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the Montrose Mirror

© Issue No. 599 Aug. 19, 2024

RE-1J BOARD HEARS FEEDBACK ON CHARTER SCHOOL, PROFICIENCY LEVELS, CHANGES TO TITLE IX PROTECTIONS



At the Aug. 13 RE-1J Board of Education meeting, Cindy Olinghouse expressed disappointment that the RE-1J Board approved changes to historic Title IX protections passed in 1972 to protect women and girls. Screenshot.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-The Montrose County School District RE-1J Board of Education convened for a regular meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 13. Present for the meeting were Board President Sarah Fishering, District A Director Neisha Balleck; District B Director Ted Valerio; District C Director Alice Murphy; District D Director Tom West; and District F Director Jody Hovde. Board Vice President Steve Bush was absent.

All joined in saying the Pledge of Allegiance. The board voted to approve the meeting agenda.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

RE-1J PIO Matt Jenkins said that almost all students had returned to school that day. Older students greeted the younger students as they arrived, he said. "It was super exciting and

Continued pg 47

MONTROSE FOOTBALL IS BACK

By Cliff Dodge

MONTROSE-As the calendar turns to August and one notices a slight coolness in the air, the sound of shoulder pads and football helmets coming together can mean only one thing, Montrose Red Hawks football is back! The Durango Demons will invade the Red Hawks stadium on Friday, Aug. 23 to officially kick off the 2024 season.

The Red Hawks have been lifting weights and taking part in a summer football camp as a part of their preparation for this new season. Practice is underway daily as the varsity, the junior varsity and the freshman teams toil under the late afternoon sun.

Head coach Brett Mertens said, "We lost a ton of kids to graduation from our team last year. We graduated nine starters off of our defense and eight starters from the offense so we have some holes to fill. It's just that the kids that were on the JV team or were backups last year see it as their opportunity to step up and rise to that challenge which is the cool thing about high school football."



The Red Hawks hard at work preparing for the season opener vs Durango.
Photo by Cliff Dodge.

Continued pg 5

[Montrose Classical Academy Information Session Draws Interest, Concern!](#)

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

[UVWUA Disables Pump Permits for remainder of Season!](#)

[OP-ED by David White: City Giveaways Continue!](#)

UPDATED GUIDELINES FOR LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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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

THE MONTROSE MIRROR

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CAREGIVER SUPPORT LINK ERROR

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The story last Monday, regarding the Family Caregiver Summit, had an incorrect web link. Here is a brief recap and the correct link.

The 2024 Family Caregiver 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 event is free and attendees may register early for the event by logging onto www.Family-Caregiver.org and clicking on the registration link.



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WALK-INS WELCOME

UVWUA DISABLES PUMP PERMITS FOR REMAINDER OF SEASON

Mirror Staff Report

MONTROSE—When the Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association (UVWUA) announced Aug. 5 that all pump permits would be disabled for the remainder of the 2024 water season, the reason was plain, “We are at 70 percent.”

Still, some water users were caught off guard. One Facebook user asked, “Do we get a 50 percent refund on our pump fee?”

UVWUA Director Steve Pope addressed

the issue with a *Mirror* reporter last week. “Those are the terms of the contract,” Pope said. “The physical supply isn’t there; we just don’t have the supply to serve the pumps—our first obligation is to our shareholders, the farmers who are trying to raise crops.”

With a late runoff that coincided with the spring rains, the snowpack was washed away, Pope said. “We need the Uncompahgre drainage to be at 100%, and we didn’t even get the snowpack this year.”

Gunnison Tunnel flows only meet 50% of obligations, and July’s hot dry weather forced UUVUA to draw upon reserves and purchase additional water.

UVWUA’s contract with pump permit holders states that any time the flows fall below a certain percentage, pump permits are suspended.

“It’s not like having shares of water,” Pope said. “If things change, we may release it back to 80 percent.

“We have to live with what’s provided.”

MONTROSE FOOTBALL IS BACK *From pg 1*

Mertens continued, “The nice thing is that every year the older kids in our program set a nice standard that the younger kids have to live up to so that by the time they get to be juniors and seniors they know what is expected of them.”

The opposition this year will contain some different teams. Coach Mertens said, “We really like our schedule because our non-league is actually a lot of the Western Slope schools which are big rivals for us. We open with Durango which is a great rival, then we travel to Greeley West. We have Palisade, Grand Junction Central, and Fruita-Monument after that. Our league begins at that point. We are in the Colorado Springs league. Pueblo West and Mesa Ridge will be ranked in the top five or six in the state. Then we have Doherty High School who is dropping down from 5A and Falcon, a playoff team from last year, as well as Widefield who was 9-1 last season. Lots of teams in our league were playoff participants last year so this year will be a challenge.”

When asked about the strength and the heart and soul of the 2024 Red Hawks, Mertens said, “The offensive line is the heart and soul of this team. We have a good group of kids, big physical kids and we really like our O line. If you nailed what exactly was the strength of our team it would be the offensive and defensive lines.”

Mertens then dissected the various position groups and their strengths and weaknesses. Gone is veteran quarterback Gage Wareham and virtually all of the starters from a year ago. Coach Mertens then

said, “Chris Mock is our senior quarterback and we feel really good about him leading our team. He has learned under Gage Wareham the past couple of years, he has waited his time and we are looking forward to him having a great year. Behind him we have Kade Saunders who is a sophomore and he has also done a great job and we fully trust him to play at any time. We have two kids we really like and feel pretty good about the quarterback spot.”

The double wing offense of the Red Hawks depends on running backs and critical timing. Coach Mertens described his bevy of running backs who will find the football in their hands. “We need to have at least five or six different kids to hand the ball to on any given play. We look at Aiden Grijalva who had a good year until he was injured. He is a senior this year. You have Wil Newman who is a senior who is stepping up. Chase Mehan is a junior. Elijah Womack is a junior and Jayce England is a junior. All of those players are going to see carries in every game.”

The defense is another matter. Mertens described the defense in the following manner. “Defensively we are a little young, perhaps we are a bit inexperienced in the back end, linebackers and defensive backs as we graduated almost of those kids. The replacements are good football players who are growing into their roles. We have seen a ton of growth just in their practice with the knowledge they are picking up. We know there will be growing pains as the season progresses. The one

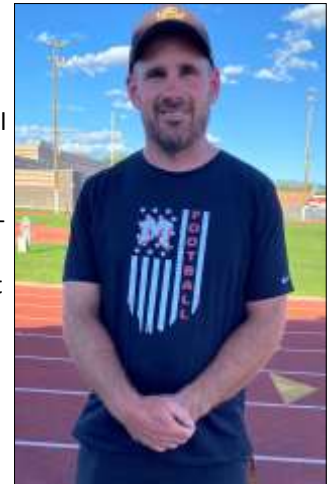
thing I know about our defense is that they will fly to the football and will be physical. We will hang our hat on that and go from there.”

To win consistently a football team has to be solid in the fundamentals of the game. One occasionally

can win with smoke and mirrors but fundamentals in all areas of the game will stand this team and all teams in good position to compete for championships.

This is where the coaching staff comes front and center. Coach Mertens talked about his coaching staff. “I have a great coaching staff here at Montrose. They are great individuals, very loyal to Montrose, very loyal to this team. They are quality humans who care deeply about football and these kids. We are most blessed to have each and every one of them. These guys are one of the biggest reasons why we are kind of keeping things consistent because we have very little coaching turnover from year to year.”

The initial test comes on Friday, Aug. 23 as the Durango Demons come to town. Kickoff is slated for 7p.m.



Coach Brett Mertens. Photo by Cliff Dodge.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

BLM PROPOSES NEW RECREATION FEES FOR UNCOMPAGHRE FIELD OFFICE

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE – The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is seeking public comments on proposed recreation fees for

developed campgrounds and day use sites within the Uncompahgre Field Office (UFO) in Delta, Gunnison, Mesa, Montrose, Ouray, and San Miguel counties,

Colorado.

The BLM is proposing to assess an expanded amenity fee of \$12 per campsite per night at five existing campgrounds (Lower Beaver, Caddis Flats, Fall Creek, Ledges Cottonwood, and Ledges Rockhouse) and three proposed campgrounds (Electric Hills Rim, Nucla, and Paradox) and a standard amenity fee of \$4 per vehicle per day at eight day use sites. In addition, the BLM is proposing a site-specific standard amenity annual day use pass of \$20 per year for all day use sites.

“We are looking for comments on the draft fee proposal, particularly from those members of the public who regularly camp and recreate in the Uncompahgre Field Office,” said UFO Field Manager Dan Ben-Horin. “Collecting fees would enable the BLM to continue to provide high quality recreation experiences on these public lands.”

The fee proposal was presented to the BLM Southwest Resource Advisory Council at their September and December 2022 meetings. The fees collected would be used specifically to manage recreation in the Uncompahgre Field Office. To stay current with rising management and maintenance costs, the BLM would implement the fee structure as proposed and then use the Western U.S. Consumer Price Index to gauge future fee adjustments. Outdoor recreation is a major economic driver in the United States, with recreational opportunities on BLM-managed public lands in Colorado generating about \$1.3 billion in fiscal year 2022.

The Uncompahgre Field Office Draft Recreation Business Plan is available for review and comment on the BLM Recreation Site Business Plans webpage through September 16, 2024. Submit comments by email to: BLM_CO_UFO_Recreation@blm.gov (with UFO Draft Business Plan in the subject line) or mail to: UFO Draft Business Plan, 2465 S Townsend Ave, Montrose, CO 81401.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CELEBRATE AGE AT MONTROSE-DELTA BEACONFEST

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE—Come to BeaconFest for a day full of excitement, where you can explore valuable resources, enjoy live entertainment and walk away with amazing prizes! Colorado's largest and funnest celebration for seniors, baby boomers and their families, BeaconFest returns to the Montrose Pavilion, 1800 Pavilion Drive, on Thursday, September 12, 2024, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Hosted by [BEACON Senior News](#), this event offers FREE admission and an engaging lineup of FREE activities geared toward adults age 50 and older.

BeaconFest is a fantastic opportunity to connect directly with more than 60 local businesses and national agencies devoted to helping older adults age well in Western Colorado. You'll enjoy live performances from some of the area's best musicians—including Jedi George, Coral Skye, Eric Gross of Wild Flight, and Robin Freed & The Harps in Motion Ensemble. There will also be delicious food samples from local restaurants, educational seminars led by top experts and prize drawings every half-hour!

The Volunteer of the Year ceremony at 1 p.m. will honor some of our community's most dedicated and passionate senior volunteers. Learn about this year's honorees and [vote online](#) before August 30.

To plan your day at BeaconFest or for more information, visit [BeaconFest.com](#) or call 970-243-8829.

Keeping up with Western Colorado's growing retiree population, BeaconFest is the largest and funnest mature lifestyle expo in the state. BeaconFest is sponsored by Valley View Heart & Vascular Center, Volunteers of America, Intermountain Health St. Mary's Regional Hospital, 970 Medicare, Colorow Care Center, Crossroads Senior Living, Elk Ridge Health & Rehabilitation Center, and The Lodge at Grand Junction.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

OURAY COUNTY DECLARES EMERGENCY DISASTER

Special to the Mirror

OURAY COUNTY— At a special meeting on Wednesday, August 14, 2024, county officials ratified an emergency disaster declaration due to significant moisture received throughout the county over the past two

weeks which has caused significant weather events, such as flooding, and damage to roads and infrastructure. This declaration activates the Ouray County Emergency Operations Plan, opens the Emergency Operations Center, setting forth the

platform for emergency preparedness and response, including mutual aid agreements with other jurisdictions as the Incident Command Team determines necessary.

Ouray County received significant moisture due to monsoonal events which commenced August 5, 2024 that has caused and continues to cause flooding, debris flow and mudflow activities. Such activities include but are not limited to County Road 17 washout and closure affecting access and loss of an important emergency evacuation route northbound from Ouray towards Ridgway; mudslides and rockslides across County Road 23; debris removal from Amphitheater and County Road 361. Other areas of the county are experiencing saturation of agricultural fields and pastures; flooding and mudflow into homes and other structures. The City of Ouray has experienced damage at Bridal Veil Bridge, Fedel Court, Skyrocket and Oak Creek; and the Town of Ridgway has suffered damage at their headgates which feed into the reservoir.

An online portal to report private property damage has been set up to allow residents to provide damage reports that may potentially make it possible to obtain funding assistance. Ouray County residents can access this portal at: <https://crisistrack.juvar.com/SurvivorPortal/index.html?cid=ourayCO>. Information requested may include washed out driveways, structural damage, fallen trees, etc. Questions regarding the online portal should be directed to Ouray County Emergency Management at gboyd@ourayco.gov. Questions regarding the Emergency Disaster Declaration should be directed to County Manager, Connie Hunt, at chunt@ourayco.gov.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

WHEN WILL THE CITY STOP WITH THE GIVEAWAYS? *Once again, your taxpayer/ratepayer dollars are going to the wealthy!*



Big O Tires can be seen from the site of the new Les Schwab Tire Center, which is receiving city funds. Photo by David White.

By David White

As time goes by, it appears that the City of Montrose's "Business Development" guru, a jet setting, cross country and international traveling salesman by the name of Anthony Russo, is keeping City Manager Bill Bell's check book at the ready to dole out our tax dollars to the usual cast of folks who like to use other people's money (namely yours) to "grow" our City by bringing in more competition for our home grown businesses as well as more of those high paying (**NOT**) entry level jobs.

The latest example of these two men wheeling and dealing with our tax dollars, with the advice and consent of the City Council and the City Attorney, is the new Les Schwab Tire Center now under construction directly across from Big O Tires at the intersection of South Townsend Avenue and Montrose Drive (1901 S. Townsend Avenue).

Under the guise of fixing a water line issue that the City has had in the area, the above named City officials to include City Engineer Scott Murphy, have been working behind the scenes and out of sight of the public for months to work a deal out with the developer of the Les Schwab site to "fix" the water line/service "problem" that under past City policies, would have required to developer to pay for the needed infrastructure to service their property.

In a memo to the Mayor and City Council dated July 30th Mr. Murphy lays out a narrative that describes the issues associated with delivering City water to the Les Schwab site. Further into the memo he starts to come clean on why he is recommending that the City pay \$334,037 to fix what should be a developer obligation. He states the following:

"Developers have been working over the past several years to bring commercial development (Les Schwab Tire Center and potentially a future drive through restaurant, housing, and/or hotel) to the southern side of east Montrose Drive. A lack of water and sewer infrastructure has generally precluded development of this area as it would be cost ineffective to bring these utilities to the site for any single project."

Really? Ineffective to bring these utilities to the site for any single project?? Mr. Murphy just said that the developer plans to bring a drive through restaurant and housing or a hotel to the site. In my book, those constitute something more than a "single project" as defined under various City ordinances. Who is he trying to kid?

Mr. Murphy, at the end of the memo, finally reveals the true reason that more of your money (whether it comes from the General Fund or the City's Water Fund) is going into this new project:

The City budgeted \$150,000 for the eastern-most interconnect portions of this project in

the 2024 water capital budget. The remaining \$184,037 covers the western portions of the project feeding the development area and service abandonments needed to facilitate their sewer project. These work elements are deemed an economic incentive, and the expenditures are being considered separately as part of a development agreement for the area.

(<https://montroseco.portal.civicclerk.com/event/608/files/attachment/2905>)

In addition, the City has agreed to pay for sidewalk replacements along Montrose Drive adjacent to the Les Schwab Tire Center in the amount of \$30,000 for a total giveaway on this part of the project of \$364,037. But it doesn't stop there. The City has also agreed to REIMBURSE Les Schwab's subsidiary company (SFP-E, LLC) up to \$368,582 for a mainline sewer installation! **The total amount of the giveaway this time is up to a whopping \$732,619.00!** (<https://montroseco.portal.civicclerk.com/event/608/files/attachment/2913>) See page 13 for details. Of course, with the power of the City Manager to waive fees such as permit fees, plan check fees, etc. up to \$50,000, who knows how much more has been "gifted" to the developers of this project.

So...this purported necessary expenditure is in fact nothing more and nothing less

Continued next pg

WHEN WILL THE CITY STOP WITH THE GIVEAWAYS? From previous pg

than another giveaway by the City Manager and the City Council. Add this to the list of other giveaways that total millions upon millions of dollars (Colorado Outdoors, numerous commercial kitchens, parking lots, landscaping, structural repairs – The Rathbone Hotel is a case in point, façade replacements on downtown buildings and many, many more paid for with your tax dollars and all to private business owners or corporations who darn well can afford to pay their own way).

I might not be as incensed as I am over this newest giveaway if it wasn't for the fact that the parties involved in this newest commercial development are far from the typical entrepreneurial capitalists that usually benefit from Mr. Bell's need to build his legacy as an economic development empire builder of tourist related businesses that offer low paying jobs and little opportunity for advancement or growth on the part of the individuals working in these positions.

This time, Mr. Bell and Mr. Russo have outdone themselves, for the time being. Rumor has it that the Chinese are coming, and I can't wait to see what's on the table to give them thanks to these two. Anyway, just to give you an understanding of who the players are, I'll delve into a background investigation of them so that you understand who our City folks are playing ball with (trust me, Bell & Company are ranked amateurs compared to these folks).

At the forefront of the Les Schwab project we find Scottsdale, Arizona real estate mogul, entrepreneur and self-made multimillionaire Lubertus "Bert" Hayenga who is 61 years old. Mr. Hayenga purchased the 5.14-acre site that will be home to the Les Schwab Tire Center and other businesses in February of 2023 for \$1,950,000 through his Doubletree Ventures, aka DTV Montrose Drive, LLC & JB CW, LLC (another of Hayenga's companies). Les Schwab Tire Centers have contracted with him to lease the ground under the building that they will construct through their subsidiary company, SFP-E, LLC, for 20 years with four, 5-year options to continue to lease the ground for up to a total of 40 years.

Some reading this may recall that Mr. Hayenga purchased the old Q&T Convenience Store and Gas Station at the corner of South Townsend Avenue and Niagara Road in March of 2018 for \$850,000 and brought the Dunkin Donuts and Baskin Robbins franchises to that location through one of his many corporations (First Cup, LLC). "Born and raised in Phoenix, Hayenga has been on the business scene since age 15 when he purchased his first company, which was a special events rental business that later grew to be the largest tent-rental operation in the Southwest." [Businessman hopes Montrose will run on Dunkin' | News | montrose-press.com](#)

On top of these holdings, he also owns the Pizza Hut property next to Walgreens on South Townsend through another LLC (Montrose PH, LLC – PH=Pizza Hut) which he purchased in October of 2019 for \$675,000. Capping off his Montrose investments is the Office Depot building (only that section of the larger building not including Harbor Freight, Palace Liquors, etc.). He purchased this building for \$1,675,000 in May of 2022 through another one of his businesses, TBAZ, LLC which he and his wife Karen control through a revocable trust ([TBAZ LLC in Chandler, AZ | Company Information & Reviews | bizapedia.com](#))).

In an article in the February 22, 2024 issue of "What Now Denver" ([Dunkin' Chooses Castle Rock for New Location | What Now Denver](#)), Mr. Hayenga is mentioned in relation to his decision to open a Dunkin Donuts operation in Castle Rock, Colorado:

"Bert Hayenga, a seasoned franchisee who operates more than 100 Dunkin' locations in Nevada, California, Arizona, and Colorado, is the owner of the upcoming store. He also founded Creative Leather Furniture and is the CEO of Zoyo Neighborhood Yogurt."

Further, we find that Mr. Hayenga and his wife reside in the Scottsdale, AZ suburb of Paradise Valley in a home valued in excess of \$5.6 million dollars. [8340 N Morning Glory Rd, Paradise Valley, AZ 85253 | Trulia](#)

Given all of the information that I've

found on Mr. Hayenga, I must say that I admire him for his life's accomplishments and entrepreneurial spirit. In no way am I finding fault with his business skills and ability to build wealth for himself, his family and his employees nor with his negotiating skills and those of his son-in-law, Brian Zurek (who is the Manager of DTV Montrose Drive, LLC) and is married to his daughter Baylee.

As a seasoned businessman, he made his case to Mr. Bell and Mr. Russo as to why the City should give your tax dollars to him and his client, Les Schwab, in a memo he sent to them on July 18, 2024, wherein he states the following:

Community Impact:

"Les Schwab Tire Center benefits the community by providing an essential service (the sale and installation of tires, wheels, shocks, breaks), a state/city revenue source in the form of sales tax, employment opportunities, along with our traditional community support. Les Schwab is actively involved in local charities, including school district athletics, children's organizations and many, many more."

Number of Jobs created:

"Les Schwab Tire Center expects to employ 10 – 12 full time jobs with incomes ranging from \$40,000.00 - \$115,000.00 per year with excellent benefits and growth opportunities. Les Schwab hires locally and has a "promote from within" culture. We offer our employees many opportunities for advancement with both on-line and hands-on training. Every Operations leader started their career in a sales or service position within a store."

Yearly Revenue Projections:

\$3,500,000.00

https://

montroseco.portal.civicclerk.com/event/608/files/attachment/2914

And with that said and no public discussion the deal is made, voted on and passed. All of this goes on behind closed doors. Decisions are made. Mr. Bell takes out his lipstick to put on his Montrose pig to get the City Council's buy in without one of them taking the time to do the kind of research displayed in this article before making their decision to approve spending

WHEN WILL THE CITY STOP WITH THE GIVEAWAYS? From previous pg

your money on ventures like this one.

Lastly, you may be asking who or what is Les Schwab as a company. Leslie "Les" Schwab (October 3, 1917 – May 18, 2007) was an American businessman from Prineville, Oregon. He was the founder of Les Schwab Tire Service Centers, a company which *Modern Tire Dealer* called "arguably the most respected independent tire store chain in the United States." A native of Oregon, he served in the US Army Air Forces during WW2 before starting his business in 1952 in Prineville, OR. ([Les Schwab - Wikipedia](#))

After his death in 2017, his heirs decided to sell the company. In 2020, the company was sold to the Meritage Group LP, a California-based investment group. It is reported that the company sold for an estimated **\$3 BILLION DOLLARS!** ([Les Schwab sold to California investment fund, Meritage Group - oregonlive.com](#))

Last week, it was announced that Meritage Group has put Les Schwab Tire Service Centers up for sale through Goldman Sachs with an asking price of **\$7 BILLION DOLLARS!** [Les Schwab Tire's owner ex-](#)

[plores sale valuing it at over \\$7 billion, sources say \(msn.com\)](#) With more than 500 locations, they are a major player in the industry.

Excuse my "French", but what the hell is the City Manager and the City Council doing by giving away money to people and corporations that are worth dozens of times more than the total assets in all of the City of Montrose?

To top this discussion off, last week The Business Times reported that the new Les Schwab Tire Center in Delta opened for business. According to what information I was able to find, the City of Delta provided NO specific financial incentives to Les Schwab. This begs the question: What the heck is wrong with our City's leadership??

Why is the expenditure of funds from the public treasury seemingly always cloaked in backroom deals? Why is it okay for Mr. Bell, Mr. Russo and our City Council to give money to businesses that are going to compete with established locally owned businesses? Do they think that businesses such as Ron's Auto Repair, Big O Tires, Standard Tire, Turner Chevrolet/GMC/

Toyota, Montrose Ford-Nissan, Flower Motor Co. (Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, Ram, Subaru) and many others NOT SELL TIRES?? If they do, they've had their heads in the sand for far too long!

This anti-local business behavior must stop. How many more restaurants is the City going to fund? How many more hotels will be on the take to include the one that Mr. Hayenga may be planning to bring to his Montrose Drive site? Mr. Bell's mantra is that the good times will go on forever and all of the "investments" he has convinced the City Council to make will pay off in the form of long-term tax revenue to the City. Failure isn't an option for his plan to work. Economic cycles don't seem to be considered. A day of reckoning is coming. Citizens need to tell these pseudo-economic know-it-alls to stop before it's too late.

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.

Join us for the 'Haunting of the Downtown' Ghost tour August 23rd at 6:00 pm

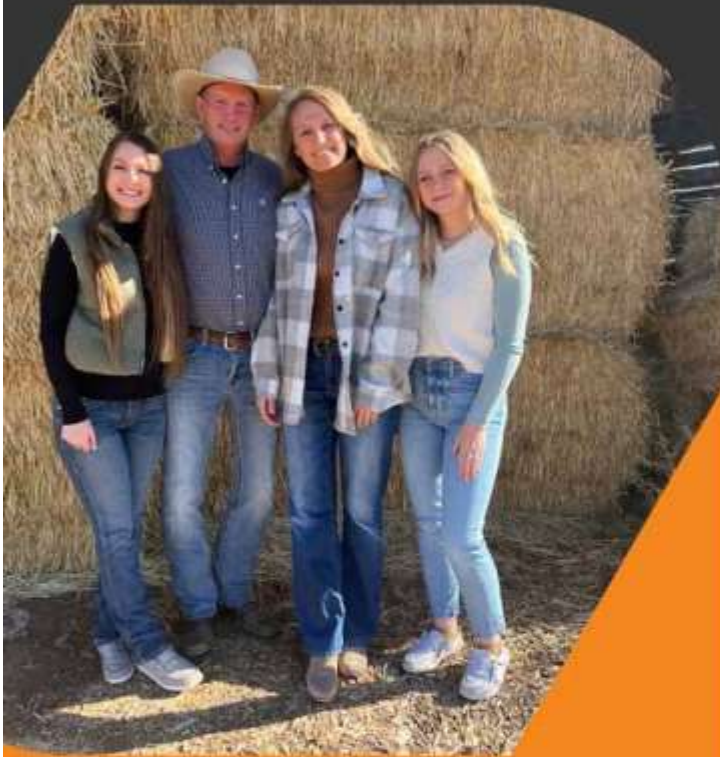
The Montrose County Historical Museum takes a walk on the Spooky Side with tales of spooks, ghouls, and ghost stories. The museum's ghost authority mingles history and legends on a walk of down Montrose's shadowy Main Street and dark alleyways. The ghouls will be present as they follow patrons enjoying the mysterious tales of the town's eerie history of paranormal activity and perhaps have their own experiences to share afterward.

There are limited spaces for this family-friendly tour, to reserve a space call 970-249-2085 or email info@montrosethistory.org
Tickets are \$10.00/person





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Colorado Representative for House District 58

Larry Don Suckla for HD 58

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MONTROSE CLASSICAL ACADEMY

Facts About This Tuition-Free Public Classical Charter School

- There is no type of qualification for enrollment in MCA; ALL in our community are welcome.
- There will be NO religious affiliation of any type involved with MCA.
- Charter schools enroll by blind lottery; however, they are allowed to offer a weighted preference for children who qualify for free and reduced lunch.
- Like Montrose district schools, charter schools operate on PPR (per pupil revenue); unlike district schools, charter schools must pay for their facilities through PPR.
- Everyone's tax burden for public education in CO is the same. The education of students currently attending schools in MCSD is partially paid for by their parents' tax money and that of many others in town; the same will be true for students attending MCA.
- Students' electronic devices, such as phones, iPads, and other related items will not be allowed in the Grammar School classrooms.
- Uniforms will be required; if cost is an issue, financial assistance will be available.

- Students at all learning levels will be adequately challenged by our curriculum and encouraged to excel; expectations will be high.
- Special needs students, including those with IEPs (individualized education plans), will be welcomed and accommodated by MCA.
- Our teachers will all be degreed, thoroughly vetted, and well qualified to teach in their subject matter area; all Special Ed teachers and PARAs will be state certified.
- The curriculum in MCA will be broad and comprehensive and modeled after that of Liberty Common Charter School in Fort Collins. Curriculum maps are available to view on our website, www.montroseclassical.org.
- MCA must adhere to all CO state requirements regarding testing and assessments.
- As a CO charter school, MCA will be granted waivers in curriculum, scheduling, discipline standards, and hiring qualifications. This school will have a separate Governing Board able to direct policies specifically involving MCA, providing more local guidance and parent input.
- Parent involvement will be a critical part of MCA; we will encourage parents to be on the Governing Board and to be active participants in their children's education.
- The "Core Knowledge Sequence" will include phonics, language arts, Singapore math, cursive writing, history, geography, fine arts, music, physical education, and Latin.
- Instruction and elective classes in technology will be available in the upper grades.

- The application for this charter school will be submitted to the MCSD Board of Education in mid-September. It must be reviewed by a District Accountability Committee that includes experienced charter reviewers and will ultimately be voted on by the school board members.
- MCA aims to be a cooperative partner with the Montrose County School District and enrich the educational opportunities for all students in Montrose and Olathe.

MCA Founding Board: Kay Alexander, Joe Fockler, Katherine Sharman, Becky Waugh

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE COUNTY LIFTS FIRE RESTRICTIONS EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Sheriff Gene Lillard has removed fire restrictions effective immediately for all of unincorporated Montrose County. The decision was based on the monsoonal moisture the county has received in the past week. Firefighters continue to make strong containment progress on the Bucktail Fire burning in the West End of Montrose County. Montrose County is grateful to the fire personnel,

volunteers, and support staff that have been working on the Bucktail Fire since August 1.

Residents and visitors are encouraged to use caution when burning. Please make sure to have water and shovels readily available when burning and always call dispatch at 970-249-9110 before and after burning.

The decision was made alongside partner agencies including federal lands, weather

partners, and surrounding counties in order to avoid confusion when recreating in the region.

Please know before you go and visit westslopefireinfo.com for information on restrictions in surrounding areas and the latest fire-related information. To learn more about campfire safety, please visit www.smokeybear.com.

For more information on fire restrictions, please visit westslopefireinfo.com.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS



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Office

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SAN MIGUEL COUNTY COMPOST SEMINAR AND TOUR, AUG. 29, 10AM-2PM

Special to the Mirror

SAN MIGUEL COUNTY-Shavano Conservation District will be hosting the San Miguel County Compost Seminar and Tour on August 29. The classroom style seminar will be held at Ouray County 4-H Event Center, 22739 Hwy 550, Ridgway, CO. Topics will include composting, bioreactors, soil food web, and soil health principles. Join us for an educational field tour following the seminar to explore the world of composting and its benefits for your community and your farm. We will visit Dirty Sturdy's Mountain Compost sites to discover how a community composting program in Telluride has enriched soil, reduced waste, and promoted healthy plant growth for fields in Ridgway.

Bus transportation is provided for individuals in the Montrose and Telluride areas. Busses will leave Montrose and Telluride pick-up locations at 8:45am to go to Ridgway. The Telluride bus will stop to pick up at Placerville between 9-9:15am and then continue to Ridgway. Following the field tour the busses will make return trips to their respective stops.

Montrose Pick up at 8:45am: Montrose County Fairgrounds (east of Friendship Hall), 1001 N 2nd St, Montrose, CO

Telluride Pick up at 8:45am: Lawson Hill Park & Ride, 130 Society Dr, Telluride, CO

Placerville Pick up between 9:00-9:15am: Placerville Park, 400 Front St, Placerville, CO

Please register before August 22 at <https://forms.gle/xXo6b9V87HU4cFEW8>

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KATHLEEN CURRY FOR HD58



EXPERIENCE MATTERS

WHY CHOOSE KATHLEEN CURRY FOR OUR NEXT REPRESENTATIVE AT THE COLORADO STATE CAPITOL?

The West Slope is outnumbered in Denver – with only six members out of a total of sixty-five State Representatives coming from the West Slope. Every legislator we elect needs to be effective and be committed to protecting our interests.

Kathleen has a proven track record building support for the issues we care about. It isn't really about red or blue – it's about finding solutions. Kathleen has the experience and leadership we need to make certain our voice is heard in Denver.

Vote for **Kathleen Curry** to represent you at the Colorado State Capitol.

“ Kathleen knows ranching firsthand and her lengthy and excellent past legislative service gives her extremely valuable background in the challenging water and agricultural issues of HD58. As always, her focus will be on promoting and fighting for what's best for the West Slope, especially the people in her district. She'll bring much needed rural common sense to Denver and the state Capitol! ”

FMR. STATE SENATOR
ELLEN ROBERTS
OF DURANGO



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In order to be reimbursed you must have an existing account or open a new account with Alpine Bank and currently be employed as a teacher with the Montrose County School Districts. Reimbursement will be made within two weeks of presentation of valid receipts dated between 7/1/2024 – 10/1/2024. We will not reimburse items such as rugs, pillows, lamps, and items for teachers. Alpine Bank reserves the right to refuse items that do not qualify.



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MADA CELEBRATES 2024 MONTE DE ROSAS FIESTA



MADA Executive Director Bethany Maher.



Neighbors and friends gathered at La Raza Park in Montrose on Saturday Aug. 17 for the Third Annual MADA Monte De Rosas Fiesta.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DELTA HEALTH EXPANDS SERVICES WITH FAMILY MEDICINE CLINIC IN CEDAREDE

Special to the Mirror

DELTA— Delta Health is excited to announce the expansion of its family medicine services with the addition of Dr. Terry S. Wade's Family Practice Clinic in Cedaredge located at 255 South Grand Mesa Drive in Cedaredge,

The transition to the Delta Health Cedaredge Family Medicine Clinic will begin in November 2024.

"Delta Health continues to look for ways to expand access to services for the communities of Delta County, and Dr. Wade has fostered a trusting patient-provider relationship that we will continue for years to come," said Jonathan Cohee, MHA, OT, Chief Executive Officer for Delta Health. "We are confident that we can uphold the strong tradition of quality, compassionate, patient care that Dr. Wade's patients have come to expect."

During the transition period, Delta Health's goal is that the health needs of patients continue to be seamlessly met, and all of Dr. Wade's current patients will remain active. There will *not* be an interruption in patient care, appointments can continue to be scheduled, and patients can access medical records as usual.


Joining the Delta Health System will also allow Dr. Wade to begin transitioning toward retirement.

"My wife and I, along with our staff would like to thank you, our patients and the town of Cedaredge for an amazing 30 years," said Dr. Wade. "Thank you for entrusting me with your healthcare all of these years. Leaving the Cedaredge Doctor's Office will be one of my greatest challenges. So to all of my patients and your families, my prayer for you is many years of happiness and good health."

Delta Health currently has primary care locations in Hotchkiss at the Delta Health West Elk Hotchkiss Clinic and in Delta at Delta Health Adult Primary Care, Delta Health Family Medicine and Delta Health Pediatrics.

"We are thrilled to be able to welcome Dr. Wade and his patients to the Delta Health system, and to offer additional family medicine services to the North Fork area," said Vickie Moore, M.Ed, Vice President of Ambulatory Services for Delta Health. "We are also committed to ensuring that existing patients will be able to keep their strong relationship with the Cedaredge Clinic."

Stay tuned for more information on the Delta Health Cedaredge Family Medicine Clinic starting in November. For general information, visit deltahealthco.org or call 970.874.7681.



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

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

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

GAIL MARVEL
Montrose Author & Reporter

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



COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

ROCKY MOUNTAIN STEEL, INC. BECOMES 100% EMPLOYEE OWNED

Special to the Mirror

OLATHE – Gov. Polis and the [Colorado Employee Ownership Office](#), housed within the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT), have announced that Rocky Mountain Steel, Inc., based in Olathe, Colorado, is now 100% employee owned. The company transitioned to a 100% Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP) in June with support from the Employee Ownership Office. “Congratulations to the new employee-owners of Rocky Mountain Steel, Inc. Your hard work contributed to the company’s success, and now you will continue its legacy. I am proud of our administration’s work to save businesses like Rocky Mountain Steel money and support employee ownership so that everyone can benefit when a business thrives,” said Gov. Jared Polis.

Founded in 1997, Rocky Mountain Steel is a leader in steel fabrication and construction, employing 30 people. As owners Bernie Lorimor and Tim Warner neared retirement, they chose to sell the company to their employees as a way to pass its legacy on to the people who helped build it.

“Moving forward, all Rocky Mountain

Steel, Inc. employees will have the opportunity to financially benefit in a much bigger way for their hard work. Along with their excitement, we are already seeing a shift in mindset as they become employee-owners, even more committed to the company’s success,” said Dylan Wiman, President of Rocky Mountain Steel, Inc. To make the transition to an ESOP, Rocky Mountain Steel participated in two OEDIT programs:

[Cash Collateral Support Program](#) - Provides a cash deposit as collateral for a business loan or credit facility when a business cannot meet the lender’s collateral requirements. Funded by the U.S. Treasury’s State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI), one program goal is to support employee ownership business transitions and financing for employee-owned businesses.

[Employee Ownership Tax Credit](#) - Offsets the costs a business owner incurs when selling the business to employees. The tax credit covers up to 50% of a qualified business’ conversion costs, and up to \$150,000.00 for ESOPs, for use on their state income taxes.

These programs are part of a suite of state resources designed to help Colorado

businesses explore and convert to employee ownership models. Across the United States, an estimated six in 10 business owners plan to retire or sell their businesses within the next 10 years. Yet only 15% of businesses are passed on to the next generation and only 20% of listed businesses sell. Employee Ownership offers an alternative path that gives business owners a guaranteed succession plan and retains important jobs in local communities. “Employee-owned businesses regularly see higher wages, less turnover, access to better benefits, and improved job security for employee owners,” said Eve Lieberman, OEDIT’s Executive Director. “We are pleased to see Rocky Mountain Steel achieve this milestone, preserving a crucial Western Slope business and rural jobs.” Businesses interested in learning more about employee ownership can register for two free online courses: Introduction to Employee Ownership and Exit Planning for Your Business, available through the [To Strengthen Learning Track](#). Available on demand and accessible to Colorado-headquartered small business owners, these courses are offered in partnership with the Colorado Small Business Development Center network.



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Amenities

Our Abundant Amenities Include:

- Catch & Release Fishing Lake for Residents
- Basketball Court
- 2 Pickleball Courts
- 2 Dog Parks
- Large Enclosed Children's Playground
- Large Enclosed Zipline

Our Bright and Open Community Center is also the Home Office and Includes:

- Meeting/Party Room
- 2 Half Kitchens
- Outdoor Rock Seating & Green Space for Activities

Our Homes May Include:

- Refrigerator
- Range & Microwave
- Dishwasher
- Washer/Dryer Connections

Each Site Comes with:

- 2-Car Parking Pad
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Our maintenance team takes care of all the beautiful landscaping in the community, including the home lots, which are equipped with in-ground sprinkler systems.

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We have Rocky Mountain soda and
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS: BUSINESS

FIRST STATE RECOGNIZED SECTOR PARTNERSHIP ON THE WESTERN SLOPE



Official launch of the Montrose Manufacturing Association Sector Partnership. Courtesy photo.

Special to the Mirror
MONTROSE-The Montrose Manufacturers Association, (MMA,) was established in October of 2023 through an effort spearheaded by Montrose Economic Development Corporation, (MEDC), and Colorado

Mesa University, Montrose Campus, (CMU). The goal was to create an active, sustainable, local group of manufacturers who could meet regularly to share ideas, discuss challenges, and find solutions. The MMA has met monthly and through

discussions that were brought forward, they decided there was a need to engage with our local educators, the workforce center and specific community and State-wide organizations that could play an important role in addressing concerns and supporting their goals. Montrose manufacturers include more than 35 companies who produce a wide range of products. These products include lumber and hemp-block construction materials, fly fishing reels, yurts, archery bows, rock drilling equipment, whiskey distillers, micro-showers, sewing companies to name a few. The MMA is currently developing their strategic plan that will enable the group to gain greater insight into critical manufacturing industry functions including job recruitment, training, upskilling, retention, industry promotion and career pathways. As one of the first State-recognized Sector Partnership on the Western Slope, Montrose Manufacturing Association (MMA) will work in conjunction with the Colorado Rural Workforce Consortium and education / economic partners to address both talent pipelines and workforce ecosystems—resulting in an enhanced local job market throughout the manufacturing industry.



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MONTROSE CLASSICAL ACADEMY INFORMATION SESSION DRAWS INTEREST, CONCERN

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE—On Saturday, Aug. 10, the Montrose Classical Academy (MCA) board of directors held one of several informational meetings for parents at the Montrose Public Library. A mix of parents, local educators, and presenters comprised the two dozen in attendance.

The board of directors for the proposed charter school includes Kay Alexander (Chair), Joe Fockler, (Aubrey) Katherine Sharman, and Becky Waugh.

The meeting began with a short video, followed by a PowerPoint presentation, and audience Q & A.

Alexander said, “Parents, this is about you and your family. This is a Liberal Arts Education, something [a model] in our past that worked.”

The Founding Fathers were educated in classical literature. Sharman said, “In the 20th Century classical education all but faded away. [Today] people want something more [in education] like what they grew up with. Something more traditional. In [MCA’s] grammar school students will have no electronics — phones, tablets, iPads. Grammar school (K-5) is teacher centered. Technology will come in the upper grades. We will have cursive writing, phonics with some memorization, Singapore math, and Latin.” Sharman explained that Latin is foundational. She said, “Latin and Greek help students learn languages.”

General Information:

The MCA has until Sept. 15 to submit their application to the school district. The school board then has 90 days to make their decision. Once the application is approved by the school board, MCA will, along with the board of directors, establish a governing board to include parents.

Currently the MCA board has received 260 student applications of interest. The board is not soliciting teachers from the school district; however, some teachers have come to the board to inquire about positions. Sharman said, “We have quite a few wanting to teach.” MCA will not be restricted by hiring and firing practices



Montrose Classical Academy (MCA) Board Chair Kay Alexander spoke to two dozen citizens during the informational meeting held on August 10th at the Montrose Library. To volunteer or ask questions on the proposal for the new charter school, MCA can be reached at montroseclassical@gmail.com. Information on MCA can be found at www.montroseclassical.org. Photo by Gail Marvel.

that are currently in place in public schools.

MCA hopes to open in the fall of 2025, beginning with K-5 and adding one new grade each year to reach the goal of K-12. There will be a lottery system for admittance. After the first year established students can remain at the school, but new students coming in will be accepted through the lottery system.

The school district does not pay for charter school facilities. Alexander said, “Our greatest need is for a facility that has 10 classrooms. Charter schools often begin in churches because they have classrooms. We are looking at a number of options. We also need space for admin, music, art, and physical education.”

MCA is not Christian education. Sharman said, “It can’t be religious [public school component]; and in the same way it’s not anti-religion. We will teach world religions in literature.” MCA is aligned with Liberty Common curriculum.

As a charter school, MCA is tuition-free and would be part of the public education

system in Montrose. Alexander said, “We adhere to State assessments. We are not innovative; we’re going back to see what has been effective in past generations. There will be direct instruction from teachers, orderly classrooms, and uniforms for students. Uniforms allow students to focus on education.”

Q & A

Educators and teachers in the room prefaced their questions and comments by first giving their credentials (training, education, decades of teaching, specialties). Alexander said to one attendee, “I’m sorry to interrupt you, but we need to get to the questions parents want to ask.”

Educator/teacher asked:

“Moral virtue is nebulous. I’m quite certain we don’t all have the same definition of moral.”

Response:

“We represent the parents. This is not preaching. In morality issues we respect the parents and their decisions with their child. The school does not occupy that space.”

Continued next pg

MONTROSE CLASSICAL ACADEMY INFORMATION SESSION DRAWS INTEREST, CONCERN *From previous pg*

Educator/teacher asked:

"Will you provide Special Education?"

Response:

"Yes, we will provide Special Education."

Educator/teacher asked:

"Why don't you just present your ideas to all [public] schools?"

Response:

"It doesn't have to be for everyone, just like [public] schools aren't for everyone."

Parent asked:

"Will you have a library?"

Response:

"Yes. It will contain classic books. We will have a list of classical books. Children will select books from the list to read for 30 minutes in the evening. These are original books, not condensed or a commentary on the classics."

Parent asked:

"Will you have parent involvement?"

Response:

"Yes. We want parents involved. Our governing board will need more people. Our student population is smaller so teachers can work closer with parents. Parents are really in the loop and making decisions about their kids."

Educator/teacher asked:

"Accreditation of teachers and all the vetting. How are you going to vet?"

Response:

"Money is not always an issue. There are some unknowns about the money issue.

Some teachers want to teach part-time; some teachers are interested in coming out of retirement. The charter school system has excellent training programs for teachers."

Educator/teacher asked:

"Why don't you start a magnet school, rather than a charter school? Magnet schools add to tax dollars that go to public education."

Response:

"Tax issues [are issues] we all have in common. Charter schools are not secret, not religious, not political. It is false that this is taking money away [from public schools]. Parents want choices and options."

Parent asked:

"Will students have to pay for supplies?"

Response:

"Yes. It will be the same as purchasing their supplies for public school."

Parent asked:

"What will be the size of the classes?"

Response:

"About 20 [students] we hope."

Alexander said, "We looked at money [tax dollars] that leaves the district; there are a lot of homeschoolers. We [charter school] may bring back some of those students who are currently home schooled. We want to come alongside of the school district."

Note: Currently teachers in Colorado who

are degreed do not have to be certified. However, some classes require certified teachers, i.e. math.

Alexander said, "Our faculty doesn't come from the school district. We find them ourselves. In public school only 27 percent of children are proficient in math; 38 percent are proficient in language arts."

Waugh said, "This will be more of what we were raised with. We have heard the need from parents and grandparents. Parents really want control."

Educator/teacher asked:

"What about [students with] behavioral issues?"

Alexander said, "Everyone will be trained to deal with [students who have] traumatic issues."

Waugh said, "We are not an elitest school. We are a school for all."

Citizens who endorse Charter Schools are asked to contact the RE-1J School Board with letters of support prior to Sept.15, as well as write letters-to-the-editor in local newspapers. **Alexander said,** "We need letters of public support to be submitted. Parents really want to be in control of what they are paying for. We want to provide that opportunity."

To volunteer or ask questions, MCA can be reached at montroseclassical@gmail.com. Information on MCA can be found at www.montroseclassical.org



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

SAN JUAN HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION ACCEPTING SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The San Juan Healthcare Foundation (SJHF) is accepting applications for scholarships for training in the healthcare field. These scholarships financially support individuals who desire a career in healthcare. The scholarships are open to any student who has been accepted and is participating in a health-related program. Preference will be given to applicants from our local area who plan to return to this area to offer their healthcare talents to the residents of Montrose and the surrounding communities.

Applications are available online at www.sanjuanhf.org or by contacting the Foundation office at 970-252-2580. You may also send an email request to acchavez@montrosehealth.com

Applications are due by September 6, 2024, and recipients will be announced after September 27th. Please mail completed applications to SJHF at 800 South Third Street, Montrose, Colorado 81401 or email to acchavez@montrosehealth.com

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

I DO NOT SUPPORT MONTROSE CLASSICAL ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICATION

Editor:

I am writing about the proposed Montrose Classical Academy Charter School. I do not support their application. I support policies for charter schools if they are a good idea if they are responsibly implemented and can help those who need the school. It is sad that access to high-quality public education still often hinges on the zip code a child lives in, their skin color, and the size of the child's family's bank account. Parents all across America make great efforts to get their child a public or private school education; even using relatives' addresses to enroll them in better schools. We can all agree that we want an excellent education for all the children in Montrose County, Colorado.

I do not feel that our community needs THIS charter school. Montrose County's only existing Charter school, Vista Charter School, was created to help individuals who couldn't complete their high school diploma or GED in traditional school settings. This school has proven to be effective and targeted for children and young adults who had few other options a chance to succeed. What does Montrose Classical Academy propose to teach that isn't already being taught in our current public schools? The proposed narrow curriculum seems to me to neglect essential subjects and skills that are crucial for the

holistic development of a citizen and undermines the purpose of a publicly funded education. The current proposed charter was only limited to kindergarten to fifth grade and my concern is about the different curriculum in math for when the student transfers into mainstream schools.

There isn't a false choice when we have a charter school proposal for a KNOWN community need. Vista Charter School met a known need; again, what is Montrose Classical Academies' purpose in our community?

The founding members of the Montrose Classical Academy were also a part of the Book Banning effort at the Montrose Library. I am concerned that this effort to create a new Charter school in Montrose County is an attempt for families who have homeschooled their children or wanted to enroll them in private religious schools, to now use taxpayer money to fund this charter school. These board members and families have publicly expressed their religious views in support of book banning so why would I not think that they will use their religious views in a publicly funded charter school in violation of the long-understood provision of the First Amendment to separate the Church and State?

Montrose County Schools and its children have so many needs and any extra funds

(New High School, New Early Childhood Center, Teacher recruitment & salaries) should be put towards improving and providing an excellent education for ALL students including those who need extra support and enrichment. Montrose Classical Academy isn't able to provide bussing, meals, and most likely services to disabled and ESL students. I would support a charter school proposal if it was equitable and inclusive and it doesn't sound as if they can or are willing to be. The creation of a charter school for families who have more in their bank accounts will racially and socially isolate children and residentially segregate them. Who would be the school counselors at Montrose Classical Academy? I believe that they would substitute a Chaplain and in my professional experience a Chaplain IS NOT trained to deal with the stress and pressures children face today.

The board members of the Montrose Classical Academy's efforts would be better spent and more transformative on demanding high-quality, safe, encouraging, effective, well-financed schools for all children.

Instead of thinking that their religion is the cure for what ails society. Or better yet, pursue private financing.

*Thank you for your time,
Holly L. Speaks, Montrose*

CANDIDATE TRISHA MURRAY HAS GROWING SUPPORT FROM MANY

Editor:

One of the most important decisions to be made locally in the November election is the vote for county commissioner of district 3. RICK DUNLAP and Trishia Murray are the two candidates that will be on the ballot for the district 3 seat in November. For the first time in my memory an Unaffiliated (I) candidate, Tricia Murray, will be on the ballot.

In my opinion, one only must ask why a person many years retired would want to come out of retirement?

Dunlap has yet to explain his platform and confirm what actions he would take to correct major problems facing the county and its current administrative practices.

So far, all he says is he sees no problems.

Another glowing problem with DUNLAP as a Commissioner is the fact that his daughter-in-law Cindy Dunlap is the chief financial officer for Montrose County. If elected Dunlap would be duty bound to declare that conflict of interest and recuse himself from all financial discussions dealing with county tax dollars. Not surprisingly DUNLAP has yet to acknowledge that a problem and conflict exists. Since all county department heads are directly responsible to the county commissioners this is a conflict of interest that Dunlap simply cannot sidestep.

The second problem with DUNLAP is that

he has been notified by Sheriff Lillard that he inherited a sheriff department that was in disarray because of Dunlap's mismanagement. Any voters that would like to know more information about that mismanagement should call or visit with Sheriff Lillard personally.

Fortunately for Montrose County voters DUNLAP is far from being a shoe-in for Commissioner. Tricia Murray, who is also running for the District 3 commissioner seat as an unaffiliated (I) candidate, has the growing support from many Republicans, Independents and Democrats. For more information Please contact: trishamurray4montrosecounty.com/

Dee Laird, Montrose

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

WHY NOT BUY A FULLY ELECTRIC OR PLUG-HYBRID VEHICLE?

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Citizens Climate Lobby Montrose acknowledges transportation, as a sector of our energy economy, may have the farthest to go in terms of reducing greenhouse gasses. Unfortunately the car charging infrastructure is not complete enough to satisfy drivers that do not want to be stuck out in the middle of nowhere without being able to charge. Also, electric cars and plug-in hybrids are very expensive to buy. **But Wait**

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

911: NEVER FORGET

By Gary Paul Johnston

It was September the Eleventh, 2001, my birthday. I was 60 and 1,000 miles from home with some 20 cops, former Special Forces Black Water trainers and one from Gunsite Academy in Arizona. We'd been checking out a new tactical shooting school in Texas miles from Fort Worth - You know, "it wasn't the middle of no place, but you could see it from there," and after a week of classes and shooting we were ready to head for the airport in the morning.

But turning on the early TV news I heard a woman say that a small plane had hit the South Tower of the World Trade Center, and then it showed a live shot with the unmistakable impression of a full-size airliner in the Tower with smoke and fire everywhere!

I called my editor in New York who should have been in his office, but as it was ringing, I saw another plane hit the other Tower. I knew immediately who was behind it, as they tried to blow it up in 1993! Racing to the lobby I found the SF guys and a couple of cops watching the TV. I said, "that's two!" and one of the SF guys said, "Yeah, and I'm waiting for three and four."

Then the news reported that there was an explosion at the Pentagon! Soon people began jumping out of windows from the South Tower; first men and then women, WOMEN jumping to their deaths! With clenched fists and teeth I started counting the seconds as they jumped rather than be burned alive. I think it was about 9 seconds. I wondered if they were praying, and as I held back tears, I prayed for them! One cop got a call from his wife who worked for the airlines, and said that a plane was flying low near Cleveland, Ohio and had turned around to go east. A half hour later she called back to say that the plane was on the ground in Pennsylvania

with no survivors. My 28 years as a police officer suddenly meant nothing and I felt helpless. I watched Firemen going in and I said the Towers were going to fall...and then they did. I was furious.

By the next day every plane in the country was grounded, so another officer and I rented a car and headed west taking turns driving, and a day and a half later we were in Montrose, Colorado where I got out and he continued on to Oregon.

Nineteen of the worst died on that 9/11 while murdering 2,977 of the best; 574 more than the attack on Pearl Harbor sixty years before. Not long afterward, a friend told me that another plane had been on the runway that day, ready to take off with a group of Middle Eastern men aboard, but that the passengers and crew were so disturbed that it was immediately ordered back to the terminal where the suspicious men got off and disappeared in the crowd before the police arrived! We wondered if it could it have been a fifth plane?

The rest of 2001 was for me the beginning of a long, controlled anger and profound pity as I watched loved ones speak of those who, on that fateful 9/11, so horribly lost the rest of their days, this not to forget that by May of 2024, 4,343 more had died from exposure to dangerous chemicals during the long cleanup! Thus, a total of 7,320 Americans had been killed so far from the attack on 9/11/2001!

Perhaps to feel closer and to remember everything possible about that horrible 9/11, I started to collect a few things connected to it. There was the likeness of a real WTC Police badge made especially by the badge company with the New York skyline and the Towers with words, "World Trade Center Commemorative," and "September 2001." It looked to be silver plated and on the box was marked "PH-912 WTC Police." There was also special

silver dollar housed in heavy, see-through plastic with the American Flag and the Twin Towers, and a small NYPD hat pin badge.

In 2004 Spyderco Knives of Denver purchased Steel from Tower One and with it designed a unique, numbered WCT Knife. I watched as that steel fell on 2001 and I had to have a "9/11" knife with the year I was born "1941." Such items were comforting, but things took a giant jump one day when my longtime friend, Wayne F. Novak called to tell me that he had gotten a new Colt .45 1911 pistol, serial number "911," and he asked me if I wanted it. Naturally I said yes, and when he asked what I would like on it and I said "NEVER FORGET." Wayne said "no problem," and said there would be a "few" special touches, but that I wouldn't need any grips!

I had found a beautiful photograph of the Twin Towers made late in the day and I asked Rio Grande Grips in Denver if they could put it on a pair of 1911 grips. They said they could and when I received the grips I couldn't believe my eyes! There would never be a custom 1911 like this one. When Bob Mernicle heard about it he offered to make a custom 9/11 holster for the Colt. I had two Mernicle holsters, and I told Bob that this gun may never get used. He said, "That's fine - I just want to be part of it." That holster is totally unique!

I've never fired the Colt and have shown it only to a few. It will serve as a painful reminder of what is the most horrible, sneak attack and loss of life to have ever take place on U.S. soil. I'll never stop observing "9/11" each year, not for me, but to remember the untold victims, many of whom weren't yet alive who pay homage to the ancestors they will never know. Would that they and all Americans be guardians to chant "NEVER FORGET," and May GOD BLESS AMERICA!

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

COLORADO CHAMBER ANNOUNCES FINALISTS FOR 2024 "COOLEST THING MADE IN COLORADO" CONTEST

Special to the Mirror

DENVER – The Colorado Chamber of Commerce has announced the top 10 finalists for its third annual [Coolest Thing Made in Colorado](#) competition sponsored by FirstBank.

"This year's impressive top 10 finalists represent just how diverse and vibrant our manufacturing community is across the state," said Colorado Chamber President and CEO Loren Furman. "We're proud to showcase products made right here in Colorado for the third year in a row and highlight how vital the manufacturing industry is to our state's economy. The Colorado Chamber looks forward to celebrating these innovations and the positive impact they have on our community at our awards ceremony in October!"

The finalists were chosen by an independent selection committee who reviewed and assessed each nomination. They will be honored at the Colorado Chamber's Annual Meeting Luncheon on October 17, 2024, where the Coolest Thing winner and runner-up will be announced. The Chamber will also announce special categories of winners, including a "People's Choice" award based on an online voting tool that will launch in the coming weeks.

The Coolest Thing Made in Colorado top ten finalists are as follows:

[BBS Revolution by dBMEDx](#)

The BBS Revolution is a fully automated bladder scanner designed to enhance infection control in health care settings. This device provides accurate and reliable bladder volume measurements, reducing the need for catheters – common sources of infections in hospitals and nursing facilities. Equipped with a probe featuring eight transducers and a 180-degree field of view, the BBS Revolution performs scans in just three seconds. The product is manufactured in Denver.

[Control Moment Gyroscopes by Blue Canyon Technologies](#)

The Control Moment Gyroscope (CMG) is an attitude control unit used to maneuver space vehicles, generating gyroscopic torque through a spinning rotor and motorized gimballs. Developed by Blue Canyon Technologies in Lafayette, Colorado, these CMGs are designed for small satellites and offer significantly higher torque compared to reaction wheels with reduced power consumption. The CMG-12 and CMG-8 models provide precise control and minimal vibration, enhancing spacecraft agility and payload-pointing performance, especially for Earth observation

missions.

[Freedom Trax by TOUR Engineering](#)

Freedom Trax is a motorized off-road attachment designed for manual wheelchairs. This portable and cost-effective solution is ideal for travel, exploration and navigating uneven terrain. Utilizing track technology like those found in tanks, Freedom Trax replaces traditional wheels with a versatile track system that enhances mobility over various obstacles. This innovative design enables smooth traversal over diverse ground conditions including sand, snow, trails, grass, wood chips, gravel, cobblestone and ice. TOUR Engineering is based in Golden, Colorado.

[Great Range Premium Bison by Rocky Mountain Natural Meats](#)

Great Range Premium Bison is dedicated to sustaining the American bison population and promoting its health benefits. Starting as a small operation, the brand has grown to be a trusted name in grocery stores and restaurants nationwide. Known for its focus on quality and consistency, Great Range offers a healthy and sustainable meat option, with bison contributing to land regeneration. Rocky Mountain Natural Meats is based in Henderson, Colorado.

[Handmade Wooden Jigsaw Puzzles by Liberty Puzzles](#)

Liberty Puzzles provides a modern take on classic wooden jigsaw puzzles. Made from quarter-inch three-ply plywood and using laser-cutting technology, these puzzles feature complex, intricately designed pieces, including whimsy shapes inspired by plants, animals and geometric patterns that complement the puzzle image. Produced in Boulder, Colorado, Liberty Puzzles aims to combine the craftsmanship of traditional wooden jigsaw puzzles with contemporary design and precision.

[Integrated Multi-Layer Insulation \(IMLI\) by Quest Thermal](#)

Integrated Multi-Layer Insulation (IMLI), developed by Arvada-based Quest Thermal for NASA, is a high-performance superinsulation technology that maintains extreme temperatures. Used in spacecraft, space instruments and upcoming lunar missions, IMLI features discrete spacer technology for both space and Earth applications. It protects critical items like rocket propellants and liquid oxygen and is also utilized in the Grace Space Telescope and NASA's Near Earth Surveyor. [Pilatus PC-24 Jet by Pilatus Business Aircraft](#)
The PC-24 jet is the world's only business jet

capable of landing on unpaved surfaces such as dirt, grass and gravel. This twin-engine jet not only offers the unique feature of handling unpaved runways but is also distinguished by its exclusive design, which includes a dedicated cargo door. The Pilatus PC-24 is manufactured at the Rocky Mountain Metro Airport in Broomfield, Colorado.

[Pretred Sustainable Barriers and Barricades by Pretred Inc.](#)

Made from 95% recycled materials, including over 70% waste tires, Aurora-based Pretred's eco-friendly barriers and barricades offer a sustainable alternative to concrete with a significantly lower carbon footprint. These products are customizable, bumper-friendly and easy to move, providing superior durability and reducing maintenance costs. Suitable for applications such as construction, parking, erosion control, perimeter security, flood management and more, Pretred's barriers are designed for versatility and environmental responsibility.

[Solar-Powered Cold Storage by Radiant Innovation](#)

The solar-powered cold storage systems feature advanced insulated shipping containers equipped with solar panels, batteries, electronics and refrigeration systems. Developed and manufactured in Englewood, Colorado, these off-grid units address critical cold storage needs. With ten units constructed so far – five deployed in California and five in Colorado – these systems serve purposes such as emergency food storage and local farming and food distribution. Available as either freezers or refrigerators, the units are adaptable to varying levels of solar irradiation.

[Sustainable Handmade Terracotta Tiles by Particular Tile](#)

Sustainable Handmade Terracotta Tiles by Particular Tile address local environmental issues by transforming nuisance materials into terracotta tiles. Using sediment from the Paonia Reservoir and capturing methane from abandoned coal mines, the tiles support climate action and sustainable manufacturing. The methane, which would otherwise contribute significant climate pollution, is utilized to power the kilns and facility, creating a green solution for producing high-quality ceramics. Particular Tile is based in Montrose, Colorado.

Learn more about the Coolest Thing Made in Colorado at www.CoollestThingColorado.com.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DELTA HEALTH ANNOUNCES THE ADDITION OF NEW SURGICALLY-GUIDED SCOUT BIOPSY SYSTEM

Special to the Mirror

DELTA— The Delta Health Radiology Department is proud to announce the addition of the surgically-guided SCOUT Biopsy Delivery System, a radar localization system that targets tissues needing to be removed for breast cancer and breast surgery patients.

"We are proud to bring the new SAVI SCOUNT radar localization system to our patients who need breast conservation surgeries," said Kevin Fischer, MS RRT FAARC, Director of Radiology at Delta Health. "We are committed to the safest and most progressive treatment options for women and men with breast tumors, and now we are one of the few rural hospitals to have this surgically-guided system that makes breast surgery easier for patients."

Delta Health was able to purchase the state-of-the-art system through the support of the Delta Health Foundation.

"Delta Health Foundation's mission is to inspire generosity, and support remarkable care in our community, through Delta Health," said Darnell Place-Wise, Delta Health Public Information Officer and Delta Health Foundation Director. "I can't think of a better way to exemplify that mission, than the board choosing to fund this life-changing and patient-centric piece of equipment/technology."

Prior to this technology, wires were used to target a lesion however the wire was often displaced making it difficult to find a tumor and could even delay surgery. Now, the radiologist can place the receiver (small as a grain of rice) in the lesion and



The surgically-guided SCOUT Biopsy Delivery System. Courtesy photo.

then the surgeon can schedule the surgery to remove the lesion. This type of needle localization eliminates wires, improves patient experience, and accurately removes hard-to-target lesions.

"I think the real impact of this device is on the patient," said Dr. Nickel, General Surgeon at Delta Health. One of the advantages of the SCOUT is that it can be placed any time before the procedure, not just the morning of like it is with the wire. It also allows us to take a route to the cancer and make a more cosmetic incision it provides a better result for the patient. The radar also allows us to get a better sense of what our margins are around that lesion."

The SCOUT is the first of its kind to use radar and target and localize tissues that

need to be removed. Similar to GPS for targeting abnormal breast tissues.

Dr. Nickel was also a driving force in bringing the SCOUT technology to Delta Health.

"The reason I was passionate about getting this technology here is that being in a small town doesn't mean we should do small-time things. We should be keeping up technology-wise with everyone else in the country. Sometimes not possible, fortunately in this instance the foundation board was able to finance this purchase and put us up there with what the universities are using." For more information on the SCOUT and more information on the Delta Health Radiology Department, visit deltahealthco.org/diagnostic-imaging/ or call 970.874.2214.



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RE-1J BOARD HEARS FEEDBACK ON CHARTER SCHOOL *From pg 1*

great to see...we're super stoked that our kids are back."

DONATIONS & RECOGNITION

Jenkins recognized Oak Grove Elementary School First Grade Teacher Carli Allen for winning the KREX Golden Apple Award for August.

District F Director Jody Hovde said that she worked with the food service provider over the summer. "That was really positive," Hovde said, "We have a new contract with some new guidelines and expectations and healthier food, and chefs for doing cultural food along with some food for local kids here."

Local distributors such as the farmers market and Kinikin will be used, and some schools have new equipment, Hovde said. "I was at Pomona when they were setting up today; they were excited and it looked great."

RE-1J Director of Finance Emily Imus said, "We just got a grant of \$24,000 to help with local food purchases...we have a new executive chef..."

District D Director Tom West, who serves on the Facilities Committee, said that deferred maintenance is mostly done right now.

COMMUNITY INPUT

Fishing read the rules for citizen input, as a number of citizens had signed up to speak.

First to speak was Mary Hoak. Hoak said that she wanted to address the proposed Montrose Classical Academy charter school.

"...As a taxpayer I do not think it is wise to spend tax funds on a charter school when they are needed for our public schools," Hoak said. "Our public schools have a hard enough time getting the funds they need. I feel our public schools are meeting the needs of our children and we need to support them..."

There is also a teacher shortage, she said. "...Why start a charter school that only serves a few in our community...Let's come together in public schools...where we work with the 'all'...where we make all the children feel welcome..."

Leah Vandersluis was next to speak, "...I believe this district already acknowledges the need for variety in our current curricu-

lum...you already understand the need to meet the various needs of our students, however a classical curriculum is not being offered...choice is the main issue. Is it right to deny parents the option of a classical charter school for their kids?"

"Remember, it is a public school, not a private school...parents know best how their kids learn. Having a classical curriculum option will bring new students into the district who currently are home schooled or attend private school...one size does not fit all. And traditional public education does not work for all students...a classical charter school in Montrose would bring healthy competition...this would raise the district scores and cause the rest of the district schools to do better...charter schools don't get to pick who attends their school, it's open to everyone...Governor Polis is a huge supporter of charter schools..."

Jan Edwards of the League of Women Voters of the Uncompahgre Valley spoke. "...The League of Women Voters views public schools as a public good and a vital component to functioning democracy. The League supports a state finance system that provides enough funds for public schools to equalize public education and relieve property tax...the Montrose Classical Academy Board has proposed the establishment of a charter school serving a very small number of students, asking to divert funds for that very small number...Montrose School District remains in good standing with CDE...based on our position on public education and school funding, the League of Women Voters of the Uncompahgre Valley opposes development of Montrose Classical Academy."

Ellen Angeles spoke. "...I have taught for over 20 years, the majority of it here in Montrose...I am opposed to having the Montrose Classical Academy in our town...I am not opposed to Charter Schools. In our community we have benefited from Passage Charter School and Vista Charter School. They serve...an underserved population. The application for Montrose Classical Academy wants a school with a religious tilt toward Hillsdale Education. If you want a private religious school that's fine, just don't expect public

monies to support your private education. Arizona tried it and it has cost the state dearly. Let's learn from their mistake.

"Montrose Classical Academy claims we are a failed school district—we are NOT," Angeles said. "Look at how many students here go to college with scholarships, attend the military, or start small businesses in our community. Our wonderful educators do more with less every single day.

"Montrose Classical Academy by design will serve a small, narrow group of families that don't include students with disabilities and English language learners...Montrose is a diverse and wonderful community," she said. "Our school district has amazing educators and support staff...it's fair to say that education is an artistry, and our teachers are constantly improving...there is no need for Montrose Classical Academy in our community...at their public meetings there are generally more people who oppose their organization than are interested in enrolling...thank you but no thank you..."

Ron Henderson spoke. "A couple of months ago I came to this meeting and I asked the board a few questions about proficiency being met by grade levels that are offered at Montrose County School District...some things that I would like to bring forward are that Montrose has a big elephant in the room. The proficiencies for the elementary school levels for math are 24 percent and reading is 31 percent. For middle school it's 21 percent for math and reading is 37 percent. High school math is 31 percent and for reading it's 54 percent...quite a few kids not meeting the grade level proficiency...*US News and World Report* magazine...identified that Montrose is not doing real well...Delta, Hotchkiss, Cedaredge, Crested Butte, Gunnison, Ridgway...they're all doing better than we are..."

"I really don't understand why you can't converse back and forth with your audience," Henderson said.

Next to speak was Linda Gann, who brought handouts for the board.

"...I am a community member here tonight to share my opposition to a proposed classical charter school," Gann said. "The board advocating for this taxpayer-

RE-1J BOARD HEARS FEEDBACK ON CHARTER SCHOOL *From previous pg*

funded school has spent a ton of money from outside our community to convince us that we need this school.

"They say our students need more choice," Gann said. "In addition to our six elementary schools, students can choose to attend Peak or Outer Range. If parents don't like those choices they can choose to enroll their child in private school...or even homeschool their student...Montrose County School District has choice..."

"They say our students need more academic rigor...Montrose County School District offers a rigorous curriculum...if the people supporting the Montrose Classical Academy truly care about improving education of our children, I encourage them to volunteer at our Early Childhood Center helping our youngest children read and get ready to learn," Gann said. "Our local Partners organization needs mentors. Hispanic Affairs, MADA, Dolphin House, and CASA are always looking for volunteers. They should not look to the taxpayers to pay for their school, but raise the money, charge tuition, and open a private school..."

Susan Chandler Reed spoke, "I'm here to speak in opposition to the Montrose Classical Academy...they actually want this school district and all of us taxpayers to pay for their school. Diverting these funds from our public schools could hurt all students in the district..."

"The Classical Academy seems to cater to a special interest group, with a specific agenda," Chandler Reed said. "It is not clear if enrollment will be open to all in the district or if the school plans to use public funding for only their select group of students...our district already offers many public school options...I urge you to reject the application for Montrose Classical Academy..."

Caroline Evans also expressed opposition to the proposed Montrose Classical Academy, "We're all here because we all believe in the same thing, to provide the best education we can for all our children...it is just for some kids, and all of us to pay for it...which children are not enrolled, or deselected...there is less or no oversight for this charter school. Teachers

do not need to be trained, tested, or licensed," Evans said. "...When monies from public schools are diverted to support a few children, public education coffers diminish even though charter school children frequently participate in public school activities such as art, music, and P.E. It is to all our benefit that we provide rigorous schooling for all students...let's join together and put our energy into supporting our students and our local public school district..."

Next, Joshua Bagley spoke. He said that he is the father of two students who attend Johnson Elementary. "I'm here to voice my support for the Montrose Classical Academy," Bagley said. "I believe it provides an approach and a learning atmosphere that's unique...as the recent education changes have happened at Johnson Elementary I've been frustrated, as we were promised that there'd be a traditional approach for each grade level regardless of how many students are in there."

"I have a fourth grade student who is now being combined with fifth grade students in a fifth grade classroom in what is being called a traditional classroom but it does not seem that way to me," Bagley said. "What the Montrose Classical Academy provides is an opportunity for those who are against the new learning model provided at Johnson Elementary and provides an opportunity to learn in the traditional classical model that is currently not being offered for my fourth grade student and that I am worried will not be offered next year."

"I want to voice my support for them. I believe they are trying to provide something in this community that is not currently being offered and they are just trying to do their best to provide community support for the parents who voice opposition to that model. As a parent who is also a taxpayer in the community and wants the best for my children, I urge you to support this," Bagley said.

Mother of four Rita Rivas spoke. "I currently home school, and I take care of my special needs aunt. I'm here to voice my support for Montrose Classical Academy. I'm personally very excited about the educational opportunity that they would offer

our community. Being raised in a low-income household and not having those opportunities, I am very excited that this would be an opportunity for kids of any level, whereas now if you don't have the income, you have no options...and I am very excited that they do serve special needs people and they don't exclude," Rivas said.

Next to speak, Marie Mirazada said that she is a mother in the Montrose School District. "I would like to voice my support for the Montrose Classical Academy, as I've experienced a classical education myself and it's been a great experience for me, and I really support this way of learning...I am really excited that there could be an option for low income taxpayers that also want another option, a different kind of education for their kids, because not everyone is satisfied with the results of the public school and it would be great to have options...not all kids do well with home schooling all the time..."

Cindy Olinghouse spoke, addressing a separate topic. "I'm here to talk about Title IX, that you apparently approved the changes last time you met...I'm just deeply disappointed that you would do that, for the sake of the daughters, the granddaughters, the nieces, that will have to share sports-related bathrooms, locker rooms. We saw during the Olympics that two women were beat--hit like they had never been hit before--and I don't want to see that happen to our girls."

"So I hope if there is any place to reconsider this that you will do so."

Finally, Micah Faulkner spoke. "...As a parent of young children...I am in support of the Montrose Classical Academy. It appears that all the people that I've seen speak out against, I can't make the judgment 100 percent, but it seems as if they don't have kids in grade school, or high school, middle school. People who have spoken in support are younger parents like me that do have kids in school...I know of many, many that couldn't come tonight--probably because it's like bedtime for a lot of younger kids--but that are in support of the school as well. I know that the school has gotten at least 260+ letters of interest from families in the

Continued next pg

RE-1J BOARD HEARS FEEDBACK ON CHARTER SCHOOL *From previous pg*

Montrose area, and we are all taxpayers also. We love the idea of having more options.

"The results of test scores and things like that speak for themselves," Faulkner said. "It's not to say that a school cannot be improved, but that takes a lot of time and there's not a lot of time for kids that are in school right now...there is a massive homeschool community, a community that might choose the private schools, I know some of those are wait-listed so those aren't an option for everybody, and they're also not an option for everybody because of finances. So why not have more options for our kids, for the families to choose."

"Because when it comes down to it, it should be the parents' choice more than maybe a retired teacher. And I don't mean any disrespect by that, but I do know that there are a lot of parents in the community that would love to have more options...everybody would have the opportunity to go...options create competition and competition creates a better product."

SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT

Superintendent Carrie Stephenson introduced a presentation on Academic Progress by Executive Director of Academic Services Jessica Kalb. Stephenson began speaking as members of the public took the opportunity to exit following the time for public input

"...What we are doing is working, looking at our data...It's disappointing that they're not staying to hear WHAT WE ARE DOING IS WORKING!"

To those who remained in the audience, Board of Education President Sarah Fishering said, "Folks you don't get to talk in the meeting room. So you either stay around to listen to the presentation that will answer some questions about progress, and if you're not going to do that you need to leave."

Kalb presented a series of slides and spoke in detail about the data presented, which is available online as well.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Board voted to approve Consent Agenda items, including Personnel Report, as presented.

NEW BUSINESS

District A Director Neisha Balleck presented two resolutions for consideration. The resolutions resulted from a committee Balleck and District B Director Ted Valerio had formed due to parental concerns regarding board policies JKD and JKE.

As Balleck spoke about the makeup of the committee, which included the two board members, teachers, a representative from the Uncompahgre Valley Education Association, an attorney, and health care professionals, District F Director Jody Hovde expressed disappointment that she had supported formation of the committee but was not informed of the meeting or asked to attend.

Balleck acknowledged the oversight.

After some discussion of Resolution 16-2024, Re-establishing the Teen Court Program, and Resolution 17-2024, Memorandum of Understanding with Montrose Police Dept., Olathe Police Dept., and Montrose County Sheriff's Office, the



RE-1J secondary students welcomed younger students on the first day of school. RE-1J Facebook screenshot.

board voted to approve both resolutions.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board of Education voted to enter Executive Session, "for discussion of the purchase, acquisition, lease, transfer, or sale of any real, personal, or other property interest to include the following individuals: all Board members present this evening, Dr. Stephenson, Ms. Imus and Mrs. Laird, to discuss district property planning per C.R.S. 24-6-402 (4)(a) and then return to regular session."

The Board of Education will convene for a regular meeting/work session again on Tuesday, Aug. 27 at 6:30pm.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CWLT PARTNERS TO PROTECT CRITICAL HABITAT AND AG LANDS IN POWDERHORN VALLEY

Special to the Mirror

GUNNISON— Colorado West Land Trust (CWLT) is pleased to announce the permanent conservation of Dancing Sunshine Farm, a picturesque 203-acre property in the Powderhorn Valley of southern Gunnison County.

This significant achievement is the result of a collaborative effort between the landowners, Crockett and Bonnie Farnell, Colorado West Land Trust, and the Gunnison Ranchland Conservation Legacy. The conservation easement protects the farm's crucial role in safeguarding the region's water resources, wildlife habitat, and agricultural heritage.

Protecting Watersheds and Wildlife

Dancing Sunshine Farm features a diverse landscape essential for maintaining healthy water systems. The property includes irrigated meadows, riparian areas, and native grasslands that filter runoff and prevent erosion, ensuring clean water for downstream communities and ecosystems. This conservation easement protects these sensitive areas from future development that could compromise water quality.

"We are working to improve the irrigation system to use the water more effectively, giving life to the meadows and supporting the wildlife habitat and hay fields," said landowner Crockett Farnell. "This ease-

ment will preserve wetland areas and the habitat of migratory animals that constantly move through the property in the fall and spring."

The property supports a rich habitat for wildlife, including the threatened Gunnison sage-grouse, bald eagle, ferruginous hawk, northern leopard frog, and big game animals like elk, mule deer, and moose. By protecting riparian areas and native vegetation, the easement ensures a robust food chain and essential breeding grounds for these species and others.

Promoting Sustainable Ranching

The Farnell family is dedicated to sustainable ranching practices on Dancing Sunshine Farm. Crockett implemented a 30-day rotational grazing program to prevent overgrazing and land destabilization, improving plant life and habitat quality. The easement guarantees that the land will remain devoted to practices that effectively use water and promote healthy soil conditions, benefiting livestock health, production, and overall ecosystem resilience.

"There is a long-time attachment to ranching and the ranching lifestyle in the Powderhorn community, and many of us feel that is an important legacy to maintain," Crockett Farnell said.

The easement ensures the land will continue to support sustainable ranching practices, including livestock grazing and

hay production, preserving the valley's historic character and contributing to the region's economic health.

Preserving Scenic Beauty 2

The rolling hills and vibrant meadows of Dancing Sunshine Farm are integral to the stunning landscapes of the Powderhorn Valley. The easement guarantees that these scenic vistas remain unobstructed, allowing the public to enjoy the area's natural beauty for generations. Travelers along State Highway 149, designated the Silver Thread Scenic Byway, will continue to be greeted with breathtaking views of the property.

A Collaborative Effort

The Dancing Sunshine Farm conservation easement exemplifies the collaborative spirit of CWLT, the Farnell family, and the Gunnison community. The landowners' commitment to conservation ensures the property will be protected for future generations.

"We are honored to partner with the Farnell family and the Gunnison Ranchland Conservation Legacy to conserve Dancing Sunshine Farm," said Nick Jacobson, Conservation Specialist with CWLT.

"This project is a testament to the power of partnership in protecting vital ecosystems, supporting sustainable ranching and maintaining a uniquely- Colorado landscape."

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

SEVERANCE MONEY BEING HELD BACK FROM THE COUNTY BY THE STATE

Editor:

I see in the MDP that the Montrose County Commissioners will join a multi-county lawsuit against the State of Colorado over a whole \$150,000 of severance money the state wants to keep for at least this year to help balance the State Budget. Mr. Rash calls this theft.

Inter alia Mr. Rash indicates that the state squanders state funds and then steals the county's severance tax money to cover the waste. Apparently his fellow commissioners agree with him as all three voted to join the suit. Just out of curiosity, how much will it cost our county to join this endeavor? They should have thought this one out before they voted to move ahead with the suit. Maybe a half million or more and these three will not be around to see it to fruition or to pay the bill. Sounds like a Montrose County cost/benefit analysis of a lawsuit about 8 years ago against YOUR hospital. Moving forward.

Mr. Rash likens the General Assembly's action "thievery".

Not to question Mr. Rash's intellect nor that of the other two sheep (commissioners) but how is this swiping of money in the severance tax issue so unlike the pilfering of the Montrose County Sheriff's Office PSST funds, which by my estimate has had \$40,000,000 disappear since the voters voted for a tax to augment the sheriff's General Fund operation costs. Mr. Rash used the word thievery. I guess thievery is only thievery when it is from your purse to another's and not when it is from another's purse to yours.

Looks to me like Mr. Rash is the pot calling the kettle black. Naughty, naughty Mr. Rash and shame, shame on the other two for not seeing the pot for what it is.

Bill Bennett, Montrose

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

HARRIS TRIES TO REWRITE HISTORY OF LAST FOUR YEARS

Editor:

There is a reason Kamala Harris' campaign website has seven donation buttons, but no policy page detailing her position on any issue. The last four years of the Biden/Harris administration have been nothing short of disastrous. The Democrat fraud machine can't be honest and let the American people know that Harris and Walz fully intend to perpetuate those same failed policies, which have had a major detrimental impact on our communities. The left can't have discussions about actual issues such as the economy, immigration, crime, taxes, health care, foreign policy, and so on. Instead, they have to completely re-invent Kamala – who she is, what she advocates, and what she has “accomplished.” To do that they have to ensure that she has no unscripted interviews or press conferences. They cannot put her in any position in which she cannot totally rely on the teleprompter script. The fraud machine wants to convince you that you don't really want to know what Komrad Kamala's policy positions are or what she is going to do about the inflation, the illegal invasion, or the insanity the Democrat regime has unleashed on our country. They think they can run out the clock with three months of embarrassingly ridiculous coverage about “joy” and “vibes” because Kamala is completely void of anything of real substance.

And of course the press, with no remorse or self-awareness, are willing participants in serving the Democrats' narrative. These are the same propaganda outlets that only a few weeks ago hounded Biden out of the race because the press looked like fools defending years of Biden incoherently stumbling around on the world stage, as well as defending his corruption and disasters.

In a sorry attempt to give the impression that she actually has policies, Kamala just

came out with her first big policy idea: steal Trump's “no tax on tips” proposal. Never mind the fact that she played a crucial role in getting the infamous “Inflation Reduction Act” passed adding \$80 billion for more IRS audits including on tip income; or the Biden-Harris admin having launched a novel IRS crackdown on tips, getting the IRS inside the door at bars and restaurants to directly monitor tips at the cash register. Shameless hypocrisy.

In Kamala's most shameless flip-flop yet, she is trying to rebrand her record and somehow separate herself from Biden's inflation fiasco. “When I am President, it will be a day one priority to fight to bring down prices. I'll take on big corporations that engage in price gouging” Aside from showing her profound economic ignorance, her nonsense comments were cut-and-pasted from Biden's talking points when he was finally forced to admit that inflation wasn't transitory. None of Kamala's “solutions” will solve the problem because inflation wasn't caused by corporate price-gouging, greedy landlords, or evil drug companies as she claims. It was caused by the fiscal incompetence of the B-H administration, with several wild spending bills, including the “Inflation Reduction Act” that passed only because Harris cast the tie-breaking vote.

Komrad Kamala's second big policy proposal would make even the Soviets blush. She just microwaved some communism and proposed price controls --- building on her lie that big corporations exploit consumers to increase profits. Never mind the fact that when government is used to cap prices, it inevitably leads to shortages. Whatever lower prices exist in the short-term are nothing compared to the scarcity that is caused in the long term. Look at the history of the Soviet Union and, more recently, Venezuela. Kamala is trying to rewrite the history of the B-H years, and

desperately wants to shift the blame for our now being \$35 trillion in debt and inflation reaching all time highs. “Look at the excitement and pure joy in our (carefully scripted and overproduced concerts disguised as) campaign events! So much fun!”

When Komrad Kamala promises to fix everything on day one, she needs to be reminded that she is in fact already on day 1327. On the third anniversary of the B-H catastrophic Afghanistan withdrawal, the Taliban is celebrating with a military parade featuring the sophisticated weaponry and equipment left behind by the U.S. At the time of the withdrawal, VP Harris bragged about being the last person in the room with Biden when they made that disastrous decision, and indicated she was in total agreement. Kamala also now “promises to go tough on border security.” Of course no one is making her explain what she'll do now that she wasn't doing before. Knowingly spreading the Border Patrol whipping lie is as close as she has ever come to “going tough on border security.”

As J D Vance pointed out: “To her credit, Tim Walz and Kamala Harris do make an interesting team. Walz was the guy who let rioters burn down Minneapolis, and Harris was the one who bailed the rioters out of jail.” This is the same Walz who made schools put tampons in boys' bathrooms, signed legislation that takes children away from parents who don't go along with the gender cult, and signed even more abhorrent legislation protecting pedophiles. Not exactly the “folksy” good ol' boy portrayed by the Dem fraud machine. Also, ask gold star mom Kathy Miller about her opinion of her deceased son's former “command sergeant major” in the Minnesota National Guard.

Ed Henrie, Montrose



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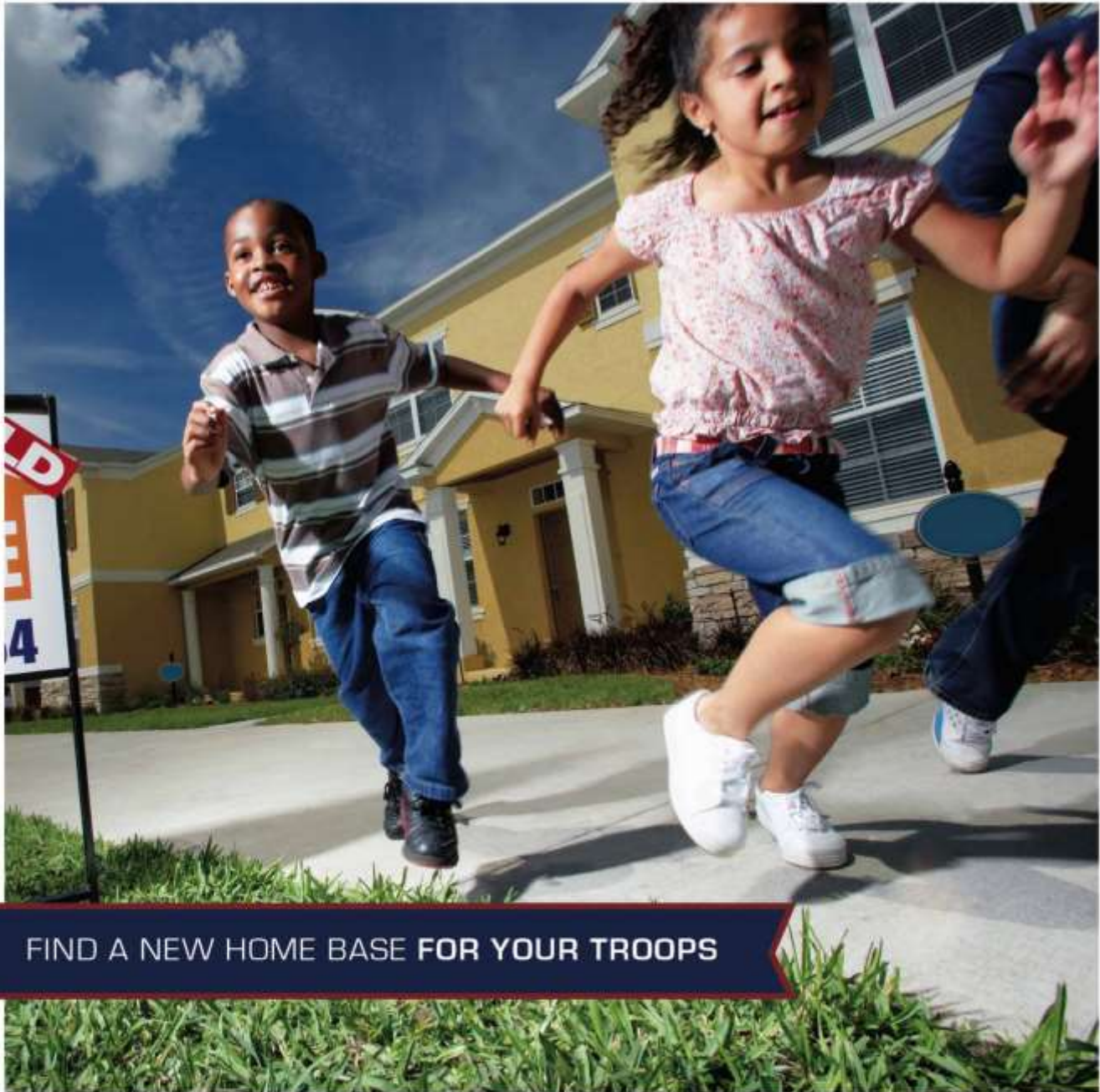
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

SAN JUAN HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION ACCEPTING SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The San Juan Healthcare Foundation (SJHF) is accepting applications for scholarships for training in the healthcare field. These scholarships financially support individuals who desire a career in healthcare. The scholarships are open to any student who has been accepted and is participating in a health-related program. Preference will be given to applicants from our local area who plan to return to this area to offer their healthcare talents to the residents of Montrose and the surrounding communities.

Applications are available online at www.sanjuanhf.org or by contacting the Foundation office at 970-252-2580. You may also send an email request to acchavez@montrosehealth.com



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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.

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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

DELTA COUNTY TIRE RECYCLING EVENT COLLECTED 1,586 TIRES!

Special to the Mirror

DELTA COUNTY-On Saturday, August 3rd, Delta County held a highly successful Tire Recycling Event, collecting 1,586 tires. This event not only helped the community dispose of old tires responsibly but also contributed to clean-up efforts in the region.

The total cost of the tire collection amounted to \$11,102. Thanks to a generous grant, \$10,000 of this cost was covered. Additionally, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) stepped in to cover the remaining \$1,102, having committed up to \$1,500 for any overage.

"We are thrilled with the turnout and the community's participation in this event," said Shawn Gardner with Delta County. "The successful collection of 1,586 tires demonstrates our collective commitment to maintaining a clean and sustainable community in Delta County."

The county extends its gratitude to all participants and partners, especially the BLM, for their invaluable support.

"This was a great partnership opportunity, and the BLM was happy to pitch in on a project that directly benefits our public lands and the neighboring communities," said BLM Southwest District Manager Stephanie McCormick. "I am thankful for the BLM staff who volunteered their Saturday to assist and the community members who brought their tires to us to recycle."

For more information on future recycling events and other sustainability initiatives, please visit the County's community improvement page at www.DeltaCountyCO.gov or stay up-to-date on its Facebook page at facebook.com/deltacountyco.



DineOutMontrose.com



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970-648-0609

Remington's at the Bridges
970-252-1119

Crash Burger
970-249-0825

Coffee Trader
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970-787-9021

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Pahgre's
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Premier Sponsor:
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**Jimmer's BBQ,
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970-252-1227

Fiesta Guadalajara
970-249-2460

El Jimador
970-249-8990

Busy Corner White Kitchen
970-323-6215

Delta: CB's Tavern
970-399-3570



Lighthouse Eatery
970-964-7570

Double Barrel Taco Co.
970-417-4340

Trattoria de Sofia
970-249-0433

Rib City
970-249-7427

Stone House
970-240-8899

Mimo's
970-249-0616

Sidelines Sports Bar
970-765-0129

Amelias Hacienda Restaurante
970-249-1881

Delta: Pour Ernie's
970-546-0074

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS ARE REMARKABLE, EDUCATING OVER 6000 STUDENTS EVERY DAY

Editor:

As a retired educator and administrator, I am writing to voice my concerns about taxpayer dollars to fund the proposed Classical Academy.

Focusing on the academics, I can't see how this proposed charter would meet a need not already met in our district's schools. In addition to classical literature, Socratic examination, mathematics, science, and history lessons favored by the proposed Classical Academy, our classrooms also teach the rest of the Colorado

Content Standards. And yes, we do teach phonics.

Focusing on funding, it is the public school's job to be available for all students in their district. Homeschooled and private schooled students are invited and welcomed into MCSD's after-school clubs, sports, music programs, science labs, art, special ed services, etc. at no cost to the parent, the taxpayers pick up that tab.

Our public schools are remarkable, educating over 6000 students every day. I fully support parents having the right to enroll

their children in a homeschool or private school program at their own expense.

John Paul Academy, Colorado West Christian, and Maslow Academy all found ways to establish and successfully fund their private schools.

If the Classical Academy board wants to offer their limited curriculum, I would encourage them to contact the other private schools in our area for information on moving forward with their proposed academy.

Bonnie Grigg, Montrose

PLEASE REMEMBER HIS DISGRACEFUL COMMENTS ON ELECTION DAY

Editor:

The Republican nominee for president, who received five draft deferments for alleged bone spurs during the Vietnam War, has once again shown his disdain for Americans who served our country in the Armed Forces. He made a direct equivalence between awarding a wealthy donor and political ally the Presidential Medal of Freedom and the Congressional Medal of Honor — earned only by troops who risk their lives and show extraordinary heroism and self-sacrifice above and beyond the call of duty in combat. He said, "When we gave her the Presidential Medal of Freedom...It's the equivalent of the Congressional Medal of Honor...it's actually much better..." Fellow veterans, please remember his disgraceful comments on election day.

George Bacon, USMC Vietnam

SHAME ON OUR LEADERSHIP FOR LYING TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

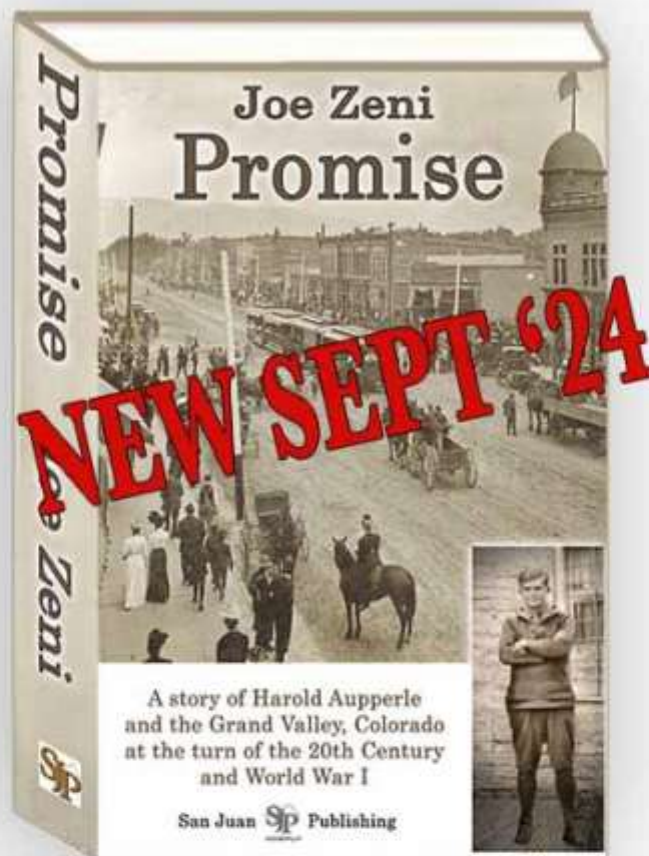
Editor:

My wife and I are retired and are trying to live on fixed incomes. I am so tired of the lies that the Democrat Party is telling about reducing health care costs. Let me say, that I am so happy for those who must use insulin and that it now costs just \$15 a month. That is great; but in order to get the cost of that drug down; the Democrats bargained with AARP and United Health Care to raise the rates of many of the rest of us. A year ago, my wife and I were paying \$330 a month for my Part D and Part G plans - today we are paying \$500 a month. That is an increase of 66%! Health Care under the Harris/Biden administration has gone up! I remember when we were sold Obamacare. The President at that time said that Obamacare would not cost "one thin dime." He was right! It cost thousands!

The Democratic Party of my parents is gone. Today's Democrats cannot be trusted to tell the truth.

By the way, I have had to go back to work. I am glad that I have the health to be able to work; many my age do not. Shame on those in leadership for lying to the American people.

Jim Welch, Montrose



Riveting! By Grand Junction author, Joe Zeni. Describes the exponential changes at the turn of the last century in Western Colorado and in the Balkans (Eastern Europe) during WWI as experienced by a young man who grew up in Grand Junction. Well-researched with maps, newspaper articles, and over 200 historical photographs. 6"x9." Color cover, 387 pgs. Includes End-notes, List of Illustrations, Bibliography, and Annotated Index.

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Meet the author at a presentation Sept. 16th, Montrose Senior Center.

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

POLITICAL PARTY OR CULT?

Editor:

On August 8th I attended the Montrose County central committee meeting. I am happy to say I have no official position with the local party other than being a registered republican. But I occasionally attend their meetings during the primary and to help advise family and friends about local political issues. In other words I go to listen to the elected officials and candidates. I have little interest in the party elites.

The other reason I attend is because in 2019 and 2020 I was the chairman, and my phone is still listed with google as the contact phone number for the local republican party. I also have dozens of people that call me for voting advice because they trust me. And they no longer trust the local republican party. And they have good reason not to trust the Montrose GOP. I was also interested in whether they had secured a headquarters to distribute yard signs. That is the most asked question from the people that call (where I can get a yard sign).

I sat through the whole meeting without incident until they asked if anyone else had any business to bring before the committee. Doris Vaness stood up and read a motion to bar me from attending any more GOP functions. The motion was seconded and then discussion started. I stood to answer her allegations which included a statement that at the Nucla meeting I was disruptive and when asked to leave I had made a statement "that there was not enough law enforcement or guns to make me leave" and that was a total bold-faced lie. I would never challenge or threaten law enforcement. The meeting was video recorded by Christina Pierce's daughter and there were plenty of witnesses that will testify that I did not say anything even close to that. I was sitting next to Gail Marvel, the reporter who authored the article that appeared in the mirror on August 12. I do not take issue with what she reported except to say she does not know the history. And she commented that I took a couple of steps forward when I stood up. As a senior citizen with multiple spine injuries as well as hip and knee issues ninety percent of the time when I stand up I'll take a couple of steps forward before, I

get my balance. It is not aggression; it is just part of the joys of growing old.

Now as to whether I was challenging or ignoring Sheriff Gene Lillard I winked at him to let him know I was not being aggressive towards him. According to procedure when a motion is made and seconded then a discussion must follow. And I as the accused I get to participate in that discussion. The initial discussion was more like chaos with multiple people slinging insults in my direction. I will not address all, but I will address a few. One of the comments was we do not want to air our dirty laundry publicly. My comment on that is why does the central committee have so much dirty laundry that needs airing out? Because they have corrupted themselves by not following their bylaws. They have attacked me and others on multiple occasions and then get upset when I respond.

The other reason I put articles in the paper is to inform the 13,300 registered republicans of Montrose County as to why they can no longer count on the central committee to put forward good electable candidates. Tammy Jolley party secretary asked why are you doing this. It is simple: the party is corrupt, and they proved that when they endorsed a slate of four candidates who were in contested primaries, (in violation of the bylaws). Only two of the parties' candidates survived the primary one of them by only three votes. That in and of itself proves that the central committee no longer represents the will of the voters. One other comment that I will respond to is someone said that I should not talk to anyone, and I should not talk to the newspapers. In Other words, surrender my first amendment rights. And this is why the ACLU will be handling the lawsuit. If the central committee wanted to have some control over me, they should not have kicked me out of the central committee. While I was a voting member I was constrained by the bylaws (The same bylaws they ignore). Doris Vaness is the person who also levied the first complaint against me back on January 22. The attorney I had then said this case would set precedents. That means it has the possibility to get kicked up to the higher courts. This is going to get ex-

tremely expensive and very newsworthy.

So, if you want to be part of the central committee you must drink the Kool-Aid. And you are not allowed to have an independent opinion, and you are not allowed to ask candidates questions about their honesty or lack thereof.

Now let us talk about gaslighting, this is a term that I recently researched to make sure I fully understood its meaning. What is gaslighting? It is often "used as a way to gain or maintain control over someone else" says Sari Chait PH. D., a clinical psychologist.

The reason I mention this is because I have been accused of being disruptive at GOP functions.

In February there was a meet and greet of select candidates at the wild horse whiskey bar. Me and my friend Joe Carabetta attended. When the two county commissioner candidates Scott Riba and Scott Mijares started their question-and-answer session Joe Carabetta asked about the neutrality clause. Ken Konkler in the back of the room immediately stood up and started advancing towards me and yelling, when Ray Langston was chair, he violated the neutrality clause. To which I replied no I did not because the bylaws were different then. So, Ken Konkler started the confrontation, but I got blamed for it. This is typical gaslighting from the people running the Montrose GOP cult. As to the Nucla meeting Doris Vaness referenced. I asked Scott Mijares "how can you call yourself a lifelong republican when you voted the democrat ballot in 2020". He said he talked with Johnathan who oversees elections in Ouray County and asked if it was possible that someone else may have voted on that ballot. And I called him a liar. Because I have a copy of the voter log and the envelope it was sent in. It was part of a records request from Ouray County from Johnathan.

The Montrose GOP cult does not want anyone questioning their hand-picked candidates.

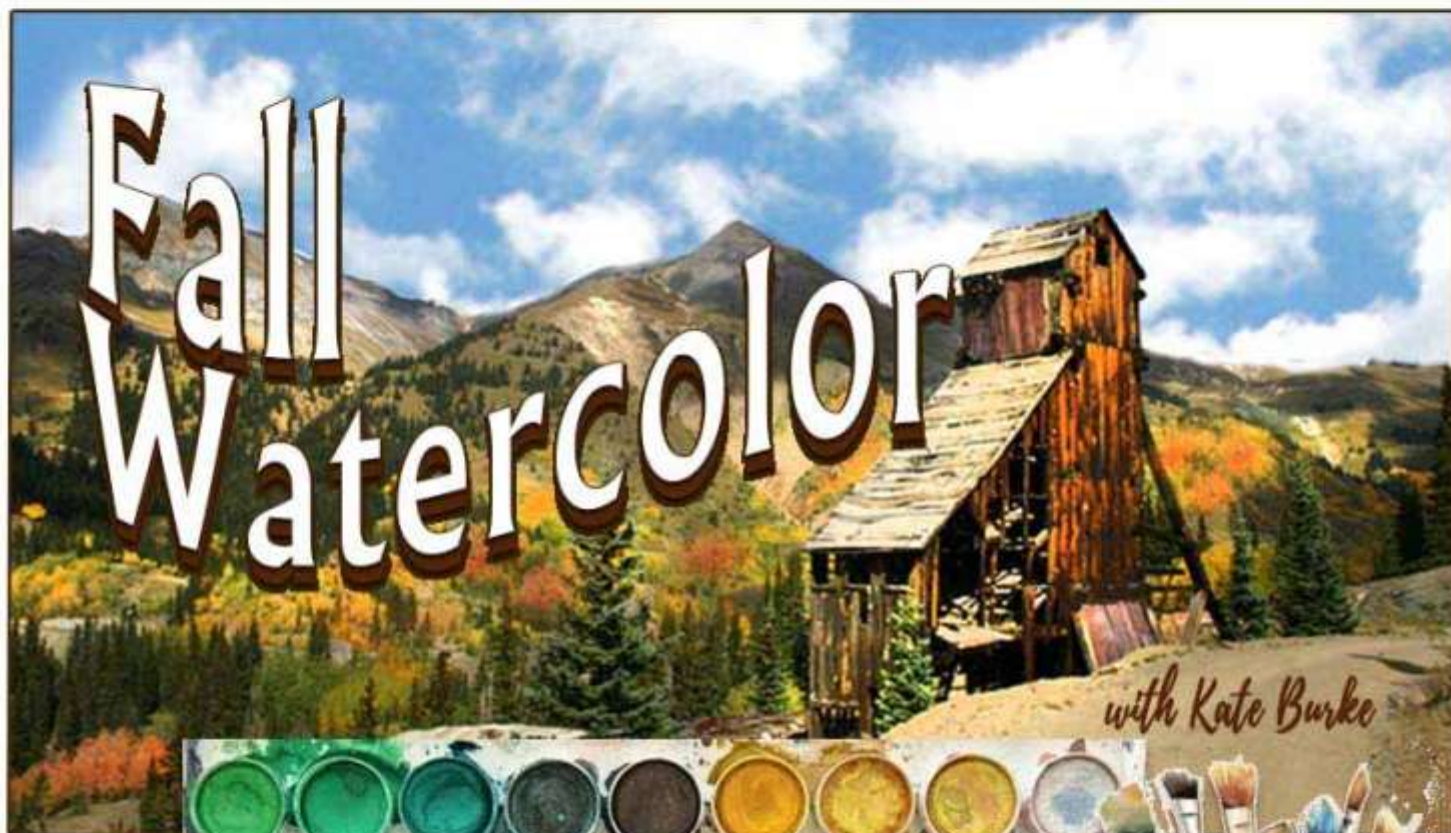
They just want everyone to vote without properly vetting the candidates. And that is how unelectable candidates get on the ballot.

Ray Langston, Montrose

Warrior Resource Center

4 Hillcrest Plaza Way, Montrose

5:30-7:30 pm, Wed, Sept. 25th



Step-by-step instructions to paint Yakee Girl in the fall foliage.



No experience necessary. Everything included plus snack & coffee or a cold drink. Please register online.

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

Mosaic, 21 N Cascade Ave, Montrose

Alcohol Ink

Creative Color

with Kate Burke

**Everything included plus
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\$45/pp. \$40/pp Welcome Back.

Sign up in store or online

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



COMMUNITY OBITUARY

ALLEN PAUL JOHANNESSEN

May 26, 1938-August 12, 2024



ALLEN PAUL JOHANNESSEN completed his earthly journey on August 12, 2024, and has gone to a much-deserved rest in the arms of Jesus. It was a long and often difficult journey, but thanks to Touch of Care for all their love, care and support.

Allen was born on May 26, 1938, in Clear Lake, Iowa to Paul and Mandella Amundson Johannessen. When Allen was seven

his father Paul died and Mandella married Albert Huber, whom Allen called Dad. Allen attended school in Clear Lake, and upon graduation from high school joined the U.S. Air Force. After his tour with the Air Force, he went to work for what was then called Western Electric and later known as AT&T, moving from installer to supervisor and finally to course writer and instructor.

In 1962 he married Betty Rowson, and they had two children, Todd, and Dana. In 1984 he married Janet Sybert Derfler, and they joined Allen's two children Todd and Dana with Janet's two children, Cheri and Ron Derfler, into a new blended family. In 1991 they added Emily to this family.

Allen retired from AT&T in December 1989, and in 1996 he and Janet and Emily moved from Naperville, IL to Montrose, CO. Allen loved the San Juan mountains and Montrose. He attended CSU and received his certification as a Master Gardener. He continued a lifelong passion as a genealogist, doing research for many family members and friends.

Allen is survived by his wife Janet, daughters Dana Johannessen Altomari, Cheri

(Jesse) Bailey, and Emily Johannessen (Askin) Basarir, son Todd (Karen) Johannessen, brother Gene (Nancy) Huber, brother-in-law Norman Sybert, granddaughters Noelle Andresen (Randy) Flythe, Autumn Johannessen, Adrianna Derfler, Chelsea Jamison, grandsons Brandon Altomari, Zachary Flester, and Tyler Flester, three great granddaughters and two great grandsons, and many nieces and nephews.

Allen was preceded in death by his father Johannes Paul Johannessen, mother Mandella Huber, stepfather Albert Huber, brother Robert Johannessen, and stepson Ron Derfler.

Memorial service arrangements are being made with the help of Crippin Funeral Home and All Saints Anglican Church, Montrose.

The Memorial Service will be held on September 7, 2024, at 11am at All Saints.

There will be a light luncheon served at the church immediately following the service.

Final interment will be at a later date in the Memorial Gardens at Grandview Cemetery in Montrose, CO.

GLEN J. FARLEY

Oct. 28, 1946- July 14, 2024



GLEN J. FARLEY, age 77, of Montrose, CO passed away Sunday, July 14, 2024 at his home. Glen was born Oct. 28, 1946 in Falls City, NE to Lewis Farley and Josephine Miller. He was the youngest of five brothers and had his childhood in White Cloud, KS and K.C., MO. He met his wife, Frances Willimann, and they were married on March 12, 1966. They had two sons, Nick and Sean, and moved to Denver. Then they moved to Grand Junction where Glen was a truck driver for the Daily Sentinel on the Western Slope. He loved his family and is survived by his wife, Fran, of 58 years, and one son, Nicholas of Las Vegas, and one brother, Gary of Glenwood, IA. Arrangements made at Crippin Funeral Home of Montrose, CO.

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

CORNELIO ROMO

September 16, 1937- August 10, 2024



CORNELIO ROMO (86) of Montrose, Colorado, passed away at his home on August 10, 2024. Cornelio was born to Crispin Romo and Cesaria de la Cruz on September 16, 1937, in Rancho Chamacueros, Mexico. He came to the United States in 1969 in search of the best life possible for his family, who will carry on his legacy of hard work and his immense love for his family. The family that survives him includes wife, Ester Romo; daughters, Maria (Elias) Gonzalez, Juanita (Bo) Wilson, and Selestina (Ruben) Sandoval; grandchildren, Jessie (Alejandra) Gonzalez, Rosanna Gonzalez, Michael (Jen) Romo, Marisa (Jason) Cronk, and Davian Sandoval; great-grandchildren Ayleen Gonzalez, Emiliano Gonzalez, Jordan Romo, and Gavin Romo; and siblings, Vicente Romo, Guadalupe Romo, Felipe Romo and Paula Romo. He was preceded in death by his mother, father, brother Marcelino Romo, and grandson Jason Gonzalez.

Cornelio was a faithful, prayerful warrior who covered many in his daily prayers. He was generous with what little he had and was always willing to help friends and family in need. He battled life-ending cancer but never stopped fighting and always put God at the center of his battles. Although his family was not ready to let him go, they have no doubt he found his place in heaven.

To honor Cornelio's memory, a service will be held on Friday, August 23, 2024, at 10 a.m. at St Mary's Catholic Church, 1855 St. Mary's Drive, Montrose, CO 81401. There will be a viewing at Crippin Funeral Home on Thursday, August 22, 2024, at 5 p.m., 802 E Main Street, Montrose, CO, 81401, with a rosary following.

JOANNE (JOANN) VALENCIA

December 23, 1954 — August 11, 2024

JOANNE (JOANN) VALENCIA, 69, of Montrose, Colorado, passed away unexpectedly but quietly in her sleep on August 11th, 2024. She was born on December 23, 1954, in Chicago, Illinois.

Joanne is survived by her husband Henry Valencia, her son John (April) Rachel of Myrtle Beach, SC, daughter Pauline (Brian) Taylor of Demotte, IN, sisters Penny Schuette of Largo, FL, Patricia Luka of TX and Cynthia Cashdollar of Hammond, IN as well as her 10 Grandchildren and 10 Great-Grandchildren. Joanne was predeceased by her parents, John and Suzanne Cashdollar.

She will be forever missed until we meet again.



Thank you for reading

THE MONTROSE MIRROR

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR KAREN MERCER ON SEPT. 8

Karen Anne Mercer's Celebration of Life

Sunday September 8th at Ouray County Rodeo Grounds in Ridgway, Colorado

Services will begin promptly at 2PM to allow ample time for ceremony, music, video and public remembrance from family and friends. So please arrive early. **Karen has requested that all attendees wear their favorite rainbow colors.** Light hors d'oeuvres will be served posthaste. This is a BYOB celebration and non-alcoholic beverages will be available. **We also respectfully ask that if you are not feeling well on the day of the event to please consider staying home or wearing a mask**

KAREN ANNE MERCER

KAREN ANNE MERCER was born in 1956 in Wilmington, Delaware to Tom and BG Mercer. Karen's Dad worked for Dupont and as the family grew, they moved quite frequently as her Dad was transferred from Delaware to Santa Ana, CA to Dallas, TX then to Atlanta, GA. They moved back to Wilmington Delaware when Karen was nine. By that time there were four kids and a childhood filled with a large extended Irish Catholic family who often sang together in four part harmony.

Karen graduated from Concord High School in Wilmington, DE and went on to obtain an associates degree at Harcum College, Bryn Mawr, PA, then to State University of New York Geneseo to start a bachelors degree. She finished her bachelors degree in Speech Pathology/Audiology with a minor in Psychology at West Virginia University. She then moved to Colorado and received a Master's Degree in Audiology from the University of Northern Colorado in 1980. She completed her Doctorate in Audiology at Still University in 2006.

Her first audiology job was at a private practice in Glenwood Springs, CO, where she stayed for seven years. There she found a love of the outdoors, skiing and hiking while living in a log cabin (with a lot of mice as roommates) and took up country swing dancing which she taught at Colorado Mountain College. While in Glenwood she also started writing music and had her first music duo with her friend Lee Martin. They performed for a number of years together.

In 1987 she moved to Northern California for a short stretch as a part-time audiologist/musician. Then in late 1987 her wanderlust took hold and she moved to New Zealand where she worked as an audiologist for the Department of Health for a year. She then made her way to Australia on her way back to her beloved Colorado and landed in Montrose.

In 1990 she opened her private practice, Southwest Hearing, in Montrose. At first there were a small number of patients which over the years grew to thousands. She loved them all and eventually retired in 2018. Also in 1990 she and "music love" Glenda Fletchall started the famed duo "Gotta be Girls" and started writing their own music. The "Girls" performed frequently around Western Colorado and Arizona. Eventually two more "Girls" were added to the Band...they were HOT!. In 2012 she stepped out of the band to write, perform worldwide and record three CD's, the last being in 2024.

In the early 1990's Karen married and in 1996 her beautiful daughter, Bridgit Elizabeth Baldus was born. Soon Bridgit, the apple of her eye, became her ever present sidekick at Southwest Hearing.

In 2017 she finally met the love of her life, Neil O'Keeffe, the man she called her soulmate. They had seven wonderful years of adventure and camaraderie together. In 2022 she was diagnosed with cancer. During the following two years, Neil was ever present by her side helping her through the many challenges she faced. They were married in 2024 in a

private backyard ceremony. She will be greatly missed by her husband Neil O'Keeffe, daughter Bridgit Baldus, her parents Tom and BG Mercer,

siblings Amy Jones, Mark Mercer and wife Talia Schiff, Tommy Mercer and wife Priscilla and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins, all of whom she loved dearly. And last but not least, too many friends to count ... She touched so many people!

A Celebration of Life will be held on September 8, 2024 at the Ouray County 4-H Event Center. Services will begin promptly at 2PM to allow ample time for ceremony, music, video and public remembrance from family and friends. So please arrive early. Light hors d'oeuvres will be served posthaste. This is a BYOB celebration and non-alcoholic beverages will be available. There will also be a service in the spring/summer of 2025 at the beach on the east coast for close friends and family.

Karen asked that in lieu of flowers please make donations to: Any Hospice of your choice, KVNF Radio of Paonia & Montrose or Namaste Integrative Clinic in Durango, CO.



COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

BENJAMIN DALE DELTONTA

September 15, 1972- August 8, 2024

BENJAMIN DALE DELTONTA was born in Montrose, Colorado on September 15th, 1972 to his mom Hazel (Sutherlin) and father Joseph DelTonto.

Ben grew up on the family farm on the east side of Montrose with his six other siblings. Ben was the youngest of them, nine years younger than his next closest sibling Roy DelTonto. Throughout those years Ben and his brothers and sisters helped nurture DelTonto Farms to what it still is today. Doing farming mostly in the first half of childhood, which eventually turned into running sheep in the high country of the Cimarron Mountain Range. As a teenager Ben would spend all summer on the alpine plateau herding sheep for his Dad Joseph. The rest of the time he attended Colorado Christian School. In the beginning of Ben's adulthood he farmed for his oldest brother Joey DelTonto. He also spent his time working as a butcher at Dave's processing and working in Rays Lumber yard. In 1993 he started at Golden Key Futura LLC and shortly worked his way up to being the production manager for one of the biggest archery manufacturers in the world. There he helped develop numerous products captivating the industry. Ben would go on to win multiple archery competitions in the western United States. During that time he was a shooting sports instructor for Montrose County 4H

clubs where he provided teachings to his nephews and nieces. Ben was also a life-time Elks member and was proud to be a part of it. Many of Ben's hobbies revolved around the outdoors, whether it was fishing, hunting, marksmanship, cooking, processing or archery. Ben also loved to play poker with his friends and family. In 2005 Ben started his employment with Kinikin Processing LLC, and in a short time became the Plant Manager. This is where he thrived the most, becoming the master butcher we know and love. He was employed with Kinikin until his death on August 8th, 2024. During his employment he grew the company to where it is today. Through these years came fatherhood. As his son grew he spent his time the same way, surrounding him with his loving family and everything outdoors. He enjoyed hunting and fishing with him the most. In 2017 his sister Kathy DelTonto started Serving Grace Catering and he worked with her providing catering services and food to many events across the western slope. From weddings to parties they did it all! Ben and Kathy even created the famous Ben's Baked Beans recipe that was a hit at every event. Ben is preceded in death by his Grand Parents and his parents (Joseph DelTonto, Hazel Stutherlin, Joseph Sheehan, and Jerry Mussman). Ben is survived by his son (Hunter DelTonto).



His wife (Heather Mussman). His daughters (Cierra, Katerina, Kendria, and Cheyna). His Mother in laws (Patty Sheehan) and (Lynn Mussman). His brothers (Joey, Danny, and Roy). His sisters (Helene, Patty, Kathy, Charleen, and Sandy). His aunts and uncles, his 12 nieces and nephews, his 14 great nieces and nephews, and his one granddaughter. Ben cast a big shadow on the community of Montrose. His legacy and heart will be forever felt around the valley and in the people he touched most. He will forever be cherished and missed.

Now more than ever...

Thank you for reading

THE MONTROSE MIRROR

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

PAUL DAKOTA SCHLEGEL *March 1, 1942 — August 7, 2024*

PAUL DAKOTA SCHLEGEL was born in Rapid City, South Dakota, on March 1, 1942, to Clifford and Marion Schlegel. Their family continued to live in South Dakota until Paul was five years old at which time they moved to Merced, California, when Paul's dad became the editor of the Merced Sun newspaper.

Growing up in the region known as the Gateway to Yosemite National Park, Paul developed a love for spending time in the outdoors while camping with his family and fishing with his dad. Paul also learned to golf from his father and went on to be a participant on the state-winning Merced High School golf team. Other hobbies in his younger years included backcountry enduro dirt-biking and photography.

Paul's mechanical mind and curiosity in figuring out how things worked blossomed when he purchased his first car, took it apart piece by piece, and then figured out how to put it all back together again. He also built a canoe in high school shop class and his family took a trip to Canada to try it out. Paul went on to pursue his mechanical interests academically as he obtained a degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of California at Berkeley. He then worked as a mechanical design engineer the rest of his professional career at five companies in California and Colorado,

including Douglas Aircraft Corporation, Ball Aerospace, Gates Corporation, Cobe Laboratories, and Hach Company.

At a picnic gathering of mutual friends, Paul met the love of his life, Clara Lucille Futch. They were married on March 30, 1969, at Gulf Prairie Presbyterian Church in Jones Creek, Texas. Paul and Clara were blessed with 55 wonderful years of marriage: 50 of which were in Boulder, Colorado, and the past five years in Montrose, Colorado. They have two children, Neal and Mary Beth. Paul enjoyed spending time together with his family and friends hiking, skiing, biking, sailing, and snowshoeing. He was always grateful for the opportunities to spend time with his sister, Roslyn, and her family when visiting them in Australia and England or having them come to the United States. Additionally, Paul loved his extended family in Colorado and New Mexico and treasured spending holidays together as well as special trips to Lake Powell and Crested Butte. Paul was thrilled to be the grandfather of five grandsons and looked forward to being with each one of them.

Paul placed his faith in Jesus Christ as his Savior. In addition to the priority of growing in his personal relationship with Jesus, Paul served his local church. He was a Deacon, Elder, and long-time greeter at

the First Presbyterian Church of Boulder.

Paul was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease 17 years ago. He

was inspired by the Davis Phinney Foundation to remember that "Every Victory Counts". He participated in multiple Davis Phinney events to raise awareness about the benefits of exercise in individuals with Parkinson's Disease, including the Road 2 Victory bike rides around Boulder and the 79-mile Copper Triangle.

Paul passed away peacefully at home on August 7, 2024, in Montrose, Colorado, from complications of Parkinson's Disease.

Paul is survived by his wife, Clara Schlegel; sister, Roslyn Elwing; son and family, Neal, Kristen, Luke, Calvin, and Ian Schlegel; daughter and family, Mary Beth, Adam, Jonah, and Jeremiah Renfrow. He was greatly loved and will be deeply missed by all who knew him.



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

ISSUE 482 Aug. 19, 2024

ART & SOL

YOUR BRAIN ON NATURE – YOUR RIGHT TO NATURE



By Lauren Hall Ruddell, Ph.D.

Greetings Mirrorites!

MONTROSE—Most thoughtful individuals agree that human beings have a right to food and shelter. But a Right to Nature? Many people would find that concept to be irrelevant for human health and thriving. But I would submit to you that even though food and shelter are more important than access to natural restorative scenes and places, the right to nature to preserve mental health is just as important as meaningful work and close human relationships, and nearly as important as food and shelter.

Governments around the world are struggling to balance the various human goods that they need to provide to their citizens. Food and affordable housing are certainly issues these days that are being aggressively tackled on many fronts. Sometimes even successfully.

But like any action or program, there is a downside. Take for instance Ballycroy Na-



These may look like oak leaves, but it's actually a rare lichen (tree lungwort) found only in Ireland's disappearing oak forests. Photo courtesy of Daniel James Greenwood.

tional Park in County Mayo, in western Ireland. On two separate visits I found the park to be nearly deserted. The scenic boardwalk had no other visitors than myself for over half an hour at a time. Imagine that in an American national park! Rangers spoke to me in hushed tones about the sheep problem in the park. The European Union quite rightly wants it citizens to be fed. So they have instituted the Common Agricultural Policy or CAP, to make sure that farmers are fairly compensated for their production. In Ireland, with their commonage system of multiple farmers grazing sheep on mutually held community lands, farmers are now subsidi-

dized to overgraze public resources. Yes, this overgrazing means that there is always plenty of lamb on every restaurant's menu, but national park biodiversity is getting so hammered that the parks just look like the areas surrounding their boundaries.

"Our national parks suffer from overgrazing, which is a mind-blowing fact when you think about it – that we have animals for production in our national parks that are supposed to be there for nature," states one [Irish conservation watchdog group](#). Another publication states that..."the subsidies of the current CAP favour more intensive, less sustainable

Continued next pg

YOUR BRAIN ON NATURE – YOUR RIGHT TO NATURE From previous pg

farming, while failing to support those engaged in extensive grazing, [pastoralism](#), and the management of semi-wild and wild animals.”

These are some of the reasons that compared to the stunning and well-managed forest lands in Colorado parks and monuments, there is little that is special about Ballycroy and the biodiversity is a fraction of what it should be in any park or reserve. Are the sheep supposed to be in the park? Not really, but because the right to natural scenery that is representative of an ancient landscape is not as important to the government as food production, the park suffers from human underuse because the government doesn't really value it sufficiently. It isn't unique enough for tourist hordes, although it is quite lovely. Sheep wander in at will, destroying all tree seedlings, and their numbers are increasing. It is very much reminiscent of Garrett Hardin's work *The Tragedy of the Commons*. When certain private parties make independently rational decisions to enhance their own well-being at the expense of the public weal, you get a Ballycroy. The right to nature of a certain ho-hum kind has been secured, true, but not the right to see mountainsides covered with native oaks, which are in turn covered with the ethereal and mystical appearing tree lungwort, to name just one of the rare plants that could be growing there.

I use this example to help illustrate what

happens when vigilance in protecting public lands is left to government alone. When we fall into the trap, we make ourselves prisoners in our own cells. And research has shown us that the incarcerated population forms a microcosm for society at large that illustrates the perennial (and even daily) need for restorative and awe-inspiring nature. A [research team](#) found that...” Even a day or two in pretrial detention can destabilize a person's life for years to come, contributing to its counterproductive influence on safety and justice.”

The lack of freedom to move around in comfortable surroundings and get into the sunlight once or twice a day may weigh in on this unfortunate outcome. We should therefore labor to *not* become our own jailers. Rather we should learn from prisoner gardening interventions such as that employed at Riker's Island penal facility, where inmates involved in programs that let them get their hands dirty (in a good way) have a recidivism (re-arrest rate after leaving) of 10 percent as opposed to approximately 25 percent for normal incarceration practices.

Sure, Coloradans need food and housing just like the rest of humanity. But we also need restorative natural environments to immerse ourselves into in order to ease anxiety and depression (which are much lower among prisoner gardeners than the 'gen pop'.) We are so fortunate in our access to both sublime and pastoral na-

ture within an hour's drive or less from pretty much anywhere in Montrose and Delta counties. And the effect on our mental health is exceeding beneficial, when done right.

As the new film *The Paradise Paradox* illuminates, mere exposure to breathtaking scenery is not a panacea for all mental health ailments.

The joys of mountain resort living in picturesque landscapes featuring world-renowned outdoor recreation can be overshadowed by the high cost of living, limited community resources, and, at times, drug and alcohol addiction fueled by 'party culture.'

So among the “frozen chosen,” understanding the role of sober and mindful time in nature may make the difference in mental wellness in ski resorts. In the Uncompahgre valley towns, we lowland folks may actually have the best of both worlds, with an affordable way of life and ready access to nature. But it requires stewardship, both at the grassroots level and above.

Vigilance is always the key to protecting human rights and safeguarding the Right to Nature and a quiet place to rest, heal, recover, and reset is both the right and responsibility of every western Coloradan.

Government officials and natural resource managers, please know that we voters thank you for your service and we will be watching.

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SURROUNDING COUNTIES



COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM TAKES A WALK ON THE SPOOKY SIDE

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE-Join us for the Haunting of the Downtour Ghost Tour on August 23 at 6pm. The Montrose County Historical Museum takes a walk on the Spooky Side with tales of spooks, ghouls, and ghost stories. The museum ghost authority mingles history and legends on a walk down Montrose's shadowy Main Street and dark alleyways. The ghouls will be present as they follow patrons enjoying the mysterious tales of the town's eerie history of paranormal activity and perhaps have their own experiences to share afterward. There are limited spaces for this family-friendly tour, to reserve a space call 970-249-2085 or email info@montrosehistory.org Tickets are \$10/person

COLORADO ENERGY & CARBON MANAGEMENT COMMISSION ADOPTS FIRST DEEP GEOTHERMAL RULES

Special to the Mirror

DENVER – The Colorado Energy & Carbon Management Commission (ECMC) [today](#) adopted Deep Geothermal Operations Rules. This is the first rollout of comprehensive standards to facilitate geothermal energy development following the expansion of ECMC's focus into energy and carbon management projects beyond oil and gas under SB23-285, a law signed by Governor Polis.

The new standards offer a path to develop Colorado's geothermal resources and incorporate ECMC's expertise and experience regulating both surface and subsurface energy development activity to be protective of public health, safety, and welfare, including the environment and wildlife resources.

The standards demonstrate ECMC Staff's strengths in evaluating and permitting surface locations, while working with local governments and disproportionately impacted communities to have meaningful input at all points along the permitting process. The Rulemaking also leveraged ECMC Staff's extensive expertise in regulating wellbore construction to be safe and protective, including subsurface injection activities, and in protecting subsurface property rights.

Deep geothermal energy is an emerging industry in Colorado that can utilize hot water and rock in deep subsurface formations to produce electric power and/or for direct heating uses. Colorado has several areas with higher than normal temperatures in the subsurface. These resources are mostly undeveloped and have vast potential for future energy development and heat use. Geothermal energy provides a reliable, clean energy source that decreases Colorado's reliance on fos-

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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



with Kate Burke

Creative Color

Alcohol Ink

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

Everything included plus
adult beverage
or soft drink

at Mosaic

21 N. Cascade Ave., downtown Montrose




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

DIY Fall Door Decor

at Mosaic

Thr., Sept 26th
5:30-7:30 pm

Wreaths,
florals, ribbon,
decorations,
tools.
Plus a drink.

Hang out with
friends & have fun!

11 N. Cascade Ave., downtown Montrose



<https://kathrynrburke.com/product/092624M>

Paint Your Pet

FREE at the Montrose Library

Thr., Sept 19th
5:30-7:30 pm

Demonstration,
detailed instructions,
and all art materials
provided.
Includes a snack and
soft drink.

230 S. 2nd St., downtown Montrose



<https://kathrynrburke.com/product/091924L>

Decorate Wine Glasses

LA NOUE DUBOIS

Sat., Sep. 28
1-3:30 pm

Includes Winery-tour

With Kate Burke
Provided: 2 wine glasses
specialty (washable) paints,
demo & hands-on help,
Snack and complimentary
glass of wine or soft drink.

67289 Trout Rd., (5 miles S. of Target)



<https://kathrynrburke.com/product/092824wine>

WHA-TV

Wed., Sept. 25
5:30-7:30 pm

Open to Public

with Kate Burke

Fall Watercolor

Includes demos, instructions
all materials, coffee or soft drink

4 Hillcrest Plaza Way, off East Main, Montrose



<https://kathrynrburke.com/product/092524whafv>

Kate's September Creative Classes & Workshops

Everything provided plus a drink.



Info, details, registrations
<https://kathrynrburke.com/education>

Private group classes, contact me for details
<https://kathrynrburke.com/calendar/>

FRIENDS OF YOUTH & NATURE: SERVING COLORADO YOUNG ADULTS VOLUNTEER THROUGH AMERICORPS

By Nilam Hypio, guest writer for
Friends of Youth and Nature

REGIONAL-Volunteering is an excellent opportunity for young adults to give their time and in return learn valuable life skills and gain friendships and memorable experiences. Here in Colorado, "Serve Colorado" is a volunteer program under the AmeriCorp umbrella, which offers funding for people, young and old, to volunteer and help communities across Colorado recover from the effects of COVID-19 and build them back stronger!

AmeriCorps offer a variety of areas for their members to volunteer such as education, the environment, energy and social service programs. AmeriCorps volunteers receive a living allowance, training, and an education award that may be used for future education costs, or to repay past student loans.

The Colorado Alliance for Environmental Educators (CAEE) has a special AmeriCorps program called "eeCorps" that focuses specifically on conservation and the environment and has many host sites across Colorado, including several locations on the Western Slope. The focus of volunteers with the eeCorps program is connecting youth to year-round place-based nature education. Nilam Hypio was an eeCorps member this past summer, serving youth attending the Nature Connection programs in the Delta County and Olathe areas. Nilam writes about her experience as an eeCorps member working with Western Slope youth, teaching them about the environment and helping them gain outdoor skills.

"During the beginning of my term, we (the Nature Connection staff) were right in the middle of preparing for one of our core school programs that takes place in the wintertime - our Skis for Kids Program. I was all too familiar with this program, as both of my parents had started this program, and I had helped with several outings. After previously working with a much older population than our core youth audience, I was a little nervous. Over time and leading many programs and activities, I became more comfortable with holding conversations and joking around with just about any kid. Fast forward to our summer camp programs with The Nature Connection



Camp Counselors. Courtesy photo.

tion that took place in two locations, Hotchkiss and Delta, Colorado. I was responsible for facilitating education stations for various themes offered for each camp week throughout the summer. I was hopeful that the summer camps would be fun for the kids, give them a chance to relax, make new friends, and just let them be kids doing kid things. Even though we saw some of the same kids from our school programs, each camp brought a different vibe for each location. I was a little surprised by this. Some camper groups needed a lot more physical activity and movement throughout the day particularly to get through that last chunk of the day. Knowing this, I had fun modifying education lesson stations based on the location of the camp and the kids' needs. During one station, I had taken the kids and camp counselors for a nature walk to gather leaves for a leaf rubbing activity to get the kids moving and observing. After we came back with the gathered leaves, we started our activity. The theme of that week's activity was Nature of Art, and the goal of that activity was to use leaves gathered to create designs on a piece of paper using crayons for a colorful result. After they had created their designs, the campers could write a little note to whom-ever they chose. One camper wrote "Anthony, please come to camp. It's not as bad as you think it is." This had me and the other counselors cracking up in fits of laughter! I mean, what would you expect a kid to write, other than complete honesty? It was as funny as it was humbling. I didn't



Nilam Hypio. Courtesy photo.

know which camper wrote that note, but it assured me and the other counselors that the kids were actually having fun and making memories.

Ultimately, having fun while connecting to the outdoors is our intention and if we can make an impact on at least one kid, then that is more than satisfying enough."

More information about the AmeriCorps program through Serve Colorado can be found at:

<https://servecolorado.colorado.gov/ameri-corps-recruitment>

Specific AmeriCorps programming through the CAEE eeCorps programming can be found at:

<https://caee.org/programs/act/ameri-corps-ee-corps/ee-corps-host-sites>

The Nature Connection summer camps and school break camps are offered in Hotchkiss and Delta with programs for all ages of youth. For more information visit: thenatureconnection.net

Friends of Youth and Nature (FOYAN), is a non-profit that promotes opportunities for youth and families to get outside, experience outdoor activities, and explore nature. Follow our outdoor news blog and receive monthly tips on connecting your children to nature at www.friendsof-youth-and-nature.org

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

FORTUNA TIERRA CLUB PRESENTS EXCEPTIONAL WOMEN OF OURAY COUNTY

Special to art & Sol

OURAY COUNTY- The Exceptional Women of Ouray County, a new volunteer awards program, is being coordinated by Fortuna Tierra Club. The recognition effort allows nonprofit organizations to thank their top volunteers.

"We want to recognize the outstanding women volunteers who demonstrate leadership, commitment and service to nonprofits operating in Ouray County," said program founder Eve Becker-Doyle. "It is our objective to honor their accomplishments and dedication and the hard work they do on our behalf."

Seven women comprise the 2024 class of Exceptional Women of Ouray County:

Robyn Cascade nominated by Great Old Broads for Wilderness and Northern San Juan Broadband;

Sue Husch nominated by Weehawken Arts;

Jeanne Jambor nominated by Home Trust of Ouray County;

Lori Leo nominated by Mount Sneffels Education Foundation;

Agnieszka Przeszlowska nominated by Ridgway Community Garden;

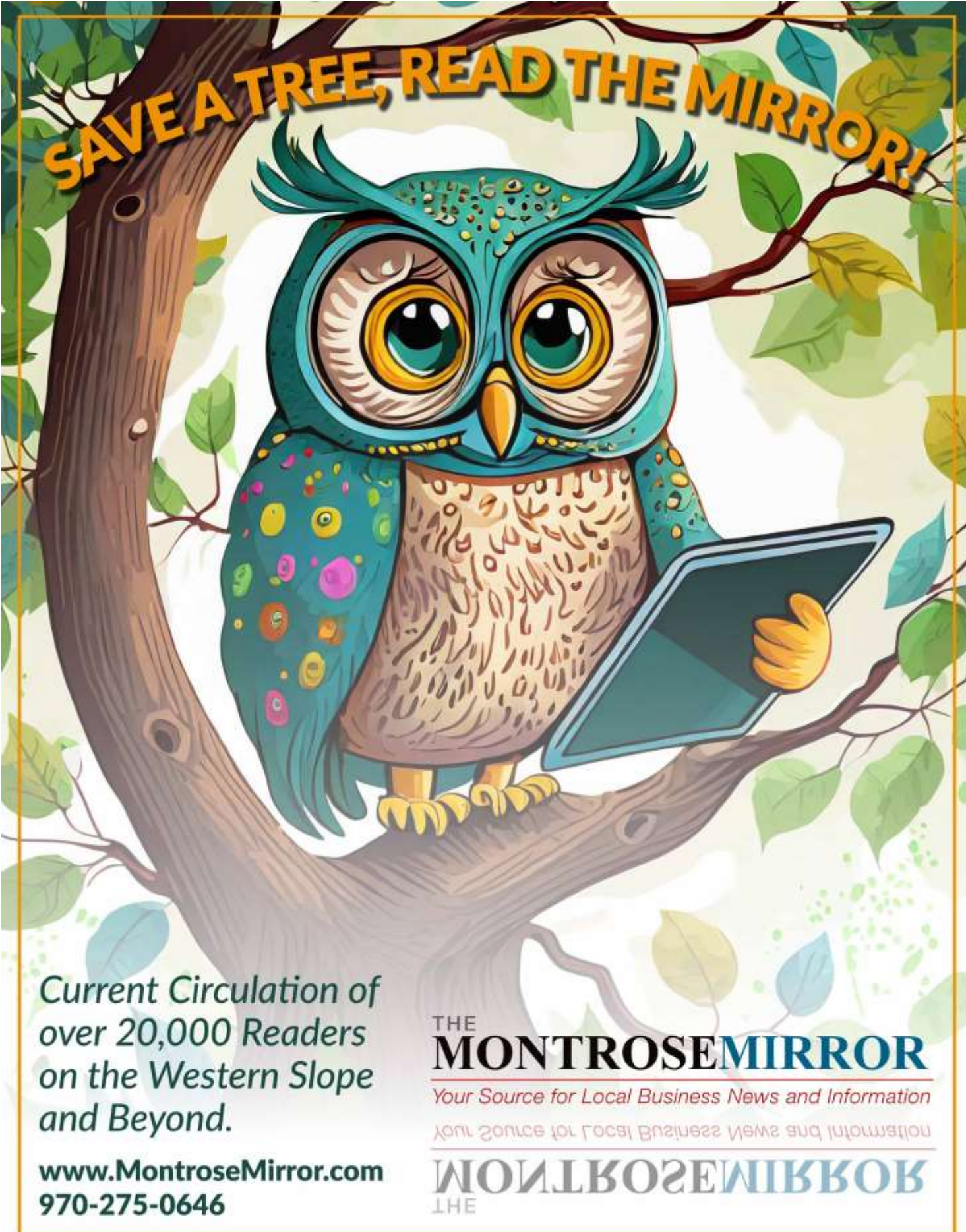
Irene Stith nominated by Fortuna Tierra Club;

Donna Whiskeman nominated by Region 10 Area Agency on Aging;

The 2024 Exceptional Women of Ouray County will be celebrated at an Oct. 5 reception. Invitations are being emailed to the participating nonprofits' members and constituents and personal lists compiled by recipients. Attendees pay \$50 and event hosts \$100. If you do not receive a reception invitation, text or call Julie Huun at 303.638.5018 with your email address.

Proceeds go to college scholarships for Ridgway High School graduates.





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

Office Hours: By appointment.

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

 don@allsaintsmontrose.org)

Worship Service Times: Sundays 9AM,

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

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

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

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

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Olathe, Co 81425

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

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Sunday 6 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Study/Prayer 7 p.m.

CELEBRATION CHURCH

Denomination: Southern Baptist Church
 (SBC – Southern Baptist Convention)

Address: 2900 Sunnyside Road, Mont-
 rose, CO 81401

Office Hours: By appointment

Phone: (970) 497-4925

Email: celebrationmontrose@gmail.com

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

Worship Service Times: 9am and 10:45am

Senior Pastor:

Pastor Brandon Mathis

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

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

Demographics: Multi-generational

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

Student (middle & high school) at 9am.

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

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

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

Contact: 970-633-0226

Website: www.montroselutheran.org

Email: montroselutheran@gmail.com

Pastor: Tim Onnen

Worship: Sundays at 9 AM

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

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

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

COVENANT HEBRAIC FELLOWSHIP

Denomination affiliation. No affiliation

Address Office hours N/A

Contact: 720-951-9941,
office@ccfmontrose.net,
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,
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,
www.fpcmontrose.com

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jesse G. Mabanglo

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

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

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY From previous pg

HILLCREST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Denomination affiliation: United Church of Christ

Address: 611 South Hillcrest Drive, Montrose, CO 81401

Office hours: By appointment

Contact information:

Phone number: (970) 249-9047

Email address: office@montroseucc.org

Website: montroseucc.org

Current Pastor: Rev. Wendy Kidd

Worship service times: Sunday, 10 a.m.

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

on life's journey.

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

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

MONTROSE 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, [mont-](http://montroseumc.org)

montroseumc.org

Current Senior Pastor: Rev. Kevin Young

Worship service times:

8:30 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual

9:45 a.m. Christian Education & Fellowship

11 a.m. Sanctuary

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

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

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

ROSEMONT BAPTIST CHURCH

Affiliation: Southern Baptist

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

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

Contact information:

Phone: 970.249.4887

website: www.RosemontBaptist.org

email: office@rosemontbaptist.org

Senior Pastor: Rolland Kenneson

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

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

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

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

matter what stage of life they are in.

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

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

SPIRITUAL AWARENESS CENTER

Denomination affiliation: Independent Interfaith

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

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

Office – 970-252-0908

Contact information:

Rev. Dr. Arlyn Macdonald, 970-252-0908,

arlyn@spiritaware.org,

www.spiritaware.org

Name of current pastor: Rev. Dr. Arlyn Macdonald, Senior minister; Rev. Ruby Salaz, Assistant Minister. Spiritual Counseling available. **Worship service times:** In-person Sunday Unity Service at 11 a.m., (Social Time begins at 10 a.m.); Quiet Meditation at 10:30 a.m. Virtual Afternoon Service on Zoom at 2:00 p.m.; Chai Chats, a Wednesday morning midweek informal gathering at 10:30 a.m. at Pun Hill Himalayan Restaurant, Montrose; Thursday Empowerment Circle at 10:30 a.m. on Zoom. Everyone is

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

ST. STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

Denomination: Anglican-Reformed Episcopal Church (REC)

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

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

rose@yahoo.com

www.ststephensmontrose.com

Rev. Dec. Garrett Agajanian

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

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

Sunday: Holy Communion 10 am.

Fellowship following service.

Children's nursery available (unstaffed).

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY From previous pg

SUMMIT CHURCH OF MONTROSE:

Denomination affiliation:

Southern Baptist

Address: 10977 60.75 Rd. Montrose, CO 81403

Office hours: Varies

Contact information:

email: summitchurchmontrose@gmail.com

website:

www.summitchurchmontrose.org

Senior Pastor: Interim Pastor.

Worship service times: Sunday Worship is

at 9 am followed by a time of fellowship and snacks.

Summit Church has frequent Bible studies and other events for adults, young adults, youth and children. Please visit <https://www.summitchurchmontrose.org/events> for more information.

Summit Church Montrose is a new church plant that preaches the Word of God, reaches the lost with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and equips Christians to serve the Lord. Summit Church has people of all ag-

es! We have families with children (babies, school aged, recent high school and college graduates) up to retired individuals.

During the Sunday sermon we offer teaching for children ages birth to Kindergarten, in a kid friendly room called Base Camp.

We also have a children's activity during our Monday night adult Bible study.

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

VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH OF MONTROSE

Denomination Affiliation: Independent Baptist

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

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8am-12pm

Contact Information: Phone (970) 249-

6874; email at info@vbcmontrose.org;

website: vbcmontrose.org

Current Pastor: Roland Kassales

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

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

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

Church Directory

Mirror Editorial Staff

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

information to the Montrose Mirror:

Name of church

Denomination affiliation

Address Office hours

Contact information (phone number, email address, website)

Name of current Senior Pastor

Worship service times

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

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

Do your church services include Sunday School and childcare?

Local Immunization Providers



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

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SAVE THE DATE! LOCAL EVENTS CALENDAR

ONGOING-

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

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

MONTROSE FARMERS MARKET (970) 249 0705 Centennial Plaza, 433 S. 1st St. Montrose, CO 81401 www.valleyfoodpartnership.org. Year-Round Farmers Market, Saturdays 9am-1pm (Summer), every other Saturday 10am-1pm (Winter). Accepts SNAP and Double Up Food Bucks.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MONTHLY

Aug. 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. To visit the website: www.tellurideinstitute.org/talking-gourds

Aug. 23-Join us for the Haunting of the Downtour Ghost Tour on August 23 at 6pm. The Montrose County Historical Museum takes a walk on the Spooky Side with tales of spooks, ghouls, and ghost stories. There are limited spaces for this family-friendly tour, to reserve a space call 970-249-2085 or email info@montrosehistory.org Tickets are \$10/person

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. 3-Tuesday Sept. 3 at 5pm at Montrose Safety Complex mtg rm (police 434 S1st) Citizens' Climate lobby meets to promote a climate action plan to mitigate carbon emissions. Nonpartisan, National Environmental. All Welcome info 970-765-9095.

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

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

READER PHOTO SPOTLIGHT: DEB REIMANN



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