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# the Montrose Mirror

## COUNTY SAYS GOODBYE TO MANAGER, JOINS LITIGATION AGAINST STATE FOR DIVERSION OF SEVERANCE TAX FUNDS



The Montrose County BOCC said goodbye to County Manager Jon Waschbusch during the regular Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) meeting on Wednesday, Aug. 7. Meeting Screenshot.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-Montrose County said goodbye to County Manager Jon Waschbusch during the regular Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) meeting on Wednesday, Aug. 7, with BOCC Chair Roger Rash calling the moment bittersweet and declaring at one point, "I do dearly love that man."

All commissioners were present as Rash called the meeting to order. Commissioner Sue Hansen led all in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

Pastor Roland Kassales of Victory Baptist Church delivered the invocation, "Father we thank you for this morning...for the opportunity to gather together the citizens of Montrose. Lord I especially want to thank you this morning for Jon and his efforts on behalf of all of us from the county. We thank you for the years that he put in..."

**Continued pg 13**

## BRAYDEN BROWN CLIMBS THE SOCCER LADDER

By Cliff Dodge

MONTROSE-Brayden Brown, a Montrose Red Hawk soccer player, is about to embark on a life-changing journey that combines travel, soccer, a high school education and the opportunity to see another part of the Western Hemisphere. Brown is heading to Argentina to work toward becoming a professional soccer player.

Brown described his journey up to now, and what lay ahead for the high school senior. "I started playing soccer when I was about four years old. My mom was my first coach from the backyard to actual playing fields as I grew older and just a little bit taller."

"My high school soccer participation began my freshman year when I made the Montrose varsity. I transferred from Ridgway to Montrose just before my freshman year commenced., I played (when I played) the 'swinger' position. I didn't get a lot of playing time as a freshman, which improved considerably as I moved into my sophomore and junior years.

"I changed positions from swinger to center back where I really got involved in both



Brayden Brown on the field. Photo by Cliff Dodge.

**Continued pg 6**

[Montrose GOP Resolves to Remove Ray Langston from Party Functions at Central Committee Meeting!](#)

[The Barefoot Laureate: Wendy Videlock!](#)

[Kate Burke Speaks With Local Artist Gay Leachman!](#)

[David White Op-Ed on MHS Cell Phone Policy!](#)



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## Dear Readers:

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

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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

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## COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

### CSP TELLS PEDESTRIANS TO FOLLOW SIGNALS DESIGNED FOR THEIR SAFETY

*Special to the Mirror*

COLORADO—Sharing the roads means sharing the responsibility. While motorists need to be on the lookout for runners, bicyclists, and walkers, it's equally important for pedestrians to avoid complacency about traffic rules put in place for their safety. Last year (2023), Colorado hit a record for pedestrian fatalities, with 153 people killed (foot and bicycle). This is an 18% increase over 2022.

"There is no question about who will suffer the most in a collision between a pedestrian and a vehicle," stated Col. Matthew C. Packard, chief of the Colorado State Patrol. "Whether it's self-preservation or common sense, pedestrians must be just as aware of their surroundings as motorists are."

Distractions while driving, walking, or biking are everywhere. Whether you have your head down looking at your phone or wearing earbuds that cancel out helpful traffic noises, focusing on where you are going is the solution. Every age group is vulnerable, and incidents happen at all time of day, but the majority occur at night.

Drivers are responsible for watching for pedestrians and following traffic rules designed to protect them. However, pedestrians need to stay alert as much as drivers do. If a pedestrian contributes to a crash in some way, such as not following traffic signals, walking into the street while intoxicated or crossing without checking for traffic, he or she may be assigned partial or full fault for the collision.

When the Colorado State Patrol looked at the top citations involving pedestrians from 2023, the most common was an individual's disregard for the safety device trying to protect them.

Being a better pedestrian means demonstrating responsibility for your personal safety. The Colorado State Patrol and National Safety Council offer these important tips:

- Whenever possible, walk on the sidewalk; if no sidewalk is available, walk facing traffic.
- Follow the rules of the road and obey all traffic signs and signals.
- When available, cross streets at crosswalks.
- Look left, right and left again before crossing the street, making eye contact with drivers of oncoming vehicles to make sure they see you.
- Stay alert – avoid cell phone use and wearing earbuds.
- Avoid alcohol and drug impairment when walking or biking.
- At night, wear bright/or reflective clothing or use a flashlight.
- A SPECIAL NOTE TO PARENTS: Children younger than 10 should cross the street with an adult.



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# BRAYDEN BROWN CLIMBS THE SOCCER LADDER From pg 1

the offense and the defense. Our Red Hawk team played hard from whistle to whistle, and the team and our coaching staff never gave up and gave maximum effort throughout the season."

The soccer wonderkids put on what they call the Real Colorado Showcase. This is basically a statewide soccer camp that lets young players display their skills on the soccer pitch in front of high school coaches, college coaches, semi-pro representa-

tives and the usual gathering of professional scouts and coaches.

Brown said "The showcase is a very well-known tournament throughout this country and also internationally. It's a tournament that gets you a chance to play in front of all the right people as you compete against top level competition."

Brown explained, "Basically a scout from Mendoza F. C. in Argentina reached out to me about a week before the tournament and let me know that he would be in attendance and wanted to see me play." Brown sent the scout the tournament schedule and where and when his games would be played.

Mendoza F.C. is like an Academy/professional team. The Mendoza F.C. will have at least 50 players competing on teams at three levels. The Under 16, the Under 18 and the Under 23-year-old players compete with other teams as both amateurs, semi-professionals and a professional league. The teams will play all over Argentina and in other countries in South America.

Getting his high school diploma is one of Brown's goals. He and his parents have teamed up with Peak Academy and he intends to achieve his high school diploma via the computer and zoom. Brown described a typical day as he will experience it starting on Aug. 18 in Argentina. "I will wake up early, have breakfast, train, have lunch and another two-hour training session. Then more training, a study hall, weight room training, dinner and then another study hall."

Brown is working toward signing a professional contract assuming the breaks go his way. He also has a Plan B, which involves going to a Division One or Two college and playing soccer at the collegiate level.

Congratulations to Brayden Brown and good luck, as you pursue the lofty goals you have set for yourself



**Brayden Brown.**  
Photo by Cliff Dodge.

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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](http://www.montrosehealth.com), by email request to [BODapplications@montrosehealth.com](mailto:BODapplications@montrosehealth.com), or pick up at the Montrose Regional Health Administration office, located at 800 South 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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.

  
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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## WESTERN SLOPE CAREGIVERS INVITED IN FROM THE COLD

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-It has been called the loneliest job in existence. And, according to data from several sources, there are about fifty-three million folks in the US who work at it – 24/7, unpaid, and mostly isolated.

We're talking, of course, about family caregivers, the majority of whom labor to provide comfort and safety for brain failure victims. There is no known database that officially counts these folks in western Colorado, but the best estimate from the people at Region 10's Area Agency on Aging is at least five thousand scattered throughout the six western Colorado counties. The Agency on Aging and the Caregivers Support Foundation (CSF) have taken on the task of

providing care and assistance for family members who do their best to meet the needs of their loved ones.

One of the best tools these partners have developed to meet the needs of isolated family caregivers is the annual Family Caregiver Summit. The live 2024 Summit will be held October 1 at the Montrose Pavilion from 1 to 4:30 in the afternoon. The event is free to everyone and will provide a safe, comfortable environment for harried caregivers, complete with *moments of joy*.

"The response to the summit last year was very positive," says CSF Chair Laird Landon.

"We took what we learned from that event and are working at making the 2024 Summit even more useful." The format will be a little

different this year with six small-group, presentation/discussion topics occurring between two formal presentations. The headliner speeches will include Dr. Landon discussing the vital link between caregiver and medical provider. The talk is entitled

***How Support Groups Work.***

The second headliner will be ***Caregiver Grief*** will be presented by Carrie Bauer, MS, Western Slope Program Assistant & Community Liaison for the Heartlight Center in Aurora, Colorado. Bauer has worked at hospices in Colorado and Iowa as bereavement coordinator and volunteer coordinator, as well as the director of a bereavement program within a funeral home in Des Moines, Iowa.

"I have worked in the end-of-life and grief field for nearly two decades, and have learned that my passion is supporting grievers of all ages. I will be sharing information on ambiguous loss and other types of grief, as well as strategies and resources for grief support," Bauer says.

In order to give the attendees the biggest opportunity to gather as much information as possible, we have set up six concurrent group discussions surrounding the two key talks. Each of those will feature a short presentation by the facilitator, followed by questions and discussion involving the group members. Caregivers will have a choice as to which topic(s) to attend and participate in. They can move in and out of any group. The topics will each be presented and facilitated by experts and will include: ***Palliative and Hospice Care*** by Sally O'Conner, Montrose Regional Health's Director of Care Coordination; ***Caregiver Grief*** by Carrie Bauer, MS; ***Family Member Placement and Resources*** by Sandy Walker, Region 10 Ombudsman; ***Dementia and Alzheimer's Disease*** by Angel Hoffman, Director of Community Engagement, Alzheimer's Association, Grand Junction, Colorado; ***Navigating Medicaid*** by Shauna Clemmer, Brown & Brown, PC, Grand Junction, Colorado; and ***How To Talk To Your Loved One's Doctors*** by Dr. Landon. Summit Co-Chair Bill Bottomly says that the refreshment table has evolved into a larger space and will be offering a larger selection of snacks and beverages. There will be a larger group of vendors and consultants with whom the caregivers may interface. The event is free, and attendees may register early for the event by logging onto [www.Family-Caregiver.com](http://www.Family-Caregiver.com) and clicking on the registration link.

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## COUNTY SAYS GOODBYE TO MANAGER, JOINS LITIGATION *From pg 1*

thank you for all that are gathered here today, please give wisdom and help things to go smoothly..."

### COUNTY MANAGER FAREWELL

Waschbusch spoke, "Thanks for having me back, it's been two days, it looks like everybody's holding up well...any success I have ever had at this organization has been as a result of the employees...we have an incredible staff...it was my privilege to be part of that team for so many years...that's who makes this place run...I also want to thank the three of you...not an easy gig being a county commissioner, you've done a really, really, great job of supporting the employees, looking out for the long-term stability of the organization and putting us in a great place to succeed for years to come. You've never sacrificed the future with a present decision...I could not have asked for a better three-person boss than the three of you...gonna miss you guys...thanks for everything..."

Waschbusch received a round of applause.

Commissioner Sue Hansen said, "Your significant contributions to the community of Montrose County do not go unnoticed...you've made sound and economically feasible county decisions..." She listed accomplishments that Waschbusch has spearheaded over the years, sometimes speaking through tears. "...You've helped me be a better commissioner..."

Rash said, "I just want to thank you, it has been an absolute pleasure. When Keith and I first got here it was a show...your leadership was paramount in us succeeding in what we wanted to do, in getting the county on the right path...you had the vision that our employees deserved better...Jon's leadership and the mentoring he has done...you set the example...you will be missed...I'm not saying goodbye, we've got some fishing trips...God bless you and your family...Thank you brother, you are a brother to me, and I absolutely mean that...Thank you for everything you've done."

BOCC Vice Chair Keith Caddy said, "...Jon, when I came to Montrose County you were one of the only stabilizing things in this whole county that made it work, you

were somebody that I could go look to for confidence and direction and guidance, and somebody that I trusted...I do trust you Jon, and your leadership and your abilities to handle a tough situation. And thank you for the courthouse...I think you're a great leader and you're going to do well in all your endeavors in the future."

Commissioners presented Waschbusch with a framed photo of the county raft trip and took a photo with him.

As Waschbusch exited, Rash said, "See you, Jon! It's a bittersweet day, I do dearly love that man, and he is a true blessing for the county. We know that with the training he had done and the mentoring this organization will move forward..."

### PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no comments heard from the public on non-agenda items.

### INTERIM COUNTY MANAGER

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

### CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda items were approved unanimously, with Resolution No. 43-2024 assigned to Consent Agenda Item 8.

### MONTROSE COUNTY LOCAL LIQUOR LICENSING AUTHORITY

Commissioners approved renewal of the Retail Liquor Store license for Cydney Louise Siri, doing business as Pleasant Valley, 84100 E. US Highway 50, Cimarron, Colorado, license #03-05359. All appropriate documents, reviews, inspection, background check and fees have been submitted pursuant to CRS 44-3-302. No concerns were reported by the Sheriff's Office or the Planning Department.

### General Business and Administrative Items

Commissioners voted unanimously to approve a request by Montrose Regional Airport Director of Aviation Lloyd Arnold to approve Grant Agreement #3-08-0043-063-2024 with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in the amount of \$1,675,714 for the project to Acquire Snow Removal Equipment (Multi-Task Equipment and Rotary Plow).

Commissioners also voted to approve Grant Agreement #3-08-0043-064-2024

with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in the amount of \$555,390.16 for the project to Reconstruct Access Road.

County Attorney Marti Whitmore introduced Resolution 44-2024 for consideration, which seeks permission to participate in litigation. Whitmore said that a number of counties are challenging the State of Colorado's diversion of the severance tax funds generated by oil and gas drilling production that have historically gone to the counties, instead moving those funds to the state's general fund to balance the state's budget.

The General Assembly has imposed a number of unfunded mandates on counties, Whitmore said, "And then this funding being wiped out as well, we think is worth a challenge in the courts...it will also highlight for the General Assembly the displeasure of some of the counties with the General Assembly."

BOCC Chair Roger Rash said that the General Assembly created the crisis in the first place, "...and then to come back and fix the crisis with our tax dollars...and then to kill the industries...Colorado has been directly responsible...for driving the cost of the house thing up, driving the cost of food up, driving the cost of everything up, and then squandering our tax dollars and then stealing this money from the counties that was legislated to be for the counties...all of these crazy unfunded mandates that are just lumped on us that we have to carry on our backs...maybe people will wake up..."

Commissioners voted unanimously to approve Resolution 44-2024.

Chair of the County's Historic Landmark Advisory Board Kent Kinsey, accompanied by other members of the Historic Landmark Advisory Board, presented for consideration Resolution 45-2024, designating the Button Cemetery as a Montrose County Historic Landmark. The Resolution states that the Gunnison Tunnel project is..."*now an integral part of the irrigation for agriculture in Montrose County, and...the 18 marked graves and areas defined by the wooden fence of the Button Cemetery represent a period of significance from 1901 through 1905.*"

# COUNTY SAYS GOODBYE TO MANAGER *From previous pg*



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Kinsey read the Resolution into the official record; commissioners voted unanimously to adopt Resolution 45-2024, and honored the Historic Landmark Advisory Board with a round of applause as well.

Also approved was a proclamation declaring August 2024 as Child Support Awareness Month in Montrose County. The Proclamation was presented by Child Support Services Manager Christine Sorenson, who thanked commissioners and recognized Human Services Director Jennifer Sherwood for being "an awesome director."

### PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT-CONSENT AGENDA

The Planning & Development Consent Agenda, with two minor subdivisions, was unanimously approved.

### PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT-GENERAL BUSINESS

Following comments by the Applicant and a neighboring property owner as well as some discussion, Commissioners voted to continue the final agenda item, the "Les Logan Amended Plat [AM24-003] proposal to adjust lines of the two lots in the Logan Minor Subdivision at Parcel 372513201002 5223 HIGHWAY 348," to the BOCC meeting of Aug. 21, due to the receipt of late information. "We will revisit this in a couple of weeks," BOCC Chair Roger Rash said.

With no executive session and no further business, commissioners voted to adjourn. "Thank you everyone," Rash said.

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# COUNCIL CONSIDERS LODGING TAX HIKE IN WORK SESSION

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-Mayor J. David Reed was not present in person or online, but all other city councilors were in attendance for the Montrose City Council work session of Monday, Aug. 5.

## DISCUSSION ITEMS

With Mayor Pro Tem David Frank presiding, the session began with a briefing by Police Chief Blaine Hall on an equipment purchase for the Montrose Police Department (TASER 10 Certification 65-unit Bundle \$65 59,147.40).

City Engineer Scott Murphy discussed the proposed 6600 Road Water Service Area Modification Agreement; Council will consider entering into a water service area modification agreement with Tri-County Water Conservancy District to modify boundaries in the vicinity of 6600 Road between Locust and Draft Horse roads. **Background-**A memo from Murphy to Council outlines the modification agreement in detail. The memo states, "...The proposed service area modification would include a new City of Montrose water transmission main down 6600 Road between Locust and Draft Horse Roads to provide a secondary feed to the area, service future development (which helps to recapture cost of the mainline extension) and support the construction of an emergency fire flow interconnect between the City and Tri-County systems at its northern end. This mainline extension project is currently proposed in the 2025 City budget..."

Business Development Staff Anthony Russo discussed a proposed Development Agreement for the Les Schwab Tire Center. "We've been working on this project for over a year now, I would say," Russo said, noting that the company has opened a location in Delta. "...They're already starting to I guess make overtures towards actually breaking ground and moving forward here in the next month or so...we really don't have a lot of time...it really opens up South Montrose Drive there...if we do not do this, the other pads and the other property attached there would not have access to water or sewer..."

Councilor Ed Ulibarri asked about competition with the existing tire company across the street, Big O Tire. "So Les

Schwab is another tire distributor, okay," Ulibarri said.

**Background-**Investment in the property owned by Bert Hayenga totals \$9,422,188 Russo said. Construction is expected to begin Aug. 15, according to a memo prepared by Hayenga for Russo and City Manager Bill Bell. The memo states, "DTV Montrose Drive, LLC ("DTV") owns 5.14 ac located at 1901 S. Townsend Avenue ("Property"). DTV's Development is a Les Schwab Tire Center on the northwest portion of the Property consisting of approximately 1.97 acre ("Les Schwab Site"). Directly south of the Les Schwab Site with Townsend Ave. frontage will be a ~1.40-acre retail PAD that will likely be a service-oriented retail building with a drive-thru. Additionally, there will be a ~1.75 ac PAD remaining on the east side of the Property where DTV is in conversation to develop a hotel, multi-family housing etc., subject to market conditions."

City Engineer Scott Murphy discussed a contract award for the Montrose Drive Waterline Interconnect. Council will consider the award of a construction contract to Ridgway Valley Enterprises in the amount of \$334,037 for completion of the Montrose Drive Waterline Interconnect construction project. Completion will be around Thanksgiving, Murphy said.

**Background-**A memo from Murphy to Council states, "Water service in the vicinity of Montrose Drive, east of Townsend Avenue is currently provided (to Montrose County Health and Human Services) through several small-diameter waterlines running on private property and inaccessible to other parcels within the area. The area also only has a single point of connection without any backup looping to other portions of the City's water system. In response to these shortcomings, the City has desired to install a properly-sized mainline within the Montrose Drive right of way and interconnect to existing mainlines located further towards the east. To that end, the City added a mainline waterline stub to east Montrose Drive as part of the Townsend Avenue Waterline Replace-



City staffer Anthony Russo (left) weighed in on a City Council Lodging Tax discussion. Meeting screenshot.

ment Project in 2022. This stub alone did not resolve the issues, but it did provide a tie-point to facilitate an eventual water system cleanup and interconnection in the area. Developers have been working over the past several years to bring commercial development (Les Schwab Tire Center and potentially a future drive-thru restaurant, housing, and/or hotel) to the southern side of east Montrose Drive...The proposed Montrose Drive Waterline Interconnect project discussed herein plans to finish the mainline water infrastructure within Montrose Drive and interconnect to existing lines towards the east. The project also relocates some water services to facilitate the abandonment of a redundant asbestos cement waterline along the eastern shoulder of Townsend Avenue. With this redundant Townsend waterline abandoned, space then becomes available for the developer to run a sewer line down the eastern side of Townsend Avenue and service the Montrose Drive developments... Construction of the waterline project was put out for bid on May 9 and bids were publicly received on June 3, 2024 from three contractors... This project is scheduled to be complete by the end of 2024... Assistant City Attorney for Public Safety Matthew Magliaro presented information on a Proposed Ordinance for Unauthorized Camping, Sleeping in Public and Proposed Amendment to Park Hours. Included in the work session packet is a redlined version inclusive of updates. Councilor Doug Glaspell asked whether



## COUNCIL CONSIDERS LODGING TAX HIKE *From previous pg*

Council has the authority to remove any-one camping under a federal or state highway.

"We have taken the position that we do," Magliaro said.

Councilor Ed Ulibarri asked about taking walks at night in parks, something he enjoys on occasion.

Magliaro said that use of parks after 11pm is prohibited, inclusive of walking. "Still, I can tell you that I've not seen any citation for that within four years of practicing here..."

City Attorney Chris Dowsey presented verbiage for a proposed ballot question regarding a lodging tax increase. Of the requested 6% increase to lodging tax revenues, the funds collected would be disbursed as follows: 1% to streets maintenance, 1% to childcare, 2% to affordable housing, and 2% to tourism promotion, he said. "Does this sound good to everybody?" Dowsey asked.

Council spent time in discussion.

Ulibarri said, "I would like to see the street repairs at a little bit higher percentage...I feel that the impact that the visitors have on the streets and sidewalks of the City of Montrose should be borne by those visitors...we also have the funds currently that we're using for businesses...I do know that I personally would like to see a higher percentages for road and sidewalk repairs here in the city."

Mayor Pro Tem David Frank said that as hotels and restaurants become busier there will be a greater need for additional staff, which would be offset by the funds collected for affordable housing and childcare, "...to be able to provide for our

workforce and our service industry..."

Frank suggested adjusting the rates to 1.5% for housing and 1.5% for streets. "I think that would be a good balance."

"I would much rather take 1% off of the tourism promotion," Councilor Judy Ann Files said. "...I'm not totally sure our community wants us to continue promoting tourism..."

City Manager Bill Bell said, "Sure. I would just add it's not just tourism, so all our community events that are for locals is out of that fund...We want to get more than what we currently have so we can continue to provide Fourth of July activities, Christmas Parade activities, the music at the Amphitheatre. Most of that comes out of the tourism promotion fund as well."

Files suggested changing the wording of the proposed ballot measure to clarify that some of the funds will be used for the benefit of the community.

Suddenly, unelected Business Development Staff Anthony Russo joined the council discussion. "I have a question," Russo said. "When we first talked about this, we had talked about historical preservation and making sure that we have funds for the Downtown corridor and upkeep and maintenance, and I don't see that in this portion. Can you speak a little bit to that?"

City Manager Bill Bell said that he would add detail to the wording to reflect Russo's request.

Dowsey confirmed with Council the final changes to the ordinance; of the 6% lodging tax increase, revenues would be distributed with 1.5% for streets, 1% for childcare, 2% for affordable housing, and 1.5% for tourism promotion, with added

language about community events.

Council spent time in general discussion; Ulibarri asked staff to look into the issue of why local groups are not being allowed to bring food for their own consumption when using city facilities such as the Pavilion. Mayor Pro Frank also asked staff to look into the issue.

Councilor Doug Glaspell asked Police Chief Blaine Hall about school supply donations. Perishable items such as wide-ruled paper, crayons, colored paper, and glue sticks are greatly needed, Hall said. The Police Department would host a back-to-school event including school bus tours.

Councilor Judy Ann Files said that she and Councilor Glaspell attended the ribbon cutting and opening on Friday Aug. 2 for the Village on San Juan for CASA Housing for seniors and youth aging out of foster care.

"It was very heartwarming to talk about all the community effort that's gone into that, makes us feel good," Files said. "We hope that one works as well as we want it to."

Frank said that the American Junior Golf Association (AJGA) Tournament was held in Montrose. "The quality of these kids...it was really such a great and pleasant event to go and meet these kids...it's also a great event for Montrose...it's not only a great cultural benefit but a great economic benefit for the City of Montrose..."

City Engineer Scott Murphy said that Fifth Street should be paved by the time school starts.

Frank thanked all for attending and reminded of the regular City Council meeting of Tuesday, Aug. 6.



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# CHASITY DEJULIO HONORED FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN MONTROSE, CITY APPROVES LODGING TAX BALLOT QUESTION



**Mayor J. David Reed presents a Citizenship Award to Chasity DeJulio at the meeting of Aug. 6. Screenshot.**

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-Mayor J. David Reed opened the regular meeting of the Montrose City Council on Tuesday, Aug. 6, leading all in saying the Pledge of Allegiance and presenting a Citizenship Award to Chasity DeJulio. All councilors were present.

## **YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE AWARD**

Mayor Reed honored Early Childhood Educator and Entrepreneur Chasity DeJulio, for making a difference in the lives of local citizens and impacting the community. DeJulio owns and operates [Little Sprouts Preschool](#) of Montrose and serves as the [Regional Child Care Navigator and Coordinator](#) for the Bright Futures early childhood council in Montrose County.

## **CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT FOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

Mayor Reed read the rules for public comment and welcomed speakers.

First to speak was John Brown.

Brown said, "It is with great sadness that I approach the Council today. A few months back, Council voted, stating that they wanted to have an open and direct communication with your constituents and work with them on matters that are of concern to the community and the council. To date the Council has refused to talk directly with the citizens who have been coming to this podium requesting that the city pass a measure to declare Montrose to become non-sanctuary since March 19...I think now is the time to ask your constituency, the legal registered voters of

Montrose, to decide...because of a lack of action by this council to date, we are seeing the effect of this invasion...in the need to provide electronic interpreters in our schools at a cost of thousands of dollars. This should be a red flag to the public..."

Ron Smith spoke. He thanked Mayor Reed for responding to one of his concerns and said, "This relates to sanctuary vs. non-sanctuary. I just really want to state that this is not about symbology or semantics, it's not about politics, it's not about religion. It's about doing what it takes for our city and county to provide a safe and secure living environment. With your follow-up we will do exactly what you recommended sir.

Smith said, "...Thank you for addressing the homeless camping situation...There's nothing like coming to my office in the morning...the front doorstep or in the back with things I won't talk about here..."

There is a new state law going into effect called the New Colorado Law to Support New Immigrants, he said, "...The elephant in the room is always about legal versus illegal. So this could be a great thing, it could be a bad thing, I don't really know, I just hope we're not rewarding bad behavior."

Smith also mentioned rapidly inflated prices for consumer goods, a school tax issue coming up, and personal property taxes that have increased on his home by 70 percent, net of an appeals process, in just four years. "I really got to ask if we're in touch with the citizens when we're putting a six-percent lodging tax on the ballot...it's disrespectful at best...this goes to our clients that visit us, our family that visits us...I feel like it's just one more thing for big government spending...people are suffering so much from price increases, and now we're going to tax 'em to death."

Two speakers talked about the newly reorganized non-profit, Unify Montrose. First was Executive Director Alejandro

Salazar, who praised the City of Montrose for working with Unify Montrose on their first initiative, the Main Street and Off-Street Parking Initiative. "We are very grateful that the city stepped up and partnered with us...I would like to give a huge thank you to all the city folks...Michelle Wingfield is an absolute gem...she really is a remarkable human being, and I am glad you have her on your city staff...I really hope... in two years that we can look back at this day and see all the progress that we have made...I am very glad we have this new opportunity to come forth and have these discussions in a meaningful, civil, and open-minded way...I look forward to what comes..."

Unify Montrose Board President Rick Bleier discussed the transformation of the non-profit from an outside organization trying to make changes in Montrose to a local organization.

"This is a group of Montrose people looking at Montrose problems and coming up with Montrose solutions from a very broad-based constituency...We try and pull everyone together to come up with suggestions for you that will be useful in making this a wonderful place to live...thank you, I appreciate it and please keep up the good work."

Leah Vandersluis spoke about the importance of making Montrose a non-sanctuary city.

"My concern is that Colorado is a sanctuary state as Governor Polis has made it so, that's why I think it's really important to make a delineation of what we are...I think it's really important to make us a non-sanctuary city. I think it should go on the ballot, let the people vote and determine that. Thank you."

Brett Fletcher spoke about the city's ordinance limiting the number of pets to two dogs and two cats per household.

"...Ordinance 2339 Sec. 263 needs to be revisited, reviewed and rewritten," Fletcher said. "The City of Montrose has no way of knowing how many pets are in any household at all. The only way this ordinance is enforceable is by neighbors complaining about other neighbors and calling

## CITY APPROVES LODGING TAX BALLOT QUESTION *From previous pg*

animal control.” He said that he has circulated a petition in support of changing the limits. “In just under two weeks I received over 200 signatures and almost 2,000 views. This indicates to me that there are a significant number of local pet owners that are feeling the same way...these arbitrary limits ignore responsible pet caretakers while potentially letting less responsible single pet owners slip through the cracks...an interesting comparison, Montrose County does not have a pet ordinance at all; Grand Junction--three dogs, three cats, or six animals total; Colorado Springs--four dogs, four cats...I propose a review and a reshape of the current pet ownership laws, that will instead address the conduct of owners, the health, welfare, and living conditions of the pets themselves...let’s make Montrose a place that’s a better place for dogs and cats.”

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council voted to approve the minutes of the July 16, 2024, regular City Council meeting minutes as presented.

### NEW HOTEL AND RESTAURANT LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATION

Council voted unanimously to approve a fifth liquor license for the owners of Horsefly Brewery, this one is for the new Toasty’s All Day Eatery at 1341 Mayfly Drive.

### RESOLUTION 2024-11

Council voted unanimously to adopt Resolution 2024-11, authorizing assignment to

the Colorado Housing and Finance Authority of a private activity bond allocation of the City of Montrose pursuant to the Colorado Private Activity Bond Ceiling Allocation Act.

### NATIONS ADDITION REVISED ANNEXATION AGREEMENT

As previously discussed in work session, Council voted to approve the Nations Addition Revised Annexation Agreement.

### PUBLIC WORKS SHOP ADDITION ANNEXATION

Council voted unanimously to approve the Public Works Shop Addition Annexation, including Resolution 2024-12, findings of fact for the Public Works Shop Addition annexation and Ordinance 2666 - First Reading-for the annexation of the Public Works Shop Addition.

### ORDINANCE 2667 - FIRST READING

Ordinance 2667 was passed on first reading, zoning the Public Works Shop Addition as a P, Public District.

### RIO GRANDE RIGHT OF WAY ADDITION ANNEXATION

Also approved was the annexation of the Rio Grande Right of Way Addition Annexation, including Resolution 2024-13, findings of fact for the Rio Grande Right of Way Addition annexation and Ordinance 2668 on First Reading, for the annexation of the Rio Grande Right of Way Addition.

### ORDINANCE 2669 - FIRST READING

Ordinance 2669 was passed on first reading, zoning the Rio Grande Right of Way

Addition as a P, Public District.

### 2024 LANDFILL CONTRACT AWARD RECOMMENDATION

With Councilor Ed Ulibarri voting to deny, Council voted four to one to award the 2024 Landfill Contract to Bruin Waste Management for landfill services

### CEDAR CREEK CEMETERY BRIDGE REPLACEMENT CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT

Council voted to adopt to award a contract to K&D Construction in the amount of \$241,302.90 for replacement of the Cedar Creek Cemetery Bridge.

### RATIFICATION OF NOVEMBER 2024 BALLOT QUESTION DECISION

Council voted unanimously to ratify a decision to give notice to the Montrose County Clerk regarding the addition of a question on the November 5, 2024, Coordinated Election ballot related to an increase to the hotel room tax rate.

### STAFF REPORTS

There were no staff reports.

### COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor Ed Ulibarri said that he voted to deny the contract award to Bruin Waste because of concerns over health and safety due to the additional distance and highway travel involved. “I just had a safety concern.”

Mayor Reed gave kudos to the Montrose Police Department for a successful National Night Out event.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### MONTROSE VETERANS MEMORIAL MOVES FORWARD

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE- "We definitely feel like we're moving forward," J. Bob Brueske said following a Wednesday, Aug. 7 visit to the proposed Montrose Veterans Memorial site next to the Botanical Gardens and near the Pavilion at 1800 E. Pavilion Place.

Brueske, chairman of the Montrose Veterans Memorial Coalition (MVMC), said he and other board members Troy Meyer and Dave Powers met with city and county representatives, as well as architect Phil Motley.

"City councilman Dave Frank; Jim Scheid, public works manager; and Dan Payne, parks and special projects superintendent, were there for the city," Brueske said, "and Roger Rash, chairman of the board of county commissioners, represented the county."

The three entities: MVMC, Montrose County and the City of Montrose signed a memo of agreement earlier this year. The first steps following the MOA, Brueske said, were for the MVMC to send the city their proposed drawings.

The city called in Motley, Brueske said, to submit new plans based on their discus-

sions at the site.

"We talked about irrigation draining being moved or piped, borderline fencing, and other site preparation before construction," he said.

MVMC also will provide the city and Motley with image concepts Brueske acquired from a memorial engraving company they hope to include in the memorial. The striking black granite panels will depict scenes from WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm, the War on Terror and other conflicts.

He said Motley may have the drawings ready in about two weeks.

"Then it goes out to the contractors for bid," Brueske continued, "that way the city and county will know the cost and will take to their committees or boards for them to determine how much they will budget for the memorial."

"And the team will be looking for in-kind donations," he said, "as well as continuing our fundraising efforts."

The MVMC board will be set up at the Stars and Stripes Barbecue Fest Sept. 14 at the Rotary Amphitheatre in Cerise Park.

They also plan to attend the Telluride Au-



**Local veterans and officials Aug. 7 visit the proposed Montrose Veterans Memorial site on Aug. 7.**

turn Classic car show Sept. 26-28. Brueske is encouraging everyone to stop by and hear more about the Montrose Veterans Memorial.

There may be some surprises at the booths, he said, so please stop by.

Brueske said groundbreaking ceremonies are not yet scheduled, but he is hopeful there may be some site cleanup this fall, and they are working on a banner to designate the memorial location.

For more information, please visit MVMC at their website or on Facebook.




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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## LETTER TO MONTROSE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

*Editor:*

It is with great sadness that I approach the council today. A few months back the council voted stating that they, you, wanted to have an open and direct communication with your constituents and work with them on matters that are of concern to the community and the council. To date, the council has refused to talk directly with the citizens who have been coming to this podium requesting that the city pass a measure to declare Montrose to be Non-Sanctuary since March 19<sup>th</sup>. We, your constituency, have only seen your discussions with the press stating how your refusal makes us non-sanctuary and how you wish we would stop and understand. We do understand that the council has refused to have an open dis-

cussion with the city lawyers, the local press and we the people. You have continued to ignore the public on the matter of Non-Sanctuary since the overwhelming response back on March 19<sup>th</sup> when the topic was first breached to the public after a city council working group meeting on March 18<sup>th</sup> with a vote of 4-1 in favor of Montrose being a Non-Sanctuary city. Another public vote was made on March 19<sup>th</sup> in a 2-3 in favor of being a Sanctuary city. The original wording was changed even after the overwhelming response by the public to the largest crowd ever gathered at a city council meeting in favor of Non-Sanctuary. It was then that the council went into private session where the measure was dismissed and attempted to be forgotten. It has been said that by do-

ing nothing Montrose is non-sanctuary! What Law? What specific legislation makes this specific claim? If that is the case then restate it publicly in a declaration. I think now is the time to ask your constituency, the legal registered voters of Montrose to decide. This is a lot bigger than approving a redistricting measure or an increase to our motel/hotel tax in Montrose. This is something much bigger that could cost the taxpayers millions. Because of the lack of action by the council to date we are seeing the effect of this invasion in our schools in the need to provide electronic interpreters for our schools costing thousands of dollars. This should be a RED FLAG to the council just as it is to the public.

*John Brown, Montrose*

### DECISIONS THAT HAVE A BIG IMPACT ON THE MONTROSE COMMUNITY SHOULD STAY WITH MONTROSE CITIZENS

*Dear Community, MCSD Board,  
Dr. Stephenson:*

Years ago when Denver based CDOT determined upgrades to Hwy 50 were not warranted, Dr. Canfield & others presented local concerns that were not in the criteria of determining that decision. Locals knew the hazards and dangers. As we all know, their information prevailed.

At MHS the building of that time had a heating system with a computer chip actu-

ally controlled by the main system in Denver. There was no way for students, teachers and community members to have individual control. Rooms were either way too hot or freezing cold.

Any decision that has a significant impact on an entire community must have the caveat of local voice. Differing opinions from locals have a lesser divisive property than rural versus urban, especially one with a fundamental bias. The Colorado

Charter School Institute has the title that does indicate a tendency toward charter ideology, such as CDOT indicates Front Range priorities. Decisions that have a big impact on the Montrose community should stay with Montrose citizens so all ideas may be voiced and considered. I strongly encourage the MCSD Board to retain licensing authority in lieu of handing over to an urban based entity.

*AJ Smith, Montrose*

## SAY A LOUD "NO" TO THE CLASSICAL ACADEMY

*Dear Editor,*

We're writing in opposition to the proposed new charter school in Montrose.

We have several concerns about the so-called "Classical Academy". They are:

-A "classical education" would be outdated in the 21st Century. For example, the plan to de-emphasize high-tech in the curriculum would put students at a disadvantage later in life.

-The plan could siphon off funds from the rest of the Montrose-Olathe school district.

-There is no guarantee that the curriculum would include fair teaching about non-white cultures.

We hope the Montrose-Olathe school district board of education will say a loud "No" to the "Classical Academy".

*Sincerely,*

*Mavis Bennett and*

*David Segal, Montrose*



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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## CITY OF MONTROSE CUTS BACK ON HOURS OPEN TO PUBLIC

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE— With a goal to keep city workers focused on providing the public with the best possible service, the City of Montrose is adjusting its business hours at two locations on its downtown campus to allow employees time to focus on necessary administrative tasks and mandatory training before opening to the public.

Beginning Sept. 3, city offices at City Hall, located at 400 East Main Street, and the Montrose Public Safety Complex at 434 South First Street will be open for business from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through

Thursday. Office hours at other city facilities, core employee work schedules, and emergency and on-call services will remain unchanged.

The change in hours will help city employees better facilitate meetings and training that have been difficult to manage with phone and walk-in customers.

With public service being the top priority for all City of Montrose operations, city administrators said the change in hours will help promote a high level of service while giving city employees the flexibility to take care of the tasks they are required

to perform.

To better serve the public, city workers are required to keep up with mandatory training that is focused on job-specific tasks, public service, safety, and accessibility to stay up-to-date with the latest technology and practices.

City offices will display signs alerting the public to the change before the September implementation date. For more information visit [www.CityofMontrose.org/Hours](http://www.CityofMontrose.org/Hours)

For information about the City of Montrose visit [CityofMontrose.org](http://CityofMontrose.org).

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FRANCHISE FOUNDER & BUSINESS OWNER  
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**Bill Patterson**  
FOUNDER - T11 Rock Drills  
(Montrose, CO)

**Luke Bray**  
OWNER - The Glass Doctor  
(Montrose, CO Franchise)

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**MLS# 814770**

**28 Elm Court  
Montrose, CO 81401**

This 4 bedroom home is spacious and enhanced with a fabulous gas fireplace in the living room, a separate formal dining area and a kitchen that opens to a multi use family room that is currently set up as a game room with pool table and great built-ins. The kitchen has updated appliances and it includes a washer & dryer. The home design is smart and iconic. You'll love the elegance of the walnut floors and the many solid wood pocket doors that allow a room or an area to be private if you desire. The primary suite has a built in dresser in the closet and a jetted tub for your relaxation in the en suite bathroom. The home is heated by hot water baseboard and cooled with an evaporative cooler.

### Features:

- ✓ 3 Bathroom
- ✓ 2,836 sq ft
- ✓ 3 Car Garage
- ✓ 4 Bedroom

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You will love the timeless design of a mid-century home. These homes are renowned for their clean lines, geometric shapes and minimalist aesthetic. Be drawn to the simplicity and elegance of the design, which has stood the test of time and continues to feel fresh and contemporary. Despite the minimalist appearance, this mid-century home offers ample opportunities for customization and personalization.

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# COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

## DOWNLOAD THE FREE COLORADO TRAIL EXPLORER (COTREX) APP TO CHECK FIRE ALERTS

### Special to the Mirror

DENVER—Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) encourages outdoor recreationists to use the [Colorado Trail Explorer \(COTREX\)](#) mobile app to check active fire alerts before heading out on trails. In light of recent increased fire activity, COTREX is temporarily increasing the frequency of wildfire updates from once a day to once an hour to keep the public informed about active conditions around the state.

The [COTREX app](#) is a free, user-friendly app that provides authoritative trail information across local, state, and federal agencies. Courtesy photo.



## CHANGING NEEDS?

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

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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## BUTTON CEMETERY DESIGNATED AS MONTROSE COUNTY HISTORICAL LANDMARK

### *Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE—The Montrose County Board of County Commissioners has officially designated the Button Cemetery as a Montrose County Historical Landmark. The cemetery, located near the South Canal and Pahgre Road, holds the remains of workers who tragically lost their lives during the construction of the South Canal as part of the Gunnison Tunnel project in the early 1900s.

The Button Cemetery serves as a poignant reminder of the sacrifices made by these individuals, whose labor laid the foundation for the region's thriving agricultural industry.

The 18 marked graves and the cemetery's original boundaries, enclosed by a wooden fence, offer a tangible connection to this significant period in Montrose County's history.

"This is what I love about this advisory board, is that you get to uncover all sorts of secrets and cool things in our community," said Commissioner Sue Hansen. "It takes that kind of level of passion to be able to uncover these and bring them to light so we can all understand where our community has been and to understand the history of the folks that worked on the tunnel and what ultimately happened to



***The Button Cemetery, located near the South Canal and Pahgre Road, holds the remains of workers who tragically lost their lives during the construction of the South Canal.***

them is a treasure for us to have."

"Preserving the Button Cemetery as a historical landmark is an important step in honoring the memory of those who contributed to the development of our county," said Kent Kinsey, Montrose County Historic Landmark Advisory Chair. "This designation recognizes the cemetery's historical significance and ensures its pro-

tection for future generations."

The Board of County Commissioners' decision to designate the Button Cemetery as a historical landmark is a testament to the county's commitment to preserving its rich heritage.

For more information about the historic landmark advisory board, please visit their [webpage](https://montrosemirror.com).



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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT NAMES MONTROSE REGIONAL HEALTH HIGH PERFORMING HOSPITAL, AMONG BEST HOSPITALS 2024-2025

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE— Montrose Regional Health has been named by U.S. News & World Report to its 2024-2025 Best Hospitals list as a High Performing hospital for Heart Attack and Patient Experience. This is the highest distinction a hospital can earn for U.S. News' Best Hospitals Procedures & Conditions ratings.

"We are deeply honored to be recognized by U.S. News & World Report as a High Performing hospital for Heart Attack and Patient Experience," said Jeff Mengenhausen, CEO of Montrose Regional Health. "This prestigious distinction reflects the dedication and expertise of our entire team in delivering exceptional care. Our commitment to providing patients with the best possible outcomes and a supportive, compassionate environment is at the core of what we do. This recognition underscores our ongoing efforts to ensure that our patients receive top-notch care, not just within our walls, but also in helping them recover and thrive at home."

The annual Procedures & Conditions ratings are designed to assist patients and their health care providers in making informed decisions about where to receive care for challenging health conditions or elective procedures. Montrose Regional Health was recognized as an excellent hospital to receive treatment for Heart Attack. The hospital ranked highly in patient experience, receiving a 5/5-star rating in categories such as staff responsiveness and hospital room cleanliness. The hospital also ranked particularly high in

giving patients time at home, being very successful in enabling patients to safely live at home with minimal time spent in a hospital, ER or nursing home during recovery.

"For 35 years, U.S. News has been a leading resource for patients navigating their health care decisions," said Ben Harder, chief of health analysis and managing editor at U.S. News. "The 'High Performing' designation acknowledges hospitals that consistently deliver high-quality care for specific medical procedures and conditions. This recognition highlights their expertise and commitment to patient well-being."

To calculate the Best Hospitals rankings, U.S. News evaluated each hospital's performance on objective measures such as risk-adjusted mortality rates, preventable complications and level of nursing care. The Best Hospitals Specialty rankings methodology and Procedures & Conditions ratings methodology measure patient outcomes using data from millions of records provided by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. This year, among other methodology refinements, U.S. News incorporated new data on care provided to patients with Medicare Advantage insurance and on care provided to outpatients, nearly doubling the number of patients included in its annual data analysis. The Procedures & Conditions ratings are based entirely on objective quality measures.

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free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom  
of speech, or of the press; or the right of the  
people peaceably to assemble, and to petition  
the Government for a redress of grievances.*





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Located in the highly sought-after Spring Creek area of Montrose County, this residence offers a peaceful retreat with unparalleled views. The property features ample space for vehicles and recreational equipment, including a 4+ car garage with a newer 681 sq ft addition ideal for a workshop, garage, or RV storage, complemented by a convenient 24' x 12.5' carport for additional storage needs..

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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.



Smoking outdoors in an area that is not cleared of all combustible materials.



Welding or operating acetylene or other torches with open flame except in cleared areas of at least 10 ft in diameter and in possession of a chemical pressurized fire extinguisher.



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](https://westslopefireinfo.com)



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# CASA DEBUTS VILLAGE AT SAN JUAN



*Special to the Mirror*  
**MONTROSE-CASA of the 7<sup>th</sup> Judicial District** continues its focus on supportive housing with the opening of Village on San Juan, a 33-unit intergenerational Supportive Housing Community for Young Adults 18 to 24, and Seniors 60+, at imminent risk for homelessness. According to the [CASA website](#), the project includes eight acres of land in a conservation easement for walking trails and outdoor activities, and a 3,000 square foot Community Building. Referrals for adult housing units are made by [Hilltop Community Resources](#).

Photos courtesy of Charles Zimmerman.



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**CIMARRON CREEK**



# MONTROSE GOP RESOLVES TO REMOVE RAY LANGSTON FROM PARTY FUNCTIONS AT CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING



**The GOP Headquarters will soon open at 447 Main Street (North Uncompahgre and Main), Montrose. Photo by Gail Marvel.**

*By Gail Marvel*

MONTROSE—Fifty people attended the two-hour Montrose County Republican Central Committee meeting on Aug. 8. The meeting was held in the RE-1J School District board meeting room.

The Call to Order was followed by the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance. Because Chairman Charli Oswald was out of town, the meeting was chaired by First Vice Chair Monte George.

## **Welcome Elected Officials**

Elected officials, as well as current candidates, were invited to address attendees and then take questions from the audience.

The chair recognized State Board of Education candidate **Ellen Angeles**. After introducing herself, the audience asked questions, “What do you think about Charter Schools? What do you think about sharing locker rooms in schools? Men pretending to be women, transgender?”

Angeles said, “I believe in taking care of all children regardless of their orientation.” When questions that allowed little to no wiggle room were posed to Angeles she said, “I don’t know how to answer your question.”

Angeles supports current Montrose Charter schools; however, she opposes the recently proposed Charter School, the Montrose Classical Academy, “Because they have a Hillsdale [curriculum] tilt”.

Former Montezuma County Commissioner, now House of Representatives District 58 candidate **Larry Suckla**, said, “You guys are going to be my boss, so I need to hear my marching orders.” Suckla’s democratic opponent in the general election is Gunnison’s Kathleen Curry.

District 1 Montrose County Commissioner candidate **Scott Mijares** (unopposed) said, “What is it you want from your county commissioner? Call me.” Mijares gave the attendees his personal cell phone number.

Mijares said, “I did a ride-a-long with the sheriff. It was fantastic. The sheriff’s office is understaffed. There are 13 SUVs in the parking lot that are not being used. Public safety makes us a great country. Voter turnout will be the key.”

Sheriff Gene Lillard introduced himself, “I am in my second term. We are up against the wall. The Montrose Police Department (MPD) raised their salary. They are our competition. We just lost four deputies to

MPD. We are down 11 [people] as I speak. The main reason we are losing people is because of money. We start out at \$63,000 and the PD starts out at \$80,000 [a year]. I’m not getting any applications, and the PD has 60. We hope [soon] we can get something resolved. We’ve had 4,000 acres of fire burning lately [in the west end].”

Lillard was questioned on the current transient and homeless situation. He said, “We are coordinating with the city about the overnight camping. When the city pushes them out, they go into the county. It’s disheartening all the trash they are leaving.”

There was a brief mention of ballot issues 157 and 217. Lillard said, “The bill that hurt us was 217, \$350 M is not enough. Unfunded mandates are hurting us.” A Sheriff’s Academy, which will be held on Monday evenings, is coming up.

Montrose County Commissioner **Keith Caddy** said, “The NACo [National Association of Counties] has policy changes to public lands, the Antiquities Act. A resolution to stop the Administration from making decisions and allow Congress to make the decisions [such as making new monuments]. The BOCC [Board of County Commissioners] has joined a lawsuit against the State and the Governor on the severance tax [oil and gas]. This affects other counties more than Montrose County.” Rather than giving severance funds to the counties, the State is putting that revenue into the general fund.

Caddy said, “We have unfunded mandates. We [the Sheriff’s office] get \$5,000 a year to patrol government lands. We need more money. Sixty-eight percent of Montrose County is government land.”

Questions were asked about the job search for a new county manager. Caddy said, “We’re about two and a half weeks in. We are looking nationally, and we will hire before we [Caddy and Rash] leave office.” By law the county can have an interim county manager for six months.

Incoming County Commissioner Scott Mijares pressured Caddy to hold off on hiring a new county manager until the new commissioners were in place. Caddy said, “We can talk about it.”

*Continued next pg*

## MONTROSE GOP RESOLVES TO REMOVE RAY LANGSTON From previous pg



**Fifty people attended the two-hour Montrose County Republican Central Committee meeting on Aug. 8, 2024. The meeting was held in the School District board meeting room. Photo by Gail Marvel.**



**Rather than supporting the Republican Party, Ray Langston is accused of harming the Party by his continued disruptive behavior. Photo by Gail Marvel.**

Caddy assured citizens that there would be a Meet & Greet in the hiring process.

Montrose County Treasurer **Rosemary Murphy** said, "We've collected \$57 M in property tax; all but \$1.5M has been collected. This is normal every year. We have 15 foreclosures this year, but in the pipeline for next year there is a significant increase. The Russell Stover foreclosure has gone through, but the Hanging Tree south of town foreclosure is another big one." Murphy educated the citizens on a new bill that was passed relating to Treasurers' fees and noted the increased workload because of the bill.

Acting Chair George said, "Josh and Cortney Hallenbeck are assisting with public relations. Ralph and Karen Walchle have offered their property at 447 Main Street for the GOP Headquarters. We have signed the contract and we're ready to go once we get insurance. The hope is to open the headquarters early next week. On Tuesday the 13<sup>th</sup> there will be Trump Force 47 (telephone training). It's super important to get the vote out after our [recent] low voter turnout."

### **Events & Fundraising – Lacy Sanchez.**

Because of lower turnout, the Lincoln Reagan Dinner fund raiser was deemed not as successful as last year; however,

tabulation of expenses and funds raised is not yet complete. Sanchez said, "We've gotten great feedback on the dinner." Volunteers for the event were recognized and given public appreciation.

There are two upcoming events. Sanchez said, "We have a booth at the MADA Festival next Saturday, and on September 14<sup>th</sup> we have a booth at the Stars & Stripes Festival [BBQ food trucks, live music] at Cerise Park."

It was noted that every vote counts, as evidenced by Larry Suckla's race in which he won by three votes.

### **Second Vice Chairman's Report – Jodi Wooden.**

Wooden gave updates on various ballot proposals. Referring to the get-out-the-vote endeavors she said, "We need all hands on deck. We need neighborhood walks and candidate information hung on residence doors. Our website is being updated."

### **Treasurer's Report – Deb Lillard.**

Lillard said, "We have about \$40,000 in the bank, but some big bills are coming due soon, leaving about \$20,000."

### **Unfinished/Ongoing Business**

The meeting was opened for attendees to speak. However, because speakers did not give their names, not all quotes can be

attributed to a specific person.

**Wally Smith** brought up the issue of paper ballots vs electronic ballots; however, others in the room were not in favor of discussing "nit-picky" issues, but rather they wanted to focus on the fact that the election is 90 days away.

### **Motion to ban Ray Langston from attending any Montrose GOP meetings and events:**

Reading from her written motion Doris Van Ness said, "I move to ban V. Ray Langston from all future Montrose County Republican Party functions including and not limited to monthly Central Committee meetings, Caucus, County Assembly, all MRCC sponsored candidate events and all fund-raising events for a period of three years, starting immediately.

"The basis of this motion is Langston's repeated written and verbal attacks on Republican candidates for office, the officers of the State Republican Party and Montrose Republican Party, repeated disruptions of candidate events both sponsored by the Republican Party and privately, poor behavior requiring him to be ordered to leave events and his refusal to leave until Deputies were called, and remarks about Deputies that were present to maintain order at other Candidate Forums. He said, 'They did not have enough gun power to take me out [and started laughing].'

"Langston disrupted the 2024 Caucus arguing the people trained to run the Precinct [were] incompetent and threatening to sue them if they did not do things his



## MONTROSE GOP RESOLVES TO REMOVE RAY LANGSTON From previous pg

way. Several people walked out saying they were there to participate in the political process and did not want to get involved in threats of lawsuits.

*"The Montrose Republican Party is a private organization that can include and exclude any person at any time. V. Ray Langston is more interested in personal destruction of people and the Party than promoting the best candidates for office. This divisive and abusive behavior is driving people away from the Party.*

*I am doing this to unite the Party and trying to bring us together, I ask your support for this motion."*

Langston stood up from his chair in the back of the room and shouted, "Can you afford a lawsuit right now?"

Taking a few steps toward former chair Scott Riba, Langston pointed toward Riba and said, "You've allowed this man to mess up this Party!"

Sheriff Gene Lillard intervened and asked Langston to go outside. Langston took a few steps backwards but did not leave the building. For the remainder of the meeting Sheriff Lillard positioned himself to the side, but within arm's length, of Langston.

Audience comments were heated, loud, and unstructured.

**Audience member:** "He acts like a drunk-en democrat all the time. This man has tried to ruin Riba. Don't ban him...he shows us how to deal with assholes. Why bother with him? This speaks to [who he is]. He's not nice. We have to learn how to deal with him. If we ban him, he's still [here]."

**Audience member:** "We've censored him before. It would be nice to get him out of

the room."

**Audience member:** "He accused Riba of ruining the committee."

**The Van Ness motion was seconded. It was suggested that another motion be made to take the issue before the Executive Committee.**

Acting Chair George reminded the audience that one of Ralph Walchle's requirements for offering his property for the GOP Headquarters was that the Central Committee had to be unified and stop the divisiveness.

**George said:** "It's well documented about Ray's activities."

**Audience member:** "Ray, what are you accomplishing? You have trashed everyone at the table [Executive Committee], and you don't know us from Adam."

**Langston said:** "You went against the By-laws!"

**Audience member:** "We took the right side [abided by the Bylaws]. What's it going to take to make you stop trashing the Party?"

**Audience member:** "You attacked Riba. He's gone [resigned]. That's in the past. What are you accomplishing now? You are still in the paper every week [letters to the editor]. You're not helping the Party."

**Audience member:** "You were thrown out of a function in the west end. The unity of the Party is being destroyed!"

**Audience member:** "We are trying to move forward, and you are sucking every bit of life out of us. It's counterproductive. Stop the division!"

**Audience member:** "All your letters are just like a cancer. If you have any issues with the Party, take it to the Party. Don't

write it to the public. Don't be putting it out in the paper."

**Deb Lillard said,** "You have accused me of mishandling money. You put it in the papers and it's like calling me a thief." Although Langston referenced some type of electronic program he thought had been used, Ms. Lillard noted that Langston has not asked to see the books or asked her for any financial accounting.

**Deb Lillard said,** "We are not going to fight with you in the paper."

**Audience member:** "You need to grow up!" You're stabbing us in the back!"

**Audience member:** "This breaks my heart to watch the enemy [the devil] wanting to divide us."

**Audience member:** "We don't need another article in the newspaper!"

**Audience member:** "He has to be willing to bury the ax and move on. He has personal gripes. Stop trashing the Party!"

On multiple occasions various audience members pleaded with Langston, for the sake of the Party, to agree to and make a commitment to stop his attacks on the Party.

Throughout the barrage of audience comments Langston returned verbal fire blaming others and justifying his actions.

Langston had zero support in the room, and he remained defiant and unwilling to be a team player.

**Action:**

The Van Ness motion passed, as did another motion to take the issue before the Executive Committee. In effect the Van Ness motion was tabled. A meeting of the Executive Committee will be scheduled to address the matter.

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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### DELTA HEALTH RECOGNIZES COMPASSIONATE NURSES WITH DAISY AWARD

#### *Special to the Mirror*

DELTA— 15 nurses at Delta Health were honored with nominations for The DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses® to recognize the extraordinary, compassionate nursing care they provide patients and families every single day.

This quarter's DAISY nominees were the following nurses: Glenda Gallegos, Melinda M Smith, Angela K. Dupuis, Kristi L. Gieck, Megan K. Robinson, Randi M. Altman, Melissa L. Streater, Traci Stroh, Jessica J. Carlson, Patricia L. Clement, Danielle S. Gallegos, Mercedes R. Zurich, Carol Swingle, Tina L. Lapa and Eric Rhoten.

The overall DAISY Award winner for this quarter was Glenda Gallegos, BSN, RN, in the Surgery Department. Glenda is a Radiology Nurse in the surgery department at Delta Health. This was the 23rd DAISY Award to be presented over the six years that Delta Health has been a member of the DAISY Foundation. This is just a quick overview of one of Glenda's nominations. She received two DAISY nomination for this quarter.

"I have had many opportunities to see [Glenda] advocating for her patients," read Glenda's DAISY Nomination letter. "She sits down and listens to their concerns and she is not satisfied until she has helped them with their concerns. I believe she goes above and beyond just doing her job and I would like to acknowledge that. When speaking to going above and beyond, Glenda makes this an everyday occurrence. She is courteous and helpful."

The award is part of the DAISY Foundation's mission to recognize nurses who go above and beyond in the care of their patients. Nurses may be nominated by patients, families, and colleagues, and the quarterly DAISY award recipient is chosen through a select Daisy Committee and DCMH's T.E.A.M. M.A.S.H through a scoring rubric recognizing the nurses P.E.T.A.L.S., (Passion, Empathy, Trust, Admirable attributes, Love and Selflessness). Applications are blinded to these committees and scored. Awards are then presented four times throughout the year to celebrate the nominees.

"Over the years, nearly 400 nominations have been received for Delta Health Nursing Staff and recognized at Delta Health for the Daisy Award," said Dawn Arnett, BSN, RN, Director of In-Patient Services Med/Surg at Delta Health and DAISY Award Coordinator. "Our final presentation for 2024 will be in late October awarding our 24th Award with the "Healers Touch" sculpture, completing our 6th year as members of the Daisy Foundation created by the Patrick Barnes family in 1999." The certificate that each honoree receives commends her or him as an "Extraordinary Nurse." The certificate reads: "In deep appreciation of all you do, who you are, and the incredibly meaningful difference you make in the lives of so many people." Honorees also receive a DAISY Award pin and a beautiful and meaningful sculpture called A Healer's Touch, hand-carved by artists of the Shona



**The overall DAISY Award winner for this quarter was Glenda Gallegos BSN, RN, in the Surgery Department.**

Tribe in Zimbabwe. The Healers Touch sculpture represents the bond between nurses and their patients. The DAISY Foundation is present in over 6,000 organizations across the world, and Delta Health is proud to be one of them. To nominate a nurse for a DAISY Award, go online to [deltahealthco.org/bee-daisy-awards/](https://deltahealthco.org/bee-daisy-awards/) and submit a digital nomination form. Nomination forms can also be found throughout the hospital.



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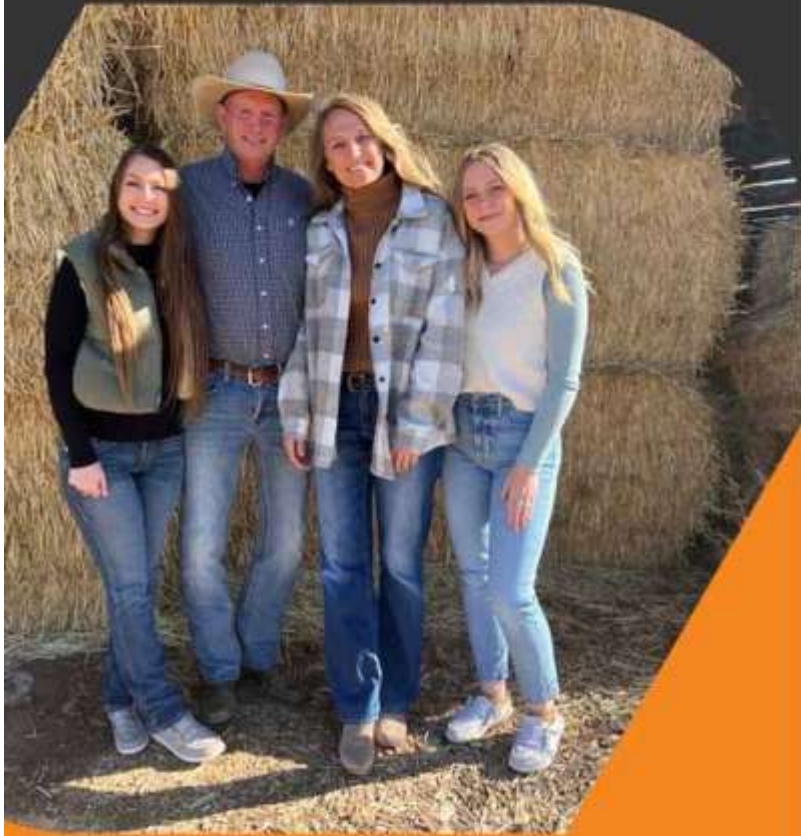
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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

## COUGAR LESSONS FROM CALIFORNIA

By Ted Williams

With the current flap about Colorado cougar management, Coloradans might be interested in California's cougar experience.

California did everything wrong. (At least according to a large element of the wildlife management establishment.)

After a series of moratoria on cougar hunting starting in 1972, the state codified the ban with the 1990 California Wildlife Protection Act.

Managers across the U.S. were aghast: California would be overrun with cougars. Loss of pets, livestock, and wild ungulates would be catastrophic.

In 1990 Dr. Walter Howard, wildlife professor emeritus at UCal Davis, sounded off as follows to *The Los Angeles Times*: "[The cougar] is a bloody pest... Evolution has demanded that they have a regulatory mortality factor. That's the balance of nature." He went on to claim that without hunting, cougars overpopulate, exhaust natural prey, then turn to domestic animals. All incorrect.

I'm a lifelong hunter. And I was part of the wildlife management establishment in the 1970s. For a time, I believed our party line that hunting is a "necessary wildlife management tool."

But I've learned that hunting is only *sometimes* such a tool. It certainly is for deer and elk which, in the absence of their natural predators, overpopulate and trash wildlife habitat, including their own. It certainly is *not* for those natural predators — cougars and wolves.

Unlike traditional game, predators don't compensate for mortality with fecundity. They self-regulate. They don't require killing by humans.

\*\*\*\*\*

After not being hunted for 52 years have California cougars overpopulated? Not hardly. In 2024 a UCal Davis study amended the statewide population estimate from 6,000 to 4,500. And the state Fish and Game Commission has ruled that a petition to protect cougars under the California Endangered Species Act in the southern and central-coast areas is warranted. A decision is pending.

What about all the predicted game depletion and depredations of livestock and pets? Immediately after The Wildlife Protection Act, there was a spike in depredation reports. But this wasn't because there were more depredations, only because people were required to report them. The state's deer population has been relatively stable for 35 years. Elk and desert bighorn sheep are increasing. Sierra Nevada bighorns were doing better until they took a hit from heavy snow in 2022.

This from Dr. Rick Hopkins who has researched California cougars for 45 years: "For the long-term average, 100 to 120 California cougars have been killed annually via depredation permits. That's a tiny fraction of what sport hunters kill in other states and Canada. California arguably supports more high-quality habitat than most western states (if not all) and Canadian provinces. We also support more people (nearly 40 million) than any other state. And have more cattle and sheep than all western states and Canadian provinces, other than Texas.

"If cougar hunting were a 'wildlife management tool,' one would assume that California would have substantially greater human-cougar conflicts when compared with other western states and Canadian Provinces that all support aggressive sport hunt seasons. Yet when normalized for cougar habitat in a state (a surrogate for population size), the human population (surrogate for annual recreational visitor days in cougar habitat), and livestock numbers across the western U.S. and Canada, California ranks ninth or tenth out of fifteen."

\*\*\*\*\*

While the depredation numbers haven't changed, the state's approach to them has. In 2020 the "Three Strikes" law required landowners whose pets or livestock are attacked by cougars to attempt non-lethal deterrence. After the third try, a landowner may request a depredation permit. Last year only ten depredating cougars were killed.

Cougars are stable in most of California but hurting in the developed south where habitat fragmentation is causing inbreed-



The author with tuna. Photo credit: John McMurray

ing and vehicle traffic is causing road kills. A huge vehicle threat and barrier to cougar connectivity is Highway 101 in and near Los Angeles.

But the state is taking action. The \$92 million Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing over Highway 101 (near completion) will connect protected lands in the Santa Monica Mountains and the Sierra Madre Range, thereby reducing fragmentation and road-kills.

The main takeaway from California's cougar experience is this: Cougar hunting isn't wildlife management; it's hunter management. There's not a shred of evidence that killing cougars creates more game or decreases depredations.

And there is much evidence that, because cougar hunters target large trophies, age structure is disrupted with the result that younger, inexperienced animals, particularly males, disperse to developed areas, causing increased depredations.

*Ted Williams writes exclusively about fish and wildlife. He is a former information officer for the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife.*

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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### GROUNDBREAKING CELEBRATION FOR NEW ACCESSIBLE PLAYGROUND AT THE DELTA FAIRGROUNDS

*Special to the Mirror*

DELTA-Delta County is excited to announce the groundbreaking celebration for a new fully accessible playground at the County Fairgrounds in Hotchkiss. The Free Admission event will take place on Aug. 15 at 3:30-5pm and is open to the public.

This playground is a testament to the power of community collaboration, as it was planned by community members whose voices represented several different populations, ages, disabilities, special needs, and ethnicities that makeup Delta County. The Colorado Health Foundation generously funded the project, awarding Delta County \$515,000 to bring the community's vision to life. Additionally, the planning process was supported by a separate \$35,000 grant, which facilitated the recruitment of the planning group, hosted meetings, and hired a professional planner to finalize and submit the plans.

"We are thrilled to see this project come to fruition," said Wendell Koontz, Delta County Commissioner. "The new playground will not only replace the outdated equipment but also introduce several new farm-



themed play structures. It will provide a safe and enjoyable space for children of all abilities, enhancing the recreational opportunities for our community."

This new playground is a part of the ongoing efforts to enhance community facilities alongside the addition of the Miners Trail. The Miners Trail connects North Fork High School to the Delta County Fairgrounds, further promoting accessibility and community engagement.

The playground will feature sections designed for specific age groups and include fully accessible equipment for children with special needs, ensuring

that everyone in the community can enjoy this new addition.

Join the community leaders from the School District, County Commissioners, Town Dignitaries, and others for the groundbreaking celebration on August 15 at 3:30 pm at the fairgrounds in Hotchkiss.

The event will include refreshments, boards with mock-ups of the soon-to-come playground, and representatives from the project to answer questions. Let's celebrate this milestone and the future joy it will bring to our community.

Visit the event's Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/DeltaCountyCO](https://www.facebook.com/DeltaCountyCO)

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## MONTROSE REGIONAL CRIME STOPPERS

# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## MONTROSE VETERANS MEMORIAL MOVES ONE STEP CLOSER



*City and County officials joined members of the Montrose Veterans Memorial Coalition (MVMC) for an Aug. 7 visit to the proposed Montrose Veterans Memorial site. MVMC Courtesy photos.*



### *Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE- "We definitely feel like we're moving forward," J. Bob Brueske said following a Wednesday, Aug. 7 visit to the proposed Montrose Veterans Memorial site next to the Botanical Gardens and near the Pavilion at 1800 E. Pavilion Place. Brueske, chairman of the Montrose Veterans Memorial Coalition (MVMC), said he and other board members Troy Meyer and Dave Powers met with city and county representatives, as well as architect Phil Motley.

"City councilman Dave Frank; Jim Scheid, public works manager; and Dan Payne, parks and special projects superintendent, were there for the city," Brueske said, "and Roger Rash, chairman of the board of county commissioners, represented the county."

The three entities: MVMC, Montrose County and the City of Montrose signed a memo of agreement earlier this year. The

first steps following the MOA, Brueske said, were for the MVMC to send the city their proposed drawings.

The city called in Motley, Brueske said, to submit new plans based on their discussions at the site.

"We talked about irrigation draining being moved or piped, borderline fencing, and other site preparation before construction," he said.

MVMC also will provide the city and Motley with image concepts Brueske acquired from a memorial engraving company they hope to include in the memorial. The striking black granite panels will depict scenes from WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm, the War on Terror and other conflicts.

He said Motley may have the drawings ready in about two weeks.

"Then it goes out to the contractors for bid," Brueske continued, "that way the city and county will know the cost and will

take to their committees or boards for them to determine how much they will budget for the memorial.

"And the team will be looking for in-kind donations," he said, "as well as continuing our fundraising efforts."

The MVMC board will be set up at the Stars and Stripes Barbecue Fest Sept. 14 at the Rotary Amphitheatre in Cerise Park. They also plan to attend the Telluride Autumn Classic car show Sept. 26-28. Brueske is encouraging everyone to stop by and hear more about the Montrose Veterans Memorial.

There may be some surprises at the booths, he said, so please stop by.

Brueske said groundbreaking ceremonies are not yet scheduled, but he is hopeful there may be some site cleanup this fall, and they are working on a banner to designate the memorial location.

For more information, please visit MVMC at their [website](#) or on Facebook.







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*Team Roping at the Montrose Event Center. Photo is by Gunnison Clamp.*

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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## WALZ IS THE LIVING EMBODIMENT OF KAMALA'S REAL VALUES

*Editor:*

Left-wing activists masquerading as journalists are already working overtime to whitewash Kamala's new running mate's radical tenure as Minnesota's governor, as well as his life-long pattern of dishonesty. The left is hoping Americans will fall for the newly contrived "folksy" fella of their imagination. Pulling that off will be as difficult as deflecting attention from Kamala's history of radical politics – as well as her unpopularity and limited abilities. They will have to take the most radically left ticket in modern history, and market Tim Walz as a normal, former military guy from the upper midwest, and portray Kamala as the fun, moderate voice of the Democrat party. Good luck with that. Walz is the living embodiment of Kamala's real values.

Let's start with the character issue. When he was 31, Walz was caught on police radar going 96 in a 55 zone. After flunking a field sobriety test, his breath test pegged his blood-alcohol level well above the legal limit. Instead of being honest and just admitting he made a stupid, youthful mistake, during his campaign for governor, and to this day, Walz is in denial mode. None of his stupid excuses, however, come close to explaining driving with his blood-alcohol level way over the limit.

More concerning, even CNN is calling out Walz about his "absolutely false" statements about his military record – which he has made a number of times. During his governor campaign he said we shouldn't allow weapons of war that "he used in war" to be on American streets. In a Kamala HQ communication last week he repeated the lie about his having carried

weapons in war. To this day, Bloomberg journalist Joshua Green is reporting Walz did a tour in Iraq. (Perhaps Walz needs to confirm or deny whether Green's reporting is based on Walz's lying to him).

Even more damning, numerous veterans have accused Walz of embellishing his military career and abandoning his National Guard battalion, highlighting that he never served in combat and retired from service ahead of his unit's deployment to Iraq. Two of many examples: A member of Walz's battalion, J. R. Salzman, didn't hold back: "I served in the Minnesota National Guard. Unlike Tim Walz, I didn't run away when we were deployed to Iraq. I served with honor and almost died after losing my right arm to an IED in Baghdad. Walz is an absolute coward who abandoned us." Also, the NCO who deployed to Iraq in Walz's place had similar criticism: "He abandoned us. What the hell kind of leader does that? As soon as the shots were fired in Iraq he turned and ran the other way ....."

Walz has a governing record to match Kamala's extremism. Like Harris, he has proposed socializing health insurance and eliminating fossil fuels. Like Harris, he wants to decriminalize illegal immigration, pay for their health care and tuition, and give them driver's licenses. He has been a major supporter of sanctuary cities and states, and promoted the idea of investing in "ladder factories" to help illegals scale President Trump's border wall. Like Harris, he is for abortion at any time for any reason. Just last year, all limits on abortion at any stage of pregnancy were repealed in Minnesota, as were laws requiring doctors to treat infants born alive after an abor-

tion. In short, Walz signed virtually every piece of extreme legislation sent to his desk after Democrats took control of the legislature.

Like Komrad Kamala, Walz fully supports Marxist philosophies. As he says, "one man's socialism is another person's neighborliness." Tell that to the millions of people starved to death in Lenin's Russia, or the 40% of the population of Cambodia murdered by Pol Pot. Just days after the attempted murder of Donald Trump, Walz called Trump and his supporters "fascists," repeating the same rhetoric that led to his being shot in the first place.

While Minneapolis burned, Walz stalled on deploying the National Guard, blaming the city for not submitting the right paperwork, and then tried to blame the riots on "white supremacists." He openly sympathized with the BLM rioters: "A society that does not put equity and inclusion first will come to this result."

He instituted draconian Covid restrictions, and set up snitch lines to report Covid rule violators. During the reopening process, the Democrat governor allowed bars and tattoo parlors to open, but still demanded places of worship remain closed. He also presided over a Covid fraud scheme that allowed criminals to steal \$250 million of taxpayer dollars.

The selection of Walz is confirmation that, if Harris were to be elected, their White House would embrace the most extreme hard left policies. Walz can't run from his record any more than Kamala is able to, and with her choosing him, she can no longer deny she is the radical leftist we all know she is.

*Ed Henrie, Montrose*

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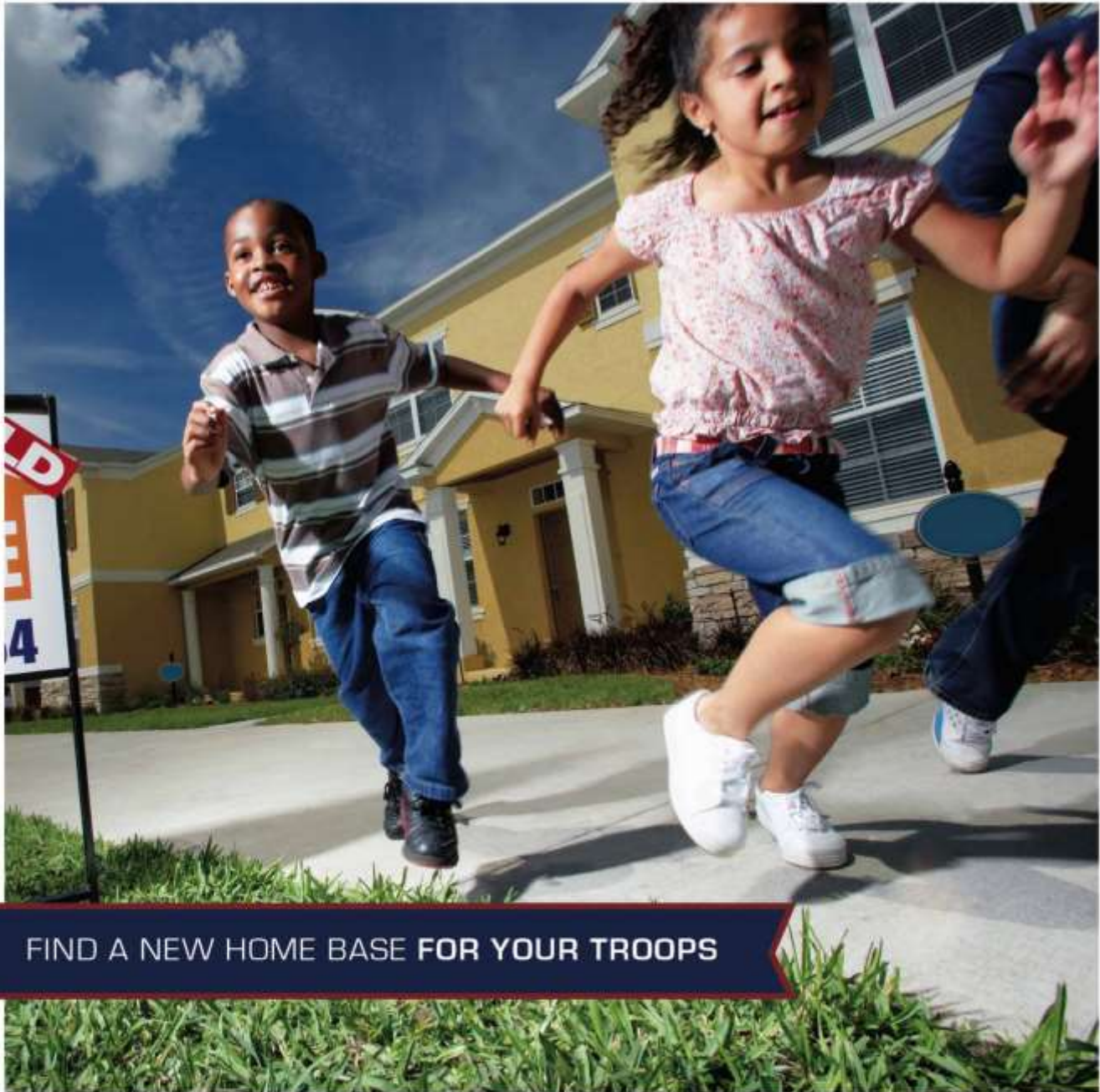


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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## THANK YOU TO ADAM TURNER & PROJECT 7 WATER AUTHORITY

Editor:

Hi, I'd like to give a big shout out to Adam Turner and his great crew at Project 7 Water Authority. About 2500 of us were without power for about four hours last night. Our lights didn't work, our refrigerators were off, and our computers were dark. But our toilets did flush. We could wash our hands, and get a glass of very good drinking water from the tap. We all just take that for granted. I think it is time to recognize them. I tip my hat to Adam and his excellent crew.

Rick Bleier, Montrose



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Representative for District 58

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## ABOUT LARRY DON

### AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES



Born and raised in Southwest Colorado. Worked in the fields of timber harvest and planting, mining, farming, ranching, hunting and firefighting.

### SMALL BUSINESS OWNER



Owns his own auction company and knows first hand that government can and should work for the people, not the other way around.

### FORMER MONTEZUMA COUNTY COMMISSIONER



Colorado Commissioner of the Year. Made road improvements a priority. Did not take the 10-30% pay raise offered to government officials by the state legislature. Preserved the people's rights during Covid.

## CONTACT



[sucklafor58@gmail.com](mailto:sucklafor58@gmail.com)



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# COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

## AFTERSIGHT, A COLORADO NONPROFIT, GETS GLOBAL RECOGNITION AT IAAIS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

### Special to the Mirror

BOULDER-The International Association of Audio Information Services (IAAIS) presented program awards at their annual conference hosted June 12-14. Aftersight, an audio information service based in Boulder, Colorado, earned top honors. This event showcased exceptional programs that transform text into speech for those who cannot access the printed word due to blindness or low vision.

The program awards were created to promote quality programming among audio information services and to showcase the variety of volunteer-read programs available. Entries are judged on production value, pace, timing and vocal quality.

Outgoing President Maryfrances Evans said, "We are so fortunate to be surrounded by such talented volunteers and dedicated staff to bring the printed word to life to thousands of print-disabled people throughout America. These awards highlight some of the extraordinary programs reading services around the country are producing."

Aftersight's achievements put Colorado on the map for outstanding audio information services for the blind. This year, Aftersight won in the On-Location category with their program "Audio Trekkers Hike" from The Blind Chick podcast. This episode captured their annual event, empowering blind and low-vision individuals to hike trails in the Rocky Mountains such as the Chautauqua Royal Arch and Bluebell trails. On-location interviews shared hikers' experiences, excitements, fears, and impacts on their lives. Additionally, Aftersight and volunteer Kathy Scott received an honorable mention in the Newspapers category for their work on the Audio Edition of the Pueblo Chieftain.

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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### OUT IN THE WEST WITH DELTA COUNTY HISTORIC SOCIETY AND MUSEUM

#### *Special to the Mirror*

DELTA-Out In The West... a two day event brought to you by the Delta County Historic Society and Museum, Friday August 16 and Saturday Aug. 17<sup>th</sup>, 2 pm – 8:30 pm. FREE Admission the event will take place indoors at Cowboy at the Church Event Center, 21573 Austin Road, Austin, Co—Donations Appreciated –

-2 pm Friday's featured program is "Patchwork of the Prairie" presented by Yvonne Hollenbeck with music interludes by award winning Jean Prescott's "Songbird of the Prairie"

-2 pm Saturday's featured program, "The Fabulous Feed Sack Era". Join us for a fascinating journey through America's rich

history as we celebrate the humble flour sack, a simple yet extraordinary artifact that played a crucial role in shaping our nation's growth and resilience.

-7 pm Friday and Saturday evening Live Music and Cowboy Poetry presented by Yvonne Hollenbeck and Jean Prescott. Join them as they regale us with foot stompin', hand clapping tunes of the Old West and cowboy poetry.

Yvonne Hollenbeck is a renowned historian and storyteller and will be showcasing her family's 140-year history of quilts made on the prairie. Each one steeped in history and cultural significance. Her quilts are not only stunning works of art, but also treasured family heirlooms that con-

tinue to be passed down through generations. For more about Yvonne please visit: [yvonnehollenbeck.com](http://yvonnehollenbeck.com).

Jean Prescott is a masterful storyteller and musician, with a voice as smooth as honey and a repertoire that's as vast as the open range that include haunting ballads and foot stomping' folk tunes.

For more about Jean visit: [jeanprescott.com](http://jeanprescott.com)

Free Stage Coach Rides both days brought to you by Delta County Museum dedicated to preserving history and our heritage for future generations.

Fun games for all ages! Food trucks will be available both days. Please plan to join us...



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the montrose mirror



## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### POLICE DEPARTMENT CONCLUDES SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE WITH MANY GENEROUS DONATIONS

*Special to Art & Sol*

MONTROSE — The Montrose Police Department has completed its annual school supply drive and is grateful for everyone in the community who donated to help Montrose area students with supplies for the upcoming school year.

In June senior command staff of the police department challenged the Montrose community to “fill the police department” with school supplies as part of its annual effort. Montrose Police Chief Blaine Hall said the community’s most important investment lies with its youth, and the department is pleased to help local students obtain tools for success for the upcoming school year by coordinating the collection of school supplies.

As of Tuesday, Aug. 7, Chief Hall said the department had collected enough supplies to fill about a dozen large boxes, which will be donated to the Montrose County School District for distribution throughout district schools.

The department collected dozens of new backpacks along with crayons, dry-erase markers, hundreds of pencils, tissue boxes, binders, glue sticks, composition books, headphones and earbuds, high-lighters, and pocket folders.

"The Montrose Police Department is so thankful for our local businesses, City Council, city employees, and our citizens

for donating these much-needed school supplies," Chief Hall said. "In partnership with the Montrose County School District, these supplies will be donated to kids in need this next school year. Way to support this effort, Montrose!"

Two years ago the police department began its school supply drive with so much success that it was decided the drive would become an annual event to help support local school children, according to Hall.

On Wednesday, the police department hosted local kindergartners, first graders, and their parents at the department's community room for coloring and snacks. The event included a tour of the police department and an introduction to two school buses to promote bus safety for the kids on their first day of school.

"I'd also like to thank the Montrose County School District, school board, and Student Transportation of America's local bus barn staff for providing the school buses and two very caring bus drivers to help orientate the kids on safety procedures for their first day when getting on the bus and being dropped off, and for helping to deliver the supplies to schools," Hall said. "All around, the day was very meaningful to the police department staff and the kids and parents who attended today."

Finally, Chief Hall recognized school board



**Donated schools supplies and members of the Montrose Police Department unloading boxes of donated backpacks**  
*Courtesy photo.*

president Sarah Fishering for her help with planning and coordinating both events.

The police department will continue its annual school supply drive starting next June, 2025. For more information visit the Montrose Police Department Facebook site.

For more information about the Montrose Police Department [click here](#).



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## MONTROSE REGIONAL CRIME STOPPERS

see something, say something

## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

### PLEASE JOIN THE NEW, LOCAL UNIFY MONTROSE

*Editor:*

Are you interested in giving input to how to improve our Community? Please join UnifyMontrose for our next Catalyst and Connectors Club meeting at MADA, On the corner of S. San Juan and Grand, on Monday, August 19 at 5:30 PM. We will be asking for suggestions on what we can suggest to the powers that be on ways to improve life in the East End of Montrose County. We will be looking for input in three categories:

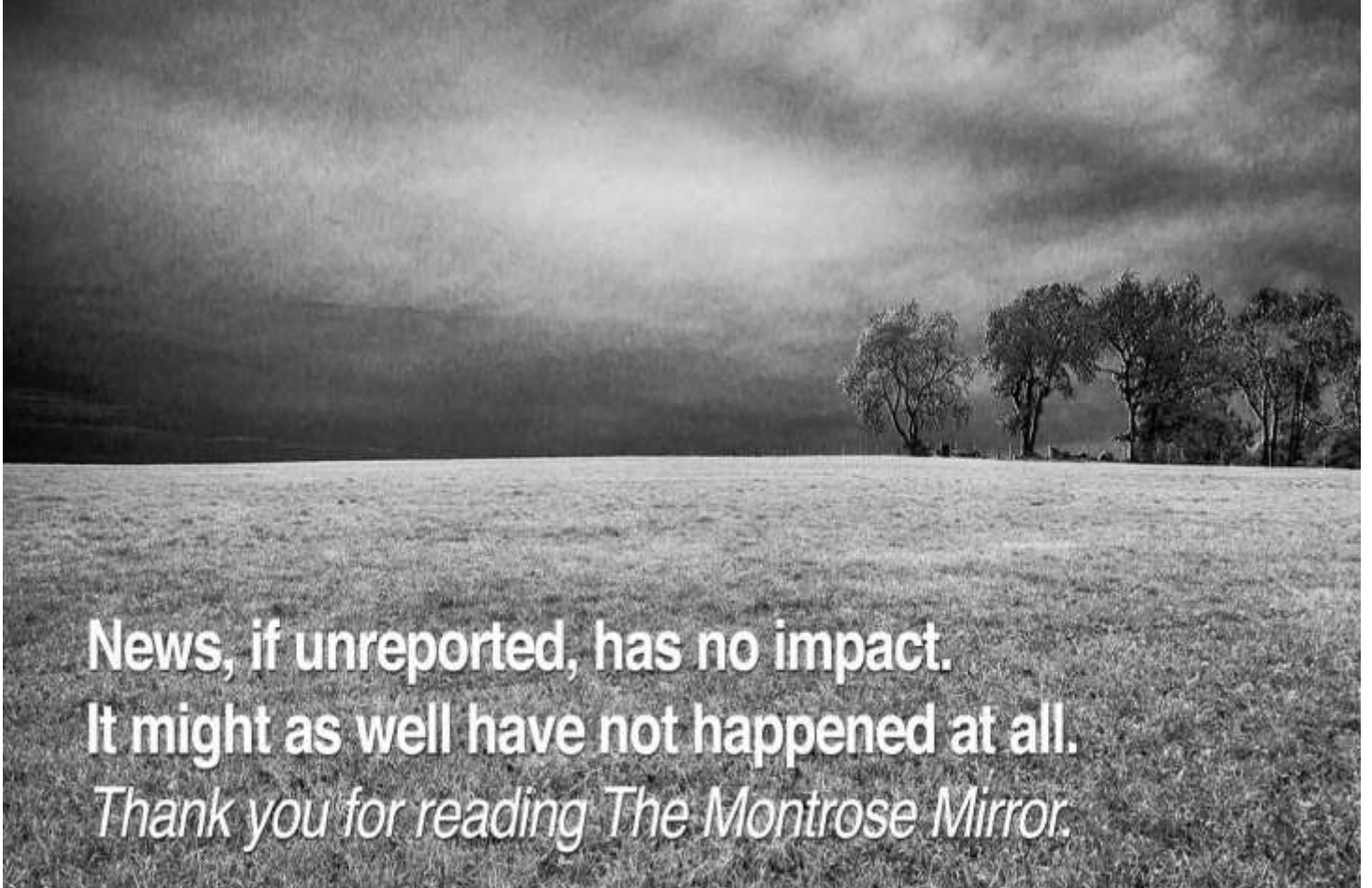
**Existing:** What things in Montrose do you think need to be remedied or fixed?

**Excited:** What is something your friends or family would be excited to support?

**New:** What new things do you think Montrose needs to make it better?

UnifyMontrose is a group of Montrose people, looking at Montrose problems, and suggesting solutions that will work for Montrose. Please come and give us your ideas. We'd like a group as reflective of our community as possible.

*See you there. Rick Bleier, President*



News, if unreported, has no impact.  
It might as well have not happened at all.  
*Thank you for reading The Montrose Mirror.*





LEARNER | CONTRIBUTOR | COLLABORATOR



# MHS Classroom Cell Phone Policy

## No Cell Phones/Personal Tech Devices During Class Time:

- Phones and other personal tech devices (AirPods, earbuds, headsets) must be placed in a designated phone caddy upon entering the classroom.
- Devices are allowed before/after school, during passing periods, and at lunch.

## Device Restrictions:

- Phones cannot replace a forgotten or uncharged iPad.

## Emergency Communication:

- For family emergencies requiring regular communication, students should inform their teacher(s) to arrange accommodations.

**For urgent matters, call the front desk at (970) 249-6636 to relay a message to your student.**

# OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

## MONTROSE HIGH SCHOOL – AT LAST, A SENSIBLE CELL PHONE POLICY

By David White

The new school year begins (officially), this Thursday August 15<sup>th</sup> for our local high school students. With it comes the usual changes...new teachers, new surroundings for students, new classes and learning opportunities, etc. And, after complaints from parents and faculty, a new cell phone policy for high school students.

The issue of cell phone use while students are in class at Montrose High School and perhaps at Olathe High School, has apparently been an issue for some time. Listening to music (most of it with lyrics not suitable to be printed here), watching videos on TikTok, YouTube and other platforms, Snapchat, texting and more have taken the place of learning in the high school classrooms. Because of this, many students have seen subpar grades and test scores result from this allowed behavior by some educators and the school's administration. Thankfully, the school district and/or the MHS staff have finally come to terms with the lack of a cohesive cell phone policy that has allowed for the abuse of these and other devices.

In an editorial for the July 15<sup>th</sup> edition of the Montrose Mirror, I wrote the following:

***"I must share a small but personal emblematic example of how some local educators see the world. One of my grandson's attends Montrose High School. We're raising him. Two weeks before school was out for the 2023-2024 year, I received an email message from one of his teachers stating the following: "Spends too much time on his phone. If he listened to half of what I said in class, he would not be nearly as close as he is to failing."***

***I couldn't believe what I was reading! My first reaction was disbelief. What teacher would have a classroom policy that allowed students to use cell phones in class? A call to the Guidance Counselor and then to the teacher confirmed that students in his class, could, in fact, listen to music (where every other word is an "F" word or worse) or watch their phones (TikTok & YouTube come to mind) while ostensibly completing homework or other class work. Typical of high school kids, given an inch, they'll take a mile. While not excusing my grandson's behavior, the teacher is, in fact, the ultimate authority in the classroom and allowed students to use cell phones in spite of what was a predictable outcome, i.e., low scores.***

***In early June, I attended the Montrose RE-1J School Board meeting and spoke during the public comment session. I told them of this situation. As usual, blank stares and no acknowledgement was made or given by the Board or District Staff. As of today, they've not contacted me or expressed any public interest in dealing with this serious problem that, including kids vaping in classrooms, rest rooms, etc., seems to plague Montrose schools. A standardized cell phone policy is surely needed as well as discipline by the staff. Basically, the simple solution is to require phones to be checked in at the classroom door. The teacher keeps them until class is over. Isn't that simple enough? Of course, the bleeding-heart crowd will come up with every reason to continue with these insanely lax learning policies that are detrimental to what our kids are there for in the first place...an education." (MM594.pdf (montrosemirror.com))***

After publication of the above statement, I received comments from several people in support of the establishment of a policy that would be fair and reasonable. Low and behold, it has happened!

The new policy (see the flyer that MHS has published) includes not only cellphones, but also other electronic devices such as Air Pods, earbuds, headphones, etc.) and is clear that all such devices must be checked in at the beginning of class by having such devices placed in a phone caddy and can only be retrieved after the class is over. Students may use the devices before and after school, in between classes, during lunch and after school.

If a family emergency occurs or if a student has left their lunch or gym clothes at home (or whatever), parents are directed to contact the school's front office by calling them at 970-249-6636 (just like in the old days)! The student will be notified, and information communicated without interrupting the other students in the classroom.

All I can say is **THANK YOU** to whomever decided to bring some sanity back into the classrooms and halls of Montrose High School by empowering the teachers to teach and not be bothered by the electronic devices that seem to control our kids these days! Better late than never and I'll bet we'll see a rise in test scores as a result.

***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 & a great grandchild.***



## COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

### REGISTRATION STARTS NOW FOR THE NEXT SESSION OF THE NEW HORIZONS BAND OF MONTROSE

#### *Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-The Fall session of the New Horizons Band of Montrose will be Sept. 4 – Nov. 20, 2024.

The Montrose Recreation District 50+ Activities will again offer this 12-week band instrument class. This concert band is for adults once active in a school band program, as well as an entry point for adults with no prior music experience. No previous musical experience is required. Classes are taught by retired band director/music educator Kim Lundgren. Organized in February 2022, the New Horizons Band of Montrose now has 18 band members playing a variety of instruments, and looks forward to adding even more new

band members.

There will be an Informational Meeting on Wednesday, August 28, 2024, 9:30 am at the Field House in Montrose, 25 Colorado Avenue, 81401. Information shared will include how to obtain a quality and affordable band instrument, rehearsal information, supplies needed, and more.

Classes for the next session be on Wednesday mornings from September 4 - November 20, 2024 at the Field House in Montrose, 25 Colorado Avenue, 81401. The fee for 12 classes is \$40, with registration and payment made through the Montrose Recreation District. Participants will also pay \$10 to the instructor for music and other supplies.

Information about registration is in the Fall 2024 Recreation District booklet and at the MRD website. Or you may call the Montrose Senior Center at 970-249-7705.

Participants will need to provide their own band instrument and supplies, and can learn to play clarinet, flute, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, or baritone/euphonium.

This concert band program is organized in partnership with the New Horizons International Music Association, founded in 1991 to encourage music making for those 50+. According to NHIMA founder Roy Ernst, "Playing music in groups supports good mental and physical health, besides being an unending source of joy."

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## COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

### RONALD "RON" DAVIS

RON DAVIS was born in Grand Junction, Colorado to Charles Raymond Davis and Helen Marie (Schmidt) Davis. The family moved to Montrose, where Ron attended all 12 years of school, graduating from Montrose High School in 1966.

In 1968 Ron married his high school sweetheart Linda Stone (MHS class of 1968). He is survived by Linda, his wife of 56 Years, son Evan and wife Kathy, (East Lyme, Connecticut), son Dean, (Kemmerer, Wyoming), sister Pat Dagenhart and husband Dave (Denton, Montana), brother Bob and wife Bobbie (Pavillion, Wyoming), as well as five grandchildren. Ron was preceded in death by his parents.

After 27 years in open pit coal mining in Wyoming, Ron returned to Colorado and worked for time at the mines in Craig. Following retirement, he and Linda returned to Montrose in 2007. An avid outdoorsman, Ron enjoyed guns and reloading, hunting, fishing, four-

wheeling, horseback riding, and restoring the Williams cabin on the Williams family homestead.

In his youth Ron was baptized at Montrose Christian Church. However, he felt the need to make that commitment as an adult and was re-baptized in 2022 at Christ's Church of the Valley. Through church attendance, fellowship, and Bible study Ron's faith and testimony grew by leaps and bounds. As iron sharpens iron, Ron's curiosity and biblical questions kept the preacher and others who are mature in faith on their toes.

Ron loved the people in his church. He said, "I love every one of them. I liked being a greeter at church and getting to know more about people. I love my church family; they are great, and they are important to me.

In 2020 Ron was diagnosed with a rare form of skin cancer which required full body radiation and infusion treatment. While there was no cure, Ron was not

defined by his disease, and he continued to be a storyteller and jokester. To the end, Ron never lost his sense of humor.

Cremation has taken place. Condolences can be mailed to the family home, 2540 Pecan Street, Montrose, 81401.

In lieu of flowers please donate to Hospice Care Center in Grand Junction, CO, or to Christ's Church of the Valley. Crippin Funeral Home is assisting Ron's family, 970-249-2121.



### THOMAS EDWARD FLEMING *July 18, 1936 — August 5, 2024*



THOMAS EDWARD FLEMING, 88 of Montrose, Colorado passed away peacefully on Monday, August 5, 2024, surrounded by his close family.

Tom was born on July 18, 1936, Lincoln Nebraska to Cecil Vinton Fleming and Minnie Belle (Weathers) Fleming.

The family moved from Lincoln, Nebraska to Denver, Colorado. Where Cecil worked for the Gates Rubber company during World War II, the family moved to Oak Creek, Colorado then to Grand Junction, Colorado.

Tom graduated from Grand Junction High school in 1954. It is in Grand Junction where Tom met his wife, Janice (Retting) Fleming and they were married on November 27th, 1959.

Tom worked in the uranium and mining industries across the Western United States for 60 plus years.

Tom and his wife, Janice loved to travel and enjoyed many adventurous times in the gold fields of Arizona, California, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, Nevada and Wyoming panning for gold and searching for old mining treasures.

Tom had a talent for fixing anything that was broken including carpentry, automobiles, and heavy equipment.

Tom will be lovingly remembered by his daughters Shelly Fleming (Brian) Sanders

## COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

### RAYMOND DOUGLAS FULKERSON

***Oct. 30, 1951- Aug. 1, 2024***



RAYMOND DOUGLAS FULKERSON, 72, passed away Aug. 1, 2024, at Colorow Care Center in Olathe, CO.

Doug was born on Oct. 30, 1951, to Raymond Fulkerson and Barbara D. Bentley

Fulkerson in Spartanburg, SC.

After Doug graduated from South High School in Willoughby, OH, he went on to work for several companies in northeast Ohio and ended up retiring from Grayson County Schools in Leitchfield, KY in 2014.

He was an avid reader. As a kid he loved to read his Tom Swift books, any book about space or ham radios and even the Encyclopedia Britannica's.

Doug would read about making anything he could from scratch-- flashlights, radios, kites, planes, and everything else his imagination could come up with. He spent a lot of time on his Grandparents' farm in Western Ky. A long-ago favorite night was a cold, snowy Christmas eve. Doug led his Mom and little sister out to an old wagon near the back yard to search the night sky for the Christmas Star. During the hunt for that star, Doug would ramble off the names of all the other stars in that beautiful dark sky.

He gave his heart to the Lord when he

was around 12. Which turned out to be the best thing, not just for him, but for everyone around him. For the Lord blessed him with such a wonderful, beautiful tenor voice. He'd sing anywhere and everywhere, and people loved listening.

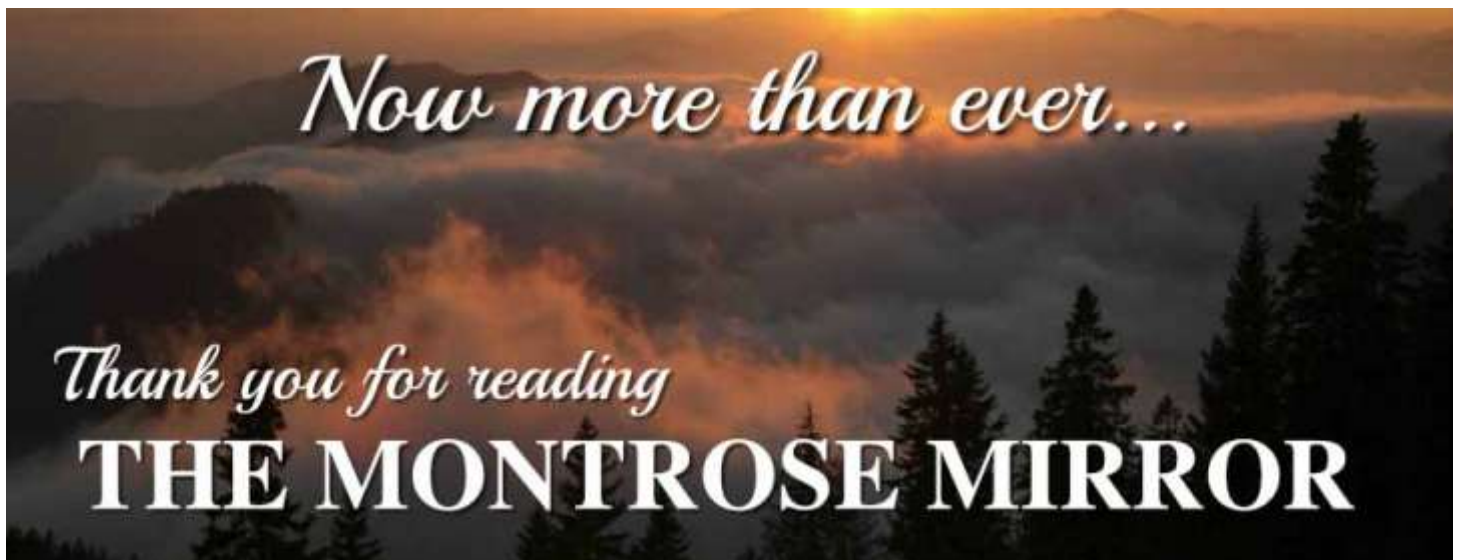
Doug came to live in CO in 2020. His Mom, Barbara went to be with the Lord in 2010 and his Dad, Ray, followed in 2014. So, he came to live near his sister and brother-in-law, Sherri, and Dewey Farmer. He leaves behind his sister, Sherri Farmer of Montrose, CO; his Aunt, Linda Fulkerson, Leitchfield, KY; and wonderful cousins in IN, KY and TN.

One of the best songs Doug would sing was a Bill Gaither song called "Going Home". The lyrics for the chorus were: "Going Home, I'm going home. There is nothing to hold me here. I've caught a glimpse, of that Heavenly land. Praise God, I'm going home."

Praise God! Doug gets to praise his God in that Heavenly home!

## DEATH NOTICE: ROBERT WARREN KEEFER

ROBERT WARREN KEEFER, 95, of Montrose, passed away at his residence on August 4, 2024. Crippin Funeral Home and Crematory is assisting Mr. Keefer's family. 970-249-2121





## COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

### JAMES DEWAYNE NICHOLS

***December 11, 1958 — July 30, 2024***

Our husband, dad, son and brother was born to Marvin and Barbara on December 11, 1958, in Larned, Kansas.

He quietly and peacefully slipped from us on July 30, 2024.

He was surrounded by loved ones as he took his last breath.

Dad was the oldest of six children. He and his brother, Mark, learned to work hard at a young age. They also shared many good times. He was baptized by Milton Boehs on December 3, 1972. Dad never questioned the plan of salvation or where he belonged.

He married me, Jeanette Giesbrecht, forty-four years ago today on August 3, 1980.

Our first 24 years were spent in Montezuma where he did mechanic work, which was a natural talent. Here we were

blessed with four daughters. In 2005, we moved to Viola, Idaho, where James worked as a contractor. From 2015 to 2018, we served as missionaries in Renton, Washington. Later we moved to Montrose, Colorado, where we retired.

Mom and we girls gave Dad purpose in life. Some of the memories we cherish are tent camping, hiking, and riding four-wheelers in the mountains. Dad spent many years as a song leader. He inspired in us a love for and a knowledge of singing. He loved the open road whether it was in a vehicle or on a bike. Some special highlights were his long-distance bike rides with his brother, Jerrell.

A long-time ambition was realized when he finished a coast-to-coast bike trip in 2018. Dad had a heart for people from

every walk of life. He could say a lot with a few words, such as "It'll all work out."

Those waiting to join him are his loving wife Jeanette; daughters: Amy and Daryl Isaac, Viola, Idaho; Tiffany and Brent Isaac, Olathe, Colorado; Becky and Abe Klassen, Wolbach, Nebraska; Roxy and Clark Nusz, Olathe, Colorado; grandchildren: Katie, Courtney, Cole, Karli, Ellie, Jack, Zayne, Andy, Mindy and Lori; mother Barbara; siblings: Mark and Kris, Marilou and Mark, Deb and Brent, Janice and Daniel, Jerrell and Kara; in-laws: Glennis, Joyce and Dale, Merle and Brenda, Eldon and Paula, Roger and Jan.

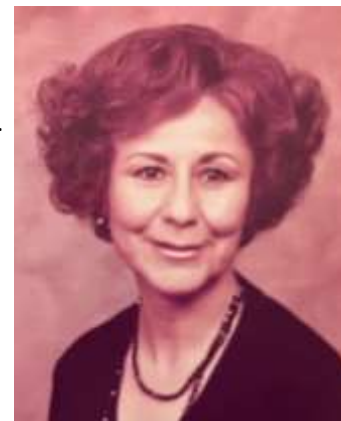
Preceding him in death are one infant daughter, his father, two nephews, one niece, his parents-in-law, and a brother-in-law.

### RAMONA G. CASIAS

***October 27, 1928- July 30, 2024***

RAMONA G. CASIAS was born October 27, 1928, to Laura G. and Antonio A. Gallegos, in Montrose, Co. She was one of four children, having two older brothers, Tony and Marquez, and a younger sister, Connie. She attended all twelve years of school in Montrose, and graduated from Barnes Business School in Denver where she met the love of her life, J. Frank Casias. They were married in 1950. Frank passed away in 2016, leaving her alone with their dog, Topaz. Ramona was preceded in death by her parents and all of her siblings. She is survived by numerous nephews and nieces. Ramona worked most of her adult life as a secretary at Montrose Social Services. She and Frank loved their boxer dogs having had eight Topaz's. She loved fashion and interior decorating. She dressed impeccably and her home was beautifully decorated. She was a world traveler and an avid reader. She donated many books to the Montrose Library. Ramona had a wonderful sense of humor clear to the end of her 95 years. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her, especially by her nephew, Doug Nava, who was her care giver.

A memorial service to honor Ramona will be August 15, 2024, 10:30 A.M. at Crippin Funeral Home. Inurnment will be at Valley Lawn Cemetery.



**CELEBRATING LOCAL BEAUTY.**



#montrosemirror

ISSUE 481 Aug. 12, 2024

## ART &amp; SOL

THE BAREFOOT LAUREATE - *The Secret Inside Every Word*

By Wendy Videlock

Words seem to have an uncanny way of lodging themselves into our memories.

I vividly recall my father teaching me the meaning of the word, *geometry*, my sister teaching

me how to spell *stupid*, (not *stupid*), my brother demonstrating how to pronounce *open*, (not *om pen*), my mother repeating (in as deep a timbre as her voice could muster), the word, *shame* at our various dogs when they misbehaved.

**Dear World,**

*Is there such a thing as passive verb, the first word, or separating heart from wild, signed a very small child.*

But did you know there's a secret inside every word? It's called *etymology*. Etymology is the study of the origins (or ancestry) of words. *Etymon* comes from the Greek for *truth*, in particular, *things as they are*.

You might have noticed that *welcome* has begun its transformation — more and more we're apt to hear, *welcome in* when

entering a home, dining establishment or place of business. There are many theories as to why the shift is underway, all of which reflect an ever changing society.

*Wonder and wisdom and strength are words that for some, are gentle and easy on the tongue. Perhaps you too aspire to be one of them.*

English is especially interesting to study because it's essentially the kitchen sink of languages — we have inherited, begged, borrowed and stolen from dozens of living, dead and ancient languages, and thus English is considered not just the most pragmatic and useful, but the most expressive of all mother tongues.

When we look to the origins of words and how their meanings and implications change over time, there is much to be learned about our cultural conditioning.

*Sticks and stones can break my bones but words can never hurt me?*

*No. Sticks and stones can break my bones but words can burn right through me.*

For instance, the word *courage* today tends to conjure images of a warrior on a great horse, armed up and charging onto a battlefield. But the word originates from the Greek, *car*, or *cardiac*, which means of the heart. The earliest recorded use of the word defined it as: *to tell one's story honestly from the heart*.

**The Question Always**

*on my tongue, whether flustered or in love, whether hawk or mourning dove, is what are you so afraid of*

If you think about it, *living honestly and from the heart* is probably more difficult for most people today than arming up and riding into battle.

Conversely, the word, *coward*, from the Old French *coart* or *cuard*, which means *tail*, which seems to be a reference to an animal *turning tail*, or tucking its tail between its legs.

Another interesting case is the word, *vulnerable*, which today is defined as: *to be in a position where one is susceptible to harm*.

Remarkably, though, the word comes from the Latin, *vulne*, which means to *carry a wound gracefully*.

This transformation is especially curious as the word seems to have left behind its inherent wisdom.

*This morning in the shower the water was not a means to an end or a place where over and over and over again one worries and plans and frets, but rather the water was water and I earth, and water's daughter.*

Continued next pg



## THE BAREFOOT LAUREATE -The Secret Inside Every Word *From previous pg*

Another favorite of mine is the word *poetry*, which comes to us by way of the Latin, *carmen*, which translates to the verb: to *enchant, to chant, to sing, to make meaningful and sacred sounds.*

Whether one experiences laughter, tears, stoic resistance, or the hairs on the back of one's neck standing up, these physical responses that poetry gives us arrive by way of language, by way of words — whether spoken, chanted or through simple mark on a page. And that's some pretty powerful magic!

### **What You Thought You Lost**

*What you thought you lost along the way  
hangs in the air like a prayer*

*May you find your way home  
may the doors swing open wide  
from the out and the in*

*side*

*under a wide open sky*

*May you lose  
may you find,  
may you know  
in the core  
of your weathered soul your old*

*and your new sign*

*May every stranger on the path*


*become the one who  
stopped*

*to hang something you thought  
you lost in the air  
by a thread like an ancient  
pagan prayer  
like some kind of  
elder  
warm-eyed*

*guardian was standing there.*

—

**Wendy Videlock** lives in Palisade where she teaches and advocates for the arts.. She currently serves as Poet Laureate of the Western Slope. You can reach her at [westernslopecord@gmail.com](mailto:westernslopecord@gmail.com)




*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](https://www.amazon.com) and [wingedpublications.com](https://www.wingedpublications.com).





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# COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

## MINISTERIAL CLASSES TO BEGIN

### *Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-Registration is now open for the next three-year Ministerial Program with the Spiritual Development Institute, the school of the Spiritual Awareness Center in Montrose.

"Students receive a spirituality-based education leading to ordination. The classes include a study of world religions, personal development, discipleship, prayer and meditation, and ministerial training," said Rev. Dr. Arlyn Macdonald, Dean of the Spiritual Development Institute. "The curriculum is based on an inter-faith, inter-spirituality perspective."

"Classes are held once a week in the evening on Zoom, giving out-of-area stu-

dents an opportunity to enroll in the program. Classes focus on theory and information and students are required to submit weekly homework that covers the practical application of the subject. Students will need to be able to access Zoom to attend the classes," she added.

"Two practicums are required for graduation, one for the Spiritual Awareness Center and one for a nonprofit in the student's community."

Registration information is online at [www.spiritaware.org](http://www.spiritaware.org), Spiritual Development Institute, or by calling Rev. Dr. Macdonald at 970-252-0908. Applications for the new class, which begins in October, are now being accepted. Deadline for registration is September 27<sup>th</sup>.

Ordination services for the class of 2004 will be September 22 at 1:00 pm at Lions Park Community Building, 604 N. Nevada, Montrose. Everyone is welcome to attend.

### **JAMES MASON NAMED TO DEAN'S LIST AT PALMER COLLEGE OF CHIROPRACTIC**

### *Special to Art & Sol*

DAVENPORT, IA James Mason of Montrose, CO has been named to the 2024 spring trimester Dean's List at Palmer College of Chiropractic's Main Campus in Davenport, Iowa.

Palmer College of Chiropractic, the first and largest college in the chiropractic profession, has campuses in Davenport, Iowa; San Jose, California; and Port Orange, Florida.



### **WE HAVE CATERING OPTIONS: WEDDINGS, REUNIONS, FOOTBALL PARTIES, RECEPTIONS, OR YOUR EVENT**

**Fiesta Guadalajara**  
970-249-2460

**Alpen Confections**  
970-648-0609

**Remington's at the Bridges**  
970-252-1119

**Jimmer's BBQ, Burgers & Beers**  
970-252-1227



**Mimo's**  
970-249-0616

**Pahgre's**  
970-249-6442

**Rib City**  
970-249-7427

**Stone House**  
970-240-8899

**Double Barrel Taco Co**  
970-417-4340

***DineOutMontrose.com***

**Beer Barn II**  
970-249-5550







**Thr., Sept. 12, 5:30-7:30 pm**

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

# **Alcohol Ink Creative Color**

**with Kate Burke**

**Everything included plus  
adult beverage or soft drink.**

**Register online**

**\$45/pp. \$40/pp Welcome Back.**

**Sign up in store or online**

**<https://kathrynrburke.com/product/091224M>**





# GAY LEACHMAN, COLORS AND CIRCLES, SQUARES AND SHAPES

By Kathryn R. Burke

MONTROSE-It would be interesting to look inside this woman's brain. You might see something like soft swirls and crisp geometric shapes, colors and textures, imagination tangles and lines, pieces of dreams mixed with mindful observations.

Gay Leachman sees with an artistic eye and a creative mind. What she thinks and sees she expresses with paper and paint, ink and pen, color and the absence of it. She goes from thought to process. Quickly. Then takes a step back, returning later to contemplate and complete. With amazing results.

Where did this unique worldview come from? "I think it started in kindergarten," Gay says. "With my kindergarten art, which my mother saved for me. It's done with sponges and fingers...very geometric. I still have it, had some of it printed out and made into cards." Most little kids draw mommy, daddy, kitties, puppies, and ponies. Gay drew abstract circles and squares.

"I guess I've always been creative," Gay says. "I like to take something, an idea, and make something out of it, and I like to push the limits." This imaginative curve has continued throughout her life, from kid to grownup, to parent (all four of her kids are creatives), and now to nearing retirement from her day job—massage therapist for over 25 years in Ridgway—which she loves and also finds very creative.

Now Gay is concentrating more on her art, that outlet of expression, letting the free-flowing ideas in her brain get some traction. "I'm still just growing, she says, learning, experimenting. It's a journey. I'm the guide and the paint" (or whatever tools and mediums she is using) "is the traveler. Then the paint becomes the guide, then I'm traveling with it. I NEED to do art. It's very relaxing, an outlet for me. If it makes other people happy, when they see my art and want it in their home, that's wonderful."

Gay's most recent artistic endeavors were supported by a 12-week online course she took with Nicholas Wilton, Art 2 Life. "It



**Gay Leachman sees with an artistic eye and a creative mind. Photo by Kate Burke.**

was pretty intense," she says. "I had to be really committed. The first three weeks were spent learning and finding out what you like about life, what you are attracted to, what you want to do. We spent that time making visual and intellectual vision boards. We continued, learning about color and technique, value and design, and painting every day, mostly abstract with acrylic."

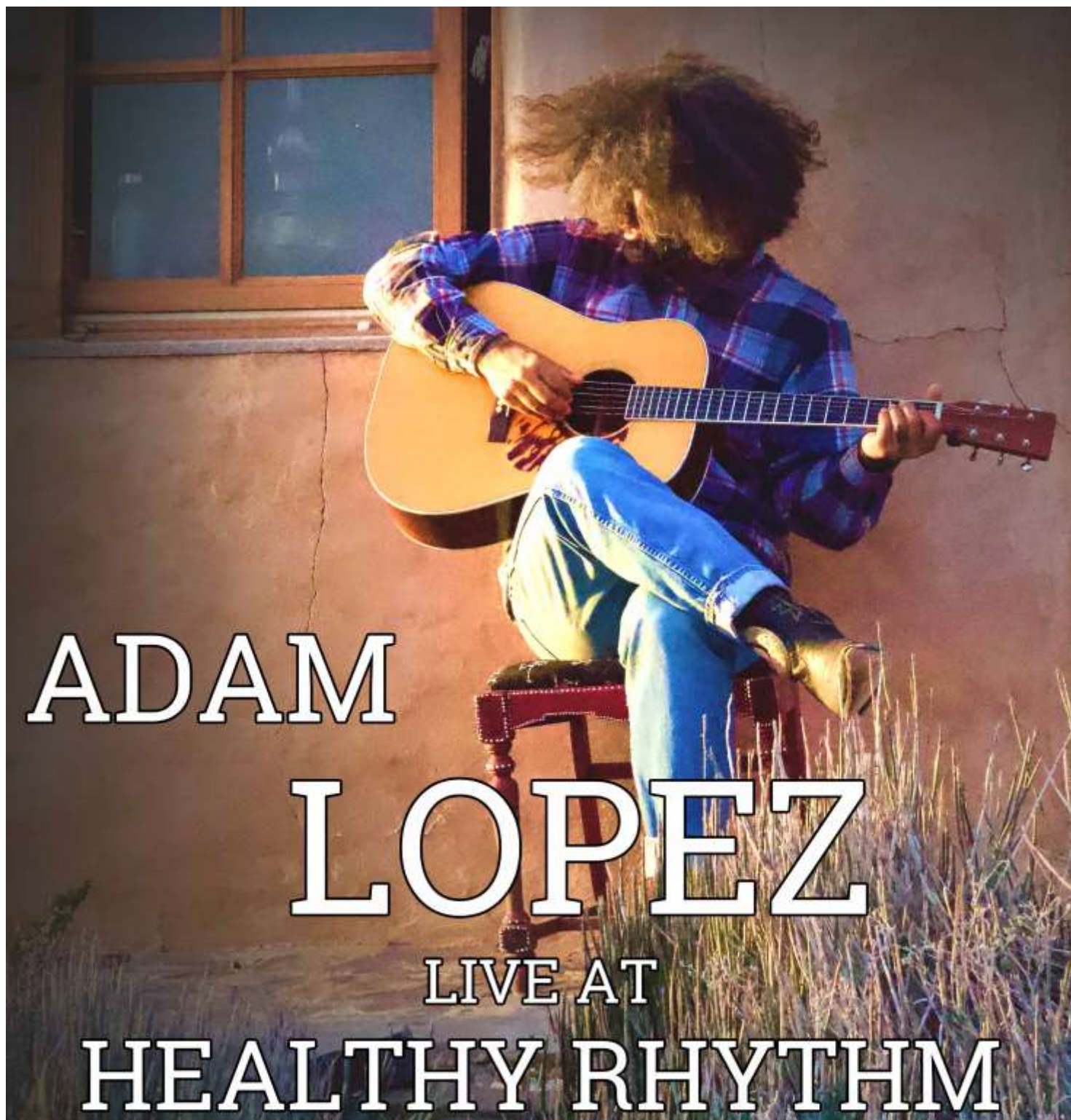
Then the call came to participate in her current show at the 610 Arts Collective in Ridgway, "Color and Circles" where she shares wall space with Jenny McIntyre (related article, last week's Mirror). "One problem I've always had with my art is that when an idea comes, I just get it out there. It's intuitive. Then I put it away for a while, and when I come back to it, that initial spontaneity is not quite there. The thought of having to think of something to make instead of just being spontaneous worried me."

But she rallied. That intense art course obviously helped. Gay more than pulled it together for the show at the 610, where

you can see tangible evidence of how she's grown as an artist from kindergarten art to grown-up life expressions. Stand back, look at her art, then get up close and really look. She uses interesting papers with her paint, creating clever mixed media effects, kind of like those complicated creative expressions in that imaginative, artistic brain that seems to know no limits.

Colors and Circles with Gay Leachman and [Jenny McIntyre](https://www.610arts.com/upcoming-exhibitions) at the 610 in Ridgway runs through August. I've seen it once, but the art of these two women is so mesmerizing, I plan to go back again and again... and eventually have some of it hanging on my own art wall at home. Hopefully I'll see you at the gallery to share my appreciation of their work. The 610 Collective, 610 Clinton St. <https://www.610arts.com/upcoming-exhibitions>

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



Saturday, August 17, 2024

Doors 7 PM • Show 7:30 PM

Advance Seats \$20 • Day of Show \$25

33 N. Uncompahgre Avenue, Montrose, CO

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## COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

### CALIFORNIA PERFORMANCE POET KIRK LUMPKIN TO READ AT PUBLIC LIBRARY IN NORWOOD AUG. 21

#### Special to Art & Sol

NORWOOD- Thanks to the serendipity of a trip to Colorado, California performance poet Kirk Lumpkin will be the featured guest at the Lone Cone Library Wednesday, Aug. 21, at 6 pm.

"I've performed with Kirk out in Sausalito and in the East Bay," said Talking Gourds director Art Goodtimes.

"He's a deeply committed environmentalist, musician/lyricist and a rousing good poet."

Since moving to Mendocino County in 2016, Lumpkin has become a California state-certified naturalist, a singer in the community Emandal Chorale, and a board-member of the Willits Environmental Center.

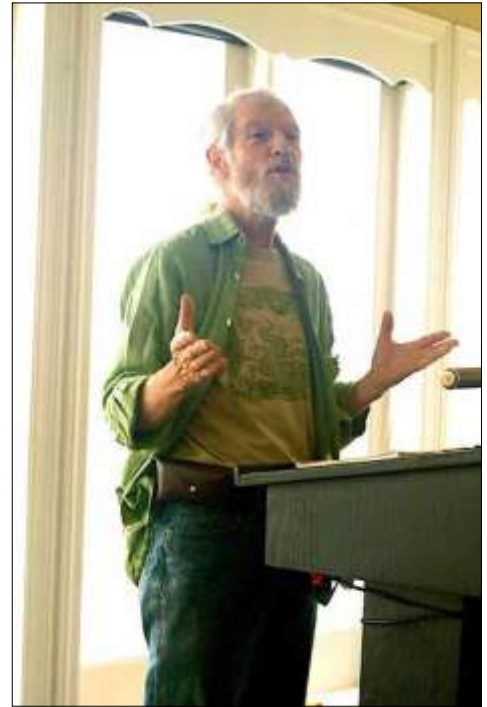
Before that, he worked at the Ecology Center in Berkeley for more than 20 years and was according to the *Bay Area Poets Seasonal Review*: "...an important part of the Bay Area (and beyond) poetry scene for years, hosting readings in San Francisco and Berkeley, helping to facilitate the Watershed Environmental Poetry Festival [with *Poetry Flash* and with the former U.S. Poet Laureate, Robert Hass] and hosting open mikes at Burning Man..."

He's published two books of poetry: *Co-hearing* (Zyga Multimedia, 1983) and *In Deep* (Zyga Multimedia, 2004). He's been a member of several Bay Area bands, including DETOUR, Shadow Government, Wild Buds and the Word-Music Continuum. His audio CD *Moondog Sessions* can be found on Amazon, his videos on YouTube.

He has most recently been published in the anthology *Fire and Rain: Eco-poetry of California* (Scarlet Tanager Books, 2018) and in *Poem In Your Pocket* (Berkeley Public Library).

This free series happens on the third Wednesday of each month. Our featured guest will give a 20-30 min. presentation, followed by a short question and answer period after the presentation. Then there's a passing of the gourd, where community members are encouraged to share stories or poems. For those who like prompts, this month's is "fire and rain."

A collaboration of the Lone Cone Library and the Telluride Institute's Talking Gourds poetry program, *Stories & Poems* is free and open to all ages, thanks to the generosity of the library, private donors and Talking Gourds' Fischer & Cantor po-



Poet Kirk Lumpkin. Courtesy photo.

etry contests.

For more information, text 970-729-0220 or email Goodtimes at

<[art@tellurideinstitute.org](mailto:art@tellurideinstitute.org)>. To visit the website: <[www.tellurideinstitute.org/talking-gourds](http://www.tellurideinstitute.org/talking-gourds)>

# SEE SOMETHING - SAY SOMETHING



## 970-249-8500

ANONYMOUS CALL

## MONTROSE REGIONAL CRIME STOPPERS

# MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY

## ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

**Office Hours:** By appointment.

**Contact Information:** (970) 249-2451  
[https:// www.allsaintsmontrose.org/](https://www.allsaintsmontrose.org/) Rec-  
 tor: The Rev Preston Gordon, [don@allsaintsmontrose.org](mailto:pgor-<br/>
  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](http://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](mailto: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 5<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.montroselutheran.org)

**Email:** [montroselutheran@gmail.com](mailto: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.

## COVENANT HEBRAIC FELLOWSHIP

**Denomination affiliation.** No affiliation

**Address Office hours** N/A

**Contact:** 720-951-9941,  
[office@ccfmontrose.net](mailto:office@ccfmontrose.net),  
[www.ccfmontrose.net](http://www.ccfmontrose.net)

**Name of current Senior Pastor.** Led by  
 elders

**Worship service times.** Noon on Saturdays  
 (Potluck on 1st, 3rd and 5th shabbats)  
 Covenant is a Hebraic roots community  
 that studies the Torah as well as the rest of

Scripture. We learn about the Hebrew  
 roots of the language and believe that the  
 Lord's feasts are for today. We are pre-  
 dominantly made up of older folks, but  
 have some young blood, too.

**Sunday School and childcare:** None

## 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](mailto:mncfirst@gmail.com),  
[www.montrosenazarenechurch.org](http://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:form@fpcmontrose.com),  
[www.fpcmontrose.com](http://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](mailto:office@montroseucc.org)

Website: [montroseucc.org](http://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 MISSION OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH

**Affiliation:** Orthodox

**Meets:** 2057 S. Townsend, Montrose, CO

81401 and Cimarron Creek Clubhouse.

**Worship Services:** The Montrose Mission of the Orthodox Church meets every Saturday night at 7 PM at All Saints Anglican

Church for Vespers, and we currently meet only on the third Sunday of each month for Divine Liturgy in Montrose at 9:30 AM at the Cimarron Creek clubhouse.

## 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](mailto:office@montroseumc.org), [mont-](http://montroseumc.org)

[montroseumc.org](http://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](http://www.RosemontBaptist.org)

email: [office@rosemontbaptist.org](mailto: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](mailto:arlyn@spiritaware.org),

[www.spiritaware.org](http://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](mailto:rose@yahoo.com)

[www.ststephensmontrose.com](http://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](mailto:summitchurchmontrose@gmail.com)

website:

[www.summitchurchmontrose.org](http://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](mailto:info@vbcmontrose.org);

website: [vbcmontrose.org](http://vbcmontrose.org)

**Current Pastor:** Roland Kassales

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

*Victory Baptist Church exists to exalt God, edify saints, and evangelize the lost.*

*Demographics: Victory Baptist serves everyone with age-appropriate classes, groups, and activities. Families with children make up the majority of VBC with young adults, singles, middle-aged couples, and seniors comprising the rest.*

### Church Directory

#### Mirror Editorial Staff

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

### information to the Montrose Mirror:

Name of church

Denomination affiliation

Address Office hours

Contact information (phone number, email address, website)

Name of current Senior Pastor

Worship service times

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

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

Do your church services include Sunday School and childcare?

## Local Immunization Providers



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



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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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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. 16**-Montrose Republican Women Luncheon & Program Friday, August. 16 at Noon Hampton Inn Montrose Brown bag lunch. Information and discussion about the Colorado State Board of Education. Also, our 2024 MRW raffle drawing. All proceeds go to our educational fund. Bring a friend! Call Kerri - 970-209-5170.

**Aug. 17**-Monte De Rosas *Fiesta*. Saturday, August 17 @ 3PM La Raza Park, Montrose.

**Aug. 17**-Out In The West... a two day event brought to you by the Delta County Historic Society and Museum, Friday Aug. 16 and Saturday Aug. 17<sup>th</sup>, 2 pm – 8:30 pm. FREE Admission the event will take place indoors at Cowboy at the Church Event Center, 21573 Austin Road, Austin, Co– Donations Appreciated

**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. 21**-California performance poet Kirk Lumpkin will be the featured guest at the Lone Cone Library Wednesday, Aug. 21, at 6 pm. For more information, text 970-729-0220 or email Goodtimes at [art@tellurideinstitute.org](mailto:art@tellurideinstitute.org). To visit the website:

[www.tellurideinstitute.org/talking-gourds](http://www.tellurideinstitute.org/talking-gourds)

**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.

## MONTROSE POLICE DEPARTMENT NATIONAL NIGHT OUT



On Tuesday Aug. 6, law enforcement officers in Montrose and across the nation celebrated National Night Out. Photo by Gunnison Clamp.

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