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the Montrose Mirror

CITY CONSIDERS VOA UTILITY FEE WAIVER, HOTEL TAX INCREASE

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-Montrose Mayor J. David Reed opened the regular [City Council work session](#) of Monday, July 1, and welcomed those present. "We encourage people to attend...it's a time for Council to hear from staff on various matters that will be coming before us in the not-too-distant future, usually in a couple of weeks."

All councilors were present except Councilor Ed Ulibarri, who was absent.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Community Development Manager Jace Hochwalt presented a utility fee waiver request for the Volunteers of America Rendezvous site. Staff has recommended consideration, Hochwalt said, "This project will improve on and provide some much-needed senior affordable housing in the area." The fees must be reimbursed from the City's General Fund.



On Monday, July 1, Montrose City Council considered a utility fee waiver request for the Volunteers of America Rendezvous site (site plan above is from [work session packet](#)). The project is expected to provide affordable senior housing, Community Development Manager Jace Hochwalt said.

[Continued pg 20](#)

CITIZENS CONTINUE TO PUSH FOR NON-SANCTUARY CITY STATUS



Mayor J. David Reed, right, recognized Justin Mashburn, left, who serves as [recreation manager](#) at the Montrose Recreation Center. Mashburn coaches youth sports as well, and volunteers for non-profit organizations.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE- Montrose Mayor J. David Reed presented the second, "You Make a Difference" award to a local resident, and a number of citizens spoke during the time for public comment at the regular City Council meeting of Tuesday, July 2. Reed welcomed all and led in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

City Clerk Lisa DelPiccolo took roll and noted that Councilor Ed Ulibarri was absent, and all other councilors were present.

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

YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE AWARD

Mayor Reed reminded all that 2024 is the "Year of Our Citizens," and recognized Justin Mashburn, who serves as [recreation manager](#) at the Montrose Recreation Center. Mashburn coaches youth sports as well, and volunteers for non-profit organizations that benefit youth.

Mashburn was present to

[Continued pg 24](#)

UPDATED GUIDELINES FOR LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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We appreciate your letters! We like reading and hearing opinions from all perspectives. We are sharing herewith our updated guidelines: In the past we have had one rule, to be implemented at the editor's discretion. We are now including two more suggested "Rules" for letter writers.

RULE 1. The Dead Horse Rule has been in place from the start of the *Mirror*. This is somewhat self-explanatory, but there are times when something has been said so many times it can run afoul of the "Dead Horse Rule," in which case we will inform the writer.

RULE 2. While there are always exceptions, a letter can often say what needs to be said in one page or less. Our pages are 8.5 X 11, we use a 10 pt Calibri font; letters that are roughly 800 words fit well within this suggested guideline.

RULE 3. Please limit repetitive mud-slinging to avoid bumping up against Rule 1. Also, in the case of those writing to intentionally discredit a public official or candidate for public office, please provide a link to the source of your allegation if possible. Unsourced, unproven allegations are not credible, and could in fact be untruths.

Finally, opinions expressed in letters and commentary are those of the authors themselves, and do not reflect the views of the *Montrose Mirror* or editorial staff.

Thank you,
 Caitlin Switzer,
 Montrose Mirror Editor

THE MONTROSE MIRROR

Published every Monday since 2010 in Montrose, Colorado to a readership of over 20,000 residents of Western Colorado.

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

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Shannon Hale Author Events, July 9

Author Shannon Hale Visits
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Second, Shannon will give a presentation
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

REGION 10 AWARDED \$288,028 FOR SENIOR VOLUNTEER SERVICES

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— Region 10 League for Economic Assistance and Planning has received an AmeriCorps Seniors grant of \$288,028 from AmeriCorps, the federal agency for national service and volunteerism. The grant will expand Region 10's presence by funding a total of 45 AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers in Delta, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montrose, Ouray and San Miguel counties, where Region 10 has been providing services for older adults since 1972.

"I am excited to work with AmeriCorps and local volunteers to improve the lives of caregivers and homebound residents and help them remain in their homes," said Program Coordinator Claudette Nicolas. "The program also enables adults over the age of 55 to gain valuable skills through service, helping them gainfully return to the workforce." With this new funding, Region 10 will leverage the skills and experience of AmeriCorps volunteers in the six-county region. These volunteers will be providing routine visits and support to homebound older adults and respite to family caregivers. This program reduces social isolation and caregiver burnout through volunteers who have a regular schedule of visits. Learn more about Region 10 at region10.net and AmeriCorps Seniors at americorps.gov/seniors. For additional information, call Claudette Nicolas at 970.765.3121.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MURDER INVESTIGATION UNDERWAY IN PAGOSA SPRINGS

CBI News Release

CBI – PAGOSA SPRINGS- On Tuesday, July 2nd, 2024 at approximately 2:20am, Archuleta County Sheriff's Office (ACSO) was dispatched to a 911 open line in the 1000 block of County Road 700 near Pagosa Springs. Upon arrival on-scene, two Archuleta County Sheriff's Deputies discovered a deceased female, age 39. The victim was shot during an apparent homicide.

The scene was immediately secured. There is no suspect information that can be shared at this time. Archuleta County Sheriff's Office requested support from Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI). CBI has agreed to be the lead investigative agency. Details will be released as the investigation unfolds.

All future media inquiries should be directed to the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI).



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MONTROSE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS APPROVE ORDINANCE ALLOWING CITIZENS TO CARRY PERMITTED FIREARMS ON COUNTY PROPERTY

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-The Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) voted at a special meeting on Tuesday, June 25 to allow citizens to carry permitted firearms on county properties. There was no invocation delivered during the special meeting, there were no comments heard from the public, and there were no Consent Agenda items.

General Business and Administrative Items

County Attorney Marti Whitmore read into the record proposed Ordinance 2024-01, concerning permitting firearms to be carried on County properties.

"I think it's a very important ordinance that we're presenting here today," BOCC Vice Chair Keith Caddy said, "It partially protects the Second Amendment rights of the people of Montrose, for the over-reaching State of Colorado and their legislation and what they've subjected us to this last year."

Ordinance 2024-01 was approved unanimously.

Whitmore said that the State of Colorado is taking over ambulance licensure, and introduced Resolution 27-2024, concerning the opting out of requiring local authorization for ambulances.

The BOCC also voted unanimously to ap-

prove Resolution 27-2024, authorizing the Chair's signature on a Professional Service Agreement with SAFEbuilt, LLC for Remote Chief Building Official Services effective June 24, 2024 through December 31, 2024; as reviewed by Counsel.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioners entered Executive Session, for legal advice pertaining to a pending special use permit and C.R.S. 24-6-402(4) (a) and (b) for legal advice and direction regarding the lease of real property. Deputy County Attorney Julie Andress joined commissioners and County Attorney Marti Whitmore. Upon returning to regular session Commissioners voted to adjourn.

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July 11th 10-11:30 a.m.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

PERSONS OF INTEREST IDENTIFIED IN PAGOSA SPRINGS MURDER

CBI News Release

CBI-PAGOSA SPRINGS, CO – The Colorado Bureau of Investigation wishes to share the following update into the murder of 39-year old Crystal Snow of Pagosa Springs. Snow's body was discovered Tuesday morning July 2 after Archuleta County Combined Dispatch received a 911 call from Snow's home at around 2:20 am.

Operators were not able to communicate with the caller, so two deputies from the Archuleta County Sheriff's Office were dispatched to Snow's home in the 1000 block of County Road 700 west of Pagosa Springs.

After arriving at the home, deputies found Snow had died in an apparent homicide. At this time investigators believe Snow called 911 shortly before she died from her injuries.

An autopsy conducted this morning confirms that Snow died from multiple gunshot wounds.

CBI Agents believe this was a targeted shooting and have identified Persons of Interest but no arrests have been made while the investigation continues. Investigators do not believe there is any active threat to the public.

The Archuleta County Sheriff's Office requested support from Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI). CBI has agreed to be the lead investigative agency. Details will continue to be released as the investigation unfolds.

AUTHOR EVENTS WITH SETH CAGIN



Wednesday, July 17, 5:30 p.m.
Wilkinson Public Library, Telluride.

Thursday, July 18, 5:30 p.m.
Curioser Books, Montrose

Saturday, July 20, 2 p.m.
Naturita Public Library

Monday, July 22, 7:30 p.m.
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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT NAMES BLACK CANYON SURGICAL CENTER AMONG AMERICA'S BEST AMBULATORY SURGERY CENTERS FOR OPHTHALMOLOGY

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— Black Canyon Surgical Center is continuing to demonstrate their unwavering commitment to quality care, having been named one of the best ambulatory surgery centers in the nation.

In a detailed analysis of nearly 5,000 ambulatory surgery centers (ASCs) across the United States, Black Canyon Surgical Center was named one of the top facilities in the nation, specifically in the field of Ophthalmology – the diagnosis and treatment of eye disorders. Black Canyon Surgical Center offers various Ophthalmology procedures, including Cataract Surgery, Glaucoma Surgery, Pterigium Removal, and Blepharoplasty.

“It is an honor to be recognized in this way amongst other Ambulatory Surgery Centers across the nation. We are humbled by our achievements and proud to serve our community’s surgical service needs,” said Dan Soderlind, Administrator for Black Canyon Surgical Center. “Patients have a choice for where they receive their care and this is yet another indicator that a patient can find high quality and cost-

effective care locally. These are attributes our business invests an enormous amount of energy and time on.”

This recognition given by U.S. News & World Report is the result of evaluations in four specialty areas: Colonoscopy & Endoscopy, Orthopedics & Spine, Ophthalmology, and Urology. They reached their conclusions by gathering three years of Medicare data to evaluate the 5,000 surgical centers, focusing on criteria such as successfully avoided complications, ER visits, unplanned hospitalizations, and other undesirable outcomes. Black Canyon Surgical Center was exemplary in this area, boasting a very low rate of unexpected complications when compared to their competitors.

Of the 141 ambulatory surgical centers currently located in Colorado, only 11 were recognized by U.S. News with this recognition. Black Canyon Surgical Center was named among the best overall facilities in Colorado to receive Ophthalmological care. In addition to this year’s recognition, in 2023 the Black Canyon Surgical Center was named one of America’s best



Black Canyon Surgical Center. Courtesy photo.

Ambulatory Surgery Centers by Newsweek.

Montrose Regional Health partners with independent providers in the community to excel and provide excellent care, including a partnership with Black Canyon Surgical Center. The surgical center is a multi-specialty ambulatory surgical center in Montrose, providing high quality Orthopedic, Endoscopic, Ophthalmic, General Surgery, ENT, Podiatric, Dental, Urologic and Pain Management care to a five-county region. More information about the Black Canyon Surgical Center can be found at BlackCanyonSurgicalCenter.com.

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Wed., August 7 - Sat., August 10

Montrose Pavilion, Montrose

6:30AM - 9:30AM

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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

DAN BEN-HORIN BEGINS NEW ROLE AS BLM UNCOMPAGHGRE FIELD MANAGER



Dan Ben-Horin.
Courtesy photo.

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE — Dan Ben-Horin will serve as Field Manager for the Bureau of Land Management Uncompahgre Field Office in Montrose, Colorado. Ben-Horin will oversee the multiple use manage-

ment of nearly 900,000 acres of public land and over 2.3 million acres of federal mineral estate in BLM Colorado's Southwest District.

The field office encompasses portions of four river systems and supports a diverse landscape ranging from lowland riparian along the Dolores River to piñon-juniper woodlands adorning the Uncompahgre Plateau. Within the field office boundary, the Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area protects a moonscape of highly eroded Mancos Shale badlands. At its heart lies the Gunnison Gorge Wilderness, a dramatic black granite and red sandstone double canyon carved by the Gunnison River. In addition, the field office shares with the BLM Grand Junction Field Office in the management of the spectacular Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area.

Dan is well known to many in western Colorado, where he served as the National Conservation Lands Specialist for the Grand Junction Field Office since 2016. During that time, he emphasized community involvement in managing public lands and took on a number of temporary assignments that bolstered his BLM leadership experience.

"We are so pleased to welcome Dan to the BLM Colorado Southwest District from our neighboring Upper Colorado River District," said District Manager Stephanie McCormick. "His diverse background in public lands management will be a perfect fit for the wide range of great work being accomplished in the Uncompahgre Field

Office. We're especially excited to gain Dan's appreciation for the value of robust collaboration with our partners and the public."

Ben-Horin holds a Bachelor of Business Administration from Hofstra University and a Master of Urban and Regional Planning, with a concentration in land use and environmental planning, from the University of Colorado Denver. In addition, he is a graduate of the Presidential Management Fellowship class of 2016 and part of BLM's Emerging Leaders class of 2023. Dan is

married to his best friend Amy, a small business owner and animal lover. In their free time, they relish exploring the public lands of western Colorado.

"It is an honor to join the Uncompahgre Field Office team and I'm thrilled to be working with such a passionate and dedicated staff," said Ben-Horin. "The UFO has spectacular public land resources and I'm looking forward to creating meaningful relationships with our local communities and partners to ensure their sound management."

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

PLEASE ATTEND THE NEXT SCHOOL BOARD MEETING ON AUGUST 13TH

Editor:

Did you know that the United States federal government is trying to change Title IX rules from 1972?

We've all watched as males presenting as females have competed and won countless athletic events. We've seen females who have worked their entire lives to compete be unable to compete because men have taken their places!

Title IX was intended as a civil rights law to ban sex discrimination against students, employees, and others at public schools, colleges, and universities that receive federal funding. However, the Biden administration is making major overhauls to this policy that are not in the best interests of parents or students.

The federal document instituting these changes is 1,577 pages long, so the U.S. federal government "summarized" it into 5 pages of complete gibberish.

The summary includes such statements as: "The final regulations do not include rules governing eligibility requirements for athletic teams."

What does this have to do with the Montrose School District? Everything.

What happened at this week's school board meeting is nothing short of disgusting. Sarah Fishing bullied her way into passing this federal mumbo jumbo when two of the board members had specific

questions about the ramifications of the 1,577 pages of changes. But Sarah would not have it.

She pushed to pass these changes even though Balleck asked for the board to at least discuss and vote on the measures one by one. Nope, Fishing who clearly thinks she knows the rules, and what's best for all pushed for a vote for all measures at once and none of the other board members even uttered a word of questioning. Fishing stated "and these particular policies we are required by law to have passed by July 1 so um, these policies are required by law." When in fact, the deadline for passing these policies is August 1 AND several states are in litigation with the U.S. federal government over these policies. (The word coercion comes to mind.)

She shamed the two board members who had questions for not calling the lawyers who wrote this mumbo jumbo to ask them to explain it to them. Neisha Ballack and Ted Valerio are the only two so far who won't bow under Fishing's pressure. And yet, the vote stands and Montrose Colorado School District voted to pass these measures which none understand and according to Fishing will be "interpreted on the ground." These same measures that the State of Tennessee calls as "The Biden administration's unlawful

attempt to rewrite Title IX threatens teachers and students' privacy, safety, fairness, and free speech."

The same measures that Attorney General Paxton is suing the Department of Education for issuing arbitrary and capricious guidance that unlawfully extended Title IX which would force Texas schools and universities to allow biological males to use women's restrooms, locker rooms, and other sex-specific spaces. Any Texas school refusing to follow the mandate risked losing federal education funding. Yet our Montrose School Board, sans Balleck and Valerio, passed without any discussion!

And back to Fishing thinking she knows the rules after many years on this board. The policy ADC- Tobacco Free Schools is listed in the text of the agenda item as being revised, but was never attached to the Board Docs for either the first or second reading where the existing motion and revisions in red were required as occurred with the other motions. So, by rushing this through, the board voted on revisions to a motion they had not seen, and at the very least the public was never able to review.

If you want to see for yourself and make a difference, please attend the next school board meeting on August 13th.

Chanda Ouimet, Montrose

MONTROSE HIGH SCHOOL REDESIGN: NEW CAMPUS SHOULD HAVE JROTC BUILDING AS TRIBUTE AND CONTINUATION OF 50 YEARS OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE

Editor:

According to the Daily Press and others, the MHS redesign is "likely going to be a tough sell." So, unless the new campus has a JROTC building as both a tribute and continuation of the 50 years of outstanding service that the program has provided to this community, I would recommend that former Cadets, their family and friends, veterans and their supporting organizations, as well as those who want a program specifically devoted to citizenship in their school district; not 'buy' any of the current proposals.

At the program's recent demise due to the effects of apathy, mendacity, and neglect, the district stated in a conciliatory nod to those who lobbied for its continuation, that they would entertain a revival of the program if there was renewed interest. The student interest was never gone. It only waned in the absence of enthusiastic leadership on the part of instructors and administrators as well as the school's inability to attract instructors focused on the long-term success of the program and its Cadets.

Imagine a sports program that was merely a clubhouse for those to practice for events in which they would no longer compete. No success to reinforce the benefits of teamwork, competition, or hard work, and coaches with a priority on the job's 'clock hour' requirement over the team's success. It's time to revisit and renew that student interest with a new JROTC building and instructors up to the challenge. I had some success. With a new building, I just might reapply! It may just be the incentive this so-called 'tough sell' needs.

Scott Rizzo, MHS Senior Naval Science Instructor 1998-2016

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KATHLEEN CURRY FOR HD58



VOTE FOR EXPERIENCE



My name is Kathleen Curry, and I am a candidate for Colorado House District 58. For the last six years I have worked at the State Capitol on behalf of West Slope water districts and agricultural interests and served previously in the Colorado House of Representatives for six years. (2005-2010).

I know how to actually get things done at the State Capitol. I have 25 years of experience working in the water profession in Colorado, and am part of a five-generation family ranch operation in Gunnison County. My commitment is to finding solutions to our challenges — not just talking about them — and my focus is on policy, not politics. If you send me back to the Capitol on your behalf, I will make a positive difference.

Thank you,
Kathleen



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

PUBLIC COMMENT REQUESTED FOR THE ENGINEERING EVALUATION/COST ANALYSIS—AUBURN AND IRON CITY MINES

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE — The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests' Ouray Ranger District is requesting public comments and input during the 30-day public comment period on the Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) report for the Auburn and Iron City Mine sites (Site). These sites are located at the headwaters of the Corkscrew Gulch drainage near National Forest System Road #886 – Corkscrew Gulch road, approximately 11 miles south of Ouray, Colorado.

The GMUG is evaluating a Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) Non-Time-Critical Removal Action at the Site to address mine wastes containing heavy metals concentrations considered hazardous to human health and the environment. The EE/CA report was prepared to identify and evaluate cleanup alternatives to reduce the potential threat to human health and the environment from heavy metals contamination. The removal action would include stabilizing contaminated material to prevent it from eroding off-Site, improving downstream water quality, reducing exposure to the public and wildlife, minimizing erosion and restoring native vegetation.

Site inspections were conducted, including sampling and chemical analysis of the mine wastes, sediment, draining adit and background sampling of nearby soils unaffected by mining activities. The results of these studies, along with human health and ecological risk screenings, are presented in the EE/CA. Interested members of the public can view the EE/CA report at [Auburn and Iron City Mines EE/CA report](#). The USDA Forest Service must receive all comments regarding the EE/CA report by Aug. 3, 2024.

Comments or questions may be submitted by

-Email to Bryan Barrett, GMUG Environmental Engineer and On-Scene Coordinator, at bryan.barrett2@usda.gov.

-Mailed or hand delivered to GMUG National Forest's Supervisor's Office, Attn: Bryan Barrett—Auburn and Iron City Mines EE/CA Project Comments, 2250 South Main Street, Delta, Colorado 81416.

For information and updates on current fire restrictions, conditions, and recreation opportunities on the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests, visit the [forest website](#). Connect with us on social media ([X \(Twitter\)](#) and [Facebook](#)).



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

RE-1J SCHOOL BOARD: WHO DO YOU REALLY REPRESENT?

Editor:

OPINION: "FISHERING RELENTLESSLY SCOLDED NEW-1J DIRECTORS" as reported in the Montrose Mirror July 1, 2024, edition at the most recent Montrose County School District meeting. Let's start right there.

Sarah Fishing is one vote. One can only ask where the rest of the school board members are regarding her conduct, demeanor, and outright disrespect for other elected school board members and a public citizen that were having concerns and questions, regardless of the subject matter before the board? When school board members say nothing and diminish any person's voice on the board, they in fact diminish their own voice. So, the obvious question now must be asked: who do the individual school board members represent, the people and parents of this community that they asked to put them in

their respective positions or a one-person ruler and point of view that turns themselves into a nonfunctional board member afraid to speak up. I do not recall school board members stating that they were anything but individual thinkers, and they assured us all that they did not consider a position on the school board as a "SOCIAL CLUB MEMBER".


Title IX in lay man's terms is a mess. The Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB) is not the final answer concerning Title IX. The lower Federal Courts and Supreme Court have a lot of issues to sort out yet. The rights of all individuals, enforcement, and the safety of our students are just a few questions yet to be answered and now have a "FEDERAL COURT ORDERED STAY STATUS IN PLACE" regarding expansion issues and other pending legal questions.

The other pending issues are the values of

the students, parents, and citizens of RE1J itself concerning such items as restroom/locker room rights and the risk and exposure to our students both physically and mentally being fully understood and vetted? The very thought of their first amendment rights and beliefs being violated is another question? In closing, all school board members' questions, opinions, and concerns must be heard without intimidation and malice.

Board members: Mrs. Balleck and Mr. Valerio are not only owed an apology by the individual board members for just sitting there and saying nothing to board member Sarah Fishing concerning her reported conduct, but they themselves must ask the unpleasant questions that go along with being an engaged board member and policy maker, "WHO DO YOU REALLY REPRESENT"?

Jim Anderson, Montrose




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GAIL MARVEL
Montrose Author & Reporter

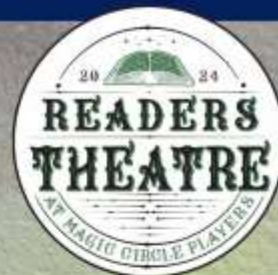
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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

THANK YOU NEISHA BALLECK AND TED VALERIO

Editor:

I would like to take a moment to thank our new school board members Neisha Balleck and Ted Valerio. It is quite evident from the 6/25 school board meeting that our support for them during the school board election was well placed. Not too many citizens are willing to invest the amount of time and effort that is required to serve on the school board. I am sure both Neisha and Ted have families and jobs that they would rather have occupy their time, but they care enough about our school children and this town to make the sacrifice. They probably didn't realize that they would also be subject to being scolded and shamed by our school board president for doing what they were elected to do --- ask questions and insure that important policy changes are understood and not simply rubberstamped.

I had to chuckle at board of education president Fishing's conduct during the meeting. It was reminiscent of Nancy Pelosi's actions in trying to ram through an outrageous deficit spending federal budget: "We have to pass this budget so we can see what's in it!" Fishing seemed to think board members should just trust the Colorado Association of School Board's lawyers, and if board members had questions they should have worked them out with the CASB lawyers before the meeting? Let's just get these passed without questions or discussion and what we pass "will be interpreted on the ground." Not sure what that means but it seems to imply they will just deal with any problems created by what they passed later.

During the Covid shutdowns, parents had a rude awakening when they discovered what their children were being taught. Perhaps with some fresh blood on the school board, we are having our eyes opened a bit to the workings of our local school district. So far, I'm not too impressed. For example, our school Superintendent just got a pay raise (+12.6%?) in line with that received by the rest of the staff? So, let me get this straight. The school top executive's raises are not based on performance or the result of some type

of formal evaluation? The school board just automatically gives the Superintendent an increase whenever the union negotiates an increase? Perhaps the school district might want to let us taxpayers know what the salary was before the increase and after the increase, and how

that compares to Delta, Grand Junction, and other local school districts.

While you are at it, let's see the numbers on administration/support staff in the Montrose school district compared to Delta, GJ, and other area school districts.

Ed Henrie, Montrose

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CITY CONSIDERS VOA UTILITY FEE WAIVER, HOTEL TAX INCREASE From pg 1

Volunteers of America Vice President of Regional Real Estate Development Doug Snyder shared the graphics package for the project. VOA has historically been a top employer in Montrose, he said. Snyder shared maps and discussed the plans for the project, which will keep some very low income residents from sliding into homelessness.

Approval of the fee waiver request will come before Council on July 16, Hochwalt said.

Background- A memo from Hochwalt to Council states, “City Council is considering the request to abate the actual cost of water and sewer connection fees for VOA *Rendezvous Affordable Housing Development* located at 2366 Robins Way in Montrose...The fees are estimated to total \$121,737.80. Volunteers of America (VOA) are requesting that the City of Montrose abate the water and sewer connection fees in support of the proposed VOA *Rendezvous affordable housing project*...The project will offer 52 affordable units through renovating the 30-unit Pavilion Gardens plus constructing a 22-unit building at the heart of VOA’s senior campus in southeastern Montrose. All units will serve seniors aged 55 and older. The development plan includes 28 one-bedroom and 24 two-bedroom units. The unit mix and rents are geared to provide much needed affordability with a range of 30 – 60 percent area median income (AMI) which is approximately \$18,000 to \$42,000 per year. Volunteers of America will be the developer, manager/operator, and long-term owner. The total project budget is approximately \$22.5 million. Construction is expected to begin in July of 2024, with an opening date expected in the Fall of 2025.”

Council considered a Colorado State Forest Service Grant Application Request. The grant will be used to partially fund a city forester within City limits, Payne said. Staff recommended Council approval to submit an Urban & Community Forestry Grant application in the amount of \$250,000 to fund a new City Forester position in the Parks Division.

Background- A memo from Payne and

Ottinger to Council states, “*The City of Montrose Parks Division is seeking approval from City Council to apply for a Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) Colorado Inflation Reduction Act Urban & Community Forestry Grant. The purpose of the grant is to partially fund a City Forester position for five years to address urban forestry within the City limits... If funding is awarded, the City of Montrose will use it for personnel costs (specifically to hire a City Forester)...to build capacity as well as help with developing long-range plans inclusive of wildfire mitigation.*

Also discussed was the possible purchase of the Tyler Technologies Municipal Court Software, for an initial amount of \$79,419 for year 1, and \$30,650 annually for years 2-5. Data Entry would be streamlined and would alleviate human error with a more automated process.

“We want to take the human error out of it,” Municipal Court Judge Erin Maxwell said, adding that staff has reached out to other jurisdictions for feedback, has taken both positive and negative feedback into account, and the software remains the best overall choice for the court to move forward. “.....as it stands currently the legal team can’t even access their own cases...this would give them access to see all of that...”

The new software would save time and would benefit the entire city legal team, Maxwell said.

The cost is in line with other providers, IT Director Greg Story said, adding that Tyler Technologies products are considered “best of breed,” and are priced accordingly.

Public Safety Attorney Matthew Magliaro said the court has long outgrown its current software, and the new software would remedy many issues he has faced in his work.

Council will be asked to approve the software purchase on July 16. The expenditure is not budgeted and will be funded out of the undesignated fund balance/general fund, City Manager Bill Bell said.

Council considered the Public Works Shop Addition and Rio Grande Right of Way Addition annexation applications and the

associated zoning. The annexation is proposed because the property for the new public works shop is presently in the county rather than the city, Planner William Reis said. The trail between the two properties is already within city limits, requiring that both be voted on separately.

He shared the proposed annexation map. The parcels are owned by the city, are eligible for annexation, and the proposed zoning is consistent with current annexation policies, the public health safety and welfare and the comprehensive plan, Reis said.

Police Chief Blaine Hall introduced Victim Service Coordinator Chantelle Bainbridge and her dog Apple, as he presented for consideration Resolution 2024-09, in support of the Victim Assistance Law Enforcement (VALE) Grant Application.

The police department applies for the grant every year; the grant funds would pay for 47 percent of the Victim’s Service Coordinator’s salary with \$25,000 for Victims Advocate Marissa Abeyta.

Hall said, “We have seen an increase in the number of victims that we are serving from 2022, to the tune of 389 total victims to 2023, a substantial increase at 609 victims...the Montrose Police Department wishes to continue to improve upon the services provided to Victims Services availability seven days a week...the police department also wishes to reduce the burn-out caused by vicarious trauma and maintain longevity with future advocates and employees with this type of position...”

The police department is mandated to provide services to victims of violent crime. Still, the Federal government has advised that there will be a massive cut for funding of victims’ services, Hall said. The VALE board has also seen a funding shortfall of 29 percent.

“We serve the most victims in the 7th Judicial District,” Hall said. The department is seeking other ways to supplement the necessary funding.

Mayor Pro Tem David Frank said he recently met with Colorado Attorney General Phil Weiser. “...He mentioned that he thinks that the Montrose Police is the model—THE MODEL—for this in the State

CITY CONSIDERS VOA UTILITY FEE WAIVER, HOTEL TAX INCREASE *From previous pg*

of Colorado...thank you and congratulations for all of your hard work and for setting the bar really high...," Frank said.

Police Chief Blaine Hall said that he was able to meet with Weiser as well, and raised concerns to the Attorney General about the difficulty of fulfilling discovery issues and the need for possible additional legislation to ease that burden.

GENERAL COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Mayor Reed said that the four councilors present had attended the ribbon cutting for the Montrose Children's Museum over the previous weekend. "Judy Ann was panning for gold...all very cool stuff..."

Councilor Judy Ann Files said, "As an educator I was really impressed to see that everything in that entire space is an educational opportunity...I was impressed with the things that I think I could have learned if I had taken the time to read all the different posters..."

Councilor Doug Glaspell said, "I felt bad that I didn't get a chance to use the little backhoe they had out there..."

"I got to play in the kinetic sand; it was awesome," Mayor Pro Tem David Frank said.

Glaspell asked about placing a hotel tax increase on the November ballot.

The ballot question must be ready 100 days prior to Election Day (Friday, July 28), City Clerk Lisa Del Piccolo said, "...There is a small window."

City Manager Bill Bell said that the increase has been researched and discussed in the past. Bell said he believes major hotel owners in Montrose are supportive, "Because a lot of the money raised

through lodging tax goes right back into marketing for tourism and filling heads in beds at the hotels...I know the Rathbone's in favor and the Marriott, two of our newest hotels are in favor of us doing something."

The tax is largely paid by out-of-town visitors, Mayor Reed said.

Bell said the funds generated can be used in "flexible" ways.

City Attorney Chris Dowsey said, "...If we want to hurry this up, we could get this on next work session and then the following Council meeting."

Bell suggested discussing the matter at the next work session; councilors agreed. Councilor Glaspell asked about a City Council pay increase in the next four years.

Mayor Pro Tem David Frank said he would be interested in more discussion; Mayor J. David Reed agreed, "...It's something to put on the burner for further discussion."

Glaspell said he attended the recent JOLT (Joint Organization Leading Transition) meeting (Northwest Colorado Energy Summit) hosted by Montrose County. Next year's meeting will be at Gillette Wyoming, Glaspell said. "...But I think it would be very appropriate for us to have one of our engineering or public works folks attend that meeting; I think there will be a lot of information there that could be directly focused on some of our needs and potential upcoming needs dealing with both wind, solar, nuclear and other forms of power generation...coal plants are continuing to come off line and in some cases

we really don't have replacements for them...I think it'd be very worthwhile to make certain that we start getting into that loop and participating in it...I found it very informative..."

Mayor Pro Tem David Frank said the State budget for the Region 10 Area Agency on Aging (AAA) has been dramatically reduced and limited and so has federal funding.

"A lot of our seniors are having trouble staying in their homes..."

Also, legislation from the state has placed limits on access to Internet funding, he said. "They're focusing on Final Mile and not on Middle Mile...it's like building an elaborate hotel with an elaborate fire system and no water main..."

Frank discussed the use of settlement funds from the Colorado Opioid Abatement Council, which will be pooled throughout the region.

City Engineer Scott Murphy said the new roundabout at Niagara would be open to the public the afternoon of July 3. A bridge must be replaced at the Loutzenhizer Canal and Ogden Road, "We're looking to start that this November...that'll push the Woodgate project to start in March of 2025..."

Work on South 5th Street is fluid, Murphy said. New holes generated by the construction work will be fixed once the truck traffic is complete.

Police Chief Blaine gave kudos to all Police Department staff for their efforts during the previous busy weekend.

With no further comments Mayor Reed adjourned the work session.

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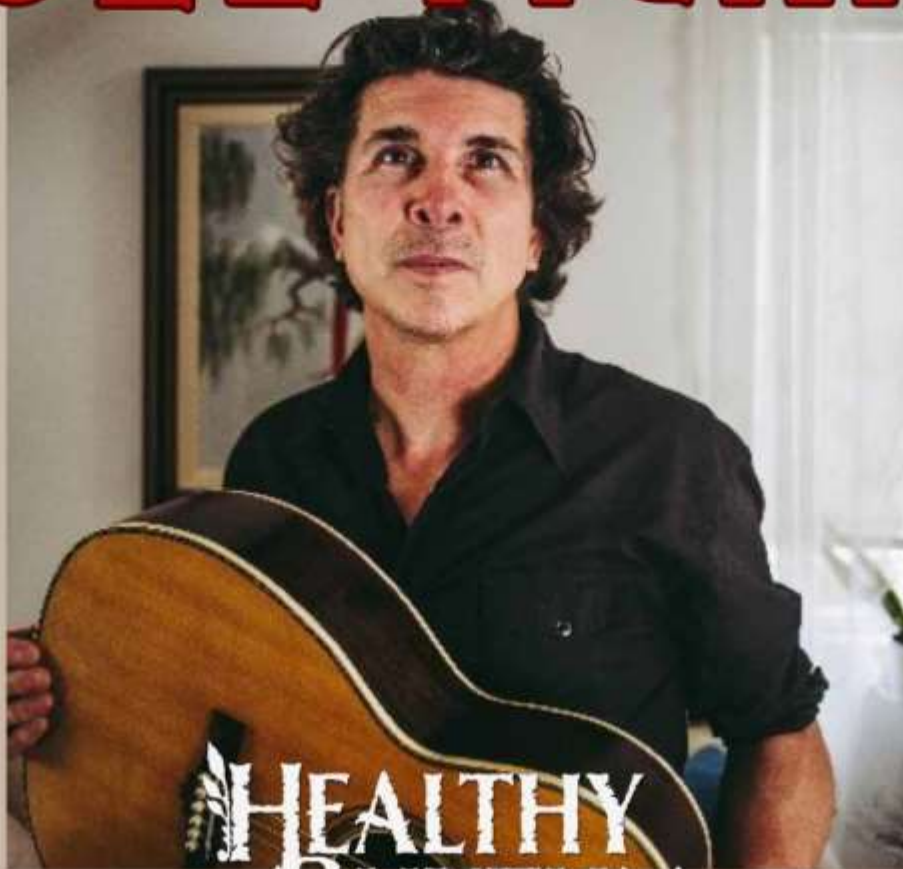


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CITIZENS CONTINUE TO PUSH FOR NON-SANCTUARY CITY STATUS *From pg 1*

accept the award. He thanked the Montrose Rec District, his in-laws, his boys, his wife, and the City of Montrose, "Thank you for this award, I really appreciate it."

CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT FOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Reed read the rules for public comment, and a number of citizens took time to address City Council.

John Brown spoke, "...Happy 248th anniversary of our Independence Day..."

Brown cited the Preamble to the US Constitution, adding, "...We the People have fought for our freedoms in several wars to affirm our justice, our defense, and our well-being. It is up to us and our elected officials to ensure our defense and general welfare is preserved.

"The President of the United States has failed," Brown said, "to defend and protect our nation by opening our borders. The Governor of Colorado has failed to defend and protect our great state of Colorado by declaring it a sanctuary state. The Mayor of the City of Denver has failed to defend and protect the citizens living within its borders by declaring Denver a sanctuary city. The City of Montrose is failing its citizens by not passing a declaration of non-sanctuary for Montrose...it is up to the Montrose City Council to defend and protect our city, our citizens, and our way of life, and not go into debt providing for those individuals who have entered our country illegally..."

Brown said that if City Council is unwilling to pass a resolution, the question of non-sanctuary status should be put to a vote of the people. He recalled the large crowds in attendance at recent meetings, "...Yet the Council rejected a vote and did nothing. This City Council has chosen to ignore the public outcry and has refused to even bring up this topic before the Council since. Please declare Montrose to be a non-sanctuary city now."

Next to speak, Nicole Johnston asked Council to place a non-sanctuary declaration on a council agenda, "Or put it to the people, thank you."

Ron Smith spoke, "...First of all, my Climate Change guy is not here tonight, so I'm going to be here standing for him, while he might not agree, but I say we plant trees. Secondly, I'm inherently op-

posed to taxpayer dollars funding private enterprise to give certain businesses competitive advantage over other businesses that are struggling to survive, particularly restaurants...it breeds collusion, corruption, inducements, perks, and even bribes...there are unspoken benefits, not available to taxpayers, to city employees--like ski privileges golf privileges, childcare privileges, and other ones I won't mention..."

"I'd like to reiterate our need to declare Montrose a non-sanctuary city," Smith said, "...we're all immigrants, sons or daughters of immigrants, I think we love immigration, or we wouldn't all be here. I've worked with many legal immigrants and served many as clients in my 22 years of business here...we are surrounded by non-sanctuary; not to decide is to decide..."

Smith said that it is indisputable that crime, drugs, tent cities, alcoholism, and homelessness are prevalent in sanctuary cities across the country. "We voted you in..."

Maggie Smith spoke, and thanked Councilors for their service to the city. She asked that they vote to declare Montrose a non-sanctuary city. "The people of Montrose have made it clear that a referendum declaring Montrose a non-sanctuary city is what is wanted by the people," she said, "The people who elected you. The people who pay you. Initially, the vote was four to one. Why that did not stand, especially after the multitude of people who showed up March 19th, is a mystery.

"I think everyone recognizes that we are at a time in our country where many of us are worried about the future of America based on what we are seeing happen in other countries, and in other cities being destroyed by illegal immigration. Our little town of Montrose is now clearly at risk with the multitude of illegals being shipped in. It's alarming to the citizens who are aware, and it should be alarming to all of you...it's terrifying to think of a possible increase in crime being witnessed all over the United States will start happening here...if this does happen it will clearly be due to your actions or lack of actions to secure our town to the best of your ability...is anyone keeping track of

how many people are coming to Montrose that are needing our resources, is anybody being vetted? I have heard rumors that many of the teachers have left the schools because of the influx of illegal immigrant children. Are these children vaccinated with the required vaccinations that American children have to demonstrate...how much money is Montrose having to surrender to all these people coming without resources? I hope you reconsider..."

Cindy Olinghouse asked Council to please affirm that Montrose is a non-sanctuary city, as did Dr. Jeffrey Krebs.

Jim Trujillo said, "I've lived in this valley all my life, worked here actually in the city limits since 2007. I've talked to multiple people, and I don't see anyone that supports a sanctuary city. We all come from somewhere, but in this day and age with what we have to work with in our town, we just don't have room for it."

Leah Vandersluis commended Mayor Reed on his letter in the recent *City Beat* publication, "Great letter...but I just wanted to address a few things. You said that you want to work to strengthen the bonds between the city and its residents and determine areas where is a disconnect and reconnect. You want to enhance communications between citizens and local government because you strongly believe that this is the way to identify those areas of disconnection, and then once identified, work together in partnership to address the issues.

"Well, I believe that the whole concept of making us a non-sanctuary city is one of these disconnects, and if you truly want to work together in partnership with the citizens of Montrose, you guys need to declare Montrose as a non-sanctuary city. And you said that our opinions and our input is important, wanted and needed. We feel like our input is just being disregarded."

Phil Moomjean requested Council take a revote and declare Montrose to be a non-sanctuary city, or put the issue before citizens in a vote. "...It is clear that the majority of Montrose taxpayers want what we are communicating to city council, to be a non-sanctuary city...you represent Montrose—not the state, not Denver, not big money from Telluride...we're

CITIZENS CONTINUE TO PUSH FOR NON-SANCTUARY CITY STATUS *From previous pg*

going to see more stress on our hospital, our schools and our community....and calling illegal immigration newcomers is a slap in the face..."

Paul Burr also expressed support for being a non-sanctuary city. "...It's a concern for me...I can see things are changing, I can see tough things coming...I agree with all who have spoken at this podium."

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council voted to approve minutes of the June 17, 2024, regular City Council meeting as presented.

ORDINANCE 2665 - SECOND READING

As discussed in work sessions and on First Reading, Council voted to approve [Ordinance 2665](#) on second reading, assessing the costs of the [Otter Pond Circle Utility Relocation Special Improvement District](#) to the property included within the district.

POTATO GROWERS BUILDING HORIZONTAL IMPROVEMENTS SUPPORT

Council voted to approve a [request from High Oasis, LLC for \\$418,817](#) in support funding for horizontal site improvements at the Potato Growers Building at 39 W. Main Street.

Applicants David and Greg Fishing were present to discuss the project and the improvements they have made at the historic location to date. "We don't think we're asking for a lot; it's a lot of money but it's

a benefit to the whole city," Greg Fishing said.

City Manager Bill Bell said that the improvements will remain even if the business does not. "...We have to do something to partner with the private people that are willing to put millions of dollars of their own money on the line..."

Mayor Reed said, "It's important for our community to understand, as you say, that we're not up here just here to hand out dollars; while some may disagree with it, there is a reasonable and rational basis for doing what we do—there is the economic development aspect of it...we do look at return on investment...with respect to employment in the future and sales tax generated by these business...the substantial majority of our revenues are generated through sales tax..."

As elected officials, Reed said, "We have a duty and obligation to preserve our history for the next generation...we need to preserve our heritage, our culture, and our history...we do not just hand out the dollars, there is a serious application process...we do our homework before we step off the cliff with these projects."

Applicant Greg Fishing said that he appreciates the vision Council has shown for the past eight years, particularly in the Downtown area, "It's so much better than

it was; it's projects like this that make it that way."

Citizen Ron Smith commented, "I spoke here not very long ago about the city and taxpayer dollars going to private enterprise...this is terrific...we're not informed...I would truly encourage...if between the private enterprise and the city council who's involved in this kind of stuff you would find a really good way to inform the general public...I think it would be terrific, so thank you."

MONTROSE COUNTY HISTORIC COURTHOUSE TAP FEE WAIVER REQUEST

Council voted to approve a [request for tap fee waivers](#) totaling \$24,661.40 for the Montrose County Historic Courthouse renovation project at 320 S. First Street.

STAFF REPORTS

Public Safety Attorney Matthew Magliaro presented a report on the [National Opioid Settlement](#) with Kroger Co. City Clerk Lisa DelPiccolo reviewed the schedule of events for the Fourth of July, noting that the Parade route has been updated.

Economic Development staffer Anthony Russo reminded Council that the Rathbone Hotel would be opening the following day, "A big public-private partnership."

With no further business, Council voted to adjourn.

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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

KENNEDY GAINS HISTORIC LIBERTARIAN BALLOT ACCESS IN COLORADO

Special to the Mirror

DENVER—On July 3 the **Kennedy campaign** announced its **partnership** with the Libertarian Party of Colorado to disrupt the entrenched two-party system and provide Colorado voters with a viable alternative to our last two presidents' disastrous status quo in the upcoming 2024 presidential election.

The Libertarian Party of Colorado Board of Directors Tuesday passed a resolution in favor of partnering with Independent presidential candidate Robert F. Kennedy Jr. As part of this alliance, the Kennedy-Shanahan ticket will be on the Colorado state ballot for president and vice president.

"Thank you, Libertarian Party of Colorado and Chair Hannah Goodman for your visionary leadership in defense of freedom," **Kennedy said**. "Together, we will win the White House and steadfastly protect the Bill of Rights, the First and Second Amendments, and all the foundational liberties they secure. Our administration will restore free markets, end corporate welfare, stop the money-printing and unwind the war machine it fuels. On day one, I will pardon Edward Snowden, Ross Ulbricht, and all political and corporate whistleblowers who protect our democracy."

The Kennedy campaign looks forward to joining forces with the Libertarian Party of Colorado to canvass, phone bank, and

turn out the vote for Kennedy and the American freedoms that we will together restore.

"The Libertarian Party of Colorado partnership is a testament to Kennedy's unifying independent run and how the campaign is bringing this country together," **said Colorado State Director Isaac James**. "Our movement has universal appeal because of its common sense values, rooted in the founding principles of our country, and its rejection of the divisive fear narratives used by the establishment parties to steal the wealth of our children and keep their corrupt hold on power."

Learn more at Kennedy24.com. Visit our [press page here](#).

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CDOT REOPENS US 50 BLUE MESA MIDDLE BRIDGE TO LIMITED TRAFFIC



CDOT Executive Director Shoshana Lew and other team members handed out water and cookies to the first motorists waiting to cross the Middle Bridge on Wednesday morning. Courtesy photo.



Vehicles traveling over the US 50 Middle Bridge towards Gunnison on July 3, 2024. Courtesy photo.

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE, GUNNISON AND HINSDALE COUNTIES – The Colorado Department of Transportation reopened the US 50 Blue Mesa Middle Bridge at 6:30 a.m. this morning, ahead of the Fourth of July holiday weekend. With the first phase of repairs complete, emergency vehicles and those in smaller vehicles can cross over the bridge. To accommodate motorists that would like to view the fireworks in Gunnison on Thursday night, July 4, the

bridge will remain open until midnight in the pilot car configuration. County Road 26 will remain open and maintained as a detour, and Kebler Pass is now open as well, as a seasonal route.

For the long holiday weekend, one lane will be open on the bridge, and pilot cars, at slow speeds, will lead single-direction traffic between 6:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. through Sunday, July 7 (with the exception of the extended hours on July 4). After the

long holiday weekend, beginning Monday, July 8, the bridge will be open, and pilot cars will lead single-direction traffic each day from 6:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. and again from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Members of CDOT's team greeted the first drivers waiting to cross the Middle Bridge last Wednesday morning, providing refreshments and cookies to the motorists lined up at the closure points starting at 6:30 a.m. as a show of appreciation.





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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

2024 FAMILY CAREGIVERS SUMMIT SET FOR OCTOBER 1

Caregiver Support Foundation

REGIONAL-The majority of family caregivers are still on their own.

While some headlines have recently teased that researchers have experienced breakthroughs in the causes and potential cures of brain failure, the right-now, real help for caregivers and their loved ones is still only a tiny ship on the distant horizon. Meanwhile, the needs of family caregivers have to be met. The Caregiver Support Foundation (CSF) and the Region 10 Area Agency on Aging will again stage a live Summit gathering to support Caregivers and their loved ones. The 2024 Summit will be held Oct. 1 at the Montrose Pavilion from 1pm until 4:30 in the afternoon.

The event is free to everyone and will provide a safe, comfortable environment for harried caregivers, complete with "moments of joy."

The 2024 Summit is the second gathering since the two-year hiatus brought about by the Covid pandemic. Last year the crowd of caregivers, patients, health care professionals, and assistance providers proved that there was still a large segment of the community that needs the friendship and assistance they found at the Summit.

Eva Veitch, Community Living Services Director at Region 10, summed it up this way: *Caregivers left the event feeling more supported and with a good understanding of the resources available. The 2024 format will change slightly based on the feedback we received last year. Family*

caregivers are a rapidly growing demographic, we are so pleased to be part of the Summit and look forward to helping as many people as possible.

The 2023 Summit had a big turnout with more than 140 caregivers gathering for a comforting and educational afternoon away from their daunting tasks. Three speakers discussed topics ranging from dealing with the shock of diagnosis to how to place a loved one in Hospice. Attendees were able to question the speakers.

"The program was quite well received," said Dr. Laird Landon, Chair of CSF. "We also received a number of very useful suggestions and ideas on how to provide specific material to further aid the attendees. We are instituting some of those this year."

CSF Board members William Bottomly and Colleen Steinberg are charged with staging this year's event. They took the suggestions and set up a unique and more personal program.

"The format will be a little different this year in that we will have six small, group, presentation/discussion topics sandwiched between two formal presentations. Those will be **How To Talk To Your Loved One's Doctors**, featuring Dr. Landon, and **Caregiver Grief**, presented by Carrie Bauer, MS, Western Slope Program Assistant & Community Liaison for the Heartlight Center in Aurora, Colorado," Bottomly said.

Bottomly explained that the six concurrent group discussions will feature a short

presentation by the facilitator, followed by questions and discussion involving the group members. Caregivers will have a choice as to which topic(s) to attend and participate in. They can move in and out of any group. The topics will each be presented and facilitated by experts and will include: **Palliative and Hospice Care** by Sally O'Conner, Montrose Regional Health's Director of Care Coordination; **Caregiver Grief**, by Bauer, MS; **Family Member Placement and Resources** by Sandy Walker, Region 10 Ombudsman; **Dementia and Alzheimer's Disease** by Angel Hoffman, Director of Community Engagement, Alzheimer's Association, Grand Junction, Colorado; **Navigating Medicaid** with Shauna Clemmer, Brown & Brown, PC, Grand Junction, Colorado; and **How To Talk To Your Loved One's Doctors** by Dr. Landon. One of the well-received features of the 2023 event was the two-dozen sponsor/vendors that provided support and knowledge for the caregivers. Bottomly said that this year, "We expect upwards of thirty sponsor/vendors aimed specifically at caregiving and caregivers. These will represent caregiver facilities and community resources. Bottomly also said there will be expanded refreshments, offering beverages and light snacks to the Summit guests.

The event is free and attendees may register early for the event by logging onto <https://region10.net> or www.family-caregiver.com and clicking on the registration link.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

COME ONE, COME ALL – CORPORATE GRIFTERS FLOCK TO MONTROSE

By David White

This 4th of July saw us celebrate the 248th anniversary of the founding of the United States. It also marked the grand opening of the Rathbone Hotel in downtown Montrose. The Rathbone is a new boutique luxury hotel right in the heart of downtown Montrose that has benefited from an infusion of well over \$1.2 million of our tax dollars in outright giveaways by our City government in the form of “incentives” (money for repairing the building’s façade, asbestos removal, structural repairs, right of way giveaways, fee waivers for various improvements by the City Manager and City Council, etc.). To their credit, it turned out beautifully, however....

In exchange for the City’s generosity (using your money), the business model that the Telluride developers (Clay Bales & Jason Raibles) are following find nightly room rates beginning at \$240 and then go up from there. Of course, there will be seasonal adjustments to these rates that will no doubt see higher nightly rates (<https://www.rathbonemontrose.com/>) during the year. The “Parlor Bar” in the hotel lobby will charge you \$10 for a martini or other drink of your choice all in keeping with the upscale market they plan to serve.

On top of the so called incentives to these developers, the City “contracted to sell” the Historic City Hall building to them in March of 2023 for \$1.5M (at least \$800,000 under market value at the time) in exchange for them turning the building into another boutique hotel with a restaurant that would be a training ground for a proposed culinary arts program that Colorado Mesa University (CMU) would begin at their Montrose campus utilizing part of the building for classroom and kitchen education and dormitory rooms.

In February, it was announced that due to cost overruns on the Rathbone Hotel, the developers wanted their \$50,000 earnest money deposit for the City Hall building returned. Of course, the City Manager and Council capitulated and returned all but \$10,000 to the Telluride developers. The sale of the building was to be seed money

for an endowment fund that the City and CMU would use for the culinary arts program, yet the City has done nothing to market the building for sale since the give back. Why? Holding out for Bales & Raibles to come through with a deal? Not likely I suspect.

In response to an open records request I made of the City this past March, they provided me with a spreadsheet showing many different projects that they’ve funded over these last few years including the Rathbone Hotel. Some of the funding has been to parties that I’ll refer to as “double dippers” as they’ve received substantial funding from the City operated Montrose Urban Renewal Authority (MURA) in addition to direct funding by the City.

Just to give the reader of this article an idea of who has received incentive money from the City, here are just a few examples (there are many more): Freddy’s Steakburger - \$44,417; Fairfield Inn by Marriott - \$219,000 (also funded by MURA by over \$1,000,000); Chow Down Pet Supplies - \$100,000; Bluecorn Beeswax - \$72,020; Alexander Main & Chutes (former home of The Daily Bread-Main St. & Cascade Ave.) - \$299,348; Trattoria di Sofia Restaurant - \$388,750; Pomona Brewing Co. - \$132,954; Horsefly Brewing, Phelanies & Toasty Eatery - \$214,444 (same owners); Mayfly Outdoors - \$270,000 (also funded by MURA); Storm King Distillery - \$67,608 & High Oasis, LLC - \$423,317 (both owned by the Fishing family); Montrose Main Street, LLC - \$278,231 (business partners of former Mayor Bynum’s husband); Towne Center (Jimmy Johns, Coldstone Ice Cream, Coffee Trader) - \$72,325 and on and on it goes. Keep in mind that none of these incentives include the waivers of fees for water & sewer taps, building permits, plan check fees, etc. that are granted by the City Manager without the need for City Council approval.

The more of your tax dollars the City Manager (Bill Bell) and his Business Development Director (Anthony Russo) give away with the City Council’s blessing, the more we see the “Corporate Grifter” com-

ing to them for handouts under the guise and justification that if you’ll just give us a bunch of money, we’ll increase your sales tax revenue and that will offset the “investment” you’ll be making in our speculative business. The grifter presents you with something you may perceive as being a problem and then offers to solve it. One such “problem” is the City’s desire to preserve what they’ve deemed to be “historical” buildings. The grifter offers to work with the City to save a property from falling into disrepair or perhaps sees an opportunity to profit from revitalizing an area that the City, concerned about its image, is willing to do anything to not lose the opportunity to, as I call it, put “lipstick on the pig.”

“Grifters use manipulation tactics to present themselves to be so confident in what they are talking about that you would never doubt their expertise, advice, or guidance to do something for them. Grifters have no problem lying and they show no signs of true empathy. This gives them the ability to not hear the word “no” when you keep saying it. They bounce off every objection and come back to hammer the offer, time and time again, using guilt as well as false care for you that you are missing out on a major opportunity that will benefit you - while being charming and charismatic as they do it.” [What is a Grifter | Have You Been Accused of Grifting? \(ncrcriminalaw.com\)](https://www.ncrcriminalaw.com/What-is-a-Grifter-Have-You-Been-Accused-of-Grifting/)

Corporate Grifting is also prevalent in the Colorado Outdoors project which is under the total control of the City of Montrose through the MURA organization. The recent commitment of \$1.3M to a speculative housing and restaurant project proposed by Greenline Ventures of Denver, CO and a \$1.4M commitment to a Hilton Hotel brand property are further examples of the City’s blind obsession with what they believe is home grown economic development that will pay for itself with increases in all of the City’s tax revenue streams. Unfortunately, without growing your manufacturing base as opposed to one based on tourism and speculation as well as the discretionary spending by individuals and families, without facing the

Continued next pg

CITY OF MONTROSE'S CHECKBOOK IS OPEN - YOUR TAX DOLLARS FLOW TO THE WEALTHY

From previous pg

economic reality that your models are based upon repayment of these giveaways in future dollars that will be heavily devalued due to inflation, you're just digging yourself a financial hole that will be difficult if not impossible to climb out of someday soon I fear.

For those interested in seeing and hearing how your money is given away by the City as well as why and their justification for it, see the YouTube video of the July 2, 2024 City Council meeting wherein a narrative given by Mayor J. David Reed lays it out for all to see (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y5ZpTgdG9jk>) You'll want to watch it from the 25:20 minute mark to the 43:00 minute mark. You may come away convinced that his opinion is correct and as the City Manager says in the video, folks like me are just spreading misinformation. Really? Their own numbers tell a different story. You be the judge.

In the meantime, why don't all of these Corporate Grifters that have received the benefit of the City's largesse step up and offer a big round of thank you's to the citizens of Montrose by providing everyone a free meal or drink at their restaurants or bars/distilleries or a free night at their hotels or a free whatever it is that their business has to give. It's really the right way to go if you believe in the socialist movement that so properly reflects our City leadership today.

In some respects, it appears that the word "Ineptocracy" might in fact describe the delusional thinking by our City Government in that their multimillion dollar "investments" in private businesses somehow will ingratiate themselves to a public that will be forever grateful for the lipstick that City Manager Bell and his sidekick Anthony Russo put on every opportunity to create a new public giveaway that they

buy into.

Simply put, an Ineptocracy is a system of government where the least capable to lead are elected by the least capable of producing, and where the members of society least likely to sustain themselves or succeed, are rewarded with goods and services paid for by the confiscated wealth of a diminishing number of producers.

Such is the state of affairs in Montrose today.

Mr. White is an active citizen & community leader as well as a business owner, entrepreneur, former Montrose City Councilmember and Mayor as well as a two term County Commissioner and has served on many boards and commissions during his career. He & his wife are the parents of six children and have 10 grandchildren & one great grandchild.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

US 160 WOLF CREEK PASS FIBER OPTIC PROJECT BEGINS NEXT PHASE ON JULY 8

Special to the Mirror

SOUTHWEST COLORADO — The US Highway 160 fiber optic installation project, between Pagosa Springs and the east side of Wolf Creek Pass, will resume work on Monday, July 8. The project takes place between Mile Points 144-174 on US 160. To date, 169,000 linear feet (32 miles) of conduit, 42,000 linear feet (8 miles) of electrical conductor, 113 manholes, and 160 pull boxes have been placed between the ski area to Pagosa Springs city limits along with the fiber installation.

Construction activities for the 2024 season will include the installation of an overhead variable message sign, installation of new guardrails, installation of cable racks (or cable supports) within manholes, repairing damaged conduit, installation of variable speed limit signs, installation of new closed-circuit cameras and installation of a new weather monitoring station. Completion of the project is scheduled for

late fall of 2024.

"The fiber optic cable will connect with existing fiber that was installed in 2017 along a 16-mile stretch of the US 160 mountain corridor from Wolf Creek Pass east tunnel to the community of South Fork," explained Julie Constan, CDOT Regional Transportation Director. "The project will provide additional safety through the use of high-tech equipment and signs to warn all Wolf Creek Pass travelers about changing road and weather conditions, enforced lowered speeds and the westside hairpin turn where many crashes have occurred."

Traffic Impacts

- Daytime work hours range from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday
- Vehicles will be reduced to a single-lane, alternating traffic intermittently in either direction
- Lane closures, guided by flaggers, will have up to 15-minute delays



During the 2023 work season, an installation crew pulls fiber optic cable through recently buried conduit along US 160 Wolf Creek Pass east of Pagosa Springs. Courtesy photo.

The speed limit will be reduced to 40 mph through the work zone

Webpage: www.codot.gov/projects/us160-wolfcreekpass-fiber

-Information hotline: 970-363-5100

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CLUB 20 TO HOST SUMMER POLICY COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN EDWARDS

Special to the Mirror

GRAND JUNCTION — Community leaders from across Western Colorado will gather on July 11 and 12 in Edwards at the Colorado Mountain College Campus to participate in Club 20's Summer Policy Committee Meetings. During these meetings, Club 20 members and guests will discuss many of the critical issues impacting our region.

"We are grateful for the opportunity to have discussions centered around some of the biggest issues impacting our region and have knowledgeable committee chairs and members to help guide our advocacy efforts throughout the state, said Club 20 Executive Director, Brittany Dixon.

Club 20's Policy Committee Meetings are free and open to the public with a small lunch fee of \$10. We request all participants to register for planning purposes at <https://club20.org/events/2024-summer-policy-meetings-week-1/>. Interested participants can also join via Zoom by registering for virtual participation.

Some of the topics to be discussed during this two-day event include Middle Mile Legislation, Rural Hospitals and Big Pharma, Stackable Credentials in Higher Education, Blue Mesa Bridge Update, America 250/Colorado 150 Program, and more! All agendas can be found on our website.

For more information or to register, please visit www.club20.org or give us a call at (970) 242-3264. We appreciate your coverage of this event.

Club 20 is a 71-year-old non-partisan coalition of Western Slope leaders fulfilling the mission to influence policy, provide education, and convene Coloradans to uplift and advance the voices of the Western Slope and promote thriving, resilient, and economically healthy communities.

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EXPERIENCING ANIMALS UP-CLOSE AND PERSONAL!

By Carrie Krickbaum,
Friends of Youth and Nature

REGIONAL-Animals are fascinating creatures who easily capture the attention of children and adults! Most children learn about animals from storybooks, cartoons, and shows, but an up-close encounter is another story! A trip to the zoo, a wildlife sanctuary, an animal farm, a horse therapy session, or even a butterfly exhibit is a chance to give life to a child's imagination and help them build an emotional connection with animals.

How cool is it to see a child's eyes light up in amusement every time they see the "King of the Jungle" prancing around, or giraffes reaching up to nibble leaves from the high tree branches. Even babies screech in excitement when they look into the eyes of a baby goat or pet the soft velvety muzzle of a curious pony. To watch a butterfly open its wings for the first time after emerging from a chrysalis is nature's gift to our sense of wonder. Wildlife encounters provided by zoos and other animal sanctuaries enable children to learn about animals effectively, promote empathy and compassion for living creatures, and foster cognitive development, which helps a child think about and understand the world around them. Observing and discussing animals with young ones stimulates their interest, curiosity and their realization that animals have feelings and emotions too! These encounters are planting the seeds of conservation as they begin to show concern for our natural resources. A natural resource is something that exists in nature, such as soil, water, air, plants, animals, and energy.

What a surprise when your child realizes their special animal does exist for real! Most kids can't stop talking about the first real bear they see, which until then existed only as their stuffed teddy bear. A zoo or aquarium can be the scene of such exciting discoveries when wild creatures from around the world are brought together in one place. You don't have to travel far and wide to see them and they are right there within reachable distance.

It is like having their make-believe world come true.

Observing behaviors and learning about animals helps children develop a sensitivity to animals as living beings. Children can learn that animals have moods, emotions and needs just like they do. Empathizing with animals gives your child a sensitive mindset for other fellow creatures. Even taking your child to a humane society shelter to play with cats can teach kids compassion towards animals. Animal connection can help your child grow up to be more aware and responsible towards nature, the environment, and its conservation.

Learning to respect animals is an important lesson. Even in a zoo, aquarium, ranch, pond, wildlife park or national park, these places provide habitats and homes for animals. It is important to respect an animal's space and not disturb them. Children need to learn early to comply with rules for watching animals for their safety as well as the animal's safety.

It is intriguing to watch lions roaring and monkeys scratching their heads, otters swimming or a beautiful peacock displaying its tail feathers! Visits to the zoo may help children understand animal behavior and characteristics. Even though some animals are confined in cages, their setting provides a semblance of their natural habitat. Observing animals being their natural selves in their almost natural environment is an immense learning experience for children. Who doesn't remember relating to a sleeping lion or a penguin joyfully diving into the water?

While observing animals, focus on your child's senses- visual, auditory, and kinesthetic! Children's learning experiences are enhanced when they employ their senses. If they can see, hear and touch animals, they will remember more than just hearing about them. Auditory learners find it fascinating to listen to animal sounds while visual learners enjoy watching animal antics.

For some people, it is difficult to see animals in settings like zoos. However, many zoos are doing great conservation research with other countries to protect or



Courtesy photo Friends of Youth and Nature.

re-establish species. Wildlife sanctuaries are an important refuge for wild animals that can no longer survive in the wild.

There are many places in Colorado where you can take your children to safely experience animals up close and personal. Summer is a great time to go on a family field trip to observe and learn about animals: hear a chorus of native frogs at the Denver Zoo, touch the smooth, shimmering back of a stingray at the Denver Aquarium or experience the magic of metamorphosis at the Butterfly Pavilion. Check out some of our suggestions for summer animal learning adventures below.

Friends of Youth and Nature is a non-profit that promotes opportunities for youth and families to get outside, experience outdoor activities, and explore nature. Follow our outdoor news blog and receive monthly tips on connecting your children to nature. Learn more, visit: www.friendsofyouthandnature.org

Continued next pg

FRIENDS OF YOUTH & NATURE: SUGGESTIONS FOR SUMMER ANIMAL ADVENTURES

SUGGESTIONS:

Wild Animal Sanctuary (<https://www.wildanimalsanctuary.org/>) is an educational facility (located near Keenesburg, - eastern Colorado) built on 1,300 acres of beautiful open grassland, the kind typically found on the plains of Colorado.

The wild animal sanctuary is the largest carnivore sanctuary in the work not only by the number of animals rescued and currently cared for, but also through the size and scope of operations. This site currently hosts over 550 lions, tigers, bears, wolves and other rescued animals and is open to the public for educational purposes

The Wild Mustang Sanctuary Herd (<https://www.greatescapemustangs.org/sanctuary>) is composed of mustangs who have journeyed through various chapters – from the wild to captivity but are strongly wired with their wild instincts and have proven themselves happier with minimal human interactions. Here, they are granted the freedom to live out their life grazing and roaming, forming bonds within a

natural environment that mirrors their native habitats.

The Denver Zoo (<https://denverzoo.org/>) programs are rooted in age-appropriate experiences that connect all learners to the natural world through cultivation of empathy and self-driven exploration that builds knowledge and ultimately empowers learners to take action for wildlife.

Butterfly Pavilion in Westminster, CO (<https://butterflies.org/>) is the first stand-alone, Association of Zoos and Aquariums-accredited non-profit invertebrate zoo in the world and a leader in invertebrate knowledge, inspiration and connection. Whether it is providing unique, hands-on learning experiences in our exhibits and educational programs, conducting new research that sets the standard for zoos across the country or building innovative solutions for species and habitat conservation in countries around the world, Butterfly Pavilion is leading the way in ensuring invertebrates are protected for the future.

Metaphorse Equine Therapy and Riding Instruction ([https://](https://www.metaphorse.com/)

www.metaphorse.com/) offers a uniquely designed equine activity for children and adults. Each session with the therapy horses can truly be a profound experience, is a more powerful way to learn and is proven to cause a lasting change.

Western Colorado Botanic Gardens: Butterflies (<https://wcbotanic.org/butterflies/>) promotes the responsible conservation of precious natural resources in Western, Colorado by providing educational and recreational opportunities for visitors of all ages, while offering an aesthetic setting for cultural and community events."

Moon Farm Petting Zoo ([Moon Farm Pumpkin Patch and Petting Zoo - Moon Farm](https://moonfarm.org/))

Grand Valley Equine Assisted Learning (www.gvequineassistedlearningcenter.org) provides horse-based therapies for children, adults, veterans and public servants including police and fire personnel to facilitate growth, learning and healing to people of all abilities including the disabled, disadvantaged and special needs.



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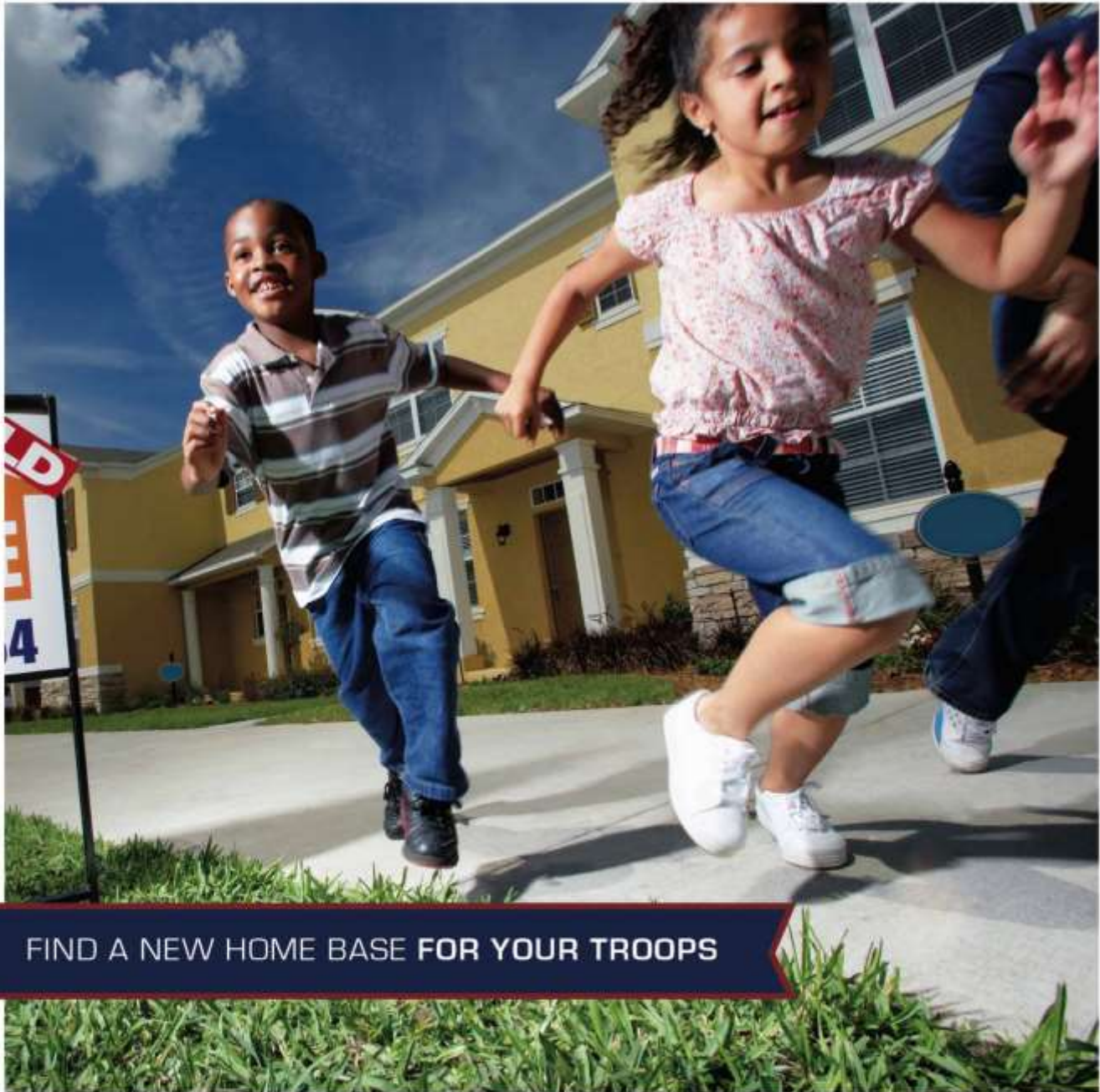
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

BLACK CANYON QUILT SHOW, JULY 12—14



Raffle quilt, "Desert Blooms" Courtesy photo.

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Quilts are artistic creations. They may be true "pieces of art," designed to be hung on walls, or they may be more traditional to provide cozy comfort for a lap or bed.

The 27th annual Black Canyon Quilt Show will feature nearly 150 quilts of various sizes fitting these categories. Montrose has many talented quilters, both adults and youth. Some of their creations have extensive handwork while others are done mostly by machine.

Quilt exhibitors have the option to have their entries evaluated by professional judges, Cindy Seitz-Krug and Darlene Pitchford, coming from Arizona. Judging is done the day before the show opens and ribbons are awarded so everyone can see the judged results.

The Black Canyon Quilt Show is held at the Montrose Pavilion, 1800 Pavilion Drive in Montrose. Show hours are 9am—5pm on Friday and Saturday, July 12 and 13, and 10am—3:30pm on Sunday, July 14. There may be construction in the area but watch for signs advertising the show. Show admission is \$5 for adults, children are free.

Raffle tickets are available for purchase by visitors wanting to take a chance on our original design, 103 x 103 inch "Desert Blooms" quilt. The quilt features soft, southwest colors and was created by Guild members. Glenda Davis did the ex-

quisite quilting after extensive research on Navajo, Chipeta and Lakota Sioux designs that the tribes use on baskets, jewelry, pottery and rugs. Raffle tickets are \$5 each or five tickets for \$20. The drawing will be on Sunday, July 14 at 3p.m. Ticket

purchasers need not be present to win. The "lucky ticket holder will be notified by phone. Show visitors are encouraged to take time to visit the vendors who have "everything "quilty" to help you improve your quilting skills or encourage you to try something new. Scissor sharpening will be available so visitors can have scissors sharpened while browsing the quilt show.

Get a head start on holiday shopping, too, by visiting the boutique where handmade items, created by Guild members, are for sale. Proceeds from this year's boutique go to the local charity, Sleep in Heavenly Peace, an organization that provides beds for children who do not have their own.

Friday and Saturday, classes will be taught by quilt artist Laura Loewen. Space is still available in each class, so check them out at blackcanyonquiltshow.com under the Education tab. Saturday afternoon, Laura will present a lecture/trunk show at 2 p.m. in the Senior Center part of the Pa-

vilion at a cost of \$15. The public is invited to attend.

For anyone having questions, to sign up for classes, or just wanting a close-up view of the raffle quilt, visit blackcanyonquiltshow.com.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

BLM RELEASES PROPOSED PLAN AMENDMENT SUPPORTING GUNNISON SAGE-GROUSE RECOVERY

Special to the Mirror

LAKEWOOD— The Bureau of Land Management is taking an important step to conserve the federally protected Gunnison sage-grouse by proposing amendments to 11 resource management plans in Colorado and Utah.

"This next step in the planning process will help ensure that Gunnison sage-grouse remain viable," said BLM Colorado State Director Doug Vilsack. "We appreciate the efforts of the public and local and state governments to help inform this planning effort to provide functioning Gunnison sage-grouse habitat in their historic ranges in Colorado and Utah."

The Proposed Resource Management Plan Amendment and Final Environmental Impact Statement analyzes the management of habitat for eight Gunnison sage-grouse populations on BLM-managed public lands across southwest Colorado and southeast Utah. In December 2014, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service listed the Gunnison sage-grouse (*Centrocercus minimus*) as a federally threatened species

under the Endangered Species Act.

The BLM evaluated 11 plans covering 7.6 million acres of public land and 18 million acres of federal mineral estate to identify management actions with potential to impact Gunnison sage-grouse populations and habitat. The proposed amendment lays out a potential approach for addressing the habitat and conservation needs of the Gunnison sage-grouse, with actions such as limiting disturbance at leks or during mating season.

The proposed plan amendment would provide a one-mile buffer around Gunnison sage-grouse habitat, link connectivity areas, and prevent increased surface disturbance. The plan would designate a new backcountry conservation area and three new areas of critical environmental concern, and update direction for two existing areas of critical environmental concern.

The Gunnison sage-grouse is a distinct species from the greater sage-grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*). The BLM is also completing a planning process for the

greater sage-grouse and accepted public comments on its draft resource management plan amendment from March to June 2024. The BLM is now addressing those comments and intends to issue a proposed resource management plan amendment and final environmental impact statement in 2024.

A Notice of Availability for the Gunnison sage-grouse proposed plan amendment will publish in Friday's *Federal Register*, beginning a 60-day Governor's Consistency Review for the states of Colorado and Utah and a 30-day protest period for anyone who participated in the planning process and has an interest that may be adversely affected by the proposed plan. Please visit the BLM Filing a Plan Protest page for more information. Protests must be received by August 5, 2024.

Documents, maps, and the protest filing link are available on the BLM National NEPA Register. For questions related to the plan Amendment, contact Gina Phillips, BLM Project Manager, at (970) 589-9852 or BLM_CO_GUSG_RMPA@blm.gov.

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MONTROSE REGIONAL CRIME STOPPERS

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

WHY DID COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WANT TO HAND PICK THEIR SUCCESSORS?

Editor:

During my life, I have observed far too many instances of elected candidates for public office become corrupted over time by their own view of self-importance, all to the detriment of the citizens they were elected to represent.

As noted last week in an article by David White, our BOCC passed a Resolution on November 7, 2018, that the BOCC would in the future remain neutral in all elections. As has been noted multiple times in this publication over the last few months leading up to the June 25 Primary election, our BOCC has openly supported their handpicked commissioner candidates to succeed them.

That decision on their part was highly unethical at best but more importantly they hypocritically violated their own Resolution to maintain political neutrality.

In my opinion the question arises as to WHY they felt compelled to hand pick their successors?? The county touts its transparency in government but it's become apparent that transparency to the commissioners is nothing but a multi syllable word. The County Manager's abrupt resignation pre primary vote certainly seems to indicate that there is more to be uncovered in the halls of our county government.

Dee Laird, Montrose

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COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

BRANDON LEE ROSSITER

October 31, 1985 - June 18, 2024



BRANDON LEE ROSSITER, age 38, died at his home in Montrose, Colorado.

Brandon is the adopted son of Mary (Spock) Glendening and Steve Rossiter. Brandon was born 10 weeks premature resulting in spending the first 7 weeks of his life in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Children's Hospital and St. Mary's. He attended Montrose County schools, graduating from Vista Charter School. Brandon owned and operated BLR Paint and Stain. He was especially proud of all his repeat customers.

He is survived by his mom and stepdad, Mary (Spock) and Bill Glendening. Sister Julie Ann Storey Rossiter, husband Chris and nephew and niece Benjamin and Hannah. Sister Amanda Lynn Blackman and nephews Shane, Parker and Jared. Brother Mike Sours and Dena and niece Maesyn. He is also survived by his aunt, Janet Thomson and cousins Jason and Josh, his aunt Margie Sturtevant and uncle Greg Rossiter. He was preceded in death by his father Steve Rossiter, grandparents Victor and Ruth Rossiter and grandparents John and Ella Mae Spock.

Cremation has taken place at Crippin Funeral Home. A celebration of his life will be held July 10, 2024, at 10 AM at the Crippin Funeral Home Chapel. Graveside will follow at Mesa View Cemetery in Delta.

KATIE CATHERINE MARIE WELLER

September 16th, 1998- June 30th, 2024

KATIE CATHERINE MARIE WELLER was born on September 16th, 1998. She unexpectedly passed away on June 30th, 2024, in Missouri. Katie was born and raised here in Montrose Colorado. She graduated High School in 2017 from Montrose High School. Katie worked for the family business doing drywall and stucco alongside her father. On her time off she enjoyed spending time with her niece and building legos. Katie was a kind and genuine person. She always put others before herself and ensured others were always taken care of. Katie impacted all the lives who encountered her. She put a smile on everyone's face and knew how to make a person laugh. Katie will be dearly missed by family and friends. Katie is survived by her father Steven Weller, sister Saraha Weller, niece Laniece Hermosillo, brother Michael Weller, Aunts, Uncles and many cousins, and her grandparents Susan and Ed Ulibarri and Juliann and Steven Weller. She proceeds in death with her Mother Tracy Ulibarri Weller. A funeral service will be held at Crippin Funeral Home in Montrose, Colorado on Friday July 12th, 2024, at 10 AM.



CELEBRATING LOCAL BEAUTY.



ISSUE 476 July 8, 2024

ART & SOL

DARE TO EAT A PEACH AND POETRY WILL FIND YOU

As the orchards here in Palisade begin to swell with the promise of summer harvest, I find myself thinking about the many ways the poets across time have written on the subject of food— fruit in particular.

TS Eliot, in his poem which embodies the voice of the morbidly repressed J Alfred Prufrock exclaims:

I grow old ... I grow old ...

I shall wear the bottoms of my trousers rolled.

Shall I part my hair behind? Do I dare to eat a peach?

Does he dare indeed! This is one of the most famous passages in contemporary poetry, being both hilarious and tragic all at once. There's nothing like a peach as a fun metaphor for just about anything sensual, explicit or just plain messy and delicious.

Mary Oliver has no such hesitations in her lines about the plum:

....Joy

is a taste before

it's anything else, and the body

can lounge for hours devouring

the important moments. Listen,

the only way

to tempt happiness into your mind is by taking it



Western Slope Poet Laureate Wendy Videlock.

into the body first, like small wild plums.

And speaking of plums, here's WC Williams, who puts the plum at the center of what appears to be a note he has left behind:

This is Just to Say

I have eaten

the plums

that were in

the icebox

and which

you were probably

saving

for breakfast

Forgive me

they were delicious

so sweet

and so cold

This little utterance is maddening in its self-centeredness and charming for its sideways confessional grin — as though the narrator's way of asking for forgiveness is as cold and sweet as the stolen plums.

Paisley Rekdal has a few lovely observations about the pear:

It is not a sin

to eat one, though you may think

of a woman's body as you do it,

the bell-shaped swell of it

rich in your hand, and for this reason

it was sacred to Venus, Juno, all women

celebrated or dismissed

in its shape, that mealy sweetness

tunneling from its center, a gold

that sinks back into itself with age.

Grapes, too, have gotten lots of attention from the poets. Here are the opening lines of an Anne Spenser ode to the grape:

Snugly you rest, sweet globes,

aged essence of the sun;

copper of the platter

like that you lie upon.

One of Pablo Neruda's most well known poems praises the lemon:

Out of lemon flowers

loosed

on the moonlight, love's

lashed and insatiable

essences,

sodden with fragrance,

the lemon tree's yellow

emerges

the lemons

move down

from the tree's

planetarium.

(translation Edith Grossman)

But of all the fruit, perhaps the apple, with its endless cultural, mythological and religious associations, might just be the apple of the poet's eye.

Here is C.W. Bryan's haiku on the subject:

Moralize away,

But I will break the pink skin

With my two front teeth.

Christina Rossetti gives us a little cautionary tale in verse:

I plucked pink blossoms from my apple tree

And wore them all that evening in my hair
Then in due season when I went to see

Continued next pg

DARE TO EAT A PEACH AND POETRY WILL FIND YOU From previous pg

I had no apples there.

Robert Frost, in the voice of an exhausted apple-picker, give us:

And I keep hearing from the cellar bin

The rumbling sound

Of load on load of apples coming in.

For I have had too much

Of apple-picking; I am overtired

Of the great harvest I myself desired.

There were ten thousand fruit to touch,

Cherish in hand, lift down, and not let fall.

And finally, we have a passage from Dorianne Laux, from her sharply written poem, *The History of the Apple*:

....The apple endures.

Born of the wild rose, of crab ancestors.

The first pip raised in Kazakhstan.

Snow White with poison on her lips.

The buried blades of Halloween.

Budding and grafting. John Chapman

in his tin pot hat. Oh Westward

Expansion. Apple pie. American

as. Hard cider. Winter banana.

Melt-in-the-mouth made sweet

by hives of Britain's honeybees:

white man's flies. O eat. O eat.

Wendy Videlock is poet laureate of the

Western Slope. Her books are available

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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-
 form@fpcmontrose.com](mailto:info@fpcmontrose.com),
www.fpcmontrose.com

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jesse G. Mabanglo

Worship Service times: 9:30AM,
We strive to encourage, challenge and

*support one another through spiritual
 growth, worship, and service in our com-
 munity, country, and world. We also en-
 courage children and youth to grow their
 relationship with Christ through our chil-
 dren and student ministries.*

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:

email: summitchurchmontrose@gmail.com

website:

www.summitchurchmontrose.org

Senior Pastor: Interim Pastor.

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 ag-

es! 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 the first Sunday of each month for a potluck dinner at 5:30 p.m., followed by a prayer session at 6:30 p.m.

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?

Local Immunization Providers



Visit www.montrosecounty.net/immunizations for updated information on immunization providers.
Questions? Call (970) 252-5011

LET MY PEOPLE GO

A MUST-SEE DOCUMENTARY BY DAVID CLEMENTS

July 12, 2024
6-9 p.m.

Orchard Mesa
Baptist Church
2748 B 1/2 Rd.
Grand Junction, CO

*This event is free
to the public.*

*Concessions will
not be available.*

No matter your political party:
Democrat, Republican, Libertarian or
Independent, this movie is for you!

Let my People Go is a modern-day deliverance story that presents two overlapping narratives of America's enslavement. The first form of slavery is invisible and achieved by the deep state's use of proprietary "black box machines" and rigged election software, where perception is altered and swamp candidates are selected rather than elected.

The second form of slavery focuses on the real-life consequences of the hundreds of thousands of Americans who gathered and protested the stolen Nov 2020 election, many of whom are imprisoned today.



SPECIAL GUEST:

Joe Oltmann

Joining us for discussion after the movie is the host of the Conservative Daily podcast. As a Systems Architect and Tech CEO, Joe uses his skills to uncover the truth of the fraud that took place during and after the 2020 election.



LetMyPeopleGo.Movie

REGIONALNEWS BRIEFS

PALISADE PEACH DAYS RETURN AUG. 8-18

Special to the Mirror

PALISADE--Mark your calendars for the return of Palisade Peach Days, Aug. 8-18, a more than century-old tradition of celebrating the finest peaches in the Palisade area, Aug. 8-18! The Just Peachy 5k, Peach Days Parade, and Palisade High School Band Car Show will take place on Saturday, Aug. 10. The Palisade Peach Festival will be held the traditional 3rd weekend on Aug. 16 & 17. For a full schedule of events, please visit palisadepeachfest.com.

AUTHOR EVENTS WITH SETH CAGIN



Wednesday, July 17, 5:30 p.m.
Wilkinson Public Library, Telluride.

Thursday, July 18, 5:30 p.m.
Curioser Books, Montrose

Saturday, July 20, 2 p.m.
Naturita Public Library

Monday, July 22, 7:30 p.m.
Decker Community Room, Ridgway



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Our company is proud to offer the residents of Colorado under Proposition 122 microdosing advice 24/7, and free Psilocybin with paid consultation.

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Please reach out to us as soon as you have time and we will discuss options to help.

FOURTH OF JULY 2024: FIREWORKS & FUN!



Above, Montrose Fourth of July festivities included the parade, top, which took a new route through Downtown. (Photos B. Switzer.) The evening fireworks were widely praised as being excellent (Mirror staff photos).



SAVE THE DATE! LOCAL EVENTS CALENDAR

ONGOING-

TRUE GRIT WALKING TOURS-June and August in Ridgway-Every Friday 3 pm guided free True Grit walking tour departs the gazebo in Hartwell Park. Arrive 15 minutes early. The one-hour tour covers downtown locations where True Grit was filmed. **July in Ridgway**-Every Friday 3 pm and Monday 10 am. Guided free True Grit walking tours depart the gazebo in Hartwell Park. Arrive 15 minutes early. The one-hour tour covers downtown locations where True Grit was filmed. Call 469.682.9710 to arrange a custom tour for \$10 per person at a time of your choosing.

HEALING COLLECTIVE OF WESTERN COLORADO-Every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month from 12-1pm the Healing Collective of Western Colorado meets at 220 N Stough Ave. It is open to all wellness providers in the area who would like to collaborate with and learn from other local practitioners.

MONTROSE FARMERS MARKET (970) 249 0705 Centennial Plaza, 433 S. 1st St. Montrose, CO 81401

www.valleyfoodpartnership.org. Year-Round Farmers Market, Saturdays 9am-1pm (Summer), every other Saturday 10am-1pm (Winter). Accepts SNAP and Double Up Food Bucks.

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 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

July 12—14- Black Canyon quilt Show at the Montrose Pavilion, 1800 Pavilion Dr., Montrose. Friday and Saturday 9—5, Sunday 10—3:30. Admission: \$5.00 for adults, children free. Visit blackcanyonquiltshow.com for more information.

Aug. 8-18-Mark your calendars for the return of Palisade Peach Days, a more than century-old tradition of celebrating the finest peaches in the Palisade area, Aug. 8—18! The Just Peachy 5k, Peach Days Parade, and Palisade High School Band Car Show will take place on Saturday, Aug. 10. The Palisade Peach Festival will be held the traditional 3rd weekend on Aug. 16 & 17. For a full schedule of events, please visit palisadepeachfest.com.



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MIRROR IMAGES: OUT & ABOUT



Above, the Montrose Summer Music Series drew an appreciative crowd on Friday, July 5. Photo B. Switzer.

At right, Writer Lauren Hall Ruddell shared this photo from her current post in Ireland, "These young Old Irish Goats certainly have a stunning view of Dublin Harbor. I wonder if they appreciate it?"



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of **Beyond Rock** today!

This Xeriscape Guide is made
just for Montrose, put together
by Ginny Price, Retired
Colorado Master Gardener/
Small Acreage Assistant.

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Recommendations for Residential
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