENESS CENTER

Denomination affiliation: Independent Interfaith

Address: Meeting at Lions Park Community Building, 602 N. Nevada, Montrose

Office hours: Tues-Fri, 9 am to 4 pm, **Home**

Office – 970-252-0908

Contact information:

Rev. Dr. Arlyn Macdonald,

970-252-0908,

arlyn@spiritaware.org,

www.spiritaware.org

Name of current pastor: Rev. Dr. Arlyn Macdonald, Senior minister; Rev. Ruby Salaz, Assistant Minister. Spiritual Counseling available.

Worship service times: In-person Sunday Unity Service at 11 a.m., (Social Time begins at 10 a.m.); Quiet Meditation at 10:30 a.m. Virtual Afternoon Service on Zoom at 2:00 p.m.; Chai Chats, a Wednesday morning midweek informal gathering at 10:30 a.m. at Pun Hill Himalayan Restaurant, Montrose; Thursday Empowerment Circle at 10:30 a.m. on Zoom. Everyone is

welcome. The Spiritual Awareness Center is an interfaith spiritual community welcoming spiritual seekers and people of all faiths, providing a safe place to explore and nurture the individual's unique connection to the Divine through Unity services, classes, family and community projects, including the Great Community Giveaway and Wellness Fair. People of all ages are welcome. There are currently no Sunday School or nursery services provided but craft supplies are available for youth.

ST. STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

Denomination: Anglican-Reformed Episcopal Church (REC)

Address: 2405 Sunnyside Road, Montrose 970-249-4868

Contact: [ststephensmont-](http://ststephensmontrose.com)

rose@yahoo.com

www.ststephensmontrose.com

Rev. Dec. Garrett Agajanian

St. Stephen's is a community of caring Christians rooted in the godly traditions of the past, focused on the challenges of the

present, hopeful for the future, continuing in the Faith once delivered to the saints, using the 1928 Book of Common Prayer.

Sunday: Holy Communion 10 am.

Fellowship following service.

Children's nursery available (unstaffed).

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY From previous pg

SUMMIT CHURCH OF MONTROSE:

Denomination affiliation:

Southern Baptist

Address: 10977 60.75 Rd. Montrose, CO 81403

Office hours: Varies

Contact information:

phone number: 970-275-7026

email: summitchurchmontrose@gmail.com

website: www.summitchurchmontrose.org

Senior Pastor: John DeSario

Worship service times: Sunday Worship is at 9 am followed by a time of fellowship and snacks. Summit Church has frequent Bible studies and other events for adults, young adults, youth and children. Please visit <https://www.summitchurchmontrose.org/events> for more information.

Summit Church Montrose is a new church plant that preaches the Word of God, reaches the lost with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and equips Christians to serve the

Lord. Summit Church has people of all ages!

We have families with children (babies, school aged, recent high school and college graduates) up to retired individuals. During the Sunday sermon we offer teaching for children ages birth to Kindergarten, in a kid friendly room called Base Camp. We also have a children's activity during our Monday night adult Bible study. We meet for prayer at the church every Wed. at 6:30.

VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH OF MONTROSE

Denomination Affiliation: Independent Baptist

Address: 2890 N Townsend Ave., Montrose, CO 81401

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8am-12pm

Contact Information: Phone (970) 249-

6874; email at info@vbcmontrose.org;

website: vbcmontrose.org

Current Pastor: Roland Kassales

Worship Service Times: Sunday School at 9:30am, Sunday AM Service at 10:30am, Sunday PM Service at 6pm, Wednesday Night Service at 6:30pm (all services include childcare)

Victory Baptist Church exists to exalt God, edify saints, and evangelize the lost. Demographics: Victory Baptist serves everyone with age-appropriate classes, groups, and activities. Families with children make up the majority of VBC with young adults, singles, middle-aged couples, and seniors comprising the rest.

Church Directory

Mirror Editorial Staff

MONTROSE-As a way of serving the faith community in Montrose, the Montrose Mirror is in the process of establishing a Church Directory. If your congregation or fellowship would like to be included in the directory, please supply the following

information to the Montrose Mirror:

Name of church

Denomination affiliation

Address Office hours

Contact information (phone number, email address, website)

Name of current Senior Pastor

Worship service times

Please give a one sentence description of your church and its mission in the Montrose community.

Brief description of your current church demographics (predominately family, youth, seniors, singles).

Do your church services include Sunday School and childcare?

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970-765-0129

Amelias Hacienda Restaurante
970-249-1881

Delta: Pour Ernie's
970-546-0074



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970-252-1119

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970-787-9021

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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

SPEAKEASY FUNDRAISER ANNOUNCED

Special to Art & Sol

GRAND JUNCTION-The Museums of Western Colorado's presents our Annual Speakeasy Fundraiser: Night on the Barbary Coast on Saturday March 9th, 2024. Come join us for a night of debauchery honoring Grand Junction's historic red-light district, the Barbary Coast. The event is a fundraiser that supports the Museums of Western Colorado, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Tickets include a range of appetizers and desserts, 2 tokens to be redeemed for drinks or entry to the gaming hall, era-appropriate music to practice your Charleston to, and access to the Museum of the West's exhibits. Come support your local museum by dancing and drinking the night away.

To learn more about our fundraiser, check out the URL below:

<https://www.museumofwesternco.com/speakeasy/>

Tickets are available on our website now! Be sure to bring a form of ID, as this event is for folks 21 and older only.

For more information visit: www.mowc.co Instagram: @museumsofwesternco Facebook: @crossorchards Twitter:

@museumsofwc YouTube: Museums of Western Colorado

About: Museums of Western Colorado includes three museums: Dinosaur Journey Museum, Museum of the West, and Cross Orchards Historic Site. The Museums of Western Colorado inspires and connects our community by championing the scientific and cultural heritage of the Colorado Plateau.

MONTHLY SENSORY NIGHT AT DINOSAUR JOURNEY

Special to the Mirror

GRAND JUNCTION-Join Museums of Western Colorado at our Monthly Sensory Night, every second Monday of the month at Dinosaur Journey in Fruita. Our kickoff event will be on Feb. 12, 2024, from 3pm – 6pm. Admission for this event will be \$5 per person. To keep the museum environment from being overwhelming, exhibit lights will be turned down, background noise and our animatronics will be turned off. For more information check out the link below.

<https://www.museumofwesternco.com/event/sensory-night/>

Every second Monday of the month beginning February 12th, 2024, 3pm-6pm at Dinosaur Journey, 550 Jurassic Ct, Fruita, Co 81521. Price is \$5 per person.

For more information visit: www.mowc.co Instagram: @museumsofwesternco Facebook: @MuseumsofWesternCo Twitter: @museumsofwc YouTube: Museums of Western Colorado.





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ONGOING-

MONTROSE CENTER FOR ARTS FIRST FRIDAY-New Art Exhibit opening with featured artists.4:30 - 7 pm First Friday of every month. 11 S Park Ave., Montrose. Free Admission.For more information: 970-787-9428 or info@mc4arts.com

MONTROSE ALTRUSA-1st Tuesday of the month Program meeting; 2nd Tuesday of the month committee meeting; 3rd Tuesday of the month Business meeting. Meetings are held at the Field House on the corner of Colorado Avenue and Rio Grande Avenue at Noon.

FREE THINKERS meet 1st Sunday of the month for information call 970 417-4183

BOSOM BUDDIES BREAST CANCER SUPPORT GROUP, Wednesdays noon-12:45, 645 S. 5th Street

MONTROSE HISTORICAL SOCIETY meets 1st Wednesday of the month @ Montrose Events Center, 1036 No 7th Street 7 pm (970) 249-2085 www.montrosehistory.org

MONTROSE AREA WOODTURNERS second Saturdays 9 am. 17800 - 6400 Rd in Montrose. Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners. Information: Al Head 970-209-0981 or aheadaviation@outlook.com

NURSE FAMILY PARTNERSHIP-Breastfeeding Support Group on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month. An infant scale will also be available to check your baby's weight. Breastfeeding Support Group (Bring your questions and your family!) Montrose County Event Center (1036 North 7th Street Room 3) 10am - 12pm. Questions? Please call 970-252-5015.

BINGO EVERY FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY at 7pm at the American Legion Post 24 Olathe doors open at 5:30. Sunday Bingo will start at 1:30pm. More info call Tom 970 260 8298.

THE HEALING COLLECTIVE OF WESTERN COLORADO welcomes local practitioners, who focus on healing the whole being. Meetings are on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month and both are from Noon-1 pm, upstairs at the Mother Earth store on Main Street. We support one another with our practices, business, and personal needs. For more information please contact Erin Easton at ErinKEaston@gmail.com

THE MONTROSE GENEALOGY CENTER at 700 E. Main St. is now open Wednesday and Thursday afternoons, 1-4 p.m. or call for an appointment: 970-240-1755. Free help and resources for your family history research." (The center is sponsored by the non-profit organization, Fore-Kin Trails Genealogical Society.)

MONTHLY

Feb. 1-April 12-AARP Foundation Tax-aide in Montrose – Feb. 1 - April 12, Tue, Thu, Fri 9am - 2pm at the Montrose Pavilion Senior Center. Free income tax preparation for anyone, free of charge, focused on individuals over 50 or low/moderate income. Appointments are required, call 970-252-4889, M-F 9-2. More information about the program is available at: taxaide.aarpfoundation.org

Feb. 14-Special movie screening-"Poor Things" playing on Wednesday, Feb. 14 at 1 pm at the Fox Theater in Montrose.

Feb. 16-Montrose Republican Women-Friday, February 16th monthly lunch program and meeting. Noon - 1:30pm at Montrose Hampton Inn. All are invited to hear Olathe Chief of Police Frank Rodriquez and Montrose Police discuss sex trafficking and other criminal activities in our area.Brown bag lunch. MRW Membership Drive is underway - call Kerri 970-209-5170.

March 2-3-The Colorado West Performing Arts Ballet Company will be performing The Little Mermaid Ballet in Montrose at the Montrose Pavilion, on March 2 at 2 and 7pm, and on March 3 at 2pm. For more information visit <https://www.coloradowestpac.org/>

March 9-The Museums of Western Colorado presents our Annual Speakeasy Fundraiser: Night on the Barbary Coast on Saturday March 9, 2024. Come join us for a night of debauchery honoring Grand Junction's historic red-light district, the Barbary Coast. The event is a fundraiser that supports the Museums of Western Colorado, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Tickets are available on our website now! Be sure to bring a form of ID, as this event is for folks 21 and older only. **For more information visit:** www.mowc.co Instagram: @museumsofwesternco Facebook: @crossorchards Twitter: @museumsofwc You Tube: Museums of Western Colorado



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MONTROSE HIGH SCHOOL DIVISION AWARD WINNERS



MHS Division Award Winners for February are Wesley Riley, Brayden Smedly, Osmar Encarnacion, Olivia Jenkins, Hayley Eldridge, Mildred Portillo, Kaden Tanner, Amy Scriffiny Nyah Green, and Nash Fowler. Courtesy photo.

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