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the Montrose Mirror

ALTRUSA CLUB CONTINUES COMMUNITY SERVICE AFTER CELEBRATING 49 YEARS (PART TWO)



Children in Nepal stand in front of new solar showers and school toilet building (provided photo).

By Carole Ann McKelvey
Mirror Staff Writer

MONTROSE – For the past 31 years Altrusa International has recognized Altrusa clubs which meet a stringent list of criteria to be awarded the “Distinguished Club Award” (formerly Quality Club Awards). Altrusa International of Montrose, Colorado, is the only club within the worldwide organization to have been honored each and every one of those years.

A “Distinguished Club” is one that has broad, active participation in volunteer work by its

[Continued pg 30](#)

A Look Back: NATURITA WOMAN REPORTED MISSING

By Bob Cox

MONTROSE-The headline, which appeared in the *Norwood Post* on December 11, 1925, revealed little of one of the most intriguing crime stories of the time in Montrose County. The article accompanying the headline described what led up to the missing person report but, as was common for the time, the person's first name was not used. Instead, she was only referred to as "Mrs. R. E. Baird."

According to several newspaper accounts and other archived information, Montrose County Sheriff A. W. Galloway first became aware of the incident when Deputy Lu Laback called him and asked that a search posse be formed. Evidently, a posse was formed and a search around the Naturita area failed to locate the woman.

The *Norwood Post* article, using information they copied from the *Montrose Press*, shed some of the first light on the story, giving rise to the case being more than just a missing person. In part, the article read:

A search was made Sunday without avail, according to another message received Monday morning. It is stated that she (Mrs. Baird) was suing (Mr.) Baird for a divorce, and Thursday noon sent a registered letter to the

[Continued pg 20](#)



The headstone of the woman murdered by Ralph Baird holds no last name. It was placed by her children from her first marriage. Photo courtesy of Find-a-grave.

[Jenny McIntyre: Paintings of the Southwest, by Kate Burke!](#)

[Lauren Hall Ruddell, PhD: Your Brain on Nature!](#)

[OP-ED by David White!](#)

[Montrose Botanic Gardens Photos by Harry Switzer!](#)

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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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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

ROBERT F. KENNEDY, JR. QUALIFIES FOR GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT

Special to the Mirror

DENVER -- The Elections Division of the Colorado Secretary of State's Office announced today that Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. and Nicole Shanahan, Unaffiliated candidates for President and Vice President of the United States, have submitted the required number of signatures to appear on the November 5, 2024 General Election ballot.

Unaffiliated candidates for the Presidency and Vice Presidency are required to collect 1,500 valid signatures per congressional district as required by C.R.S. 1-4-802(1)(c)(I). Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. and Nicole Shanahan submitted 21,702 valid signatures, eclipsing the 12,000-signature threshold.



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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

SPRING CREEK BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE—The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests' Gunnison Ranger District announce the reconstruction of the Spring Creek Bridges #3 and #4. These bridges make passage through the Spring Creek Canyon possible via the National Forest System Road (NFSR) #744—Spring Creek road.

Routine inspections revealed structural deficiencies in the two bridges, last reconstructed in 1982 (#3) and 1964 (#4). The Gunnison Ranger District is taking proactive measures to reconstruct the bridges and ensure long-term road safety. Reconstruction will begin Aug. 5, 2024.

To ensure public safety and protect construction workers, NFSR #744—Spring Creek road will be temporarily closed to all traffic during the bridge reconstruction. The closure will be in effect from mile markers 4.5 to 6, from the intersection of NFSR #744—Spring Creek road and County Road #744. Please adhere to the construction closure area and follow all signage. The NFSR #748—Rocky Brook road provides access to the Spring Creek Reservoir and trails on the northern side of the closure area. Access to intersecting trails and roads across NFSR #744—Spring Creek road will remain open. All access through the Spring Creek Canyon at the project area will be closed.

"We're taking proactive measures to rebuild these bridges to ensure safe passage for many decades," said Dayle Funka, Gunnison District Ranger. "The safety and well-being of our community and visitors is our main focus." For more information, contact the Gunnison Ranger District at 970-641-0471.

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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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

STAGE 1 FIRE RESTRICTIONS BEGINNING IN MONTROSE COUNTY

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE—The unincorporated area of Montrose County will implement Stage 1 Fire Restrictions on Friday, August 2. Extreme fire danger, high temperatures and worsening dry conditions were the deciding factors in this decision. Restrictions will take effect at 12:01am on Friday August 2.

"The fire danger is extreme at this time. In light of the currently burning Bucktail Fire on the West End of Montrose County and other regional fires, I want to do every-

thing we can to keep our property, homes and communities safe," said Sheriff Lillard. "Thank you for your cooperation and for doing your part to prevent wildfires."

Under Stage 1 Fire Restrictions, open burning of any kind including agricultural burning, open campfires, and fireworks is prohibited. Smoking cigarettes outdoors is not allowed, unless in an enclosed vehicle or building or in a developed recreation site. Campfires in a pre-approved campground or enclosed fire pits are permitted. As a reminder, fireworks on pub-

licly managed lands are prohibited.

Please be advised that penalties for violating the fire ban include: Class-2 petty offense with fines ranging from \$100 to \$500 depending on the number of offenses.

If a fire causes damage to another individual's property, additional criminal charges may apply. These fire restrictions will remain in effect until further notice.

For more fire-related information on Colorado's Western Slope please visit: <http://www.westslopefireinfo.com/>



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MONTROSE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, INC. NOTICE OF DIRECTOR APPLICATIONS

The Board of Directors of Montrose Memorial Hospital, Inc., a Colorado community non-profit corporation, is accepting applications for positions as Directors of that Colorado community non-profit corporation.

Application packets are available for download at www.montrosehealth.com, by email request to BODapplications@montrosehealth.com, or pick up at the Montrose Regional Health Administration office, located at 800 South 3rd Street, Montrose, Colorado, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The deadline for return of completed applications is **Friday**, August 16th at 5:00 p.m. at the MRH Administration office.

Elections will be held by the Board of Directors at its annual meeting in October.


Jack Johnston (Jul 17, 2024 22:34 GMT+1)

Jack Johnston, Chairperson
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Montrose Pavilion, Montrose

6:30AM - 9:30AM

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CATLIN'S FUNDING FOR RURAL HEALTH CARE BILL TAKES EFFECT

Special to the Mirror

DENVER— July begins the new fiscal year for Colorado's State Government and the funding for bills passed and signed during the 2024 session. One such bill, Funding for Rural Health Care (SB24-221) is now law and in effect. This Act authorizes the Department of Higher Education to implement or expand existing rural track programs. The University of Colorado has a rural track program for medical students and places them in rural communities to

study and practice healthcare. The funding mechanism of this bill transfers \$1.7 million to the rural hospital cash fund to distribute money to rural hospitals across the state. The act also appropriates about \$867,000 to the Department of Higher Education.

HD58 Representative Marc Catlin explains that it is not a secret the state of Colorado is facing a shortage of healthcare workers and the challenge is even greater in our rural communities. This legislation ad-

dresses a few of the facets, such as: providing more funds for our rural hospitals and building the pipeline for young doctors and healthcare workers to get situated in rural communities. The legislature agreed this legislation was worth the investment, passing with 94% approval. The prime sponsors are Representative [Marc Catlin](#) (R-HD58) of Montrose County, Representative [Meghan Lukens](#) (D-HD26) of Routt County, Senator [Dylan Roberts](#) (D-SD8) of Eagle County and Senator [Barbara Kirkmeyer](#) (R-SD23) of Weld County.

Representative Catlin says: "A very important aspect of the Rural Track Program is to help our towns bring home some of our brightest minds. Often, our number one export for smaller communities is our kids. We raise them right, to be leaders in their community, yet they struggle to find opportunities to come back home. This legislation helps build those opportunities for our young professionals."

A great example is one of Montrose County's top students, Theresa Tafoya, who has been given such an opportunity. Tafoya is a graduate of Olathe High School and a fourth-year MD student studying at the CU School of Medicine. She is the CU Student Rural Program Ambassador.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

LACE UP FOR FORTUNA TIERRA CLUB'S 9TH ANNUAL LOG HILL HUSTLE AUG. 25

Special to the Mirror

LOG HILL-Lace up those running and walking shoes for the 9th Annual Log Hill Hustle. The Fun Run, 5k and 10k races, will be on Sunday, Aug. 25 at 8 AM and will start at the Divide Ranch and Club, 151 Divide Ranch Circle, and run through the Fairway Pines' roads. This fundraiser for the Fortuna Tierra Club raises funds for scholarships for Ridgway High School graduates.

Since 2016, Fortuna Tierra Club has awarded \$105,500 in scholarships. You can register for the Log Hill Hustle and get more information about the Log Hill Hustle at <https://www.fortunatierra.com/>. Enjoy a free continental breakfast sponsored by Fortuna Tierra Club. Awards will be given to Log Hill Hustle winners. All runners are eligible for door prizes. A racers bag with swag will be provided to each registrant. Hope to see you there with those laces tight!



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ABOUT LARRY DON

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

LANDSCAPING WORK TO CLOSE PARKING ON PAVILION DRIVE

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— Crews with the City of Montrose's Parks Division will close parking areas along a section of Pavilion Drive starting Monday, Aug. 5, to begin landscaping efforts on the roadway's medians.

Parks staff will begin replacing sod on the medians of Pavilion Drive between East Niagara Road and Stone Bridge Drive with new xeriscape landscaping. The work will also include the installation of a new irrigation system.

Both traffic lanes of Pavilion Drive will remain open; however, parking will not be allowed on either side of the roadway due to working conditions.

Work is expected to conclude by Thursday, Aug. 22.

For information about the City of Montrose visit CityofMontrose.org.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

CITY OF MONTROSE — NO MORE CAMPING IN PUBLIC SPACES?

Finally...the City addresses Homeless Camping, but what about Non-Sanctuary City Status?

By David White

The City Council meets today for their biweekly Work Session. On the agenda is a proposed ordinance (24-2670 - <https://montroseco.portal.civicclerk.com/event/608/files/attachment/2911>) which is finally going to address the issue of the homeless camping out in public places. The ordinance is specific though in that it addresses the issue as related to City owned property (parks, parking lots, etc., especially between the hours of 11PM and 5AM). It does address the private property owner's right to preclude camping or overnight parking of vehicles that seemingly homeless folks are occupying for use as living quarters which is good thing to include in an ordinance.

From the proposed ordinance:

Camp or camping means the use of property for the purpose of unauthorized overnight occupancy, or to reside or dwell on public property with shelter overnight, or the use of public property for the purpose of overnight occupancy or longer occupancy. The term "shelter" as used in this definition includes, without limitation, any tent, tarpaulin, lean-to, sleeping bag, bedroll, blankets, or any form of cover or protection from the elements other than clothing. The term "reside or dwell" includes, without limitation, conducting such activities as eating, sleeping, or the storage of personal possessions. Evidence of unauthorized camps includes, but is not limited to, sleeping, or making preparations to sleep by laying out personal belongings, bedding, bedroll(s), blanket(s), sleeping pad(s), sleeping bag(s), erecting or occupying a tent, makeshift shelter, lean-to, tarpaulin, enclosure, or other structure used for overnight living purposes, or any form of cover or protection from the elements other than clothing, or making preparations for a fire or making a fire except for fires at sites specifically designated or authorized for a fire by the City of Montrose's Parks Department, setting up or using a camp

stove, cooking device, or other type of heating source except for grills and personal grills permitted in designated areas by Parks Department. Camp or camping can include using a vehicle for overnight occupancy where overnight occupancy or overnight camping violates City Code or regulation or is not otherwise authorized by the City. Camping does not include napping during the day or picnicking.

The proposed ordinance further states that:

(A) It shall be unlawful for any person to camp on any public property within the municipal limits of the City of Montrose, except in a location where camping has been expressly authorized as a permitted activity in compliance with Title 9 of the Official Code of the City of Montrose.

(B) It shall be unlawful for any person to camp on private property without the express consent of the property owner or the owner's agent.

(C) It is unlawful for any person to construct or erect any building or structure, whether permanent or temporary, on any public property owned by the City of Montrose without express permission from the City to do so.

The proposed ordinance is seven pages long. There will be public discussion before the City Council for a formal presentation and vote in a few weeks. I suspect that the usual suspects who oppose such an ordinance on "humanitarian" grounds will show up and attempt to sway the Council to not vote to implement a balanced effort to address the growing public crisis surrounding the homeless and their encampments that have appeared throughout our community. Responsible government decision making will hopefully prevail.

While long overdue, the issue of how to deal with the increasing number of homeless will need further work as we move toward the fall and winter months. Many homeless will move on to warmer climates, however, there will be many that

won't or can't. Hopefully, between the non-profit organizations, area churches and local government, this issue will be addressed.

As a sidenote to the homeless issue, the ongoing debate over the City of Montrose's status as a non-sanctuary city continues as a concerned group of citizens continue to ask at virtually every City Council meeting for the Council to declare Montrose to be a non-sanctuary City. As most reading this will recall, the Council approved a resolution declaring Montrose to be a non-sanctuary City on March 7th only to reverse that decision when then Mayor Barbara Bynum verbally ripped the Council for voting for such a resolution. That reversal was not well received by many community members and has been seen as a betrayal by the City Council of their duty to protect the legal residents of the City against the unwanted presence of illegal aliens who have arrived in our community in violation of multiple Federal and State laws.

There are of course many who argue that such a resolution is "political showmanship" or simply grandstanding on the part of citizens and elected officials who support such a resolution. Mayor David Reed stated the following at a July City Council meeting:

"The city of Montrose is not a sanctuary city, is not a sanctuary city. By default, legally we are a non-sanctuary city, by default, legally we are a non-sanctuary city," said the Mayor. Reed also said that the city has no intention of becoming a sanctuary city before correcting the assumption that Montrose has an illegal immigrant problem." (<https://www.ksjd.org/2024-07-25/montrose-mayor-addresses-continuous-calls-for-non-sanctuary-status>)

To the Mayor's point...he is legally correct. "Immigration experts, such as University of Colorado law professor Deep Gulasekaram, said the very concept of becoming a "sanctuary city" is flawed.

Continued next pg

NO MORE CAMPING IN PUBLIC SPACES? From previous pg



Photos of Denver and Montrose by David White.

"There is no legal definition of sanctuary city," Gulasekaram said. "It's a term that is an empty vessel in a sense, and so anybody from any part of the political spectrum can put into it what they want."

Many cities pass ordinances to declare themselves a "welcoming city," which are largely symbolic gestures that signal immigrants are welcome to start new lives there. From there, cities may choose to pass additional ordinances that build on that designation and create further protections and services for immigrants."

Why Colorado isn't a 'sanctuary' state despite its strong immigrant protection laws (cpr.org)

However, the Mayor overlooks one critical point when making his argument. That point is the difference between a "statutory" city and a "home rule" city. "Colorado cities and towns operate under provisions of Colorado state statutes (and are referred to as "statutory" cities and towns) unless voters adopt a municipal charter to become a "home rule" city or town. Home rule is based on the theory that the citizens of a municipality should have the right to decide how their local government is to be organized and how their local problems should be solved. Municipal home rule derives its authority directly from the Colorado Constitution. It

affords residents of cities and towns that adopt a local charter freedom from the need for state-enabling legislation and protection from state interference in "both local and municipal matters." (2019 -cml-governance-101.pdf)

As University of Colorado immigration law professor Deep Gulasekaram points out, cities can, once they declare themselves to be a "sanctuary or welcoming" city or, **in the inverse**, declare themselves to be a "non-sanctuary" or "non-welcoming" city, build upon whatever the declaration is with ordinances to support the status they declare by resolution or ordinance.

Since the City of Montrose is a "Home Rule Municipality" governed by a City Charter, I believe that it is time for the citizens to exercise their right under the City Charter's (Article 10, Section 2 - Amending the Charter) to take the "political monkey" off the backs of the City Council (who are, at the very least, ne'er-do-wells on this issue).

This section of the Charter reads as follows:

Sec. 2. - Amending the Charter.

Amendments to this Charter may be framed and submitted to the electors through petitioning the Council or by the Council on its own initiative in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of the State of Colorado. Nothing herein contained shall be construed as preventing the submission to the people of more than

one Charter amendment at any one election. If there is any conflict or inconsistency between amendments voted upon at the same election and more than one be adopted, then the amendment receiving the largest number of votes shall prevail.

If the Council wants to put a stop to the bi-weekly requests from the aforementioned concerned citizens who attend the City Council meetings and make public comments at the beginning of every meeting on the subject of Montrose being, symbolically or otherwise, a non-sanctuary city, they can kick the proverbial can down the road and into the hands of the citizens who can frame a Charter amendment that addresses the community's concerns on this issue.

If they're willing to put their personal prejudices aside, they'll let the citizens use the City Charter as intended and put this matter to a public vote at the next municipal election or through a special election as soon as is practicable. Otherwise, I suspect that the Council might not like the public's response.

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.

COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

NEW COLORADO LAW TO SUPPORT NEW IMMIGRANTS

Special to the Mirror

DENVER - A new law goes into effect on Aug. 7 to grant funding to community-based organizations that provide crucial services to new immigrants.

[HB24-1280](#) creates the Statewide Welcome, Reception, and Integration Grant Program to grant funds to community-based organizations that provide services to new immigrants within their first year in the United States. Grant money can be used for:

- Conducting an intake and assessment of needs,
 - Providing cultural orientation and case management,
 - Services or referrals to employment services, immigration legal assistance, housing-related services, transportation services, financial orientation, mental and physical health services, interpretation and translation services, and English as a second language courses,
 - Distributing emergency and transitional supplies, and
 - Assisting new immigrant parents to enroll their kids in public schools or summer programs.
-

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

OUR RESOURCES ARE BETTER SPENT IMPROVING EXISTING PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Dear Editor,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed Montrose Classical Academy. While marketed as "tuition-free," this charter school would actually divert crucial taxpayer funds away from our public schools, impacting all students in our district. Public education funds should support a broad, inclusive curriculum accessible to every student, particularly those who need additional support.

The classical model of this charter school, focusing on a narrow curriculum, neglects essential subjects necessary for a well-rounded education. This approach undermines the core principles of public education by prioritizing a specific demographic, mainly those already attending private or being homeschooled.

Moreover, the claim that teachers do not need certification undermines the quality of education. Expertise in a subject does not equate to effective teaching.

Rather than shifting public funds to support a select few, those interested in this educational model should seek private funding. Our resources are better spent improving existing public schools and supporting all students.

Susan Chandler-Reed (former MCSD school board member)

SS4A Grant - Safe Streets and Roads for All

Public Workshop - August 7, 2024

5:30 p.m.

Public Works Meeting Room

63160 LaSalle Road

Montrose

Montrose County intends to develop a new Safety Action Plan using a data-driven methodology to improve safety and enhance mobility for all roadway users.

Public input is crucial to develop an Implementation Plan.

The Montrose County Safety Action Plan will be a Vision Zero plan and will be led by the county and based on extensive and inclusive community outreach!

Please join us for our second public workshop to learn more and provide input.

A safer Montrose County will promote multi-model mobility and improve its economic prospects.



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NATURITA WOMAN REPORTED MISSING *From pg 1*

Moynihan firm, of Montrose, saying she would be here Saturday, but she has not showed up here. Sunday evening, Chief of Police Clyde Williams received a telegram from Frank Merrill of Sterling, Colo., saying, "Locate Mrs. R. E. Baird. Wire her address in Montrose immediately."

Frank Merrill, the son of Mrs. Baird, also relayed other information, including the fact that her name was Christie and that Mrs. Christie Phillips and Ralph Baird had recently obtained a marriage license and were married. He also confirmed that the reason Christie Baird had scheduled an appointment with the Moynihan firm was to begin the process of divorcing Ralph Baird.

On December 17, 1925, *The Rocky Mountain News* ran an article that included information from several sources, including the *Montrose Press*. Frank Merrill had become very involved in the case and the article pointed out other interesting facts:

Frank Merrill, son of Mrs. Baird, is assisting the officers in the search. Mrs. Baird, a former resident of Sterling, Colo., is an artist and pianist and has composed several popular songs. She was married recently to Ralph Baird, her fifth husband, shortly after her divorce from her fourth husband. Police authorities have expressed the belief that she may have been murdered and her body buried in some isolated spot. Baird declares his wife disappeared while he was absent downtown.

Ralph Baird had so far failed to cooperate in the search for his wife. His lack of cooperation led those involved to focus on him as a suspect of foul play. Baird told investigators that his wife disappeared while he was absent from the home on an errand to the post office. Frank Merrill was adamant in his claims that his mother had been murdered and offered a \$100 re-

ward for any clues that resulted in finding her. Just a few days later Ralph Baird also offered a reward, but his reward was just half that of Merrill's. The remainder of the year passed without locating Christie Baird, but Merrill and members of various law enforcement agencies had not given up. Meanwhile other facts about Christie Baird began surfacing. Baird was her fifth husband, but she was likely not legally divorced from her fourth husband, a man named Phillips. Her third husband, William Partridge was killed by another of her sons, Larry Merrill. He was sent to prison, but later had his sentence commuted. At about that time she became one of only two female game wardens in the nation. She also married and divorced a man named Jones. She was in the process of divorcing Phillips when she married Ralph Baird. As all the background started piling up, Christie had still not been located.

Then, on January 26, 1926, a headline in the *Daily Journal* of Telluride began unfolding the facts of the case to the public. The headline read:

THE MONTROSE MURDER MYSTERY SOLVED; FIND BODY WOMAN IN SHALLOW GRAVE

The article went on to describe that the body of Mrs. Baird was found in a shallow grave near the Baird ranch house on January 25th. It went on to explain that the body was found as the result of a confession on the part of Ralph Baird. Three days later, the *Montrose Enterprise*, in its January 29 edition, printed the gruesome details that followed a coroner's inquest held in Naturita by Coroner Schermerhorn. The result of the inquest was as follows:

We the jury in the coroner's inquest held at Naturita, Montrose County, Colorado, on January 26, 1926, find that Christy Baird came to her death near Naturita on

or about the third day of December, 1925 from the effects of a blow upon the right side of her head, said blow was delivered by Ralph Baird, her husband with felonious intent.

Within days, and in some cases hours, numerous newspapers picked up on the story and began describing in detail the confession of Ralph Baird. Most left out some of the most gruesome details, but the *Rocky Mountain News* held nothing back in their January 27, 1926 edition printed under the byline, "Special to The News. MONTROSE, Colo., Jan. 26-". The article began by quoting the findings of the coroner's inquest held in Naturita and went on to describe that Christie Baird's body was found after Ralph Baird confessed and showed where the body was buried. The ugly details of the confession were noted as follows:

According to Baird's confession, he quarreled with his wife on the night of Dec. 2. when he learned she was suing him for divorce. The next morning the quarrel was resumed, he said, and when his wife obtained a pistol he struck her on the head with a flatiron. The blow did not kill her, he said, and he struck her a second blow on the head as she lay on the floor of their cabin. Despite the fact that it was daylight, he carried the body 100 yards from the house, placed her in a shallow depression and covered her with some dirt...

Other facts came out later, including the fact that Christie did not have a gun at the time of her death. On June 14, 1926, Ralph E. Baird appeared before Judge Welch of Delta and entered a plea of guilty to second degree murder. He received a sentence in the state penitentiary at Canon City at hard labor for a period of 30 to 40 years. He was 50 years old at the time.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

THERE ARE PLENTY OF OPPORTUNITIES IN MONTROSE FOR PARENTS TO ENROLL THEIR STUDENTS IN OUTSIDE OF OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

To the Editor:

I have concerns about the Montrose Classical Academy's application to become a charter school. I have reviewed their literature and attended one of their presentations. They claim that their school would not affect funding for our local public schools. Of course it would. There is no separate source of funding for public charter schools.

The board members tout classical education but it would be a narrow curriculum and not provide students with real life skills needed to succeed in today's world. Public funding is intended for the community at large, not a small part of it.

There are plenty of opportunities in Montrose for parents to enroll their students in outside of our public schools plus various home school options.

I am a strong supporter of public education and would like to see funding increased, not decreased.

Jane Ryan, Montrose

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE REGIONAL HEALTH COLLABORATES WITH MONTROSE BLACK CANYON ROTARY CLUB AND MONTROSE HIGH SCHOOL BLACK CANYON INTERACT CLUB TO DONATE LAB EQUIPMENT TO BELIZE NATIONAL BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICES

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE – Montrose Regional Health is collaborating with Montrose Black Canyon Rotary Club and Montrose High School Black Canyon Interact Club to purchase essential lab equipment for the National Blood Transfusion Services in Belize, a country in Central America where disease concerns and supply limitations contribute to a severe blood donation shortage. In the entire country of Belize, there are only seven locations where blood can be donated. This prompted Crystal Mengenhausen, wife of MRH CEO Jeff Mengenhausen and Rotary Club member, to support the Interact Club's educational field trip to Belize.

Blood donors are vitally important to the operation of healthcare institutions. Without regular blood donations, life-saving transfusions for surgeries, serious injuries, cancer treatments and other serious

health issues would not be possible.

Montrose Regional Health recognizes this importance and is partnering with Montrose Black Canyon Rotary Club and the Interact Club to raise money to purchase essential lab equipment for the Central Lab at Belize National Blood Transfusion Services. Crystal Mengenhausen and Interact students were able to fund their Belize trip through various fundraisers, and MRH made a donation for the lab supplies which will be sent to National Blood Transfusion Services once they are purchased.

"Montrose Regional Health's commitment to our community shines brightly through their generous support of our mission in Belize," said Crystal Mengenhausen. "By donating funds and helping purchase essential lab equipment at a discounted cost through their Materials Management Department, they've not

only bolstered the success of the Belize trip but also empowered local Rotary Interact high schoolers and Rotary members to make a profound and lasting impact both at home and across the globe. Their dedication exemplifies how collective efforts can truly transform lives."

During their trip, Interact students were able to tour the National Blood Transfusion Service's headquarters in Belize City and were even invited to participate in a blood drive organized by The Island Donors Squad on the island of Ambergris Caye. The blood drive was a resounding success, with 27 pints of blood collected in a single day.

Montrose Regional Health would like to thank the Black Canyon Rotary Club and the Montrose High School Interact Club for the opportunity to work alongside them in supporting a noble cause and extending quality care beyond our borders.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

VOTE YOUR HEART, DEMAND HONOR AT ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT

Editor:

I see on main stream media where Biden is making a big historical deal about Russia freeing prisoners and that media saturates us with coverage of it all including them deplaning.

I am super glad the prisoners are home and welcome home to them and God bless America.

However,

This is the same Biden that didn't make any fanfair when dead American soldiers came home in boxes. In fact he checked his watch as they were being unloaded onto the precious soil they died defending.

Too bad that Biden had other things to do and better places to be at that moment.

All I can say is to American Citizens, this is an election year. For once vote your heart, demand honor at all levels of government.

Bob Stollsteimer, Montrose

CLASSICAL CHARTER ACADEMY DOES NOT PROVIDE AN INNOVATIVE APPROACH

*Dear Dr. Carrie Stephenson,
Montrose County School Board, and Montrose Community:*

As I begin my 47th year as an educator, I am busy, as all educators, in adapting/refining my curriculum. All schools are geared to certain basics; yet, these must be an adaptations to changes in work place and student population. One main emphasis of Montrose County School District is Student Centered Learning. Charter schools were developed to provide innovative directions for certain student populations and implement new changes to do so; thus for Montrose, the successful establishment of Vista that provides multiple pathways to graduation and Peak Virtual that provides online instruction.

The proposal for a Classical Charter Academy does not give any innovative method, but intends to return to as stated a "classical approach."

A classical curriculum is math, science, history, literature, fine arts with emphasis on grammar, logic, and rhetoric. As per *Classical Conversations*, there is "focus on individual learner, mentorship & coaching, active learning & student engagement within standardization of the particular state." This foundation already exists in the K-5 schools of Montrose County. As

stated on MCSD vision: "Montrose County School District will ignite a contagious spark for learning by providing engaging, relevant and challenging instructional experiences for ALL students. " This is not a new approach nor vision as suggested by Classical Charter Academy

The claim is to provide a content rich curriculum. All major educational research deems a content rich curriculum involves "using reading programs designed to build students' broad knowledge about the world by focusing their reading and writing on specific topics in social studies, science, and the arts." (Education Week). Again, there are very successful reading programs in the Montrose County schools and thus, Classical Charter provides no new method to enhance reading skills. As "Charter Schools are also required to participate in the state-mandated assessment program," (CDE) there is no indication that the reading material chosen for the new academy will provide reading readiness.

A major subject listed in every Classical Curriculum Guide is Religion. The Montrose community has very successful religious based schools. Whose religion would be incorporated in this new classical academy? Parents must apply to charter schools and the Charter must have a

defined enrollment policy. Will there be a defined element toward Christians?

"Parents must apply to charter schools if they choose to enroll their child (ren)." (CDE)

Will only Christian parents be eligible to apply? If so, there are successful religious schools that meet that need.

"As a public school, a charter school must comply with the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) and any state special education laws." (IBID) As there is a shortage of teachers, an important question as to diversion of tax money for a charter school is specialized teachers to insure compliance is met. This factor becomes of high importance for any curriculum.

Classical Charter Academy does not provide an innovative approach, meet the curriculum focus for achievement, and does not include student engagement possibilities. The diverting of public school funding to establish this school within Montrose County School District should not be granted. The current successful elementary schools should be enhanced, not limited.

AJ Smith, Montrose



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PARENTS INFORMATION MEETINGS

TUESDAY, JULY 30TH 10:30-11:30 a.m.

**Montrose Library – Conference Room
320 S. Second Street, Montrose**

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7TH 2-3 p.m.

**Montrose Library – Conference Room
320 S. Second Street, Montrose**

SATURDAY, AUGUST 10TH 1-2 p.m.

**Montrose Library – Conference Room
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Join us for a video and Q & A about plans to open a tuition-free, public charter school in Montrose in Fall 2025. Please attend one of our meetings and visit our website for more information. www.montroseclassical.org

OPEN COMMUNITY MEETINGS - Childcare Provided

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

COUNTY MANAGER SEARCH SHOULD INCLUDE NEWLY-ELECTED COMMISSIONERS, PUBLIC

Editor:

As previously noted publicly, after the resignation of county manager Jon Waschbusch, the BOCC elected to lower the qualification standards for the position of Montrose County manager. At the same time, they elevated the assistant county manager Emily Sanchez to the position of interim county manager. The BOCC indicated their intention was to conduct an internal search for a new county manager... At the end of the initial seven-day internal search, and after being apprised of potential problems for not having a broader search, the BOCC elected to expand the search for a new county manager.

As David White and I previously noted in

the mirror, the average county manager salary in Colorado is about \$146,000. It was also noted that former county manager Waschbusch' compensation was about \$200,000, a rate comparable to Mesa County which has about five times the population of Montrose County. The great differential in salary between Montrose and Mesa County should raise concern with Montrose taxpayers that may want to ask the question "why." As a side note, the Montrose County manager makes more than some of the state governors.

As an assistant county manager Miss Sanchez receives an annual salary of \$132,000 annually. Now as interim county manager her annual salary has been increased to \$159,000 to be paid bi-weekly. With

the already adopted lower qualification standards for the Montrose County manager, could one come to the assumption that the original intention of the BOCC was to tailor the requirements to fit a specific individual level of education and experience? With the expanded manager search concluding on August 14, it will certainly be interesting to see if the actions of the commissioners are to fill a personal agenda or to get the best applicant to fill the position of county manager. It is recommended that the next elected commissioners have an input and the public also have an input into the selection process since we all pay the salaries and are not agenda driven.

Dee Laird, Montrose



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

TRAFFIC STOP YIELDS DRUG SEIZURE

Delta Police Dept. News Release

DELTA-At approximately 0111 hours on Thursday, August 1, officers with the Delta Police Department initiated a traffic stop at the intersection of 9th Street and Grand Avenue in the City of Delta. Officers found probable cause to search the vehicle after K9 Raico alerted to the presence of narcotics during a free air sniff of the vehicle.

During the search, officers recovered approximately 4,757 suspected fentanyl pills (509 grams), 17.7 grams of suspected methamphetamine, and \$7,320 dollars in cash. The driver of the vehicle, Clayton Butruff (29), was arrested and charged with: Fail to Signal 100 feet, Unlawful Distribution of Controlled Substance DF 1, Unlawful Possession of Controlled Substance DF 4, and Violation of Protection Order Misdemeanor 1.

The Delta Police Department takes the distribution of illicit narcotics seriously, and recognizes the dangers to our community. All criminal charges are merely an accusation, and the defendant is presumed innocent until or unless proven guilty. This incident remains under investigation, and there is no further information available at this time.

CHANGING NEEDS?

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ALTRUSA CLUB CONTINUES COMMUNITY SERVICE From pg 1

members, is recognized within its community for its contributions, has won awards for its projects, include members who serve at the District and International levels of the organization, maintains a local foundation as well as a club, partners with other non-profits, and many more measures of excellence. The local club on June 9 was recognized as a "Distinguished Club" for 2023-2024.

Current Altrusa International of Montrose Club projects:

-Anciano Tower Holiday Gifts: Altrusa has a small budget to purchase necessary items, but many of the items are donated by some of the members from their store/business or personally and the club receives some items from the community and presents each of the 49 residents with a gift bag each year.

-Annual Educational Scholarships: Altrusa International of Montrose awards scholarships each year to graduates of Montrose and Olathe high schools; the number of recipients may vary and also, there is a scholarship to Technical College of the Rockies in Delta.

-Bosom Buddies Walk/Run: Altrusa helps facilitate the Bosom Buddies Walk/Run in October each year with a donation of \$300, plus helps obtain and prepare donated food, helps with stuffing and handing out goodie bags.

-First Grade Book Giveaway: select and purchase an age-appropriate children's book to distribute to all first graders in the Montrose County School District each May. Through its efforts a total of 1,600 books have been distributed to first graders over the past three years.

-Flashcard Project: provided practice addition and subtraction flashcards to each second grader in the Montrose County School District for use in their classroom to help them master addition and subtraction at this critical learning age and to approach the learning of math as a fun exercise; a total of 410 sets were purchased. The club will also purchase enough sets of multiplication and division flash cards for each third grader in the Montrose County School District.

-Haven House in Olathe: Is a transitional

housing facility for people moving from homelessness to acquiring their own living quarters (apartments or purchasing their own homes). Once residents have successfully completed their probationary period, Altrusa will refresh a resident's room/suite with new bedding (mattress pads, sheets, quilt/comforter and pillow protectors), pillows, towels, shower curtains, liners, shower hooks, clothes hampers, trash cans, portable drawer units, area rugs, lamps, along with other miscellaneous items. The items placed in the rooms are the residents' to take with them when they graduate from Haven House and move into their own homes.

-International Relations: Identifies a worthy international project to support each year. The local club has successfully completed projects benefiting children, students, the elderly, and family units through education, literacy, construction, health, and hygiene in third-world regions around the world. Altrusa's partnership with Western Colorado Friends of the Himalayas ensures that funds are matched, and a project selected that will impact the greatest number of disadvantaged residents in poverty stricken rural communities in Nepal with complete transparency and accountability. Prior projects have included funds to help furnish a clean burning, double-walled, steel stove for every household in a high-altitude village to eliminate chest and eye disease from smoke exposure; providing double stone-built solar showers for boys and girls at a school, a first in the village; new toilet facilities for a school, and a central shower building for the villagers. A rototiller transported to a rural village relieved women from the backbreaking work of preparing, planting and harvesting of crops with hand-held tools. Donations of laptops, printer and copier enabled students to compete in the education field.

-Kiva Micro-loans: Since 2009 the club has made 246 microloans, totaling more than \$6,000 to people in 66 countries. Altrusans are able to select a borrower, lend a small amount of money and once the loan is repaid, relend to another individual. A Kiva representative stated, "Through Kiva's

work, students can pay for tuition, women can start businesses, farmers are able to invest in equipment and families can afford needed emergency care."

-Love Hug Bears: Altrusa obtains the bears through a local store owner/Altrusa member and each bear has a Certificate of Adoption attached indicating the bear is a special gift from Altrusa International of Montrose. The club delivers about 3 to 4 dozen bears per quarter to Montrose Regional Hospital. The bears are given to children needing medical care at the hospital.

-MHS ASTRA Club: Altrusa of Montrose sponsors and supports the Montrose High School ASTRA Club with their projects and fundraisers.

-Service Grants: Local non-profits can apply for service grants for a specific project or event.

-Welcome Home Alliance For Veterans

Spouses Lunch: Altrusa of Montrose started taking a warm meal at least once a year to the Montrose Veterans Spouses Lunch beginning in 2022, for approximately 30 women. Altrusans have agreed to provide a meal four times this year for their monthly get-togethers. President Little said, "It is our sincere pleasure to provide a meal to these women who have sacrificed for us, and we enjoy sitting down and talking with them."

All told, Altrusa International of Montrose has given back to the community and internationally more than \$950,000 in service grants, projects, Apple Awards and scholarships.

Since 1946, Altrusa International has held observer status at the United Nations (UN). At that time Altrusa was the first international classified service club for then executive and professional women to have an official observer appointed to the United Nations--Frances K. Marquis, president of the New York City Altrusa Club. Marquis was a close friend to another active NYC Altrusan, Eleanor Roosevelt. First Lady Roosevelt delivered an address at the 1945 San Francisco UN Conference on international organizations, and later President Harry S. Truman appointed Mrs. Roosevelt to chair the famous UN Human

Continued next pg

ALTRUSA CLUB CONTINUES COMMUNITY SERVICE *From previous pg*

Rights Committee. In 1978, Altrusa's UN membership was assigned to the level of a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) in roster status within the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). In this capacity Altrusa joined together with other NGOs, empowered to attend open General Assembly sessions and UN briefings/conferences related solely to global and social concerns, and receive UN Ground Passes. In each biennium, the international board appoints five representatives to attend and monitor UN meetings and briefings, as allowed. Altrusa's representatives may participate in person or via teleconference.

"We enjoy the friendship, fun, and satisfaction that come from working together

for the benefit of others," states an Altrusa International spokesperson. "Each club develops a program that is tailored to local needs, undertaking a variety of hands-on service and fundraising projects each year. One of our shared goals as an organization is to improve literacy, which we believe is the key to opportunity."

Literacy is also the main focus of the Montrose club. The Montrose Altrusa Club meets the first three weeks of the month at the Montrose Recreation Center's Field House off Rio Grande Drive at noon. Primarily a service club, members also enjoy getting to know their fellow Altrusa members and forming lasting friendships. New members must be sponsored by an Altrusa member and they are

always looking for new members.

"Forty-nine years! It's hard to believe that Altrusa International of Montrose is almost half a century old," exclaimed Karen Little, Altrusa International of Montrose club president. "Forty-nine years is definitely a milestone, and we should all be proud of the amazing work we have done in our community over these past years, I cannot wait to see what we do in the future years!"

The club still holds member social events as well as membership recruitments. For more information on the local club, you can go to their website at AltrusaMontrose.org or for more information you may call 970-765-7666 or email Altrusa.Montrose@gmail.com.

DineOutMontrose.com



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970-249-2460

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970-249-8990

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970-323-6215

Delta: CB's Tavern
970-399-3570



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970-964-7570

Double Barrel Taco Co.
970-417-4340

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970-249-0433

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970-249-7427

Stone House
970-240-8899

Mimo's
970-249-0616

Sidelines Sports Bar
970-765-0129

Amelias Hacienda Restaurante
970-249-1881

Delta: Pour Ernie's
970-546-0074

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

BLACK HILLS ENERGY HELPS MONTROSE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM PROVIDE ACCESS FOR ALL

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE — The Montrose Children's Museum and Black Hills Energy (BHE) announced a new collaboration in support of the Museums for All campaign. Museums for All is a national, branded access program that encourages individuals of all backgrounds to visit museums regularly and build lifelong museum habits. It is open to participation by any type of museum. Through Museums for All, those receiving food assistance (SNAP benefits) can gain free admission to the Montrose Children's Museum.

"Black Hills Energy has a long tradition of supporting educational and family related efforts that enrich the communities we serve," said Chris Downey, Director of Gas Operations for Black Hills Energy in Colorado. "We are honored to be a part of efforts to allow free access to those in need to the Montrose Children's Museum."

The Montrose Children's Museum, which opened in June, has been a long-awaited addition to the community, offering a dynamic and engaging space for children to explore, learn, and play. With a focus on play and interactive displays, the museum aims to inspire curiosity, foster creativity, and ignite a love of learning in young minds.

"Black Hills Energy's generous donation of \$1,000 to the Montrose Children's Museum has opened doors for 16 families, touching the lives of 40 individuals who might not have otherwise experienced the joy of play and learning together. One mother, deeply moved by this scholarship program shared tears of gratitude as she watched her five children explore and engage for over three precious hours. Such moments remind us that support, like that from Black Hills Energy, transforms lives and creates lasting memories," said museum founder and Executive Director, Dr. Mallory Shaffer.

This museum is an exciting and inclusive space that captivates and educates children throughout the region. With interactive exhibits and engaging programming, the Montrose Children's Museum provides enriching experiences for kids of all backgrounds. This is a truly remarkable initiative that has already made a positive impact on the community.

Since opening, the museum has been on a mission to foster a learning environment that ignites imagination and fuels creativity for children and adults alike. With interactive play in a -on learning museum, this place inspires children's intellect, curiosity, and a lifelong love of learning.

As a 501 (C) 3 nonprofit organization, sponsorships are very important and make a significant impact on the organization's business. In addition to Black Hills Energy, the Montrose Children's Museum appreciates the recent addition of the following sponsors: Pomona Brewing Company, Kin Connect, Maven Construction, Blue Sky Builders, Colorado Outdoors, Pediatric Associates, La Familia Music Group, Black Canyon Dental, CSU Area Extension, 3M, the Jeffers Family, the Gary Wofford Family, Recla Metals, Glass Doctor, Ferguson Plumbing, Cooper Soils, San Juan Gardens and Camelot Gardens.

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STAGE 1 FIRE RESTRICTIONS MONTROSE COUNTY

EFFECTIVE DATE: 8/2/24 12:01AM



BANNED



All personal fireworks are prohibited.



Any fire NOT within a permanently constructed fire pit, ring or grate on public or private land.



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Operating or using any internal combustion engine such as chainsaws, without a spark-arresting device properly installed, maintained, and in effective working order.



Agricultural burning is not allowed.



Target shooting with explosive targets is not permitted.

ALLOWED



Fires in permanent fire pits, fire rings in private residences, or within developed recreational sites such as a campground or picnic area



Fire features, chimineas and tiki torches at private residences supervised by a responsible adult.



Fires contained within liquid fuel or gas fueled stoves, lanterns or heated devices.



Target shooting in a safe manner is permitted.

WILDFIRE PREVENTION TIPS

Drown campfires in approved fire pits and make sure your campfire is dead out.

Don't throw cigarette butts out the car window.

Keep vehicles off dry grass.



Fire Restriction Info
westslopefireinfo.com



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

KAMALA HARRIS SUPPORTS MARXISM, WANTS TO TRANSFORM THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM BY ENDING CASH BAIL, ELIMINATING MINIMUM SENTENCES, AND ALLOWING CONVICTED MURDERERS TO VOTE IN FEDERAL ELECTIONS

Editor:

Sorry, but sometimes I have to laugh when I see the shameless political coverage of Kamala the Magnificent. If Kamala were as impressive and as compelling and as moderate and as “exhilarating” as the propaganda machine is feigning right now, they wouldn't have to completely reinvent her past or lie about who she is. I understand that Democrats are totally relieved now that they have a candidate that can walk up a flight of stairs and won't dissociate while on television, but the elites calling the shots seem to think Americans won't recognize a fraud when they see one.

The Democrat fraud machine reported on Kamala's “rally” in Atlanta last week – people lining up before the event, the large crowd, etc. “The crowd for Kamala Harris' rally in Atlanta is ELECTRIC right now. The energy is real!” Here's the chuckle: The Harris campaign gave away free tickets to see a rap star perform to make it look like she is able to have a packed rally. As soon as she started her 30-minute speech at the end of the concert, people started leaving. It's hard to create the appearance of excitement for someone even more unlikeable than Hillary Clinton. Like Hillary, chameleon Kamala even slipped into her fake southern accent during her speech.

The last things the fraud machine want Kamala to address is her central role in the Biden administration's disastrous policy decisions, or her awareness and coverup of the President's declining faculties. Those same dreary realities that plagued Biden – crime, inflation, immigration, worldwide chaos, etc. – infect Harris too. Unscripted press conferences and interviews are out of the question. Instead, the campaign wants to focus on absurdities such as celebrating the candidate's “sense of joy”. They will also certainly frame any criticism of their candidate as being based on her race or gender. Democrats want you to celebrate Harris for precisely what she had no control over, but ignore everything she has actually said or done (or not done). They want to pat themselves on the back for picking someone based on superficial characteristics, yet find it problematic when other people point out what they did. Weird.

This is the time just before elections that Democrats put on their moderate mask, which is in stark contrast to their far-left record of radicalism all the other days of their administration. With Democrats you get several months of the appearance of sanity followed by almost four years of far-left lunacy. They cannot give Americans anything close to an accurate picture of who Kamala is or what she stands for. How could the elite maintain power if the electorate knew she wants to transform the criminal justice system by ending cash bail, eliminating minimum sentences, and allowing convicted murderers to vote in federal elections. Or if they knew Kamala hasn't a clue about or respect for the Constitution: When she participated in the presidential debates, she insisted over Biden's dissent that she could institute gun control by executive order. Or if they knew she called the border wall a “vanity project” and said illegal aliens should be given taxpayer funded health insurance.

Most damning are her views on the American experiment and capitalism. She supports Marxism, absurdly arguing that we all have the same capacities and should end up in the same place, but since we didn't start out in “the same place, some folks might need more equitable distribution.” Her position is that the federal government is there to ensure that all outcomes are equal. She believes all Americans should “end up in the same place” rather than start with the same opportunities. Kamala won't admit that, in trying to force everyone to “end up in the same place” freedom and individualism are replaced by tyranny and totalitarianism – which lead to horrendous things. The apple doesn't fall far from the tree. Kamala's parents are rich leftist activists who in the 1960's were active in the Berkeley-based group that considered Fidel Castro and Che Guevara their heroes. Her father was a Marxist professor at Stanford University. The fraud machine also doesn't want anyone to be concerned that Kamala's husband's law firm has over 140 lawyers dedicated to its “Communist China Investment Services” branch. No conflict of interest there folks. Welcome to Kamalot, Komrad.

Ed Henrie, Montrose

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Kate's Creative Classes

Mosaic, 21 N. Cascade Ave., Montrose. *

LaNoue DuBois Winery, 67289 Trout Rd., Montrose. *

WHAfV, 411 Hillcrest Plaza Way, Montrose.

Weehawken, Cora Street Classroom, Ridgway. *

Montrose Library, 320 S. 2nd St., Montrose.

* Adult beverage available

SEPTEMBER

Thr. Sept. 12. Alcohol Ink
"Creative Color"

Evening. 5:30-7:30 pm

Mosaic *

Thr. Sept. 19, Paint Your Pet
Acrylic on canvas

Evening. 5:30-7:30 pm

Montrose Library

Wed. Sept. 18. Beginning Watercolor
Evening. 5:30-7:30 pm
WHAfV (Warrior Resource Center)

Thr. Sept. 26. Fall Wreath Workshop
Evening 5:30-7:30 pm
Mosaic *

Sat. Sept. 28. Wine Glasses
with washable glass paint
Afternoon 1-3 pm
LaNoue DuBois Winery *

OCTOBER

Thr. Oct. 10. Watercolor
"Fall Landscape"

Evening. 5:30-7:30 pm

Mosaic *

Sat., Oct. 12 Acrylic
"Paint a vineyard" on canvas
Afternoon 1-3 pm
LaNoue DuBois Winery *

Wed. Oct 16. Paint A Pet
Evening. 5:30-7:30 pm
WHAfV (Warrior Resource Center)

Tue. Oct. 22. Fall Wreath Workshop
Evening 6:30-8:30 pm
Weehawken ARTBar *

Thr. Oct. 23, Alcohol ink
"Scenic Fall"
Evening 5:30-7:30 pm.
Mosaic *

Details & Registration... <https://KathrynRBurke.com/Education>

COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

CELEBRATE COLORADO DAY: FREE STATE PARK ENTRY ON AUG. 5

Special to the Mirror

DENVER – To celebrate Colorado Day and the state's 148th birthday, Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) is offering free entry to all Colorado state parks on Monday, Aug. 5, 2024.

The state legislature created Colorado Day to mark the anniversary of statehood, granted in 1876 by President Ulysses S. Grant. The state recognizes this annual holiday on the first of the month, and state parks celebrate the occasion with free entrance on the first Monday of August.

This free entry day is an opportunity for visitors to immerse themselves in the beauty of Colorado state parks and their diverse landscapes. All other park fees remain in effect, including camping reservations, boat and off-highway vehicle registrations, and hunting and fishing licenses.

CPW urges all state park visitors to act as stewards of our state's land, wildlife, and water. By balancing outdoor recreation with mindful conservation, we can all protect Colorado's natural beauty. Here are some outdoor tips to help you recreate responsibly.

Join us in keeping Colorado, Colorado. Get a \$29 Keep Colorado Wild Pass with your next vehicle registration and support state parks, search and rescue teams, avalanche safety, wildlife conservation, and outdoor education. Learn more at cpw.info/



On Monday, Aug. 5, all Colorado state parks are free to visit to celebrate Colorado's birthday. Courtesy photo.



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MIRROR IMAGES: MONTROSE BOTANIC GARDENS



Mirror Photographer Harry Switzer snapped these photos of beautiful plants, sculpture, and hardscape at the Montrose Botanical Gardens last week.



COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

NEW TRI-STATE WHOLESALE RATE DESIGN ACCEPTED BY FEDERAL REGULATORS

Special to the Mirror

WESTMINSTER- A new wholesale rate design accepted by federal regulators ensures not-for-profit wholesale power supply cooperative Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association has the certainty to collect revenues to cover its cost of service and meet all financial goals, while managing costs and maintaining competitive wholesale rates. The member-developed wholesale rate design was accepted, subject to refund, by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and referred to the commission's settlement and hearing procedures. The wholesale rate is effective Aug. 1, 2024.

"Tri-State's members worked together to develop and support our new wholesale rate," said Duane Highley, Tri-State CEO. "Importantly, Tri-State can recover the costs necessary to reliably and affordably advance our clean energy transition, even as we manage costs and increase our

competitiveness."

On Dec. 1, Tri-State filed a transformative electric resource plan that leverages potential federal funding, new direct pay clean energy tax credits, and the cooperative's strong financial position to make its largest ever investment in new resources. Tri-State's preferred plan adds 1,250 megawatts of renewable resources and energy storage, adds dispatchable resources, significantly reduces greenhouse gas emissions, and preserves reliability and affordability.

Following a seven-year period with stable and then 4% lower wholesale rates for its members, Tri-State's board of directors, representing its utility members, approved an approximate 6.3% increase in the average Class A wholesale rate. The budgeted 2024 wholesale rate reflects a net increase of 1.4% from the actual average Class A wholesale rate paid by members in 2017, which is approximately 0.2%

annualized, significantly below the rate of inflation over the seven-year period.

Uniquely, Tri-State's Class A wholesale rate includes all of the costs, including energy, capacity (which ensures resource adequacy), transmission and ancillary services to deliver a reliable, affordable and increasingly clean supply of power into members' electric distribution systems across the rural American West. Tri-State's wholesale rate also includes a wide range of other value-added products and services. The new wholesale rate maintains Tri-State's postage stamp rate, with the same rate components for all members. The new formulary rate can be adjusted annually based on the budget approved by Tri-State's board, including an annual true-up mechanism. Wholesale rates are set to ensure the financial flexibility to meet member goals, with excess margins allocated as patronage capital and eventually returned to members.



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

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

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

GAIL MARVEL

Montrose Author & Reporter

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





LOT #330 • \$138,000

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Property Features :

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Charming 3-Bedroom Home with Upgrades in Vista San Juan Subdivision: Welcome to your dream home in the sought-after Vista San Juan Subdivision! This beautifully maintained 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom residence sits on a spacious corner lot, offering both style and functionality. Step inside to discover a modern open floor plan that seamlessly integrates comfort and elegance. The home features newly remodeled bathrooms and a contemporary kitchen equipped with all-new appliances and hard surface countertops. Enjoy casual meals at the convenient kitchen bar or take in the view from the charming informal eating area. The home is adorned with tasteful upgrades throughout, including hard surface flooring that's ideal for easy maintenance and pet-friendly living. The huge primary suite provides a serene retreat, while newer paint and a light-filled atmosphere create a welcoming ambiance. The backyard is a true highlight, featuring a covered patio with a stunning wood design, impeccably kept landscaping, and ample space for parking RVs, boats, or toys behind a secure gate. The west side of the yard boasts raised garden beds, perfect for cultivating your favorite vegetables, herbs, and flowers. Additional perks include an attached 2-car garage, a convenient storage area, and a washer & dryer included with the home. With its thoughtful design and meticulous upkeep, this home is ready to offer you comfort and convenience in a delightful setting. Don't miss the opportunity to make this gem your own!

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

COUNTY AWARDS FUTURE FARMERS SCHOLARSHIPS



Montrose County has awarded Future Farmers Scholarships to Montrose resident Sheldon Collin (left) and Redvale resident Keiran Bray (right). Courtesy photos.

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Montrose County is proud to award this year's Future Farmers Scholarship to Montrose resident Sheldon Collin and Redvale resident Keiran Bray. This award celebrates the agricultural heritage of Montrose County, and helps provide an investment into the future of agriculture. Sheldon and Keiran both have impressive agricultural, Future Farmers of America (FFA), and academic achievements. Both scholarship awards were presented recently at the San Miguel Basin Fair and Rodeo and Montrose County Fair and Rodeo Junior Livestock Sales.

"This year's applicants delivered some of the best scholarship interviews yet," said Commissioner Keith Caddy. "Both Sheldon and Keiran are great representatives of Montrose County and have bright futures in leadership and the ag industry. I'm proud to award this scholarship to these two deserving candidates."

Commissioner Keith Caddy and a committee of local residents interviewed both

students for the scholarship. The award was based on weighted GPA, personal achievement, community involvement, goals, and an essay about agriculture in Montrose County.

Sheldon Collin has been involved in 4-H primarily showing livestock for 10 years. Through the past four years in FFA, his supervised agricultural experience involved running a small-scale cow-calf operation. Sheldon's leadership roles span from 4-H president, secretary, and treasurer, to FFA chapter and district president and more. Sheldon was also recently appointed as the Colorado FFA Vice President. Sheldon plans to attend the University of Wyoming to study agricultural business following his term in state FFA office. Keiran Bray starts school at Doane University in Nebraska, this year and plans to major in agribusiness and agricultural leadership. She has been involved with Nucla High School's FFA program for the past four years and has held an officer position each year. As part of her FFA pro-

gram, she raises Black Angus heifers to help provide for college expenses. Keiran also works as an intern at the local newspaper, the San Miguel Basin Forum, and writes ag-related columns each month.

While not working on her family's ranch, she is actively involved in the community volunteering as a basketball coach, teacher's aide in the elementary school, elementary math tutor, and in the Apple Core program.

In partnership with the Montrose Community Foundation, the Future Farmers Scholarship is intended for those looking to pursue agriculture and those involved in FFA (Future Farmers of America). Agriculture is a large part of heritage of this valley, and this scholarship helps keep the dream of agriculture alive. The county pledges \$5,000 each year to fund two scholarships. The county would like to thank all other applicants for applying and encourage aspiring students to apply in the future. More information on the scholarship is available [here](#).



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

COLORADO MESA UNIVERSITY MONTROSE CAREER FAIR AND FESTIVAL

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE - The Colorado Rural Workforce Consortium's (CRWC) Colorado Workforce Center in Montrose, in partnership with Colorado Mesa University (CMU) Montrose campus, invites you to the CMU Montrose Career Fair & Festival on Wednesday, Aug. 7, 2024. Join us to explore available job positions and learn more about career paths and education opportunities right here in Montrose, sponsored by the CMU Foundation, Montrose Regional Health and Cedar Point Health.

Event Details:

Date: Wednesday, Aug. 7, 2024

Time: 4 PM - 7 PM

Location: CMU Montrose Campus (Cascade Quad), 245 S. Cascade Ave, Downtown Montrose

Join the Workforce Center and the Montrose Campus for an exciting first-time career fair and festival. Enjoy live music (featuring Misty Dawn- sound provided by La Familia), a food truck (El Agave Azul), and activities provided by the new Montrose Children's Museum for your kids, all while exploring opportunities to advance or change your career while working full-time. The CMU Mobile Learning Lab will also be in attendance.

Committed Employers Participating (as of 7/29):

- City of Montrose
- River Valley Family Health Centers
- Bank of Colorado
- Montrose County School District
- Ross Reels, Abel Reels, Dyna-King Vises
- MAIL & SHIP
- Housing Resources of Western Colorado
- Montrose Regional Health
- BuzzingByte, LLC
- TEI ROCK DRILLS
- H&R Block
- Northwestern Mutual
- Imagenet Consulting
- Montrose Forest Products
- Comfort Keepers
- State of Colorado (positions highlighted at the CRWC Colorado Workforce Center booth)
- Colorado Mesa University

More employers are being added each day.

For additional details about the event or participating employers, please contact Amanda Waltrip, CRWC Business Strategy Supervisor, at amanda.waltrip@state.co.us or 970-318-1973. You can also explore the wide range of services we offer to businesses and job seekers by visiting our Workforce Center 1551 Ogden Road, Montrose, Co O 81401, or at <https://crwc.colorado.gov>. We look forward to seeing you there.



COLORADO STATE PATROL TROOPER TIPS

THE HAZARDS OF FOLLOWING TOO CLOSE

By **Sergeant Patrick Rice**

COLORADO-Colorado State Patrol Troopers frequently talk about the dangers of speed and distracted driving. Speed and distracted driving are two significant contributors to vehicle crashes, often resulting in severe injuries or fatalities. Understanding the dangers associated with these behaviors is crucial for promoting safer driving practices.

The combination of distracted driving and speeding exponentially increases the risk of crashes. A distracted driver is less aware of their speed and the surrounding environment, while a speeding driver has less time to react and greater difficulty controlling the vehicle. Together, these behaviors create a perilous situation on the road.

If the dangers of distracted driving and speeding weren't enough, I would like to discuss an additional part of the equation: following too closely. Although there isn't a magic number of feet to put between yourself and the car in front of you, we do know that according to the National Safety Council, a lightweight passenger car traveling 55 mph can stop in about 200 feet. Other vehicles require different stopping distances. So, following at a distance of 50 feet in a 20 MPH zone might be plenty, but 50 feet on the interstate is way too close. The law states when following another vehicle, you must do so at a safe distance and consider the conditions of the roadway at the time. The National

Highway Traffic Safety Administration has studied the topic and determined the average person's response time is between 2 and 2.5 seconds. The most effective way to describe a safe following distance is to talk about time-distance.

Troopers are equipped with an excellent tool for determining if you are following too closely. Most people are aware we can measure speed, but we also have a LIDAR or Light Detection And Ranging tool. We use LIDAR to determine the speed and distance of two separate vehicles. We can see how fast both vehicles are traveling and how much physical space is between them. With this information, the LIDAR can calculate the time-distance between them. The time-distance will provide how long it will take for the trailing vehicle to be occupying the space where the lead vehicle was at the time of measurement. If the time is under two seconds, you're following too close. Using this calculation method, it does not matter if you are traveling 35 or 75 MPH. The fact that you allow yourself less than 2 seconds to respond to a hazard makes that following distance unsafe. So, is it possible to follow too closely when you are completely stopped? The answer is yes. Have you ever seen a multi-vehicle rear-end collision at a red light? When you are stopped too close, it causes a domino effect of each vehicle that is too close to the next slamming into each other. This could have been avoided by giving the

vehicle in front of you more space. A good rule of thumb: Stop where you can see the tires meet the pavement on the vehicle in front of you. From here, you can steer around the vehicle in front of you in either direction if needed, and you reduce the likelihood of being pushed into the vehicle during a rear-end collision. Awareness and adherence to safe driving practices, such as keeping attention focused on the road, obeying speed limits and giving space to the vehicle in front of you, are essential steps in reducing crashes and enhancing road safety for everyone.

Trooper Tips is a monthly article written by Sergeant Patrick Rice and sent each month. Thank you for taking the time to read Trooper Tips and offer it to your audience. Our goal is to bring the community and law enforcement closer together, improving the lives of Coloradans' and visitors, as well as making our jobs a little safer.



Sergeant Patrick Rice
Colorado State Patrol
Public Affairs.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

SAN MIGUEL COUNTY WEED OF THE MONTH: YELLOW TOADFLAX

Special to the Mirror

SAN MIGUEL COUNTY --- Yellow toadflax (*Linaria vulgaris*), like many of its fellow noxious weeds, is very pretty. However, this invasive wasn't tapped as San Miguel County's Weed of the Month for August because of its good looks, but for its invasive qualities. It's a scourge in the east end of the county and is evident along mountain trails, the Idarado Legacy Trail and in Ophir.

This lovely weed is showy, with inch-long yellow flowers highlighted with a bearded orange throat and spur. Plants can grow one- to two-feet tall, and they flower from June through September. Clusters of as many as 15 to 20 flowers grow at the end of its stems. Like many attractive plants that now threaten native habitat, Yellow toadflax is an escaped ornamental that

was prized for its resemblance to snapdragons. As a perennial, it comes back year-after-year, and sets down fibrous roots that creep three feet deep and 10 feet laterally. In addition to its aggressive root system, it spreads through vigorous seeding — one plant produces 30,000 seeds annually, seeds that are viable in the soil for up to eight years.

With the ability to spread via roots and seeds, yellow toadflax displaces native vegetation very quickly. It is particularly pernicious in rangeland, where it devalues the land.

Livestock find it inedible, and infestations reduce forage for both wildlife and livestock. Look for it not only in rangeland, but also in pastures, meadows, forests and right of ways.

Yellow toadflax goes by many names,

including butter and eggs, bunny hay-cocks, dead men's bones, devil's flax, gall weed and impudent lawyer, among a host of other colloquial monikers.

San Miguel County's Vegetation Control & Management department urges all County residents to manage any Yellow toadflax infestations with elimination in mind. Weed control is a community effort! Please do your part. For more information about Yellow toadflax and other noxious weeds in San Miguel County please contact Julie Kolb, Manager, Vegetation Control & Management at: juliek@sanmiguelcountyco.gov.



Courtesy photo.

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Peg Evanoika, MRP

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

LIKE THE PHOENIX

Editor:

"Sometimes you have to burn yourself to the ground before you can rise from your ashes!" So describes one of the more easily understood definitions of the Biblical Bird, the Phoenix, and one that could fit what happened to "former" United States President Donald J. Trump in Pennsylvania on July 13, 2024. After standing up to a series of crooked Democrat Judges and their ilk, and literally robbing Trump of millions of dollars the former President continued the fight stood up to the jackals and won to continue the vicious battle to become the 47th President of the United States. But the "Dems" were far from letting their filthy swamp dry up, and continued their diatribe of lies and deceit, generating the heat of their hate as never before! Then on that near fateful day readying to speak to many thousands of faithful followers, all seemed as well as could be expected, but it wasn't. Far too many there to protect him were unprepared, unclear of their duties, and/or in-

sufficient! This called for the best, the dedicated and the most intelligent! This called for as large as possible an Advance of Secret Service "plain" clothes, snipers and police, local and otherwise, and the FBI. Owning the AIR would also be mandatory, but it wasn't. The perpetrator was seen by locals, police and others, but NO ONE approached him, even when he was seen with a rangefinder! People even saw the perpetrator climbing the roof of the building he had chosen, and they yelled for help. A policeman climbed up to the roof, but withdrew when the perpetrator pointed his rifle at him! Why didn't he just fire a few shots into the ground to get the snipers' attention? Anything?

But it was all in vain. In an unbelievable set of movements, the 20-year-old perpetrator aimed and pressed his rifle's trigger and fired just as Donald Trump turned his head in that direction. That bullet was about 2,800 fps when it came to the podium and took off a piece of Trump's right ear missing his

head by perhaps 2.00mm to 3.00mm. The speeding bullet was accidentally caught in mid-air by a high speed camera, but more recently some have suggested that Trump was not injured by a bullet at all, but only by broken glass hit by the bullet several feet away. This was obviously an attempt to diminish any real threat or close call that Trump lived through! Finally, the FBI decided that Trump was actually hit by the bullet!

After roughly 5 minutes Donald Trump stood up with Secret Service personnel, burst through them, and with blood running down his cheek, thrust his clenched fist into the air to declare that he was alive, reminiscent of the Biblical Bird the Phoenix.

You can decide the outcome - Luck or Divine. I know what I will believe for the rest of my life!

My main wish however, is that the two innocent victims had not been in the line of the perpetrator's fire.

Gary Paul Johnston, Montrose

VOTE NON-SANCTUARY NOW!

Editor:

I implore you to have a public vote to make it known to other cities (Denver) in Colorado and Colorado state officials that Montrose is non-sanctuary. I don't know what law states that we are non-sanctuary if we do nothing by keeping silent. Are you blind or just ignoring the obvious? There is close to a 10 percent increase in our schools that cannot speak english. The assets needed to communicate, interpreters are going to cost our schools tens of thousands of dollars that is not in our budget. Do you ever shop in Montrose? Have you not been to Walmart, Marshalls, Ross for Less let alone the grocery stores? They are filled with non english speaking patrons with shopping baskets filled to overflowing. Our rental housing market is filled to capacity with payments being made by government agencies, section 8 and others. Please vote to make Montrose Non-Sanctuary NOW before we are busting out of our city limits. If you feel that this is too daunting for you, put out a special ballot issue since the date has passed to be on the general election ballot. However, I see you were able to agree to a tax increase for hotels/motels. Right now motels are always filled and no cars to speak of in the lot. I'm told that they come in groups and stay for a week or do? Most of these "tourists" can't speak english either! There is nothing wrong with helping true immigrants who want to make our country better but by aiding and abetting the illegal you are technically breaking the law. You are in good (bad) company with the mayor of Denver, governor of Colorado and the president of the United States along with the federal government. Please remember that WE THE PEOPLE voted you in because we thought you had Montrose's best interest instead of your own agendas. VOTE NON-SANCTUARY NOW!

John Brown, Montrose



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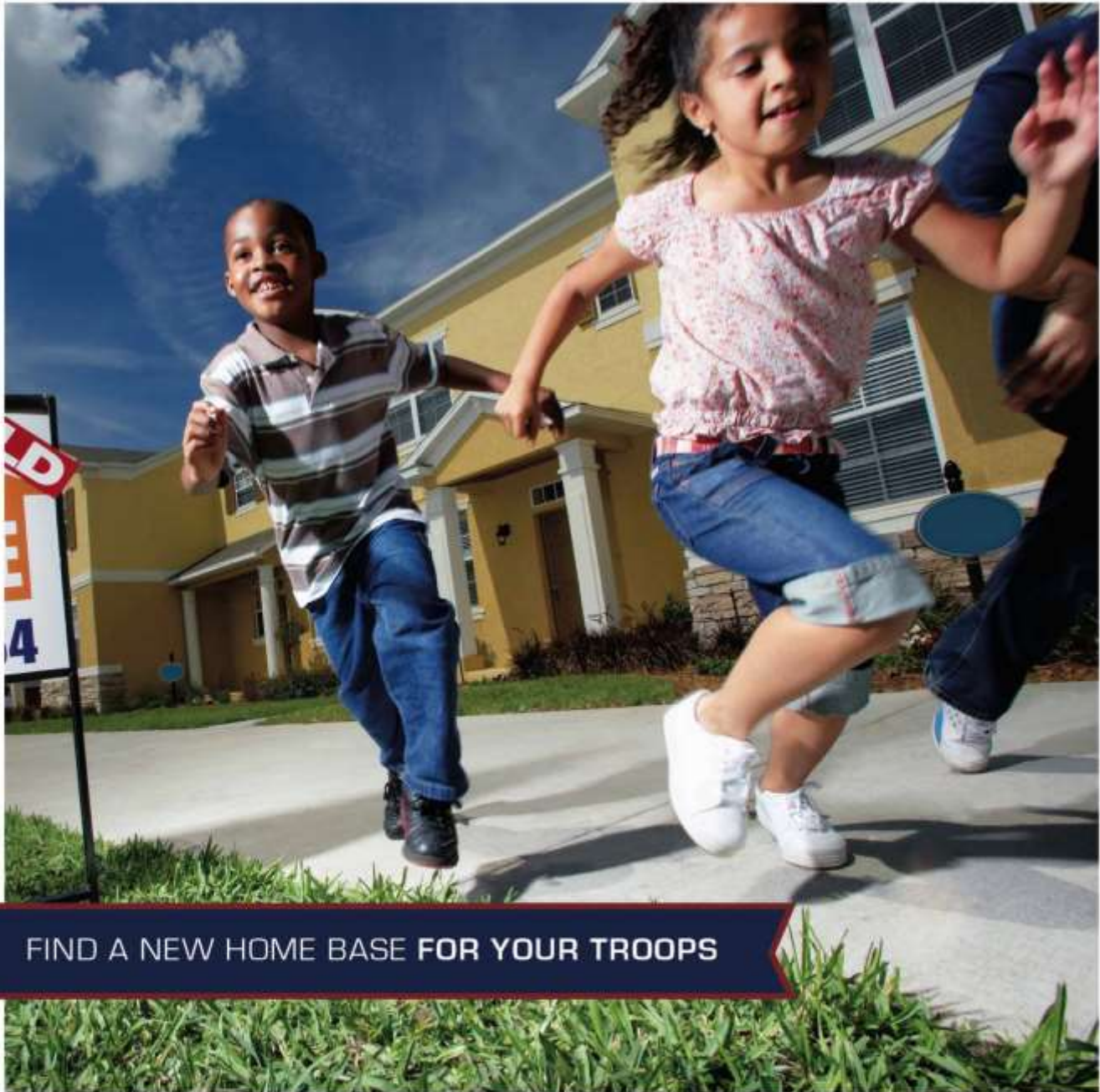
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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

SHOULDN'T WE HAVE FREEDOM TO CHOOSE HOW WE WANT OUR CHILDREN TO BE EDUCATED?

Dear Members of the School Board,

I am a mom of two young daughters, and I have a third child on the way. My oldest daughter will be starting kindergarten Fall 2025. My husband, children, and I moved to Montrose just over a year ago from a much larger city and have absolutely loved being here so far for many reasons. When we were preparing to move here we researched the school options, and that was one of the only downfalls we saw of Montrose. The public schools are not at the level we want to send our children to according to scores and national rankings, and also the direction public education has gone and is going is not the direction we would choose for our own children. Ever since moving, our plan has been to home-school due to the lack of options that match our desires. When I heard about the potential for a Classical Charter opening, it was extremely exciting and a very easy "yes" to support it. There are so many reasons my husband and I would love our children to be educated classically, but those reasons aren't the point of my letter.

I believe that the opening of Montrose Classical Academy will pull less from the current public schools, and more from a

very large community that I am a part of—those outside of the public school system. I know of many who choose to home-school here in Montrose because they don't want to send their kids to public school. I know a big issue from those who oppose the charter has been the fear that funds would be taken from the public schools and siphoned into the charter. I think, however, the largest population of children will come from these communities outside of the public school system looking for an option like this. Furthermore, I believe that having a Classical Charter option could even help Montrose grow as a town. For example, we have some good friends who are looking to move to Colorado, and currently are set on another city in Colorado, largely due to a Classical Charter there that they plan to send their children to. Homeschooling is not an option for everyone, so people like them pass right over Montrose when considering a new place to call home. Why not add this option and in turn create more opportunities for families that are looking for education for their children just like this?

My other main point is simple. Shouldn't education of our children largely be a

parent's choice? Not the choice of a member of the community that is not a parent, or not a parent of a school age child. I've seen a lot of negativity and ugliness at the meetings and on social media regarding the charter, but what about the parent's desires for their children? Shouldn't we have varied options in America? Freedom to choose how we all want our children to be educated? Passing our children off into the hands of educators is intimidating enough, so why not allow **us**, the parents, to choose from whom and where our children will be taught?

I truly hope you all will very seriously consider these thoughts and choose to bring in this wonderful new option for education into Montrose. I believe more money would be brought into the public school system through all the many children currently outside of public schools that would likely attend the charter. However, I do not believe that your final decision should be based on finances, but more importantly on the beauty of diversity and options in education, as well as the hopes of many parents in the community of Montrose. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Micah Faulconer, Montrose

TRUST, BUT VERIFY

Editor:

On 19 March 2024, hundreds swarmed our City Council chambers with mounting concerns for the safety and welfare of Montrose and its citizens. Late that evening, following a previously favorable vote of 4-1, our city council turned tail and reversed their original intent to formally declare Montrose a "non-sanctuary" city. We the People expressed serious concern following the catastrophic events unfolding across our nation's "sanctuary" cities. Clearly, this reversal did not pass the "smell test." Concerned citizens continue to address this important subject at

every council meeting,

On 16 July, our honorable mayor proclaimed "by default, legally we are a non-sanctuary city,." (re: Montrose Mirror 22 July 2024 print). Ensuing comments suggest there is no evidence of local impact. We see what we see and what we see cannot be denied. The comments do not satisfy the ongoing concerns for the safety and protection of our citizens. Trust but verify,

On behalf of "We the People," and the declared objectives of openly and honestly serving our community, I politely and respectfully request that such interpretation

of the laws impacting sanctuary versus non-sanctuary declaration be openly and completely addressed and verified by our city attorney, in order for our citizens to fully understand the lawful and financial impacts of sanctuary versus non-sanctuary city. We understand there are financial impacts to these decisions as well. Until full transparency and legal interpretation of this concern is publicly addressed, "We the People" will continue to seek full resolution. No better time than now to:

"Trust, but verify."

Respectfully requested,

Ron Smith, Montrose

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

'DEMOCRACY IS MESSY, BUT DICTATORSHIP IS FOR KEEPS'

Editor:

What Constitutes Good Leadership?

A good leader brings together people of diverse opinions to arrive at a consensus on how to solve problems. A consensus opinion often leads to dissatisfaction amongst many who will be affected, but is usually best for the majority of citizens. A demagogue spreads misinformation, slander, outrageous claims, conspiracy theories, and lies, in order to divide, and to anger his followers. Hitler did this in 1930's Germany. The demagogue uses this anger to gain personal power. Anger is a strong motivator, but fomenting it is a sure sign of bad leadership.

Any society that fights bitterly amongst itself is destined to fail. The immense political divide in our country threatens the future of our children; because our political leaders spend most of their time bickering, fundraising for campaigns, and opposing each other's ideas on how to fix the problems we face.

This constant fighting started in the 80's with the ascension of congressman Newt Gingrich, who ran a personal campaign to turn the political arena from a collegial competition of ideas into a battleground. He was wildly successful in his destructive quest, and his vendetta against the Democrats eventually led to the permanent war

that now exists between the two parties, along with the purging of decent, qualified Republicans from office. This situation has led to the election of people in the Republican Party who have no business being in leadership positions. Over the intervening decades, the party has chosen increasingly unhinged and unqualified candidates to an institution once populated by the best and brightest. One can find an example of this situation than our own congresswoman, Lauren Boebert, a high school dropout, who rose to power on a wave of anger, despite the fact that she had zero knowledge of how our government works. But that didn't matter to herself, or her constituents, because she was just there to "tear it all down," which, sadly, has become the unstated goal of today's Republican Party.

I grew up in a Republican household, at a time when there were at least a majority in the party that were decent, patriotic people, who cared about improving our safety and security. This is no longer the case. Decent Republicans obviously still exist, both locally and nationally, but they are hunkered down in silence ... afraid of the demagogue who holds their party by its throat. Those Republican politicians who had the courage to confront Trump's degrading behavior, names like Cheney,

Romney, Kinziger, and, frankly, most former members of Trump's own administration, have paid for their courage, candor and honesty by being kicked from what is now the Party of Trump ... but, as the saying goes: "this too shall pass.". Someday, these courageous politicians will be the ones who will be recognized for their leadership.

My mother was office manager for Republican Congressman Larry Hogan, the father of the Maryland Governor. He was a decent man, a retired FBI agent. I remember going to many Republican political fundraisers as a kid. These fundraisers were so different from the Republican anger fests of today. I hold out hope that, once the Trump fever burns out, as it surely will, the party will realize the strategic mistake that it made when it adopted Gingrich's policy of total political warfare; and return to the interplay of ideas and strategies that lead to consensus solutions.

Until that day arrives, beware of Trumpist politicians; both locally and nationally, who foment anger and division for their own political gain.

Keep this thought in mind as the November election approaches: "Democracy is Messy, but Dictatorship is for Keeps"

David Congour

Montrose, Colorado



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ANONYMOUS CALL

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This historical walking tour will examine the seedier side of local history. This walk will visit the sites of the notorious saloons, jails, and historical buildings. The tales will intertwist history and legends on the famous and scandalous local characters of the area.

August 9th will be the last tour of type for the season. Limited spaces are available.

Please RSVP at 970-249-2085.

Admission is \$10.00/person.

The walk starts at 6:00 pm

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COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

SANDRA NADINE JACKSON

July 9, 1950 — July 26, 2024

SANDRA NADINE JACKSON, 74, of Montrose Colorado, passed away peacefully in her sleep with her son Shanon and daughter Sheila at her side.

Sandra was born July 9, 1950, in Grand Junction, Colorado, to Roy Garner & Nadine (Smith) Garner. Sandra was the third oldest out of eight siblings, growing up in Grand Junction Colorado. Sandra left her schooling her Junior year in High School and married the love of her life.

Sandra met Sammy Jackson when she was 15 years young and Sam being 18 years young. They were united in marriage on June 16th 1968, celebrating 56 years of marriage. Sandra and Sam made their home on the Western Slope, living in Grand Junction, Olathe, Montrose & Ridgway.

Sandra worked at RE1J School District as a cook, clerk at Walmart, Target & JC Penney's in Montrose & Grand Junction. Sandra also worked at Mountain Market and 2nd Chance Thrift Store in Ridgway. Sandra was a talented seamstress and an amazing homemaker. In Sandra's last few years, she cleaned for several clients with her husband Sam.

Sandra and Sam had three children, Shanon, Dean, & Sheila Jackson. Sandra was an amazing mother and instilled the teachings of Christianity in each of their lives. Sandra was a woman of God, a

woman of amazing faith and devotion to God. Sandra enjoyed reading her bible, going to church, her grandchildren & great grandchildren, and spending time with her family. She knew how to pray and prayed fiercely for her family every day. Sandra was a devoted child of God & worshiped and praised Jesus Christ our Lord & Savior. Sandra was giving and loving and had a goofy personality. She will be deeply missed by her family and friends. Sandra's love of her life, Sam, passed away 271 days before Sandra took her last breath. Sandra's life was never the same after Sam died, Sandra literally died of a broken heart. The family finds peace during this trying time knowing that Sandra has been reunited with Sam in the Kingdom of God.

Sandra is survived by her son, Shanon & Dorothy Jackson of Pueblo, daughter, Sheila & Keith Sanders of Delta, Colorado. Sandra has 7 grandchildren & 16 great children. Sandra is survived by her sisters, Judy & James Garner of Montana, Laura & Rick Romisch, brother Scott & Tammy Garner, brother Albert & Silvia Garner, brother Tommy & Crystal Garner, & Pat and Patty Garner all of Grand Junction, along with many nephews & nieces. Sandra is preceded in death by her parents, Roy & Nadine Garner, Husband Sam Jackson, brother Terry Garner and her infant son Dean Jackson.



Donations can be made to Grace Community Church, 16731 Woodgate Road, Montrose Colorado 81401. Services to celebrate and honor Sandra's life will be on Saturday, August 17th, 2024, at 11am at Grace Community Church followed by a committal service at Dallas Park Cemetery, Ridgway, Colorado. Sandra's family would also like to invite everyone to join them after her services back to Grace Community Church for food, refreshments and fellowship. Crippin Funeral Home and Crematory is assisting Mrs. Jackson's family. 970-249-2121

ALAN METCALFE

ALAN METCALFE, 75 of Delta, passed away on July 22, 2024 at the Hope West Hospice Care Center in Grand Junction.. Vocation: Post Master.



COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

PETER ANTHONY BORGO ***October 28, 1940 — July 23, 2024***



For nearly 84 years, Peter Borgo, who died on July 23, was a man of conscience and

integrity. He started life during World War II in the small town of Berlin, Connecticut. For the next 18 years, he enjoyed hunting, fishing, and playing on a state-champion baseball team, never traveling farther from home than Yankee Stadium. Peter was the first in his family to pursue higher education, earning a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from the University of Connecticut. After graduation, Peter was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force and stationed at Kirtland Air Force Base in Albuquerque, NM. During the next 14 years, he married his wife, Suzi, had two sons, Douglas and David, and earned a Master of Science in Electrical Engineering from the University of Wyoming. He became disenchanted with his work on military weaponry and reconnaissance and left the Air Force to pursue his

life interests. For the next 30+ years, he worked tirelessly around the world for USAID, The World Bank, and other civilian agencies on renewable energy projects, bringing energy to remote locations, replacing dirty fossil fuels, and helping to mitigate the impending climate crisis. Even after "retiring" to Montrose, CO, a decade ago, he actively participated in environmental groups and cosponsored the successful Solarize Montrose project. Pete loved his family dearly and was enormously proud of his two sons, Doug and David, and his four grandchildren: Anwen, Aidan, Diego, and Joaquin. He will be missed. If you know Pete and wish to commemorate his life's work, please donate your time or money to an environmental organization such as Friends of the Earth (foei.org).

ELEANOR "JUDY" PARISH ***March 30, 1927- July 27, 2024***

ELEANOR "JUDY" PARISH, beloved wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother passed away peacefully on July 27, 2024, at Montrose Memorial Hospital, surrounded by family.

Born Eleanor Cecelia Biere at the family farmhouse near Dunbar, Nebraska on March 30, 1927, Eleanor grew up helping her parents, Frank and Ella Biere, with all of the tasks on the farm, including helping to raise her three younger siblings, Frances, Earl and Allan. At an early age, she and her friends decided she liked the name "Judy" and has been generally known as Judy Parish in her adult life outside of Nebraska.

Upon graduation from high school in Nebraska City, she attended Peru State Teachers College and taught for three years in the Otoe County school district. Later moving to Denver, Colorado to be employed by United Airlines, she met

Frank H. Parish, whom she married in 1951. Frank and Judy moved several times during their first 20 years of marriage, residing in Limon, CO, Great Falls, MT, LaJunta, CO, Lamar, CO, and Durango, CO. During this time, they had three children, ultimately settling for good in Montrose Colorado in 1970. Judy was a confirmed and active member in the Anglican Church and was the backbone of support for the family business that she and Frank started in 1970. When the business allowed them time away, they enjoyed traveling with friends and family. Judy's grandchildren and great grandchildren were her pride and joy. Judy is survived by her three children, Steven (Kathy), Gregory (Lisa) and Beth (Denis); eight grandchildren, Nicholas (Jen), Jenifer, Robert (Ashley), Heather (Sterling), Brandon (Alisa), Amber (Nate), Rebekah (Joe) and Heather (Tristen); and 14 great grandchildren.



In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her honor to Hope West in Montrose at <https://www.hopewestco.org/montrose>

ISSUE 480 Aug. 5, 2024

ART & SOL

YOUR BRAIN ON NATURE – VISUAL COMPLEXITY



By Lauren Hall Ruddell, Ph.D.

Greetings Mirrorites!

Yours truly here is back from a 30-day junket in the Republic of Ireland. After a month on the Wild Atlantic Way, where all of the locals complain of the heat when temperatures creep above 65 F, these two parts of the globe could not be less alike. Both are extraordinary in their own ways. Still, I find that I am glad to be home. Old Irish Goats and old Irish scenery and history are enchanting no matter how many times I experience them, but there is something about the Western Slope of Colorado that makes me sigh more deeply with pleasure as I view the green valleys and soaring San Juan and West Elk peaks. And unlike 90 percent of Ireland, I know that there is wilderness in them there

peaks!

Thoreau said, “in wildness is the salvation of the world.” But is it really? We humans tend to prefer pleasant open spaces that are pastoral. Just the right mix of grassland, interspersed with trees and shrubs is the perfect cure for attention restoration, at least according to Savannah Theory. Very, very Irish landscape. I have mentioned this theory several times over the last couple of years in this column, and I generally agree with the vast majority of the suppositions of this evolutionary explanation for visual preferences. And I do really enjoy pleasant pastoral scenes, I really do. But only to a certain extent.

After traveling across that green and pleasant land by train several times in the course of my work obligations, I found an interesting thing happening. About 15 minutes out of the gate in Dublin and heading west toward County Mayo (which is stunningly beautiful) I gazed upon pasture after pasture of the same sheep, Holstein and Charolais cattle, and the occasional traveler’s (gypsy) colorful cart horse. And more sheep. And more pastures with more sheep. I found myself not enraptured and restored, but bored and sleepy. After a one-hour snooze, I often awoke to the same unrelieved scenes of sheep, sheep, and more sheep. It wasn’t until just before arriving at my destination in the west that the landscape changed to

something more varied, something less predictable, something a little wilder. I felt more aroused. My soft fascination and attention became elevated.

The key to the restorative benefits of pleasant landscapes is soft fascination. It is the sort of fascination that captures attention effortlessly and with just the right amount of arousal. Too much arousal, as in alarm, kicks us into hard fascination which is arresting but not restorative. I have a nostalgic fondness for the sameness of the central part of Eire, but I must admit, when it comes to attention, these vistas may contain too much of a good thing.

Soft fascination elicited by a landscape is surely a matter of perception of that landscape, right? Indeed it is, although there are some commonalities in restorative scenes that are statistically true of most humans, even when they don’t realize it.

A sense of landscape beauty is achieved through an interaction between landscape aesthetic characters and the eye of the beholder (Gobster et al., 2007). When studying measures of natural beauty, perception-based assessments have been found to be highly reliable. Nevertheless, scientists still manage to argue about the *why* of beauty. Within this argument lies the answer to my pondering about why Western Colorado and Western Ireland hold so much more attraction to me when

Continued next pg

YOUR BRAIN ON NATURE – VISUAL COMPLEXITY

From previous pg



A different kind of wildness, to be sure, to be sure! Achill Island across Clew Bay by Lauren Hall Ruddell.

when it comes to invigorating my fatigued attention span and generally restoring my soul than do the central Irish farmlands.

Two researchers in the journal [Ecological Engineering](#) put it this way. “Generally, there are two conflicting approaches to studying landscape aesthetic: the subjective (human preferences) and objective (the intrinsic characters of the landscape) approaches (Lothian, 1999; Frank et al., 2013). Ecosystems are made up of very distinct components which play different roles in the landscape aesthetic (van Berkel et al., 2018). People's judgment of visual value is very complex and variable (Thompson, 2004) and their reactions to

visual quality of landscapes are highly variable and conditional.”

To unpack this in normal person speak, there's two perfectly reasonable ways to explain a person's assessments of natural beauty. Savannah theory predicts that subjective human assessment of a particular scene will include the absence of threats and the presence of life-sustaining elements, such as a bit of fresh water somewhere in view (of which there is plenty in Ireland). From this perspective, most folks should prefer the beauty of endless Irish farmlands. But then enters another player into this Gaelic visual football match of preferences. Unique fea-

tures of the landscape...and objective assessment of those complex features as well as emotional engagement. The farmlands viewed provided pleasant and comforting scenes of order and abundance but were not terribly novel or varied. Whereas Western Colorado and County Mayo have mountains punctuated by rivers, loughs/lakes, forests, and even a fjord (Mayo only, not Montrose to the best of my knowledge). In those landscapes, visual complexity abounds in just the right amount to elicit a sense of awe that keeps involuntary attention on its toes (do brains have toes I wonder? If so, it would probably be the amygdala. Moving right along...).

Both of these assessment practices, subjective and objective, coexist peacefully in pretty much all human beings, and are not truly opposite one another.

Maximizing human thriving means exposure to both regularly. But one may be slightly more preferable than the other under certain circumstances, such as stress or attentional fatigue, and hence more restorative. A research project on this topic conducted by a Spanish team in Andalusia found that...*perceived visual quality increases...with the degree of wildness of the landscape, the presence of well-preserved man-made elements, the percentage of plant cover, the amount of water, the presence of mountains and the colour contrast.*

So perhaps Thoreau was right after all and whenever we get a chance and we have to make a choice, we are better off with wildness rather than strictly pastoral scenes for the preservation of ourselves and the world.



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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

39TH ANNUAL RIDGWAY RENDEZVOUS: A CELEBRATION OF ART, COMMUNITY, AND CREATIVITY

Special to Art & Sol

RIDGWAY—Ridgway, Colorado will host the 39th annual Ridgway Rendezvous Arts and Crafts Festival Aug. 10-11, a hallmark event that brings together artists, craftsmen, and the local community in one of Colorado's most picturesque settings, the gateway to the stunning San Juan Mountains. The Ridgway Rendezvous Arts and Crafts Festival is more than just an arts and crafts fair—it's a celebration of creativity, culture, and community spirit. This year's festival will feature more than 100 juried artists and craftsmen, offering a wide array of unique and high-quality handmade goods. Renowned for its abundantly scenic location in Ridgway's spacious town park, the Rendezvous is a favorite among vendors and visitors alike, with many artists hailing it as "one of their best shows of the year."

Event Highlights:

Live Entertainment: The festival will showcase a diverse lineup of live musical performances across both days, featuring local talents like Stefan Davenport, D&G Railroad, Westfield, Old Man Polly, David Nunn, Brian Zoran, and Til Willis.

Children's Activities: Weehawken Creative Arts will host a Kids Arts and Crafts Table, offering a variety of fun and engaging activities such as squirt gun painting, jewelry making, spin art, and more. Additionally, the Ridgway Fire Department Kids Train will be roaming the festival, delighting children and families alike.

Food Vendors: Attendees can enjoy delicious offerings from a variety of food vendors, including Sunrise Burritos, Bravos Food Truck, Be Crepeful, Blue Ribbon Bar-B-Que, Greenwoods, Marchio's Food Truck, Snowbirds, and Sami Cat's Lemonade.

Beverage Tent: A beverage tent with regional brews, wine, bloody marys, screwdrivers, margaritas, and non-alcoholic options will be available both days.

Special Attractions: On Saturday, festivalgoers can enjoy free train rides at the Ridgway Railroad Museum, and aerial arts demonstrations around lunchtime. The Ridgway Fire Department will also host a

pancake breakfast fundraiser both mornings.

The Ridgway Rendezvous is free to attend and open to the public, with activities scheduled from 9 AM to 5 PM on Saturday, Aug. 10, and from 10 AM to 4 PM on Sunday, Aug. 11. Parking is available around the downtown area, with additional spaces at the Fairgrounds/Visitor's Center parking area.

As the largest annual fundraising event for Weehawken Creative Arts, the Ridgway

Rendezvous plays a vital role in supporting youth art programs. Funds raised during the event help foster creativity and artistic expression in young minds throughout the region.

We look forward to seeing you there!

For more information, visit <https://www.ridgwayrendezvous.com/about> or contact the Weehawken team at The 610 Arts Collective Gallery, 610 Clinton Street, Ridgway, CO. 970.318.0308. questions@weehawkenarts.org

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970-648-0609

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970-252-1119

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970-252-1227



Mimo's
970-249-0616

Pahgre's
970-249-6442

Rib City
970-249-7427

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970-240-8899

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970-417-4340

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Beer Barn II
970-249-5550





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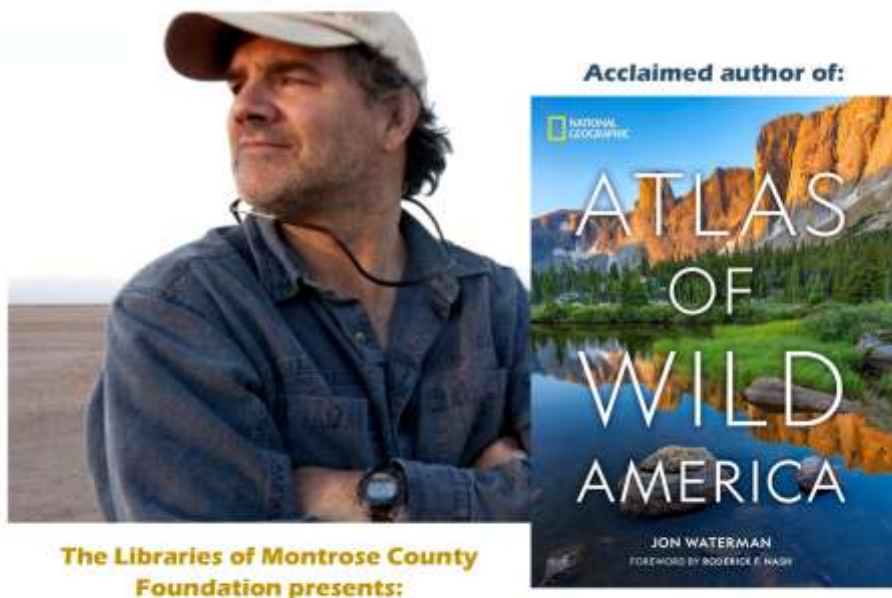
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

AUTHOR JON WATERMAN TO PRESENT ON SUNDAY, AUG. 18

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE—Author Jon Waterman will present on Sunday, Aug. 18, from 4-6 pm at the Montrose Pavilion, 1800 Pavilion Dr. in Montrose. Through imagery and video, Waterman's enthralling presentation will take us across North America's most remote landscapes. With anecdotes from his most recent book, *Atlas of Wild America* (National Geographic, Nov. 2023) the author will share a lifetime's worth of experiences—sea kayaking, canoeing, packrafting, skiing, dogsledding, and backpacking—in wild places across the continent. On this, the 60th anniversary of the Wilderness Act, Jon will also celebrate and describe what wilderness means to the American culture. Generously underwritten by: Edward Jones, Renfrow Realty, Cimarron Wealth Management, Friends of the Montrose Library, Alpine Bank, Winger Books, and Dr. Tom Wiard & Emily Schneider. FREE tickets available at the Montrose Regional Library.



The Libraries of Montrose County
Foundation presents:

UDALLAS JUNIOR JULIA BESHOAR NAMED TO SPRING 2024 DEAN'S LIST

Special to Art & Sol

RVING, TX-- Julia Beshoar of Montrose, CO, was named to the spring 2024 dean's list at the University of Dallas for earning a semester GPA of 3.5 or higher. Beshoar is a Junior English major.

Undergraduate students at the University of Dallas must complete two years of fundamental coursework in the humanities, sciences, politics, mathematics and fine arts. Students must also complete coursework in Ancient Greek, French, German, Italian, Latin or Spanish.

Jon Waterman

Sunday, August 18th, 4-6 pm

MONTROSE PAVILION

FREE tickets available at the Montrose Regional Library.

Through imagery and video, Jon Waterman's enthralling presentation will take us across North America's most remote landscapes. With anecdotes from his most recent book, *Atlas of Wild America* (National Geographic, Nov. 2023) Jon will share a lifetime's worth of experiences—sea kayaking, canoeing, packrafting, skiing, dogsledding, and backpacking—in wild places across the continent. A book signing will follow the lecture.

A frequent National Geographic grantee and NEA Literary Fellow, Jon is the author of 17 books, including the bestselling *Atlas of the National Parks*.

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MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY

ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

Office Hours: By appointment.

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

 don@allsaintsmontrose.org)

Worship Service Times: Sundays 9AM,

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

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

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

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

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Olathe, Co 81425

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

Pastor Gabe Skillo

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Sunday 6 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Study/Prayer 7 p.m.

CELEBRATION CHURCH

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

Office Hours: By appointment

Phone: (970) 497-4925

Email: celebrationmontrose@gmail.com

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

Worship Service Times: 9am and 10:45am

Senior Pastor:

Pastor Brandon Mathis

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

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

Demographics: Multi-generational

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

Student (middle & high school) at 9am.

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

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

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

Contact: 970-633-0226

Website: www.montroselutheran.org

Email: montroselutheran@gmail.com

Pastor: Tim Onnen

Worship: Sundays at 9 AM

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

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

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

FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

Denomination: Church of the Nazarene

Address: 705 South 12th Street

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

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

Pastor: Buddy Cook

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

Wednesday: Prayer Boot Camp - 7 PM
Mission Statement: *Montrose First Church
 of the Nazarene exists to make Christlike*

*disciples in Montrose Colorado and around
 the world.*

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MONTROSE

Affiliation: Presbyterian

Address: 1840 E Niagara Rd. Montrose
 CO. 81401 **Office Hours:** M-Thu 9AM -
 12PM

Contact: 970-249-4732, [in-
 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?

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manager@montroserivermeadows.com www.therivrmeadows.com

JENNY MCINTYRE, PAINTINGS OF THE SOUTHWEST

Jenny paints motion with ribbons of color

By Kathryn R. Burke

MONTROSE-Do you see it? Look at her paintings. They flow. Jenny McIntyre paints motion with ribbons of color: vivid canyon walls shimmering with heat, cool flowing water, shady green trees, and hot rocks where a rattlesnake might bask in the sun.

Jenny paints Colorado's canyon country with her own version of chiaroscuro—dark, shadowy crevices, bright sunlit rock faces—deep pools of contrast that create dimensional depths.

She refers to her work as abstraction, constructed landscapes—her own way of seeing the natural world. Each painting is a personal journey, yet one where Jenny invites you to join her and immerse yourself in the beauty of the moment, the timelessness of a place created through eons of earth's geological shifts. Walking beside her, viewing a landscape through Jenny's eyes in one of her paintings, opens a crack in time that leads you to a place of wonder...and ease. Vivid, strongly emotional, her paintings are also an exercise in calmness.

Her art creates a welcome release of anxiety—something we all suffer from right now with so many changes in today's world. Jenny's paintings are timeless and show us that beauty endures regardless of temporary upheavals and setbacks. Whatever seems wrong in your world today is insignificant in comparison to what built these canyons and how they have endured over the ages.

Jenny began her artistic career with photography, which partially explains her work and how she selects and captures a scene she wants to preserve. She works in oils, a medium that gives her more freedom to create depth. And depth is what the photographer sees when looking



Jenny McIntyre paints motion with ribbons of color. Photo by Kate Burke.

through the viewfinder of a camera. The photographer homes in on a particular scene that catches the eye, choosing a focal point and cutting out the extraneous—adjusting the depth of field—to focus on what is most important in the moment. It's another form of artistic license. There's a whole big scene out there; the person behind the camera lens sees what they want to capture, the same way an artist uses paint and paintbrush to capture that localized part of a landscape.

While studying photography, Jenny started taking art classes. "I always wanted to paint," she said. "I'd shoot photos, then make sketches to design how I wanted to combine the images for a show or a theme competition." She would adjust colors,

crop, and arrange with a photographer's eye and a lot of artistic license. Much as she does today with her paintings.

Jenny currently resides in Montrose, Colorado. When she's not painting or teaching Tai Chi and Yoga, she explores the landscape with her dog and camera.

See her work at the "The 610 Collective Art Show, "Colors and Circles," featuring Jenny McIntyre and Gay Leachman. The show is at 610 Clinton St., Ridgway and will hang through August. <https://www.610arts.com/upcoming-exhibitions>

Kathryn R. Burke is an artist, educator, author, and publisher. Visit her website to see more of Jenny's and other artists' work. <https://kathrynrburke.com/writer/art-artists/>



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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

Aug. 5-Nonpartisan, National Citizens' Climate Lobby meets to promote local environmental awareness and a Climate Action Plan, on Monday, Aug. 5 at 5pm at the Montrose Public Safety Complex meeting room, 434 S 1st(Police). All Welcome .Info at 970-765-9095.

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.

Aug. 9-Madams, Murder, Mayhem walking tour on Aug. 9 starting at 6 pm. This historical walking tour will examine the seedier side of local history. The walk will visit the sites of the notorious saloons, jails, and historical buildings. The tales will intertwine history and legends of the famous and scandalous local characters of the area. Please call for your reservation, because of the limited amount of spaces, tickets are \$10 per person. Please call 970-249-2085 or email at info@montrosehistory.org

Aug. 10-11-The Ridgway Rendezvous is free to attend and open to the public, with activities scheduled from 9 AM to 5 PM on Saturday, Aug. 10, and from 10 AM to 4 PM on Sunday, Aug. 11. Parking is available around the downtown area, with additional spaces at the Fairgrounds/Visitor's Center parking area.

Aug. 18-Author Jon Waterman will present on Sunday, Aug. 18, from 4-6 pm at the Montrose Pavilion, 1800 Pavilion Dr. in Montrose. Through imagery and video, Waterman's enthralling presentation will take us across North America's most remote landscapes.

Aug. 24-Karaoke at Magic Circle Theatre-Saturday, Aug. 24 -- 7 PM 420 S 12th St, Montrose, CO. 970-249-8738

Aug. 25 - Fortuna Tierra Club's 9th Annual Log Hill Hustle, 5k and 10k racers, will start at the Divide Ranch and Club, 151 Divide Ranch Circle. The Log Hill Hustle is a major fundraiser to raise funds for scholarships for Ridgway High School Students. Please go to <https://www.fortunatierra.com/> to register for the event and learn more about the event.

Sept. 21- Lake City hosts the Uncorked Wine and Music Festival.

Sept. 22-Karaoke at Magic Circle Theatre Sunday, Sept. 22 -- 7:30 PM 420 S 12th St, Montrose, CO. 970-249-8738

MIRROR IMAGES: OUT & ABOUT



B. Switzer took this photo of La Familia Music Group at the Montrose Summer Music Series on Friday, Aug. 2.

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