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the Montrose Mirror

© Issue No. 600 Aug. 26, 2024

DEVELOPERS ASSIGN INTEREST IN HISTORIC CITY HALL TO TYPHOON PROPERTIES, INC.

Mirror Staff Report

MONTROSE—At the special City Council meeting of Monday, Aug. 12, Montrose City Council discussed in Executive Session a proposal that was brought forward for Rathbone Enterprises to assign its interest as buyer for Montrose's historic City Hall building to Typhoon Properties, Inc.

According to minutes of the Executive Session, "Mayor J. David Reed summarized the executive session stating that the purchase and sale contract for the historic City Hall building was discussed with the City of Montrose as the seller, and Rathbone Enterprises as the purchaser."

Terms were discussed as well as a request to extend the due diligence for 30 days from that day with a closing date in 60 days. The CMU hospitality program component would remain.

The minutes also state, "Jay Raible and Clay Bales were acknowledged for their efforts in opening the Rathbone Hotel and for their assistance in this transaction."



Historic City Hall Building. Photo by Harry Switzer

BOARD OF EQUALIZATION OVERTURNS COUNTY ASSESSOR DENIAL OF SENIOR PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION IN TWO TO ONE VOTE



Although the State of Colorado—which funds and administers the Senior Property Tax Exemption program—had recommended denial based on a break in occupancy, the Board of Equalization, above, voted two-to-one to overturn the County Assessor's denial of a requested exemption. Commissioners Hansen and Rash voted to overturn while Commissioner Caddy voted against overturning the County Assessor's decision.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE—All three commissioners were present as Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) Chair Roger Rash called the regular BOCC meeting to order on Wednesday, Aug. 21. All joined in saying the Pledge of Allegiance. Pastor Buddy Cook of 1st Church of the Nazarene delivered the invocation. Cook said that when the ancient King Solomon was allowed to pray for anything he wanted, he prayed for the wisdom to judge his people diligently. "...Lord, I pray that you grant that same wisdom to those who lead us...that you give them a spirit of justice and mercy and walking humbly with you..."

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

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

COUNTY MANAGER

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioners voted to approve

Continued pg 19

[Paul Arbogast: The Battle that Saved Washington!](#)

[Red Hawks Sports Coverage by Cliff Dodge!](#)

[Citizens meet with City to Discuss Sanctuary City Status!](#)

[Red Hawks Pummel Demons 42-16 By Cliff Dodge!](#)

UPDATED GUIDELINES FOR LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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or photo provided












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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

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

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

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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

I-70 VAIL PASS CRACK FILLING PROJECT BEGINS

*Single lane closures will begin on the
westbound lanes of Vail Pass*

Special to the Mirror

SUMMIT COUNTY — The Colorado Department of Transportation and contractor, KSK, will begin a crack filling maintenance project on I-70 Vail Pass from Mile Point 190 to 195. Crews will begin on the westbound lanes, moving from the summit of Vail Pass (MP 195) towards Vail ski area MP 190, before moving operations to the eastbound lanes. This is a short duration project that is anticipated to be complete by early October 2024.

Crack sealing is the process of placing an adhesive sealant into cracks on the asphalt surface, preventing moisture from penetrating the pavement. The preservation treatment can slow asphalt's deterioration and extend the roadway surface life by three to five years.



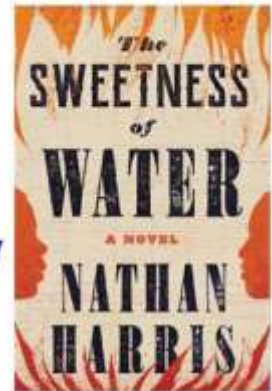
Looking for a book club?

The next meeting of the
Montrose Library Book
Club

will be **Saturday,**
September 7
at 9:00 a.m. in the Library
Meeting Room

The book to be
discussed is

The Sweetness of Water
by Nathan Harris.



The Montrose Library Book Club for adults
meets on the first Saturday of the month
(except for holiday weekends and closures).
Email lmclean@montroselibrary.org for more
info.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

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Dear Montrose Mirror,

I would like to congratulate you upon reaching yet another milestone, 600th issue! Hardly a Monday goes by without me taking time to read your latest issue. You are truly the voice of the Uncompahgre Valley allowing for the true First Amendment expression of issues, for eleven and a half years, with little or no editorial restriction on content.

Please continue to be the Beacon of Liberty for the Uncompahgre Valley!

Sincerely,

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Montrose Regional Crime Stoppers Alert

MONTROSE-Montrose Regional Crime Stoppers, Inc. and the Montrose Police Department are seeking the public's help in identifying the person or persons involved in a shooting that occurred on Monday August 19th around noon near the riverbank of the Uncompahgre River just north of the Montrose County School District property and west of the Montrose High School. It was reported that several juvenile males were involved and were seen leaving the area immediately after the shots were fired.

Anyone with information about this crime or the location of the firearm are encouraged to call Crime Stoppers anonymously at (970) 249-8500, use the app P3 Tips, or provide information via P3Tips.com.

Crime Stoppers wants your information, not your identity. If the Tip results in an arrest, the Tipster may receive a cash award of up to \$1000.00. For additional information, please view our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/montroseregionalcrimestoppers. Crime Prevention crime solution and are everyone's responsibility.

MRCS would also like to remind everyone that all persons of interest depicted in our alerts by photo or not, or by any other means, are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

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There will be a Silent Auction starting at 11 a.m. and winners will be announced after the last dance.

VENDORS: Vendors you must either donate an item to the Silent Auction **OR** pay a \$200 vendor fee.
There will be limited space for food vendors, so please sign up early!

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JR. GIRLS: 7-12 yrs / Fancy, Jingle, Traditional / 1st place \$100 / 2nd place \$75 / 3rd Place \$50

JR. BOYS: 7-12 yrs / Fancy, Grass, Traditional / 1st place \$100 / 2nd place \$75 / 3rd Place \$50

TEEN GIRLS: 13-17 yrs / Fancy, Jingle & Traditional / 1st place \$200 / 2nd place \$150 / 3rd Place \$75

TEEN BOYS: 13-17 yrs / Fancy, Grass & Traditional / 1st place \$200 / 2nd place \$150 / 3rd Place \$75

ADULT WOMEN'S: 18-49 yrs / Fancy, Jingle & Traditional / 1st place \$600 / 2nd place \$400 / 3rd Place \$300

ADULT MEN'S: 18-49 yrs / Fancy, Grass & Traditional / 1st place \$600 / 2nd place \$400 / 3rd Place \$300

GOLDEN AGE WOMEN'S: 50+ / 1st place \$600 / 2nd place \$400 / 3rd Place \$300

GOLDEN AGE MEN'S: 50+ / 1st place \$600 / 2nd place \$400 / 3rd Place \$300

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THE BATTLE OF MONOCACY – THE BATTLE THAT SAVED WASHINGTON



During the Battle of Monocacy on July 9, 1864, Confederate troops crossed the Monocacy River onto the Worthington Farm. From the farm fields, the Confederates initiated three advances toward the Union line positioned at the neighboring Thomas Farm.



"During the Battle of Monocacy on July 9, 1864, Confederate artillery set up on the Best Farm and sharpshooters took positions in the barn."

By Paul Arbogast

UNITED STATES-Confederate General Robert E. Lee wanted a bold move to quickly end the Civil War. His plan was to take DC. He believed this would end the war with victory for the South.

Lee ordered General Jubal Early to invade Maryland and take the Capitol by early July. General Ulysses S. Grant was in southern Virginia fighting at Petersburg, which the advance from the north

opened. The

Confederates did catch Union forces off guard with a force of 15,000 troops. Major General Lew Wallace headed west from Baltimore with 3,200 inexperienced troops and was joined by the third division of the Sixth Corps sent by Grant. The morning of July 9th almost 6,600 union troops arrived near Monocacy Junction to hold off the Confederates.

The battle began around 8:30 am. Wallace's troops held off the Confederates for several hours, but by 3:30 pm three bri-

gades joined the fight against the Union. Fighting was fierce and casualties heavy for both sides.

As the Union battle lines wavered, the Confederates were able to flank them. By 5 pm, the Union was in full retreat and the battle was over. This gave Lee his northernmost victory of the war, but Wallace and his troops held them off long enough for forces to make it to DC.

Early made it to DC on July 11th but the Union reinforcements held them off, with only minor skirmishing occurring, and he was unable to take DC as Lee had hoped. This is why Monocacy is known as "the battle that saved Washington."

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.

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

GAIL MARVEL
Montrose Author & Reporter

Where Wallflowers Grow is available online at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) and [wingedpublications.com](https://www.wingedpublications.com).

RED HAWKS PUMMEL DEMONS 42-16

By Cliff Dodge

MONTROSE-The 2024 edition of Red Hawks football made a successful debut at the Montrose Stadium on Friday evening with a 42-16 thrashing of the neighboring Durango Demons on a wet and windy evening in Montrose.

The Red Hawks won the coin toss and deferred to the second half, giving the ball to Durango to begin the festivities. The visitors lost a yard and punted into a stiff breeze that netted only 17 yards and gave the Red Hawks offense a short field. The Red Hawks ground game overwhelmed the Demon's and it took only 7 plays as Elijah Womack scored the first of his three touchdowns to take a 6-0 lead. The two-point conversion was unsuccessful.

The Demons took over at their 20-yard line and ran into a Montrose defense that gave up ground grudgingly and limited the Demons offense to 9 yard gained necessitating a punt. The snap was low and the punter was forced to go to a knee in order to recover the football. The head referee, seeing his knee touch the ground, blew the play dead and awarded the football to the Red Hawks at the Durango 20- yard line, another very short field.

The Red Hawks offense wasted little time as quarterback Chris Mock handed the ball off to Aidan Grijalva who ran untouched into the end zone for a 20-yard touchdown. The two-point conversion was successful giving the Red Hawks a 14-0 lead.

The Demons were unable to move the football and punted back to the Red Hawks who took over at their own 49 yard line. Four running plays took the ball to the Demons 19-yard line where Elijah Womack scored his second rushing touchdown. Place kicker Zach Motley added the extra point to make the score 21-0 as the first quarter ended.

The Demons put together their first scoring drive of the contest and scored with 6:15 minutes remaining in the first half, behind 7-0.

The Red Hawks then put together an eight-play scoring drive of their own. Aidan Grijalva scored his second touchdown of the night when he took a hand-off and went 52 yards for the touchdown. The PAT was good, making the score 28-7.

The Demons used the closing moments of the first half to mount a drive deep into the Red Hawks territory. With four seconds on the scoreboard clock the Demons were



Montrose Red Hawks get set to take the field. Photo by Cliff Dodge.

successful in kicking a 25-yard field goal to close the first half down 28-10.

The Red Hawks received the opening kickoff to start the third quarter. The running game kept the Demons off balance as a bevy of running backs kept the pressure on the Demons defense. The Red Hawks took over five minutes off the clock and Chase Mehan scored from a yard out to increase the score to 35-10.

The Demons then controlled the clock for the final seven minutes of the third quarter as they ran and passed the ball efficiently. The Demons scored on a two-yard pass as the quarter ended, making the score 35-16.

The Red Hawks then drove 80 yards with Elijah Womack scoring his third touchdown of the night on a one-yard run making the final score 42-16. The final nine minutes of the fourth quarter saw the Red Hawks' Cutter Travers intercept an errant Demon's forward pass to give the ball back to the Red Hawks offense. The Red Hawks moved the ball from their own 25-yard line to the Demons 16-yard line as time ran out. The final score: Red Hawks 42, Demons 16.

The Red Hawks offense opened up large holes in the Durango defense while the Red Hawks defense frustrated the Demons throughout the game. The Demons man-

aged 206 yards of total offense, while the Red Hawks ground game churned out well over 400 yards of total offense. The defense also came up with an interception to cap a successful outing.

Head coach Brett Mertens was pleased with the effort his Red Hawks made. "It was a fun night for our team. It was a good win, and our kids played real hard." Mertens commented on his defense. "We missed tackles and we missed assignments from time to time, but the defenders definitely made it a point to run to the football and get as many hats on the football as possible."

He said, "Our running backs surely stepped up and performed as we felt they would with Elijah scoring 3, Aiden adding 2 and Mehan scoring 1."

Mertens commented that his defense took away the Demons running game and turned the contest into a one-dimensional game, which made it difficult to keep up with the Red Hawks." Coach was also pleased to see the back end intercept a pass in the fourth quarter than shut down another scoring opportunity.

Next up, a long road trip to Greeley to take on Greeley West. Kick-off is slated for 6 p.m.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

FOOD BANK OF THE ROCKIES LAUNCHES CHALLENGE

Special to the Mirror

GRAND JUNCTION— Food Bank of the Rockies Western Slope is inviting corporations and businesses of all sizes to join a new, friendly competition that ignites the power of community. Corporate Challenge, launching on September 1, provides local businesses a special opportunity to engage employees, promote team spirit, and make a tangible difference in the lives of neighbors facing hunger.

Throughout the two-month competition, participants can earn points in the following ways:

- Running a company-wide virtual food drive
 - Raising individual donations
 - Logging volunteer hours at the Western Slope Etkin Family Distribution Center or at one of our food distributions
 - Posting about participation in the Challenge on social media
 - Attending the kick-off party at Food Bank of the Rockies on September 19
 - Or a combination of all the above
- At the end of the Challenge, Food Bank of the Rockies will recognize winners in three categories: Overall Winner, Best Virtual

Food Drive, and Most Volunteer Hours.

"We're really excited to kick-off this new challenge and work alongside incredible partners across our community to provide nutritious and meaningful food to kids, families, and individuals," said Gabriela Garayar, Food Bank of the Rockies Western Slope Senior Development Manager. "At the end of the competition, the ultimate victory is in the collective effort to alleviate food insecurity across the Western Slope."

The deadline to register for the Corporate Challenge is on Sept. 13. Interested companies or groups can register their team by emailing wsvolunteer@foodbankrockies.org or calling 970-438-4214.

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For more information and the reimbursement form, contact
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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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CITY DISCUSSES ANIMAL CONTROL REGULATIONS, ELIMINATION OF PLANNED DEVELOPMENT REQUIREMENT FOR MULTI-BUILDING RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE—Members of the Montrose City Council gathered for a regular work session on Monday, Aug. 19. Mayor J. David Reed said that work sessions are a time for Council to go back and forth with staff to understand matters that will be coming before Council in future weeks. All five councilors were present along with key staff.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW CITY EMPLOYEES

Six new employees are joining the Montrose Police Department, Police Chief Blaine Hall said, "...I think hiring has definitely turned around in the police department."

Joining the PD are Police Officers Jamie Kent, Thomas Tonar, and Thomas Morgan; Record Tech/Incident Report Processing professional Jacob Anaya; Code Compliance Officer Jaidyn Platt; and Animal Shelter Technician Amelia Balzarini.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Council considered a proposed Municipal Code Update to Title 11, Section 7, Specific to Eliminating the Planned Development Requirement for Multi-Building Residential Developments.

Community Development Director Jace Hochwalt led the discussion. Mayor J. David Reed noted that existing regulations are "antiquated."

"This will take away council review," Reed said, "because it will no longer be going through the PD process. But at least from my point of view, I think at the staff level that's where the hard work takes place and the requirements need to be met by the developer...I don't think losing council review is hindering or hurting the process at all when we look at all the positive things that are going to be accomplished by being able to speed the process up."

"...It is a thorough review," Hochwalt said.

Background—A memo from Community Development Director Jace Hochwalt states that Council would consider "a legislative code amendment to Section 11-7-8 of the Land Development Regulations of

the City of Montrose related to the Planned Development requirement for multi-family uses. The purpose of the proposed code amendment is to eliminate the Planned Development requirement for multi-family proposals that contain multiple buildings, which will help in expediting the review for multi-family development proposals... For multi-family proposals, any development that has more than one building requires a Planned Development process. This requirement can add over four months to a review process, and its elimination would help expedite review, saving time for both City staff and developers... This proposed code amendment is directly supported by the housing needs assessment, which proposes the elimination of barriers for new housing development, particularly middle-density and multi-family developments."

The work session packet includes a red-lined version of code revisions and proposed ordinance.

GENERAL CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Council discussed existing Animal Control regulations pertaining to the number of cats and dogs allowed per household. Following a recent citizen request to remove the current limitations on the number of household pets, council and staff discussed possible changes that would focus more on the health and well-being of companion animals.

City Attorney Chris Dowsey and City Attorney for Public Safety Matthew Magliaro contributed to the discussion.

Councilor Doug Glaspell said that the numeric limitations provide a guideline, "...I think it's going to be difficult for citizens to totally understand what we're up to, if we put some kind of a number out there it makes it a whole lot easier for people to know what the regulation is."

"I think it's up to us as a city to communicate with our citizens about what we're doing and why we're doing it," Mayor Reed said.

"We can't even get 'em to drive 25 miles an hour down Main Street," Glaspell re-



Council discussed existing limits on the number of household pets allowed. Above, a household pet in Montrose. Mirror file photo.

sponded.

Councilor Files asked who would determine what constitutes a healthy condition.

Reed said many city ordinances are open to interpretation, "I don't think we can make a black and white one test fits all..."

City Manager Bill Bell said that as the City Manager, he would make the determination.

After further discussion of the matter, Councilor Ed Ulibarri raised an issue he had brought forth at a previous work session, asking why private groups are not allowed to bring their own food items when using city facilities.

City Attorney Chris Dowsey said that the regulation is not new, "Not all home cooks adhere to all safety measures that should be adhered to..."

The Montrose Pavilion has a retail food license, Dowsey said, which could be affected by the number of potlucks that occur. "We would bear the responsibility if somebody poisoned somebody with bad potato salad, in a nutshell," Mayor Pro Tem David Frank said.

"Can we make an exclusion for cookies?" Ulibarri said.

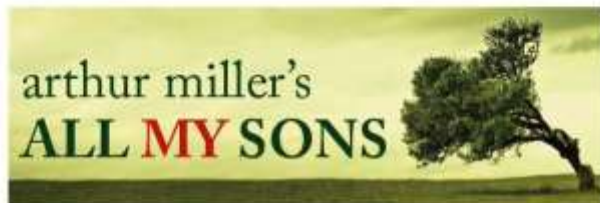
Mayor Reed asked for further council comments. Hearing none, he adjourned the meeting.



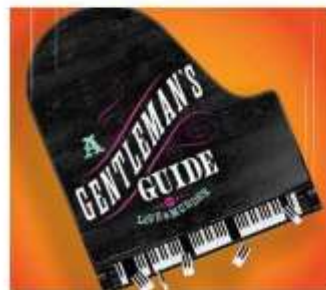
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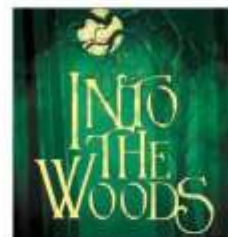
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- ★ Look into the possibility of holding EVENING work sessions and Board meetings one time each month allowing the working class to participate and be heard.
- ★ Implement a Montrose County Citizens Academy program where citizens can participate in an “in-depth” overview and Q&A session of what services each individual department provides to our community and explain how your tax dollars are spent.

REPRESENT ALL the People

- ★ Implement an online survey system that allows citizens to weigh in on current topics of community interest.
- ★ Provide Results of surveys with all the citizens.
- ★ Represent the voice and interest/concerns of our local citizens to our State and Federal legislators.

Be ACCOUNTABLE to ALL the People

- ★ Redefine county's current definition of “Transparency” in reporting by providing a greater understanding of where your tax payer dollars are spent through more detailed spreadsheets, pie charts and written explanations.
- ★ Publish simple quarterly reports showing YTD income, spending, and budget balances available throughout the year.
- ★ Provide written verification of how each Commissioner votes on all agenda items and issues presented during all Board meetings, with voting record to be recorded within the minutes of all meetings.

BOARD OF EQUALIZATION OVERTURNS COUNTY ASSESSOR DENIAL From pg 1

Consent Agenda items, with Resolution No. 46-2024 assigned to Item 2; Resolution 47-2024 assigned to Item 3; and Resolution 48-2024 assigned to Item 4.

GENERAL BUSINESS AND ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Commissioners voted unanimously to adopt Resolution 49-2024, *"on the Grant Agreement with Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) Aeronautics Division Contract No. 24-MTJ-01, to participate in the federally funded projects Airport West Entry Road and Procurement of SRE Equipment in the amount of \$217,223.00 with a County match of \$217,252.00; as reviewed by Counsel."*

Also approved was, *"Consideration and possible authorization of the Chair's signature on the contract with Mountain Valley Contracting, Inc for AIP project No. 3-08-0043-064-2024, Schedule I - Reconstruction of the Airport Access Road in the amount of \$617,100.19, effective August 21, 2024; as reviewed by Counsel."*

Commissioners voted to approve the third general Business item as well, *"Consideration and possible authorization of the Chair's signature on the contract with Mountain Valley Contracting, Inc for reconstruction and paving of a parking lot, Schedule II - in the amount of \$1,295,255.84, effective August 21, 2024; as reviewed by Counsel."*

Facilities Director Jennifer Murray presented for consideration, *"the second amendment to the Montrose County Nucla Sheriff & HHS Substation Building - Design, Architectural & Engineering Services Project, contract #2023-012, in an amount not to exceed \$383,380.83 to Wold Architects and Engineers, as reviewed by Counsel. This contract amendment represents a change in the original scope of work, pivoting from a ground up design project to an existing building renovation design project, including a time extension to June 30, 2025. This item represents a budgeted 2024 expense."*

Murray recommended approval.

Said BOCC Vice Chair Keith Caddy, "I think using the Naturita school is a smart move on our part. It'll save us a lot of money in the long run for the county, and I think that's what we need to do, is make sure that we're...looking out for the public's money."

BOCC Chair Roger Rash thanked the officials of the West End School District for their cooperation as well. "...Without them and their blessing on this, this would not be happening...that was a heavy lift and it happened in a very short amount of time...it really does enhance that community..."

Commissioner Sue Hansen said, "Notwithstanding the fact that it frees up parcels that were taken up by the county..."

Commissioners voted unanimously to approve.

Emergency Manager Scott Hawkins presented for consideration the Assumption of Fire Control Duty from the Colorado Division of Fire Prevention Control (DFPC) on the Bucktail Fire. Hawkins noted that this is standard operating procedure for a wildfire that started on private land. Commissioners voted to approve.

County Attorney Marti Whitmore presented two items for consideration. Commissioners voted to approve the first, a request from Montrose Regional Health to change the composition of the Montrose Regional Health Board of Directors from "eleven voting members" to "nine up to eleven voting members."

Commissioners also voted to approve a settlement agreement with Michelle Davis to resolve claims involving My Telluride Limo.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT – GENERAL BUSINESS

Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the Les Logan Amended Plat [AM24-003] proposal to create an easement and adjust boundary lines of the

Logan Minor Subdivision Lots 2 & 3 Subdivision at Parcel 372513201002 5223 HIGHWAY 348.

Commissioners left regular session to convene as the Montrose County Board of Equalization.

BOARD OF EQUALIZATION

The Board of Equalization considered Senior Property Tax Exemption Appeal R0003140.

In 2019 there was a break in the occupancy of the property in question, County Assessor Brad Hughes said, disqualifying the property owner from taking the tax exemption.

Hughes said that he had called the State of Colorado, which funds and administers the Senior Property Tax Exemption, and they had recommended that he deny the exemption, which he did. It is the residence that qualifies for the exemption, Hughes said. A ten-year occupancy, which is required to qualify for the exemption, begins with a certificate of occupancy.

The property owner Greg Easton discussed the reason for the break in occupancy, which took place as the residence was being remodeled. The property was not condemned, and there was not a natural disaster that had made the home uninhabitable. Easton asked that the Board of Equalization overturn the denial. Following consideration and discussion with the applicant, the Board of Equalization moved to enter Executive Session to confer with County Attorney Marti Whitmore.

Upon returning to regular session, the Board of Equalization voted two-to-one to overturn the County Assessor's denial, with Hansen and Rash voting to overturn and Caddy voting against overturning the Assessor's recommendation.

The Board of Equalization left session to return to regular session as the Montrose Board of County Commissioners. With no further business the meeting was adjourned.

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

POLITICAL VANDALISM IS NOT THE ANSWER



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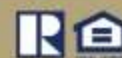
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CITIZENS, CITY STAFF DISCUSS SANCTUARY CITY VS NON-SANCTUARY CITY

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE—On August 19, a 90-minute meeting was held in the Centennial meeting room with a small group of citizens, City of Montrose Attorney Chris Dowsey, and City Manager Bill Bell. Citizens in attendance were John Brown, Ron Smith, Lance Michaels, David White, Brian White, and Leah Vandersluis.

The meeting was requested by citizens who wanted further discussion on sanctuary cities vs non-sanctuary cities. Smith began the meeting by playing a short audio recording from a woman in Denver who testified to illegal Venezuelan gang members taking over an apartment complex. The woman said, "They have been in the complex for a month. They just took it over. They can't get them out..."

Background:

During City Council meetings, citizens can make comments during the Call for Public Comment; however, neither the council or the staff respond.

Smith said, "We've been coming to council meetings on Tuesday nights and have two to three minutes to make comments. We are wasting everyone's time. We need to get into some more detail. My primary goal is more discussion. To come out of this meeting with a unified voice."

Smith continued, "My number one concern is the sanctuary and the non-sanctuary. Reed [Mayor Reed] said by default we are a non-sanctuary city. What does that mean to the city of Montrose, both financially and legally?"

Attorney Dowsey said, "There is no legal effect with either title. Since 2019 local police cannot assist ICE [Immigration and Customs Enforcement]. It's a State law."

Michaels said, "Why has the city council on two different dates had an emergency session, reversed [decision] and did another vote?"

Dowsey said, "I don't know. I can't state their reason. The emergency session was 24 hours in advance. The meeting was non-binding."

Michaels said, "They didn't seek a legal opinion from you?"

Dowsey said, "It's attorney-client privilege. I won't go into what we discuss. I'm here for them if they ask me questions."

Brown said, "Is it standard procedure to



Citizen Ron Smith (first on left) requested a meeting with Montrose City Attorney Chris Dowsey (far right) in order to better understand the city's stance to the titles Sanctuary City and Non-Sanctuary City. The meeting took place in the Centennial Room on Aug. 19. Photo by Gail Marvel.

change the motion on the floor? One of the city council changed the motion. A different motion."

Dowsey said, "The motion doesn't have to be verbatim, as long as it's the same topic."

Smith said, "There is no teeth in it. Part of my concern, why would we have to have an emergency session if it doesn't have any teeth? This is an emergency, and now it doesn't matter?"

Taking the discussion in a different direction Smith said, "Money can flow to undocumented immigrants?"

City Manager Bell said, "What is the city spending on that? On the operations side of the city?" Bell made a distinction between the operating side of the city and the political side, which is the city council.

Bell said, "Elected officials declare sanctuary and non-sanctuary. We get hung up on the verbiage. Because we have not gone out of our way to call ourselves a sanctuary city, we are not going to. We are a conservative community. As a staff we won't treat people differently, no matter what the council calls us. That's been our position the whole time. No one

has even called me in this whole situation. Everything has been directed to the council [elected officials]. There have been no phone calls, no emails to the city manager. When you ask about how much, it's a small amount. The County and the State are for social services. It's not a city responsibility."

Bell gave examples, "We gave the Brown Center help, but it was not [specifically for] illegal immigrants. It was not a huge drain on our system. We gave \$15,000 to All Points Transit for elders; to transport seniors. Also \$5,000 in the summer to All Points to transport kids on the north side of town to the Rec Center on the other end of town. We gave to Haven House a while back. We don't currently help Haven House..."

The conversation returned to Reed's statement that by default we are a non-sanctuary city. Dowsey said, "There is little that has been out there. There is no definition out there."

David White said, "Can you codify it?"

Bell said, "You can't put into a document what you are not going to do."

Dowsey said, "You can't give service to

Continued next pg

CITIZENS, CITY STAFF DISCUSS SANCTUARY CITY STATUS From previous pg

to someone based on origin. It sends up red flags challenging the law, civil rights. Immigration is definitely not local control."

Bell said, "What do you want us [the city] to be called?"

Smith said, "That's why we are here. We don't know. Anything goes if you are a sanctuary city. We aren't doing anything."

Dowsey said, "We are not setting up a place for anyone to stay."

Citizens expressed concern that local non-profits are giving money to support illegal immigration, and that the city has no control. Bell said, "I think we still have control over non-profits. Our zoning in Montrose is pretty conservative, so we don't see things popping up. The city does not go out of our way to get involved in services."

Smith said, "Can we get a statement [from the city] that this is our position of how we are handling this?"

Bell noted that in the past he held community meetings called, "Ask the Manager." He is contemplating contacting the *Mirror* and the *Daily Press* to run a column every couple of weeks to address community issues. Bell said, "This will not be from elected officials. A topic could be "What does the declaration of sanctuary or non-sanctuary city mean to Montrose?" It can be a proactive address to communicate with the public."

Smith said, "Safety and sovereignty of the city?"

Bell said, "Sovereignty is a political term. Sovereignty is not about nuts and bolts. Council can't answer these [nuts and bolts] questions because it's operational questions. People can email me questions."

Brian White asked about those committing crimes. Bell said, "The justice system is not a city thing. Criminal stuff goes up to the county. Criminal [activity] doesn't matter what country you come from."

Dowsey said, "For us [city PD] crime is crime. It doesn't matter where you come from."

Brian White said, "Who pays the bill?"

Michaels said, "Anyone who is a resident. It's put into the normal court system if

you are not here legally. Blaine Hall [Chief of Police] cannot call ICE."

Dowsey said, "Generally we don't handle federal law. In the State it doesn't matter if you are documented, a crime is a crime."

Brown said, "If you cross the border illegally, aren't you guilty of committing an illegal act?"

Dowsey said, "That's a federal law."

Bell acknowledged that citizens are worried about national politics. He said, "We can't do anything about national politics. We can't go above and beyond that. We have different policies than on the State level. Local PD and [city] staff don't want to be overrun. We are on the same team and the same page with you, but we can't do things that are over and above the law."

David White said, "When you get requests for money, that's when you have control?"

Bell said, "Yes"

David White said, "When all the non-profits come, when Karen-Sherman Perez asks for money with no strings attached?"

Bell said, "We don't do that."

Michaels inquired about the economic impact of illegal immigration. He said, "The hospital, Urgent Care, RE-1J. We already know there are 52 kids enrolled in school. What have we done to address the unintended consequences?"

Bell said, "We've talked internally to the staff. We don't know what we don't know. I know the services we provide. We don't own and operate a homeless shelter, so we don't have to deal with that."

Michaels said, "What if 10,000 people were bussed in here?"

Bell said, "Our position is we are going to stay [as we are]. Social Services is not the jurisdiction of the city, that belongs to the county [food stamps, housing]. The likelihood of Montrose being selected to have people shipped here has nothing to do with our actions that we would be a welcoming community."

Smith discussed the current homeless situation, people sleeping in alleys, and asked what the city was doing.

Bell said, "We move them on. With the increase in transients, we are now doing a

clean-up in some areas once a month. We know residents are not feeling safe on some of our trail systems. We are beefing up our efforts because of the transients — that was before the immigrant issues. I can put together a report on what it costs to clean up the homeless encampments, but that doesn't have any relation to illegal immigration."

Brown said, "Are the non-profits putting families in hotels, giving them clothing, food and finding them some place to live while they are assimilating into our environment? Giving them everything, looking for a free ride. Can we work with the non-profits not to do that? Taking them to hotels and paying for two to three weeks."

Bell said, "I don't think that is happening on a big scale. No one is actually doing that, other than what we have been having for decades. The Association of Churches help transients with a room for the night, a meal. But they have done that for decades. I don't think the rising cost of rentals has anything to do with illegals. Seventy percent of our population increase, people coming to our area, are retirees from Denver. We wish we could get more young people [to move here] for the workforce. This is different from the border issue."

Smith said, "Two, three, four years ago you revisited the Planning Commission. The City Charter was revised in 2014 and put to a vote. That's 10 years ago. What does a citizen have to do to review the City Charter, to have a Charter Review Committee?"

Dowsey said, "That's something we can look at. I don't know if that's something citizens can initiate."

Bell said, "What would be the reason to update the Charter?"

Smith said, "That was just a general question. Not about the illegal immigrant issue."

Bell said, "Normally we update the Charter when there are new laws. Like a constitutional amendment. That's a really big thing to do. An ordinance can accomplish things easier. Internally staff has reviewed the Charter, but Council hasn't taken that up. We'll look into it and get back to you."

CITIZENS, CITY STAFF DISCUSS SANCTUARY CITY VS NON-SANCTUARY CITY

From previous pg

Referring to the initial reason for the meeting--sanctuary and non-sanctuary city status--Smith said, "If I as a citizen don't know what we're discussing, what difference does it make legally or financially? This is a hot issue because no one explained. It's a waste of resources on both sides. A bonfire was lit when council

said we were a non-sanctuary city and then reversed it."

Bell said, "If you are asking the elected body [city council] you are asking them things they can't answer." Bell emphasized that operational questions should be addressed to the City Manager and police questions to the Chief of Police. Bell said,

"When things get volatile in the State and federal, people get elevated and emotional on the local level." The citizens group would like additional meetings to discuss what precautions the city can take to avoid the pitfalls that other communities have experienced after declaring themselves to be sanctuary cities.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

CONSIDER ATTENDING THE MONTROSE SCHOOL BOARD MEETING ON AUGUST 27

Editor:

The Montrose School District is proposing the construction of a new high school with a \$ 221 million price tag. The proposed individual line-item property value assessment increase of \$316.00 a year for a \$400,000 medium priced home is about to leave your wallet if passed. This is a tax increase per home valuation on top of what homeowners are already paying IN PROPERTY TAXES. Should you be a renter the tax will more than likely be passed on.

It is more than apparent that the school board are in dire need of a reality check. By such a proposal they are obviously oblivious to the economic realities facing many Montrose taxpayers today.

As reported in the MDP, because of the School District's grandiose plans your personal financial struggles may even get more acute. No one escapes this huge tax increase.

Think about individual, property taxes, auto insurance, sales taxes, utilities, the cost of education, food, and general goods and services. The average annual income in Montrose is about \$49,088 before deductions. The poverty rate is a whopping 12.9% and as you know inflation has caused an annual financial loss to household real income on an average of about \$24,000 a year. In addition, Columbine school still owes about \$18,000,000 and will not be paid off until the year 2036.

This does not include paying off the MURA accumulated debt holdings, Rec Center, Special District Taxes, and the additional PUBLIC SALES TAX debt that both the county and city are collecting from taxpayers. Overall Montrose taxpayers are on the hook for a guess of over \$100,000,000 for all debt acquired. Shop anywhere and see what one gets for \$100.00.

So, to the elite of Montrose, should this increase occur one can only ask how many residences you will hurt financially. There is nothing like looking at the ceiling at night and wondering how you are going to pay your bills, much less survive. Something to think about.

Please consider attending the Montrose School Board meeting on August 27th, (which is tomorrow night) and make your concerns known.

Dee Laird, Montrose

SUPPORT INCREASED PUBLIC FUNDING FOR CULTIVATED-MEAT RESEARCH

To the editor,

Any politician who sincerely cares about animal welfare should support increased public funding for cultivated-meat research. For those who aren't familiar with the concept, cultivated meat is grown from livestock cells, without slaughter. There's arguably no policy that could do more to reduce nonhuman suffering and premature death.

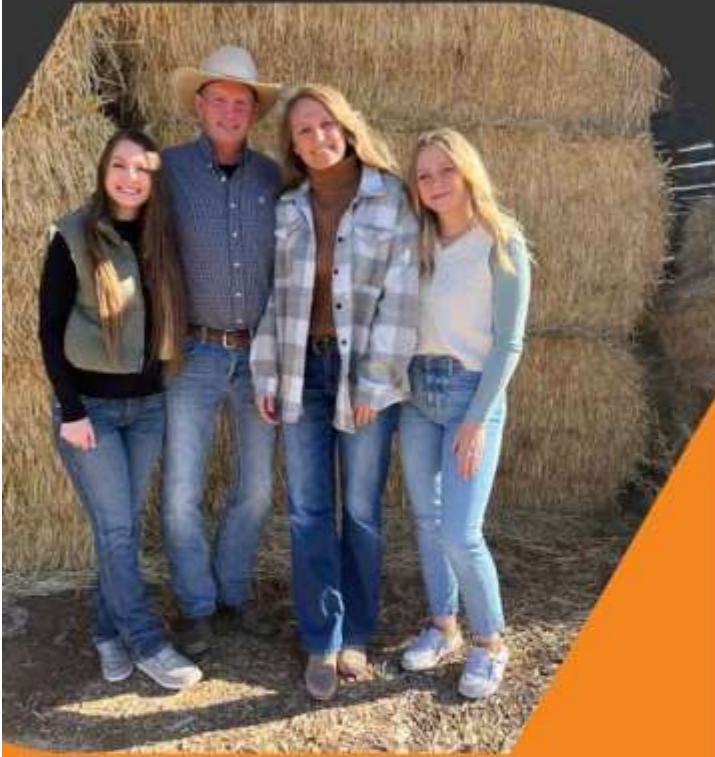
While the new protein has been approved for sale in the United States, it's currently too expensive to mass produce. This can be rectified with more government money for cellular-agriculture development. All compassionate legislators, at both the state and federal level, should aggressively back the effort.

Jon Hochschartner, Granby, CT





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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

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS: HEALTH & WELLNESS

FROM THE CAREGIVER SUPPORT FOUNDATION : *Is your loved one really demented?*

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Dr. Laird Landon is not so sure we should call our loved ones “crazy or insane.”

“In essence that is what we are saying when we refer to their degraded cognitive condition as dementia,” Landon, PhD, recently told a gathering of caregivers. “Our Caregiver Support Foundation works under the guidance of our motto which says *Keep our loved ones safe. Keep our loved ones comfortable. Create moments of joy.* Using a term that was born centuries ago in a less enlightened time hardly meets that criterion when its root is the word *demented*.”

On August 30, Landon will continue his Library Talk series for caregivers by expanding on the theme “The Stigma of De-

mentia.” The talk will commence at 2 pm at the Montrose Public Library.

Landon says people are afraid of dementia. This inhibits neighbors, friends, and even other family members from helping people with brain issues. It isolates caregivers.

The word dementia is one we hear often today, generally in association with cognitive decline. Hearing, sight loss, and high blood pressure are also related. However, dementia’s origins—and its once-common companion term, “demented”—reveal a broader and more complex history. “Using terminology like dementia darkens an already difficult life for caregivers and their patients,” says Landon.

While the modern understanding of dementia no longer equates it with *madness*

or *insanity*, it is still an inaccurate and disturbing description of what happens to those suffering cognitive decline. It is inaccurately called a disease when it is actually a disorder—a collection of symptoms.

Several physicians have proposed softening the lexicon. Using the term “brain failure” instead of dementia. “Brain failure” is a parallel to other kinds of organ failure, like kidney failure, heart failure and liver failure. Key medical organizations have further redefined dementia. Landon will talk about the latest terms.

Dr. Landon will speak for about an hour and then open the session for questions and discussion. The Library Talks are open to the public at no charge. If you have questions, email Laird@Family-Caregiver.org



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COACH'S CORNER:

Cassandra Snyder, Varsity Soccer Coach-Montrose Red Hawks



Varsity Soccer Coach Cassie Snyder.
Photo by Cliff Dodge

By Cliff Dodge

MONTROSE-The activity at Montrose High School ramped up considerably as mid-August approached. The fall athletic season kicked into high gear as football, golf, soccer, softball, volleyball and cross country swing into competition.

The Red Hawks soccer team is hard at work getting ready for a successful season as Coach Snyder's team fields a veteran squad with solid experience from the goalkeeper to the striker.

Coach Snyder described the off-season preparation the team has participated in. "We do a lot. We had a really successful Club season. We took our kids to Denver and played in a league there. In the spring

we played in two tournaments. I think we had a total of 20 games in the spring Club season. In the spring we did some summer camps and regular workouts to get ready for the season."

Snyder explained the Club experience her players participated in. "The Club season is under the care and control of the Colorado Soccer Association. The Club here in Montrose is called the Montrose Avalanche and we have two boys teams under our umbrella. We play teams from all over the state and then there is a tournament where our teams play others from all over the United States and internationally. The two tournaments we played with our boys team were international competition."

Coach Snyder then spoke about her team. "I am very pleased to have eight seniors on our Montrose roster. I have coached a ton of those kids through their high school career. Many of them started their freshman year on my varsity team. We have big numbers on both our teams. Each group is composed of 19 players and much experience mixed into the equation."

Snyder then described the starting lineup that would take the field against the Canon City Tigers on Saturday.

"Jude Carlton will be our keeper. Jude will be a junior this year. He made the team as a freshman, played JV last year and this year got great experience playing with the Club in Denver and in the tournaments. The center backs are Cade Godbe and Osmar Encarnacion. Cade was hurt last year but played Club soccer and both are ready. Outside backs are Marek Jaramillo and Jeremy Brailsford, both experienced players in those positions and we expect big things from this group.

"Midfield is full of seniors. Tommy Montoya-Ornelas, Brody Cooling and Bowden Vigil. Our game plan operates through this group both offensively and defensively. Our front line is composed of Chris Gonzalez Munis, a target striker and then Aidan Erives out wide, Luis Covarubias, also wide. Brody Cooling, Aiden, Chris, and Tommy are all captains of the team this year. This is the best leadership crew I have had. We know what we are doing, what our style of play is."

Coach Snyder then laid out her goals for the upcoming season. "We have both depth and experience across the field as we head into our first game. Our strength is across the field and front to back. Couple that with a good strategy and really quality people, and you have the makings for a season full of optimism.

Our schedule is very different than it has been in the past. I think we had more challenging non-league opponents in past years. I don't think that is a bad thing because we have challenged ourselves in the last couple of years in the high school season and in the club season. That, in combination with hopefully a successful fall, should put us in a good position moving into the post-season. The boys are playing very confidently right now."

"My mantra for this team is that we compete from top to bottom every time we step on the pitch.

"We know what we need to do, we know where our focus points are, what our goals are and that is all that matters. It doesn't matter who our opponents are, it doesn't matter what kind of adversity we face. We know those things are going to happen, but this will not deter us from success."



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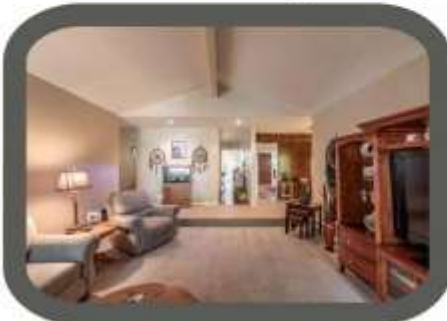
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RED HAWKS SPOTS ROUNDUP *BY CLIFF DODGE*

Red Hawks Softball:

The Red Hawks softball team opened up their 2024 season with a non-conference game against the visiting Gunnison Cowboys. The Cowboys wore their hitting shoes as they pounded out 21 runs on 18 hits to defeat the Red Hawks by the final score of 21-9. Junior Abby Siegel led the Red Hawks with three doubles and five runs batted in. Sophomore Cheyenne Whitcomb chipped in with two base hits, one a double. In all Whitcomb scored one run, and drove in a pair of runs. The Red Hawks managed to steal eight bases but it was simply too little, too late to stop the Gunnison hitting attack.

After a shaky start vs Gunnison the Red Hawks moved into the win column with an 18-12 pasting of the Durango Demons at the Montrose softball diamond. The Demons jumped out to an 8-1 lead after three innings, but the Red Hawks blasted their way to 16 runs in the final three innings to win 18-12. Sophomore Isabel Mott had 4 hits, 3 RBI's and a pair of ringing doubles. Senior Cali Fulks pounded out 3 hits and 4 runs batted in. Abby Siegel chipped in with 3 hits and 3 runs while Maddison Coca, a senior, added 3 hits and 2 runs. The Red Hawks stole four bases and pounded out 19 hits to outdistance Durango by 6 runs.

Red Hawks Golf:

Thirteen teams participated in the Cobble Creek Invitational played last week. Durango placed first, followed by Gunnison and Fruita-Monument. The Montrose Team 1 placed 8th with 250 strokes. Individual Montrose players included: Brandon Blacker 78, Dathan Stewart 80, Bekin Hutto 80, Jude Endreson 86, Garrett Wolfe 87. The Montrose Team 2 placed 9th. Individual players are as follows: Nick Deisig 83, Griff Pollard 84, Caden Wetzel 85, Travis Hert 92, Sean Busby 98.

The Red Hawks participated in the Grand Junction Invitational at Bookcliffs Country Club on Aug. 19. The Grand Junction Tigers placed first with a score of 208. The Tigers were followed by Basalt and Aspen. The Montrose Red Hawks finished in sixth place with a score of 243 strokes. Individuals included: Brandon Blacker 79, James Greenfield 81, Dathan Stewart 95, Garrett Wold 83 and Griff Pollard 96.

88 golfers invaded the Black Canyon Golf Club in Montrose for the Invitational. First place went to the Grand Junction Tigers with a low stroke score of 209. The Tigers were followed by Montezuma-Cortez, Durango and Aspen. Montrose team #1 finished in sixth place with a score of 245 while Montrose team #2 shot a 261 score.

Red Hawks Volleyball:

The fall sports season is underway in half a dozen sports at Montrose High School, not the least of which is Coach Shane Forrest's volleyball team. Coach Forrest led the Red Hawks to a state tournament berth before falling in the semi-final round.

Coach Forrest explained, "This team has seven seniors, four juniors and two sophomores. We are optimistic about the opportunity to return to the Coliseum and go even deeper into the playoffs. We have strong hitters in every position. We have a strong offense, strong setters, big blockers and a strong and agile defense. One of our strong points is our service game. This team is well balanced both offensively and defensively."

The Bayfield Wolves came to the Field House on Aug. 22 and were trounced by the Red Hawks 25-19, 25-8 and 25-16. Forrest said, "The team did good things and there are things we need to correct. I was pleased with the effort in this first game. We will improve as we move forward. We travel to Eagle Valley on Tuesday."



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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

HUMAN REMAINS LOCATED IN WINTER PARK

Special to the Mirror

WINTER PARK- The Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is seeking the public's assistance in identifying human remains that were found in Winter Park on August 17, 2024.

On that date, a citizen contacted law enforcement after he located what he believed to be a human skull while mushroom hunting in a heavily forested area between US Hwy 40 and Mary Jane Road in Winter Park. Law Enforcement personnel from the Fraser Winter Park Police Department, United States Forest Service, the Grand County Coroner's Office and CBI responded to the scene and recovered the skull as well as several other bones that were found in the immediate area. Grand County Search and Rescue personnel also responded and conducted a wider search of the area for additional remains but did not locate any.

Based on evidence at the scene, it appears that the remains had been in that location for a significant period, and possibly many years. No identifying information or clothing was found at the scene. The remains will be transferred to a forensic anthropologist who will attempt to determine the sex, race, and general age of the deceased, as well as a general idea of how long the victim had been deceased.

Anyone with any information regarding this case is asked to contact the general CBI tip line at (720) 295-6642. Please specify that the call is related to the human remains case. Callers can remain anonymous.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

THE POT CALLING THE KETTLE BLACK...

Dear Editor,

I have sat back and read all of these defaming articles that a man named Ray Langston is writing in your periodical until I cannot sit and read any longer. Just last Monday, yet another one. He speaks of the elites, yet not recognizing that the Pot is calling the Kettle Black, projecting like he and some are so good at doing. May I bring to attention the true "elite Republican club" that he attends. I will not call them out by name because Ray is very aware of who they are. He is accusing the Montrose County Central Committee of not getting behind his candidate that won, which is an absolute lie, yet he and some in his "group" are not supporting the candidate that won, Larry Don Suckla.

With all that said, I want to start with awareness

#1. Ray accused the Republican Central Committee of running a slate of four. That is a complete lie. The Republican Central Committee stayed true to not supporting one candidate over another. However, my husband, Tom, myself, Barb, Dr. Joe and Tamara Stucky, we ran a slate of four. We had two meet and greets at the Wild Horse Wine and Whiskey Bar paid for with our own \$\$\$. We asked the Republican Central Committee to run our flyer on their website like they had done for other

candidates and like they did after our event for others, as well. Not one penny was paid to us or our candidates from the Montrose County Republican Central Committee like Ray lied about in this very periodical.

#2. Truthfully, Ray was our chair, as he has spoken of. What he isn't telling you, as a majority we voted him out. He has to this day **NOT** turned in receipts that have been asked of him so books could get balanced out.

#3. After the 2020 election we had a final "thank you" dinner/GOP meeting at the Elks Lodge that Ray and others organized for those who worked hard with the campaign. At that dinner/meeting I made a motion to give \$2500.00 to President Trump's campaign. It was voted on and passed by the majority there. Ray was a dissenting vote along with about 4 others that are supporting Ray to this day in his defaming of individuals. Then in days following the meeting at the Elks Lodge Ray takes it upon himself to send the \$2500.00 to the two failed 2020 Georgia senators, Kelly Loeffler and David Perdue.

#4. I watched as we had rallies at Demoret Park on the corner of Highway 50 and Townsend, Ray threatened people with his demoralizing language and in your face posture. Not just in public but he

made life so miserable for our secretary and one of our committee heads, too. It is a wonder he has never been sued as he threatens to sue others and other organizations in this very periodical.

#5. He would not allow Lauren Boebert to come and speak to us during our Montrose County Republican meeting when she ran her first time due to the fact, why would anyone vote for someone who didn't have a H.S. diploma, he told us attending the meeting and requesting her presence.

Those are the glaring points that stick out in my mind at this point which I am sure I could go on but you all get my point. Now with all of this said, it will be my turn next for Ray's demoralizing due to the fact we DO NOT HAVE HONEST ELECTIONS. I will shout it from the rooftops and Ray will demoralize me for it. I just did him the favor of stating it first. I believe there is a plan to include our wonderful nation and county into a one world order. Said that one, too, Ray. However, I can guarantee you he will find something to say.

Thank you all for your time,

Barbara Hulet, Montrose

P.S. One does not have to look very far to see where the divisiveness is coming from. Ray is the voice from beyond. You are who you hang with.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

GRAND VALLEY NAMED ONE OF TOP 10 WINE REGIONS

Special to the Mirror

BROOMFIELD — The Colorado Wine Industry continues to receive national recognition with the Grand Valley American Viticultural Area (AVA) named as one of the USA TODAY 10Best Readers' Choice Top 10 Wine Regions in 2024. USA TODAY tasked a panel of travel and wine experts to select their top nominees from hundreds of wine-producing regions throughout the country. Readers then voted for their favorite regions.

According to USA TODAY 10Best, *"With over two dozen wineries/vineyards calling Grand Valley AVA (American Viticultural Area) home, Colorado's wine country contains more than 25% of the state's wineries. Growing grapes in this terrain isn't the easiest task, which makes for creative solutions and unique yields."*

Not only does the Grand Valley have more than two dozen wineries, the vineyards in the Grand Valley produce more than 75% of the grapes for the state's 165 wine producers. Wineries from the Front Range to mountain towns utilize the fruits harvested in the Grand Valley.

"The Colorado wine industry is thrilled that USA TODAY readers have recognized the quality and the energy embodied in Colorado's Grand Valley AVA," said Kyle Schlachter, Executive Director of the Colorado Wine Industry Development Board. *"World-class wines that can only be grown on the terraces above the Colorado River make the Grand Valley truly one of the preeminent wine regions in the country for wine lovers to visit and explore."*

The Colorado Wine Industry Development Board (CWIDB) is part of the Colorado Department of Agriculture. It is dedicated to promoting and furthering the development of Colorado's grape growers and vintners. The CWIDB supports the efforts of more than 165 wineries throughout the state, producing an increasing array of premium-quality wines. For additional information, visit ColoradoWine.com.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

ALPINE TUNNEL ROAD AND PALISADE WALL RECONSTRUCTION NEARS COMPLETION



Palisade Wall. Photo National Forest Foundation.



Alpine Tunnel. Photo National Forest Foundation.

Special to the Mirror

GUNNISON— The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests announce that the reconstruction of the Historic Alpine Tunnel road and Palisade Wall on the Gunnison Ranger District is entering into final stages of construction.

Since the construction began in June, crews have successfully excavated the collapsed area and rebuilt the wall. Approximately 506 acres within the Alpine Tunnel region were closed during the reconstruction to protect public safety.

The Palisade Wall was damaged by an avalanche in 2016, leading to the closure of the Alpine Tunnel road. Since then, through the combined efforts of the Gunnison Ranger District, the National Forest Foundation and local partners, a combination of state, private and federal Great

funding was secured to restore the wall and facilitate the reopening of the road. In 2022, workers completed rock scaling above the Palisade section to ensure a safer work environment. In 2023, skilled rock masons shaped approximately 70 capstones and 60 wall stones for the historic restoration of the wall.

“The delicate and challenging work required to rebuild the Palisade Wall highlights the craftsmanship and engineering behind the original construction of the railroad grade in the 1880’s,” said Gunnison District Ranger Dayle Funka.

“Construction is nearing completion and we are excited to celebrate this significant milestone.”

Remaining tasks include resurfacing the roadway, installing a drainage ditch to protect the wall from severe weather, cleaning the worksite and demobilizing

equipment.

Once construction is complete, the Forest Service will inspect the project and conduct a condition survey of the Alpine Historic District to ensure safe and responsible public access. “We appreciate the public’s patience and cooperation as we work to restore access to the historic site in a way that protects and preserves this resource for future generations,” added Funka.

The Alpine Tunnel Historic area, including roads and trails, will remain closed until work is complete. The forest closure order remains in effect and expires October 31, 2024.

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





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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

BAT FOUND AT POPULAR SWIMMING HOLE TESTS POSITIVE FOR RABIES

Tips for keeping people and pets safe

Special to the Mirror

SAN MIGUEL COUNTY— A bat found showing unusual behaviors at a popular swimming hole off Highway 145 (mile marker 88) has tested positive for rabies. This is the first rabid animal to be found in San Miguel County in 2024.

Rabies is caused by a virus that is deadly in people and animals if medical care is not received before symptoms start. People, livestock, and pets can get rabies from the saliva of animals that have the infection. Anyone who has had direct contact with a wild or stray animal should contact public health and their local animal control agency immediately to ensure that there are no delays in preventative treatment if needed.

"Rabies is a fatal but preventable disease," said Public Health Director, Grace Franklin. "It is important that residents know how to prevent rabies exposure to protect themselves and their loved ones. Although rare, bats are the most common carriers of the rabies virus in the Western Slope, but not the only carrier.

Individuals should stay away from bats and any wild, unfamiliar, or stray animal,

as well as any animal that appears to be sick."

To date this year in Colorado, there were 35 animals that tested positive for rabies. It is important to take steps to protect yourself and your loved ones – furry friends included – against rabies.

San Miguel County Public Health (SMCPH) encourages residents to take steps to stay safe from rabies:

- Keep pets and livestock up to date on rabies vaccines and don't allow your pets to touch or play with a bat or other wild-life.

- Don't handle bats, alive or dead, or allow anyone in your family to handle one.

- If you find a bat in a bedroom or with an unattended child, try to safely capture the bat and have it tested.

- Avoid contact with any wild animals, especially those that are showing unusual behaviors.

- Keep windows and doors closed to home or make sure there are screens to prevent bats from entering.

- Teach children to stay away from all wild animals, stray pets or dead animals, and to tell an adult if they are scratched or

bitten.

- Keep pets close where you can keep an eye on them while they are outside.

- If someone has been in contact with a wild animal or was bitten by stray pet, seek medical attention immediately and notify your local animal control agency.

Bats play a valuable role in ecosystems across Colorado, and are found in every habitat in the state, from the eastern plains to the high mountain forests and western deserts, from rural towns to downtown Denver. According to Colorado Parks & Wildlife, not only do they pollinate plants and crops, but all bat species also eat insects and help control insect populations. Bats displaying abnormal behavior, such as being active during the day, appearing disoriented or grounded and unable to fly are more likely to be rabid and should be avoided and reported to animal control.

To report an animal concern, please contact your local animal control agency. For more information about rabies, please contact San Miguel County Public Health, at 970-728-4289, or visit [CDPHE's web-site](#).



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE VETERANS MEMORIAL COALITION SERVICE SEAL DONORS GATHER AT WARRIOR CENTER



The service seals will be attached to granite along with etched wording similar to the image above, and will greet every visitor to the memorial. Courtesy image.

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE – Donors for the six service seals joined up at the Montrose Welcome Home Alliance for Veterans Warrior Center Tuesday to pose for a historical picture. The donors contributed \$3,050 for the bronze seals which will be placed on a granite stone at the entrance of the Montrose Veterans Memorial, proposed for a site near the Pavilion, 1800 E. Pavilion Pl.



Pictured above, from the left, are MVMC president Les Williams; Don Watts, donating for the US Army seal; Annie Lindsey, posing for Shaina and Grace Hennessy, USMC seal; John Boughton and Dave Vergamini, US Navy seal; Val Taylor, US Air Force; Cindy Dozier, donating for the US Coast Guard seal; Connie Williams, for the US Space Force seal; and Amy Eifling, MVMC secretary and WHAFV volunteer coordinator. Photo by Rick Bresett.

READ ALL ABOUT IT



MONTROSE MIRROR

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

THE SKY IS FALLING, THE SKY IS FALLING! (AGAIN)

Editor:

As if the end of the world is anticipated this November through the District 3 Montrose County Commissioner race, once again, Dee Laird, in true apocalyptic, Liberal, fashion, warns of the impending disaster with the potential election of one of the candidates.


Funny part is, in typical Liberal fashion, he fails to mention a single attribute to encourage casting a vote for his supported candidate, not a single one. <https://www.montrosemirror.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/MM599.pdf> I took the liberty of exploring the web page of his supported candidate and I now understand why he did not, and could not, list any attributes of exceptional experience to qualify his candidate as a superior selection, there simply aren't any. Mr. Laird alludes that being an employee of Montrose County as a bad thing, but fails to mention his candidate is exactly that, without any supervisory or managerial experience in that capacity.

Perhaps a tad bit of education is in order here for Mr. Laird's sake; the Montrose County Board of County Commissioners is comprised of 3, (three), (count em, 1, 2, 3 for the intellectually impaired), duly elected individuals and requires a majority vote, (that means more than 1), on ANY and EVERY single issue brought before them, including, but not limited to, County Finance. Seems kind of ironic, (pathetic actually), that the candidate Mr. Laird opposes is a former Montrose County elected official, with ample experience and qualifications, I might add, with previous sole specific budgetary responsibility requiring him to deal directly with the County Finance department, and, I repeat, and, not a single issue of impropriety came up during his tenure?

FIVE plus years into the current Sheriffs' tenure we are just now informed that there was "disarray" in the County Sheriff's Office he inherited. Sounds pretty much like the current situation in Washington, D.C., in which the reason, after three plus years, for their leadership failure and failed policies is because of the previous administration! Come on now, doesn't it sound a bit familiar? I just don't seem to recall the former Sheriff whining about Deputy retention or that the retirement plan was insufficient or that the problems he faced were caused by the previous Sheriff. Leadership does ironically demonstrate itself, or not!

Anticipating that I have opened the floodgates for letters to the editor, in opposition to this letter, one must ask themselves; Is there a hidden agenda, based on past stated positions, that the superior experience and knowledge of the opposed candidate contradicts? Could this be "sour grapes" from an equally unqualified candidate who was defeated in the Primary? Guess we will find out!

Richard F. Harding, Olathe



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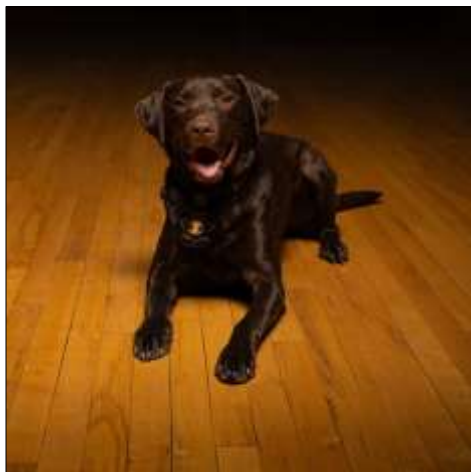


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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

COLORADO STATE PATROL INTRODUCES GUNNER, SPECIALLY TRAINED CANINE



Gunner. CSP Courtesy photo.

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO – The Colorado State Patrol is proud to introduce a new addition to its Executive Security Branch: Gunner. While

the Patrol has used canines trained in narcotic detection for many years, this working canine has been specially trained in the detection of explosives, firearms, and shell casings. Gunner is joining Scout, a veteran of the Patrol since July 2021. Gunner is the third explosive detection dog to have worked in the Patrol's history.

These canines will be used primarily for explosive detection at the Colorado State Capitol complex; however, their assignment will also take them around the state to assist in security and investigations when needed. "A detection dog's main mission is to protect human life. Ensuring the highest levels of security for visitors and employees at and around the Capitol is of the utmost concern for our troopers and security personnel," said Colonel Matthew C. Packard, Chief of the Colorado

State Patrol. "These working dogs are incredibly skillful and obedient, providing us with a unique resource to protect a peaceful event or environment."

Gunner was required to pass a canine's version of a background check that ensured he could be trained sufficiently and would be healthy enough to work for years. Together with their handlers, Gunner and Scout will help ensure safe and effective operations across the State.

Quick Facts About Gunner:

-Name: Gunner

-DOB: 01/25/2023

-Country of Birth: United States (Washington State)

-Certified to detect: Explosives, Guns, Shell Casings

-Favorite toy: Red squeaky ball

-Favorite treat: Cheese

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

HOW CAN IT BE TRUMP'S FAULT THAT AMERICA IS SO DIVIDED AND ON THE VERGE OF RUIN WHEN DEMOCRATS HAVE CONTROLLED THE COUNTRY FOR 12 OF THE PAST 16 YEARS?

Editor:

I have to chuckle at Democrats' total lack of any self-awareness. Take Michelle Obama lecturing Americans on "not taking more than we need" in her speech at the Democrat National Convention. This coming from a woman worth \$70 million who owns three luxury homes. Or Michelle and Oprah Winfrey telling us how we shouldn't trust rich people. Oprah, the gazillionaire, concerned about the "rich and powerful" (that pour much of their fortunes into Democrat Party coffers and far-left causes). Also, Komrad Kamala including how she "fought against elder abuse" in her speech. This coming from the person who went out of her way to lie directly to the world to hide Biden's cognitive decline for years. No irony there folks.

The Democrat National Convention was accurately described by a CNN commentator as "fabricated reality."

The entire week was all about bashing Trump and blaming him for all the ills facing the nation. That same CNN commentator pointed out the problem with that line: How can it be Trump's fault that America is so divided and on the verge of ruin when Democrats have controlled the country for 12 of the past 16 years and Kamala has been in the thick of it for almost four years now?

The people watching the DNC aren't buying the fabricated reality Democrats are selling. Aside from an unhealthy obsession with abortion that simply doesn't align with mainstream America, the DNC platform not only doubles down on the failed policies of the Biden-Harris administration, but veers even further left. The

platform will further cripple our economy, increase the debt, and weaken America at home and abroad. Massive federal spending, price controls, and catering to special interests will impoverish our nation. Democrats flunked Econ 101: If you print money, the cost of everything increases. Savings get eaten up, and wages lag, so all but the elite end up falling further behind.

When Komrad Kamala tried to explain how she would fund her plans, she delivered one of her word salads. She repeatedly insisted there would be a "return on investment" for her policies --- as if the costs would magically cover themselves.

The platform demands higher taxes on corporations, continuing their chronic failure to understand that corporations don't pay taxes. While they write the checks, they are a mere conduit for the money, which comes from raising prices for consumers and/or lowering wages for employees. Reflecting both their economic ignorance and Marxist tendencies, KK and Democrats are pushing for a 25% tax on unrealized capital gains. A simple illustration of what that means: If you bought your house in 2000 for \$200,000 and sold it today for \$500,000 you would have a realized capital gain of \$300,000. You would pay capital gains tax on that \$300,000. If you choose to not sell your house today, and the house is valued at \$500,000, you have an unrealized capital gain of \$300,000. Even though it is only a paper gain and you don't have the cash in hand, Kamala and komrads want you to pay a 25% tax on the \$300,000. So you would have to re-finance your home and borrow \$75,000 so that Democrats can

further grow the size and power of the federal government. That should make us all feel very "joyful."

The DNC repeats the laughable claim that Biden's policies secured the border --- and that any failures are due to Republicans refusal to approve a plan legitimizing the invasion. The platform document insists that Biden has the best economic record ever and offers multiple promises for the future. It blames Trump for the 2020's crime surge, ignoring that it took place in Democrat-run cities rife with BLM, Antifa, and Defund the Police movements. Police officers will be surprised to learn that, per the platform, the Democrat party loves and supports them. Never mind the fact Democrats are focused on protecting criminals rather than keeping communities safe. The same party that is all in on men beating up women in sports and using their locker rooms now promises that it opposes violence against women.

In short, the platform is a mess of communism, lies about Trump, economic ignorance, race-baiting, class warfare, schizophrenia about the Middle East, and --- more lies. Given the known track record of both Kamala and Walz (intentional open borders, banning fracking, eliminating private insurance, eliminating cash bail, eliminating fossil fuels, censorship, sympathy toward BLM rioters, advocacy of socialism and worrisome ties to communist China, tampons in boys' bathrooms, etc.) most Americans are seeing clearly the fraud the Democrats are trying to foist upon the nation --- a fraud even greater than they pulled off in 2020.

Ed Henrie, Montrose



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DELTA COUNTY BREAKS GROUND FOR PLANNED ACCESSIBLE PLAYGROUND



On Aug. 15, 2024, Delta County proudly celebrated the groundbreaking of a soon-to-be accessible playground at the Delta County Fairgrounds in Hotchkiss. At left, Children in attendance were delighted to participate in the groundbreaking ceremony. Courtesy photos.

Special to the Mirror

HOTCHKISS—On Aug. 15, Delta County proudly celebrated the successful groundbreaking of a soon-to-be accessible playground at the Delta County Fairgrounds in Hotchkiss. An enthusiastic crowd of adults and children attended the event, marking a significant milestone in the nearly two-year planning and development process.

The celebration featured heartfelt speeches from Commissioner Wendell Koontz and Public Information Officer Lindsay Mitchell, who both expressed gratitude for the community's involvement, multiple local agencies, county employees, and the pivotal role of the Colorado Health Foundation's grant in making

this project a reality.

Children in attendance were delighted to participate in the groundbreaking ceremony, each receiving their own shovel to contribute to the first official dig. The festive atmosphere was complemented by a selection of delicious appetizers, and a specialty cake, while the kids enjoyed a variety of exciting giveaways. "The development of this playground exemplifies what we can achieve when our community comes together," said Commissioner Koontz. "This playground reflects our dedication and vision, made possible through the generous support of the Colorado Health Foundation and the active involvement of our residents. Now, this space at

our fairgrounds—an important part of our community's heritage—will provide every child, regardless of ability, a place to play, grow, and belong. It's more than just a playground; it's a symbol of our shared commitment to inclusivity and the well-being of our children."

Delta County extends its heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed to this project and looks forward to the continued development of this much-anticipated community asset.

For more information on the new playground and other county projects, please visit www.DeltaCountyCO.gov/CommunityProjects or contact Lindsay Mitchell at lmitchell@deltacountyco.gov.



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CITIZENS SPEAK OUT ON ISSUES DURING LENGTHY COUNCIL MEETING



Montrose City Council heard from citizens on a number of issues at the regular meeting of Aug. 20, above. Meeting screenshot.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-The Aug. 20, 2024 meeting of the Montrose City Council was notable for many reasons, not least of which was its length, stretching as it did for more than three and one half hours. It was also notable for the number of citizens taking time to weigh in on issues of importance.

Mayor J. David Reed called the meeting to order, asked all to join him in the Pledge of Allegiance, and noted that Councilor Judy Ann Files would be voting on agenda items by voice as her computer voting mechanism was not functioning. All five councilors were present.

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

CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Reed read the rules for public comment into the record.

Ron Smith spoke first, thanking council for the opportunity to speak and for meeting with him the previous evening to discuss concerns about Montrose becoming a sanctuary city (see story by Gail Marvel in this issue). "...My takeaways from

the conversation last night are that...citizens, legal immigrants, and illegal immigrants are treated equally in our community...our city police cannot refer or report illegal immigrants to ICE...there's no financial implications positive or negative that have been shared with us..."

Smith proposed that leadership make all of the appropriate legal and ethical plans to develop a contingency plan, "to safeguard citizens and rebuild trust in our defense against the high likelihood that sanctuary city crime, drugs, homelessness, and building takeovers by unstoppable gangs is not spilling over into Montrose. Truly this is America. We love legal immigration and we are all descendants of legal immigrants..."

He urged Council not to move forward with a lodging tax increase, noting the increases in other taxes and the prospect of a school district ballot question.

Also speaking during the time for public comment was Dr. Jeffrey Krebs. He noted that the last time the city charter was updated and put to a vote of the people was in 2014. Krebs asked for the necessary

requirements to petition for a citizen review of city charter, and thanked council for their assistance. "Also, I'd like to suggest at this time that there's a problem in Montrose...it has to do with people riding bicycles, often at dawn, while it's still dark...they usually wear black. I think this is very, very dangerous, I think there needs to be some discipline on these people who ride bikes this way."

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council voted to approve minutes of the August 6, 2024, regular City Council meeting and the August 12, 2024, special City Council meeting.

NEW TAVERN LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATION

Council considered an application for a new Tavern liquor license at 39 W. Main Street for Black Peregrine Food & Beverage Services, LLC, doing business as The Association, for consumption on the licensed premises. Applicant and owner Sarah Fishing was present to answer questions and discuss the application, which was approved unanimously by Council.

Continued next pg

CITIZENS SPEAK OUT ON ISSUES DURING LENGTHY CITY MEETING *From previous pg*

BLACK CANYON BOYS & GIRLS CLUB PROGRAMMATIC CLOSEOUT HEARING

Council held a hearing in accordance with the requirements of the Community Development Block Grant program for project #20-508 Rehabilitation of the Black Canyon Boys and Girls Club. The Club's Executive Director Bud Taylor presented information and answered questions.

RESOLUTION 2024-14

Council considered Resolution 2024-14, a resolution submitting to a vote of qualified electors of the City at the coordinated election held on November 5, 2024 a ballot issue concerning the increase of the hotel room tax from .9 percent to 6 percent.

The proposed ballot issue has been discussed in depth by council in work session, with allocations for the funds considered at the work session of Aug. 5—at the time it was considered that of the 6% lodging tax increase, revenues would be distributed with 1.5% for streets, 1% for childcare, 2% for affordable housing, and 1.5% for tourism promotion, with added language about community events. City Attorney Chris Dowsey said that the updated ballot language contained the final breakdown of allocations.

Council members took time once again to discuss the proposed allocations. Mayor Pro Tem David Frank said that the City must help pay for childcare and affordable housing for workers. "...Montrose is what they deem a childcare desert, and we don't have enough childcare to support the people that we already have living here...we have to fund that somehow...we desperately need affordable housing. There's only so much pie; so we can only slice it so many ways. We are trying to allocate it in the most logical, the most thoughtful way for the benefit of our community."

Mayor Reed opened the floor to public comment. Members of the non-profit Uncompahgre Valley Alliance spoke in support of allocating some of the lodging tax increase to funding for public transportation.

"...We are a non-profit, non-partisan organization that's been bringing folks together for positive change in Montrose.

Some of you might remember us from the childcare needs assessment back in 2021, but we're here to talk about something different today," UVA member Bianca Diaz said, "how earmarking funds for public transportation in the lodging tax increase will benefit the tourists that visit our community, all the workers that support their stay, and the community at large."

Lisa Thomas spoke. Thomas said that she really wants to see Montrose continue to grow responsibly. "...I joined UVA because I like its focus on citizens' needs. In December UVA held a meeting of over 50 Montrose residents and the topic was what are the needs of Montrose; transportation received overwhelming support...in June UVA conducted a survey for people riding the bus. I took the bus several times, and talked to passengers and heard their stories...everyone who takes the bus really needs the bus...it is so important to keep Montrose residents employed, and that can be accomplished when public transportation is readily available, convenient, and affordable..." Thomas discussed the benefits to public safety as well as to tourists. "With the increase in lodging tax in November, this does seem doable."

Also speaking for UVA was Kendra Stucki, who said that many other local communities have well-funded transportation systems, and Harley Whomble, who said that UVA could put its powers of voter education and voter turnout to use to help pass the lodging tax increase here, and that many organizations and entities in Montrose stand to gain a lot from public transportation.

All Points Transit Director Gary Clark also spoke, noting that All Points Transit's public bus routes have been reconfigured to incorporate more stops and to better serve local needs. Public transportation is a huge part of our community and a necessity on a daily basis, Clark said. The public bus service operates in addition to All Points Transit's door-to-door service. The public bus service operates at a deficit of \$217,000 per year, and is funded with support from funding received through the door-to-door service.

All Points Transit is part of the City's

emergency preparedness plan, Clark said. "It's crucial that we have the resources needed to fulfill that role effectively."

He asked Council to allocate 30 percent of the funds received through the proposed lodging tax increase to All Points Transit for public transportation improvements. The City currently allocates roughly \$20,000 annually to All Points, with \$5,000 for the kids ride free in the summer program.

Council spent time in discussion. Mayor Pro Tem Frank said that allocating 30 percent of the increased lodging tax revenues to All Points would cut into programs that "we feel deeply about," but discussed the possibility of taking a portion from other allocations for transportation.

City Manager Bill Bell said transportation did not come up in the allocation discussions, "...We just didn't talk about it...If the council wanted to add in just a little bit of dedicated funding toward general public transportation, it wouldn't guarantee it goes to All Points because there might be other public transportation out there and I wouldn't recommend earmarking a particular organization...we want to put the most amount of money possible into more street maintenance...we want to work on the housing piece and the childcare piece... So if we start dwindling those down, we don't get to make the impact to the community that we really want."

Instead of approving Resolution 2024-14, Council voted to continue rewording of the allocations until the next Council meeting.

MONTROSE COUNTY ELECTIONS INTER-GOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT

Council voted unanimously to approve the Montrose County Elections Intergovernmental Agreement.

ORDINANCE 2670 - FIRST READING

The City's Public Safety Attorney Matthew Magliaro presented Ordinance 2670 on first reading, updating Title 6 Chapter 1, of the Official Code of the City of Montrose and repealing and replacing Title 6 Chapter 1 Section 10 (6-1-10), regarding unauthorized camping; repealing and replacing Title 6 Chapter 1 Section 12 (6-1-12) regarding sleeping on sidewalks, streets,

Continued next pg

CITIZENS SPEAK OUT ON ISSUES DURING LENGTHY CITY MEETING *From previous pg*

curbs, parking spaces, alleys, public right of way or within doorways prohibited; and amending Title 9 Chapter 10 Section 1 (9-10-1), regarding park hours.

For the first violation of proposed Ordinance 2670, the penalty imposed would be a fine of \$100. Second or subsequent offenses may be punished in accordance with Section 1-2-3 of the Official Code of the City. Magliaro said that staff recommended passage of proposed Ordinance 2670.

Before opening the floor to public comment, Mayor J. David Reed said that there has been some confusion over the City's intent. "...I think it is important to say that what we are attempting to do here...47 percent of our citizens believe and feel that our parks and trails are unsafe...we have to deal with that so what are we attempting to regulate here is not people or groups of people, it is conduct...it is conduct-oriented and it is to regulate bad conduct...our PD and our Public Works Department each month are faced with huge cleanup activities within our parks and trails that is a resource drain from a manpower and a financial standpoint to the city...as elected officials we were elected and we have a fiduciary responsibility to protect the health, safety, and welfare of our citizens..."

Councilor Ed Ulibarri said that he has allowed homeless people to use his own yard and trailers in his back yard, but that the privilege was abused. "There are places you can get help..."

Councilor Judy Ann Files said that she has spoken with City parks workers, who are hired to work on beautification and maintenance. "Not to have to go in and put on their hazard suits and their rubber gloves and pick up lots of needles, lots of human feces, the type of things that I don't think that should be a part of their jobs...I would like to stop it from happening."

The floor was then opened to public comment, and speaker after speaker spoke against the proposed ordinance. The reasons for opposing the ordinance were diverse, but a number of people called out the imposition of penalties including fines

and possible jail time on people who have no place else to go and few resources. While there is an overnight homeless shelter available in Montrose during the winter months, there is no overnight shelter during the spring, summer, and fall.

In addition to concerned citizens, those who spoke included individuals who have been homeless, social workers, church volunteers, homeless advocates, professionals, and community volunteers.

Among the professionals who spoke was Abbie Brewer, executive director of The Shepherd's Hand, the weekday shelter that provides resources, meals, and a place to go for people in Downtown Montrose. "...We just don't have enough resources when it comes to individuals that are experiencing homelessness," Brewer said. "I know this is not to ban homelessness, and I know that you guys are doing the best that you can to help with safety in our community. But we have to address this issue too. Because at Shepherd's Hand, the only thing that we can do right now is hand them a sleeping bag and tell them to go sleep in a park...Because we don't have any other options, and that is the option."

Brewer said that capacity at Shepherd's Hand doubled since she took the reins from Founder Garey Martinez. "We were serving 30 in October of last year, (now) we're serving nearly 65 for lunch. It's getting worse and worse. And right now, with the coordinated entry system, we see about 220 homeless individuals on a daily basis here in the Montrose community. And again, that has doubled, I know, since 2020...we do have a challenge that we need to work on together...because we don't want more people going into the jails and we need to come up with something together."

Local Attorney Patrick Crane said that the survey cited by Mayor Reed in defense of the ordinance represented less than one percent of the population. Crane referred to the ordinance and the discussion as fearmongering.

"As someone who has represented people in this town for 12 years," Crane said, "I can tell you there is no rash of offenses

that are happening in the parks that are coming into my office...coming into the state courts...if there were violent offenses they would be coming into the state courts. They're not there because they're not happening..."

The city actually provides no resources to people experiencing homelessness, Crane said. "It is already illegal to be in the park from 11pm to 5am," he said, "...the only meaningful difference is that you are mandating ten days of jail after a second offense while giving no solution. The only reason to do this is to jail people who don't have a home..."

President of the Montrose Association of Churches Drew Granzow urged Council to table the Ordinance, "Take a step back..."

After hearing from numerous members of the public, Councilor Ulibarri asked those who had spoken to consider opening their own resources to the homeless as he has done in the past. "Take the bull by the horn...show your love, open your door like I did...volunteer at Shepherd's Hand...I volunteer there, my wife does too...don't just talk with words, get out there and help. Invite them people over to your backyards and provide 'em with the meals. Let 'em shower in your shower, let 'em use your home...our city donates money to a lot of different charities in this community as part of our budget. We're not heartless up here, we're just doing what a bunch of our constituents have been asking us to do..."

Several audience members began to shout back at Ulibarri. and Mayor Reed cut the discussion short, banged the gavel, and said that he would have disruptive individuals escorted out.

Reed said that members of the public would be able to comment again on Second Reading of the ordinance if approved. A member of the audience shouted back, "Can it be tabled like that other?"

Reed said that the City Council would make the decisions.

Council voted to table the item for further discussion at the next regularly scheduled work session, and to consider it two weeks later at the next regularly scheduled Council meeting.

Continued next pg

CITIZENS SPEAK OUT ON ISSUES DURING LENGTHY CITY MEETING *From previous pg*

Council took a five-minute break before proceeding with the remainder of the regular meeting agenda.

ORDINANCE 2666 - SECOND READING

City Council voted to adopt Ordinance 2666 on second reading, an Ordinance of the City

of Montrose, Colorado, for the annexation of the Public Works Shop Addition.

ORDINANCE 2667 - SECOND READING

Also unanimously approved was Ordinance 2667 on Second Reading, zoning the Public Works Shop Addition as a P, Public District.

Council approved two ordinances regarding the Rio Grande Right of Way Addition on Second Reading:

ORDINANCE 2668 - SECOND READING

Council approved Ordinance 2668, for the annexation of the Rio Grande Right of Way Addition.

ORDINANCE 2669 - SECOND READING

Council voted to approve Ordinance 2669, zoning the Rio Grande Right of Way Addition as a P, Public District.

6600 ROAD WATER SERVICE AREA MODI-

FICATION AGREEMENT

Council voted unanimously to enter into a water service area modification agreement with Tri-County Water Conservancy District to modify boundaries in the vicinity of 6600 Road between Locust and Draft Horse Roads.

LES SCHWAB TIRE CENTER DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT

Council considered a development agreement with SFP-E, LLC to facilitate the extension of water and sewer infrastructure to Montrose Drive and the development of a new Les Schwab Tire Center.

Councilor Ed Ulibarri questioned the amount of money being expended for the benefit of the developer.

"Maybe it's time that development pays its way," he said. "I can't give support for this or for the actual project...we have roads in this town, curbs and gutters and sidewalks, that need to be repaired--not ten years from now, but now. We have homeless people, that hey, they need help...I don't think we should be giving city dollars, hundreds of thousands of dollars,

when we have safety issues in this community."

Council voted to vote four to one to approve the agreement, with Ulibarri voting no.

MONTROSE DRIVE WATERLINE INTERCONNECT CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT


For the same reasons he cited for the previous item, Ulibarri voted to deny approval of a contract award to Ridgway Valley Enterprises in the amount of \$334,037 for completion of the Montrose Drive Waterline Interconnect construction project. Still, in a four to one vote, the contract was approved.

POLICE DEPARTMENT EQUIPMENT PURCHASE

Council voted unanimously to approve the purchase of Taser 10 Certification Bundles from Axon Enterprise Inc. for the total purchase price of \$59,147.40.

STAFF REPORTS

Finance Director Shani Wittenberg presented the Sales, Use & Excise tax report and Second Quarter Budget Review. With no further business the regular meeting was adjourned.




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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DREAM CATCHER THERAPY CENTER AWARDED \$300K GRANT FROM COLORADO TRUST TO EXPAND MENTAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH OPTIONS ON THE WESTERN SLOPE

Special to the Mirror

OLATHE-The non-profit Dream Catcher Therapy Center in Olathe, CO, has been awarded a \$300,000 grant from The Colorado Trust. This 3-year grant is part of their Community Resilience Initiatives, and Dream Catcher was awarded for their plan to expand mental and behavioral health options on the rural western slope. The foundation fielded more than 600 applications statewide for the competitive grants, said Julian Kesner, vice president of communications for the Denver-based trust. Of the 83 awardees, Dream Catcher Therapy Center is the only grantee located in Montrose County.

Dream Catcher Therapy Center has served the western slope of Colorado for 25 years, offering a unique and proven alternative to traditional office-based therapy. Their specialty is equine-assisted psychotherapy, where the therapist holds many sessions outdoors or in the arena, and where one or more horses help the client process and discuss their feelings, behaviors, and patterns. The horses used in their sessions are rescue and sanctuary horses from their sister nonprofit, End of the Trail Rescue. Approximately 45 of the 60 horses at the ranch are qualified to work with therapy sessions.

The grant from The Colorado Trust is focused on recruiting and retaining new mental health providers to our rural region. Our country, state, and community are all in a mental health crisis. There are not enough qualified therapists to meet demand. Currently, the client-to-provider ratio in the state of Colorado is 250:1. In Montrose County, the ratio is 340:1, and in Delta County, the ratio is 527:1. This program hopes to find new interns interested in practicing in a rural region who need supervision to complete their training.

Dream Catcher Therapy Center will be seeking therapist interns, also known as Licensed Professional Counselor Candidates (LPCCs), to work at their facility.



Dream Catcher Therapy Center specializes in equine-assisted psychotherapy, using rescue horses to help clients process their feelings and behaviors, particularly for those who have experienced trauma, PTSD, or substance abuse issues. Courtesy photos Dream Catcher Therapy Center.

LPCCs require 2,000 hours of supervised sessions over two years to complete their candidacy and graduate, and very few mental health clinics can offer that type of supervision. Dream Catcher is already involved in this certification pipeline, with a fully licensed medical director who can work with interns, courtesy of a grant from the San Juan Regional Council of El Pomar Foundation. Their first intern graduated in May 2024 and is currently working at Dream Catcher as a licensed therapist. The goal is to keep graduating therapists at their facility or in the region following their LPC designation, thereby increasing the pool of mental health providers in the area. The grant will provide pay supplementation for every therapy session and a housing stipend for every therapist. The grant will also support a clinic manager and a medical director, with a goal of 3-4 interns completing their certification during the grant period. DCTC has helped thousands of people in their past 25 years—including children and adults with disabilities, at-risk children experiencing trauma, US Military Veterans and their families, and those experiencing the impacts of addiction. Programs evolve



every year to meet the changing needs of the community. The clinic specializes in helping kids who have experienced trauma, as well as adults and veterans seeking alternative therapy methods to handle PTSD, trauma, or substance abuse issues. The rescue horses are important to therapy sessions and are a reason many of these clients can successfully reconnect with their community. The connection between horse and person is magical to observe, especially when working with children who have also been abused, abandoned, or neglected. Both the horse and the human benefit from these relationships.

Kathy Hamm, founder and executive director of Dream Catcher Therapy Center, knows that this grant could change everything for the ranch—and she's ready for the challenge. "We need more therapists on the western slope, and we can help them get certified and licensed," she said. "Because we want to help people, and now we can help even more."

If you are an LPCC or other therapy provider in need of supervision to complete your credentials, contact Kathy Hamm at 970-323-5400 to learn more.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

MONTROSE MONDAY MASH UP *Happenings in Our Community Creating Future Issues*

By David White

Today's article is called a "mash up" due to the number of things that have taken place in our community over the last week or so and others that will affect us in more ways than one.

NON-SANCTUARY CITY STATUS:

I had the opportunity to attend a meeting with the City Manager and the City Attorney regarding their stance and that of the City Council's on their Non-Sanctuary City resolution they passed and then retracted in March of this year. The net result of the meeting was that the City Government and City Council will not be doing anything to address the issue of illegal immigrants finding safe haven in the City of Montrose as they defer to Federal and State laws that in essence grant the undocumented illegal population exemptions from local officials taking any action to detain such individuals.

Frequent mention was made by these officials that Montrose County was responsible for the welfare of the illegal immigrants in our community as their Health and Human Services Department was to take care of the various needs that this population has in the areas of obtaining benefits for food, housing, healthcare and other State and Federally sanctioned or mandated protections for them. Given that Montrose County's Board of County Commissioners voted to declare the County to be a non-sanctuary county, I found this to be somewhat ironic that the City doesn't believe that we have a problem or potential problem with the number of illegals in our area, but the County does. Without putting some policies in place to give credence to their non-sanctuary resolution, the County finds itself at odds with themselves.

Of course, as many reading this article will recall, former State Senator Don Coram introduced a bill in the 2019 legislative session (Senate Bill 19-139 - <https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb19-139>) that was approved by the State Legislature and which the Governor signed giving "undocumented (aka illegal) immigrants" the right to obtain a Colorado driver's

license. Montrose was designated as one of the 10 cities in Colorado where an "undocumented" illegal immigrant could go to obtain a driver's license.

The bill stated that undocumented immigrants must first prove that they've lived in Colorado for the last two years and have paid state and federal taxes. They also had to show an ID from their home country such as a passport and **sign an affidavit pledging to apply for legal status**. Not that that happened very often!

Now, under a bill passed in this last legislative session and signed by the Governor in June, undocumented immigrants arriving in Colorado won't have to wait two years for a driver's license anymore. Under the new law – Senate Bill 24-182 which goes into effect on March 31, 2025, (<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb24-182>), they'll soon be able to apply **immediately for a license**. The new law removes the two-year waiting requirement. But applicants will still have to pass a written test, vision screening and driving test to get a license. The same requirements apply as to showing some form of ID from their home country, but people can now use expired versions of those documents, as long as they had expired sometime within the previous 10 years under the new law and there's no longer a requirement that the applicants have a Colorado income tax return or a social security number or individual taxpayer identification number, as those take time to obtain.

See this article for more information: (<https://www.cpr.org/2024/06/05/undocumented-immigrants-will-get-colorado-drivers-licenses-much-more-quickly-under-new-law/>)

All of this begs the question...if, as City officials claim, we don't have a problem with undocumented illegal immigrants in our community, **why the heck are we one of only 10 cities in the State of Colorado issuing driver's licenses to them?** Somebody isn't fessing up to the real truth of the matter.

NEW LAWS ON ALCOHOL SALES:

In case you didn't know, Corks Liquor Store, a Montrose mainstay for the last 26

years, is going out of business at the end of September. Kroger Corporation, doing business as City Market, is planning a major expansion of the South City Market to include taking over the space Corks occupies as well as the Cactus Car Wash. Perhaps the competition from the grocery stores selling beer and wine was too much for the owners to endure.

The closure of Corks, I believe, will be just the beginning should the grocery and drugstores obtain the right to sell all forms of alcohol to the public. There has been a lot of legal wrangling in the State Legislature over the sale of hard liquor by grocery and drug stores over the last couple of years. A bill that would have changed many of the rules in this area was postponed and a compromise bill was passed under Senate Bill 24-231 (<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb24-231>). Provisions of this bill went into effect on August 7th.

"Among the 31 changes that will become law on August 7, some of the most significant include allowing licensed retailers to sell alcoholic beverages on Christmas, prohibiting liquor-license holders from selling marijuana products, and allowing alcohol retailers to renew their licenses every two years instead of annually. Additionally, off-premises retailers can conduct tastings and educational classes starting as early as 10 a.m., and distillery sales rooms can combine common beverages with their products to produce cocktails for on-premises consumption. Breweries and distilleries can operate two manufacturing facilities within 10 miles of each other under one license, similar to the current allowance for wineries. New licenses will be created for shippers selling products from certain wineries and for catering companies to serve alcohol at events. Another significant change solidified by the legislature this session was the permanent allowance for restaurants to sell to-go alcoholic beverages." (<https://www.avenuesrecovery.com/blog/changes-to-colorados-alcohol-laws-this-august/>)

In the meantime, the City of Montrose just issued another liquor license to the

MONTROSE MONDAY MASH UP

Happenings in Our Community Creating Future Issues From previous pg

folks who purchased the old Potato Growers building at 39 West Main Street and who happen to own the Storm King Distillery next door. Sarah Fishering (President of the Montrose RE1-J School Board), acting in her capacity as owner and manager of "The Association" (which will be the name of the consortium of eateries and drinking establishments in the building) agreed with the City Attorney that "the neighborhood" (i.e., the ENTIRE City of Montrose) needs yet another location selling alcohol. No doubt since the City has invested heavily in this business venture with your tax money.

More to come on these subjects, I'm sure.

MONTROSE HOTEL LODGING TAX INCREASE:

The City Council postponed voting on Resolution 2024-14, which would put on the November 5th General Election ballot, a request of the voters to increase, **by 66%**, the hotel lodging excise tax to their September 3rd meeting. Currently, the .9% excise tax being collected by area hotels is used exclusively for the promotion of tourism. The Council believes that an increase in the tax is needed because tourists don't pay their own way to be here as they use City streets and sidewalks, put an unfair burden on the workforce as more service workers are required to meet their needs thereby generating the need for affordable housing, childcare and a myriad of other socioeconomic demands on the City. To say the circular logic they used in their discussions speaks to their complete inability to understand the fundamentals of business and taxation is putting it mildly.

They have decided to take, should the tax increase be approved by the voters, 25% of the revenue and use it for street maintenance including sidewalks, curbs and gutters (which they obviously haven't been taking care of with the millions in revenue they receive annually). 25% of the revenue would go to the tourism promotion fund. 33% to incentivize developers to build affordable housing and tied to that would be 17% to pay for government sanctioned childcare. However, this may

all change as the Uncompahgre Valley Alliance came to the podium and requested that a carve out be made available for public transportation in spite of the fact that All Points Transit and other forms of public transportation are already receiving City funding.

To hear Mayor Pro-Tem Dave Frank make the argument that the City, in promoting tourism with taxpayer dollars (whether they be generated by our citizens or visitors) in order to draw visitors to Montrose (remember the City's slogan – Stay Here, Play Everywhere - <https://www.visitmontrose.com/>) has created a burden on the City is absolutely laughable. To say that because the service businesses that are here are burdened by having to hire more workers (most at the lower end of the pay scale) who need childcare and housing, we have to tax the very people we're trying to bring to our area is a joke. Add to this Councilor Judy Ann Files statement that we need more money for "events", and I just want to pull my hair out. See it if you'd like to believe it. Begin at the 39-minute mark and watch until the 1:06 mark. (<https://montroseco.portal.civicclerk.com/event/788/media>)

These people are running a clown show and they're the stars of it. The City Manager and City Attorney sit idly by and when prompted, encourage such nonsense. Not only that, to hear that because we have the lowest lodging tax in the area, we need to raise it so that we're in the middle of the lodging tax pack is completely off the rails.

All I can say to you is...**VOTE THIS DOWN** when you see it on the ballot. This City government has squandered millions of dollars on giveaways to private businesses for commercial kitchens, commercial developments, apartment buildings, landscaping, parking lots and many, many more. Money spent inappropriately should have been used to take care of our streets, sidewalks, and many other obligations of government. The Council sets the City budget. They've neglected all of the things

they're arguing about in trying to promote this new tax. Enough already. **Again, VOTE NO!**

SUMMING THINGS UP:

Here are few other happenings...

-The Council postponed a resolution concerning how to deal with the homeless in public spaces. They'll take it up again at their September 3rd meeting.

-The \$2.8 million dollar façade renovation on the new City Hall building is likely to go over budget. Seems power lines in the alley behind the building have created a problem for the work to be done. No doubt, they'll be undergrounded but at what cost?

-The City's Historic Preservation Commission meets on Tuesday, August 27th to consider designating the Sherman and Ross Block Building (it's the mustard yellow with black awnings building next to Demoret Park at the intersection of Main and Townsend – 232-236 West Main St.) built in 1910 a historic building. Approval will mean that the City will give the owners \$36,250 as a match under the Façade Improvement Matching Grant Program that is available to designated properties. This is a well-used method by the City to set up the giveaway of tax dollars to private businesses – declare a structure historic and bingo, you win the taxpayer funded lottery!

-If you want to see how well the City is doing with their tax collections, here's the link to the January – June 2024 numbers ([February 2003 Monthly Report for March](https://cityofmontrose.org/February%202003%20Monthly%20Report%20for%20March) (cityofmontrose.org)) NOTE: Ignore the reference to February 2003. This link works.

Of course, there's more going on...too much to cover here without boring you, the reader. Have a great week and we'll catch up later.

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.

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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

FOREST SERVICE ANNOUNCES HIRING OF 250 FIREFIGHTERS

Special to the Mirror

LAKEWOOD— The Rocky Mountain Region of the USDA Forest Service is hiring over 250 permanent seasonal wildland firefighters across national forests and grasslands in Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, and Wyoming.

Firefighter positions include engine operators, hotshot crew members, hand crew members, helitack crew members, airtanker technicians, airtanker base managers, fuels technicians, fire prevention specialists, assistant fire management officers, dispatchers, and other essential fire management positions.

Job information, including duty locations and application details, is available online on the [Regional Fall Fire Hiring webpage](#). Job seekers can apply for the 250 wildland firefighter jobs through [USAJobs.gov](#) for 33 days from August 23 through September 24, 2024.

Any U.S. citizen or national who is at least

18 years of age can submit applications. Hiring managers will use a Direct Hire Authority to hire applicants, which means Veterans' Preference and traditional rating and ranking of applicants do not apply. Application and resume preparation tips and guidelines, including step-by-step instructions and on-demand webinars, are available on the [How to Apply webpage](#). The Forest Service is a federal agency under the U.S. Department of Agriculture

that manages 193 million acres of land, roughly the size of Texas. Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, and Wyoming are home to 17 national forests and seven national grasslands, collectively known as the Rocky Mountain Region. The mission of the Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.

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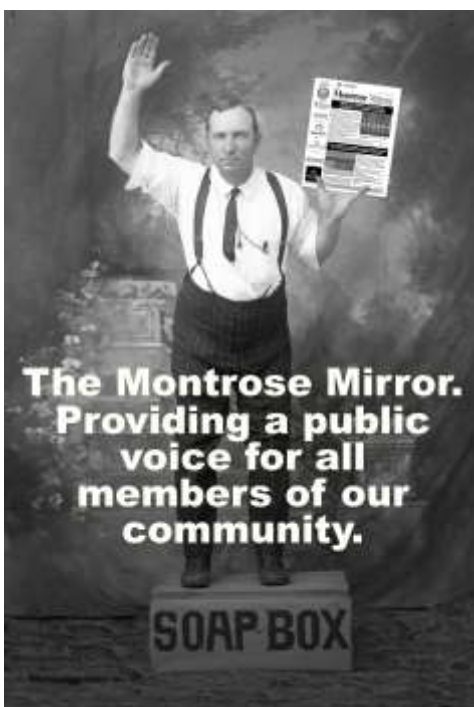
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COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

ROBERT (BOB) WARREN KEEFER

June 29, 1929- August 4, 2024

ROBERT (BOB) WARREN KEEFER died of natural causes at his home in Montrose, Colorado, on Sunday, August 4, 2024. He was 95 years of age. He was a veteran of the military; a teacher of history and geography to many; and most importantly an amazing father to thirteen children, grandfather to twenty, and great-grandfather to at least twelve wonderful souls.

Bob was born to Harold Randolph and Goldie (Cole) Keefer in Baltimore, Maryland on June 29, 1929. As was common during the Great Depression, Bob lived at a variety of locations, as his father took work where he could find it. By the time was twelve years of age, he lived at seven different locations in Maryland, Delaware, and Washington DC. The family eventually settled in Silver Spring, Maryland in 1942.

Following his graduation from Montgomery Blair High School in 1947, Bob enlisted in the Army, and honorably served his country during the Korean War. He was stationed in a variety of bases including Yeongdeung-po, Korea, and Adak, Alaska. Following the war, Bob completed his bachelor's degree at the University of Maryland. His enrollment in graduate studies at the University of Colorado (M.A.) brought him out west where he would spend the rest of his days. During his studies at CU, he met his future wife, Alice Carol Paugh. They married in 1956. In 1963, he moved his young family to a home near Eldorado Springs, Colorado, where they raised kids, horses, cattle, and other assorted livestock.

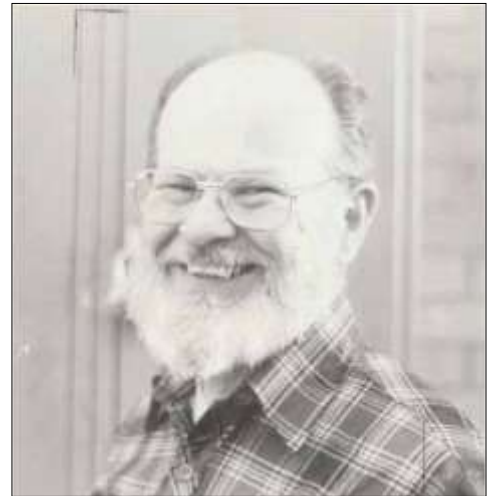
Professionally, Bob served as a teacher of U.S. and World History, and Geography at Broomfield High School for 30 years. In 1972, Bob had the opportunity to travel the world as part of an international stud-

ies program. He visited numerous countries including the Soviet Union, China, South Korea, Japan, and India. He retired from teaching in 1989.

After raising their children Bob and Alice chose to divorce and pursue separate paths. Bob moved to Arvada, Colorado, where he lived until 2021. He then moved to Montrose, Colorado, where he lived with his son Ben and wife Shelly, through the day of his passing.

Preceding Bob in death are his parents, his brother Harold Randolph Keefer, Jr., and son Michael Keefer.

Bob is survived by many of his children: Dennis (Margaret) Selvig of Sumter, S.C.; Phyllis (John) Beeler of Arvada, CO; Charles (Lily) Keefer of Winter Park, FL; Laurie (Bob) Keefer of Ocean View, HI; Wendy (Nigel) Keefer of Haxby, England; Benjamin (Shelly) Keefer of Montrose, CO; Paul (Lisa) Keefer of Lafayette, CO; Megan (James) Smith of Littleton, CO. Other children's locations are unknown at this time. Bob is also survived by his former wife, Alice Carol Keefer, nephews David, Gary and James Keefer, and niece Susan Keefer-Junkins. Bob will be missed by his grandchildren Amy Leiner, Holly Selvig, Brie (Ryan) Pate, Reis (Michelle) Beeler, Jade Keefer, Ian Keefer, Jan Foster, Derek Foster, Brice Keefer, Mackenzie (Casey) Irving, Thomas (Kim) Hamburg, Douglas (Erica) Hamburg, Irena (Nathan) Freystaetter, Jacob Smith, Kristina (Carlos) Wiggan, Ruta (Jonathan) Stupple, Orion Smith, and great grandchildren Zoe Leiner, Jenna Leiner, Stella Selvig, Cullen Beeler, Laney Beeler, Hayes Irving, Edward Hamburg, Claire Hamburg, William Hamburg, Geneva Freystaetter, Kepler Freystaetter, Finn Freystaetter, Sebastian Bateman, Victoria



Bateman, Maisie Lawson, Bobby Lawson.

As a man, Bob was well-educated, complex, and highly principled, exemplifying the western spirit. He was a voracious reader. His favorite genres included history and science fiction. He enjoyed traveling and learning about other countries and their ways of life.

Throughout his life he was a firearms enthusiast, participating in shooting competitions into his 90s. He loved the outdoors and all of its offerings (hiking, camping, skiing, hunting, etc.) He also loved his root beer, chocolate, black licorice, corn-on-the-cob, Sausage McMuffins, the Denver Broncos, and Colorado Rockies. He passed his enthusiasm for many of these things on to his family.

Remembrance services for Bob will be held in the Chapel room at Crippin Funeral Home in Montrose, Colorado at 9am, on Saturday, September 14. Following the services, Bob will be laid to rest with military honors at Grandview Cemetery, Montrose, Colorado.

CELEBRATING LOCAL BEAUTY.



COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

SMILES C. DUNN

SMILES C. DUNN was born in 1928 in Vernon, Texas. Her parents talked so much about how pretty her smiles were that the nurses thought that was her name and that is what ended up on her birth certificate. Her family moved to Dallas where she spent her teenage years and graduated from Crozier Tech High school. She fell in love with John Toney, and they married in 1946 after he returned from WWII. Together they had their son, Douglas. They divorced and later she married Otis Click. Otis unexpectedly passed away and, after several years, she met Melvin Dunn. Mel was retired from the Air Force, and they toured the country in an RV where they found a cute little town in Colorado called Ouray. They lived there for a few years until Smile's mother, "Honey" moved in with them. The climate in Ridgway was a little friendlier for her mother, so they bought an old victorian house there and settled into the community. Mel served on the planning commission for Ridgway and Smiles helped restore the Sherbino Theater. Smiles is survived by her son Douglas Toney, stepdaughter Teri Williams, granddaughter Christina Peteet, great-grandchildren Savannah, Ella, Burton, George, and Archer. Smiles was preceded in death by her mother and father Barney and Golda Iona Gilbreth and her husband Mel, sisters Mae Dell, Lela Opal, Virginia, Jeannine, Phyllis, and brother Barney Elwood. She was also preceded in death by her granddaughter Dawn Pendarvis, and stepdaughters Shelly Johnson and Denise Daniels. A memorial service will be held at the Sherbino Theater in Ridgway, CO on September 28, 2024 at 3 PM.



BRAD PETERS

September 1, 1954 - August 24, 2024



Brad was raised in Delavan, WI and graduated from the University of Wisconsin before finding his way to the Western Slope of Colorado.

Brad attended Western State and then landed with Rich Hamrick at Hamrick & Associates as a partner before calling it his own as Peters & Company in 1984.

Brad loved his numbers and his clients. You were his passion and made everyday a gift to help you. Thank you for that friendship and trust.

Brad passed from a very short battle with pancreatic cancer he fought for 6 months. He is survived by his wife Amy and his sister Laurie and brother Bruce.



COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

DONALD LEE JACKSON ***May 12, 1941- August 16, 2024***

DON JACKSON died Friday, August 16th, 2024, in Montrose Memorial Hospital. Born on May 12th, 1941, in Olathe, Colorado, to Raymond Jackson and Savannah Robertson Jackson. In the spring of 1943, the family purchased the small farm just east of Olathe where Don grew up. He attended Olathe Grade School and graduated from Olathe High School.

After initially attending Colorado State University in Fort Collins, CO, Donald returned to Olathe to work in road construction and study at Mesa College for two years. From 1962 to 1963, Donald worked for the Highway Dept. building the bridges on the Blue Mesa Dam.

Don returned to Colorado State University where he graduated with a degree in business administration.

Don and his dad partnered up driving long

haul trucking, until he got his draft notice. He decided to join the Air Force. Since he had a college degree, he was eligible for officers training.

Commissioned into the U.S. Air Force as a 2nd lieutenant in 1967, Donald Jackson began his career as an air weapons controller serving in various locations, Ellington AF Base, TX, Ryukyu Islands, Japan, back to Ellington AF Base, TX Kingsley Field, Oregon.

In March 1972 Don began transitioning to budget and comptroller roles. Beginning at Hurlburt Field, FL He was then assigned to Torrejon Air Base, Spain. His next assignment took him to Air University Maxwell AF base Alabama. In 1980 he returned to air weapons controller and was assigned to the Directorate of Air Space management at Osan Air Base, Korea.

Then to comptroller of Air Defense Weapons at Tyndall AF Base, FL. His exemplary service earned him units numerous accolades, including "Best in Air Force" and "Best in TAC" awards. His decorations include the Air Force Meritorious Service Medal and the Air Force Commendation Medal. Don's final assignment involved transportation coordination for Desert Storm. He retired from the Air Force in 1993.

Donald Jackson is survived by his sister, Carol Jackson Dunkel of Elk Grove, CA, and her son, Jody D. Dunkel of Sacramento, CA; his niece, Lisa A. Jackson of Rio Rancho, NM, daughter of his deceased brother, George Edward Jackson; and her son, Elijah C. MacLeod of Panama City, FL.

Don was an avid supporter and donator of Colorado State Athletic Department.

EDWARD LEE TROLLINGER ***April 28, 1958 — August 16, 2024***



EDWARD LEE TROLLINGER of Montrose, Colorado, passed away on August 16, 2024. He was born April 28, 1958 in Aurora, Colorado to Don and Edith Trollinger and had

one brother, Heinz (Sandy) Janke. Ed spent his early childhood throughout the world due to his father's Air Force deployments, but later settled in Cheyenne, Wyoming where he graduated from Cheyenne Central High School. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science from the University of Wyoming and pursued a career in firmware engineering, where he held positions in Washington State, Wyo-

ming, and Michigan. The bulk of Ed's career was spent with Whirlpool Corporation, where he served as a Senior Software Engineer and progressed to a Principal Engineer, which involved extensive international travel. Ed retired in 2020 so he was able to spend more time with his family. Ed, along with Mary Ellen, his wife of 45 years, raised two daughters, Debbie (David Salcedo) and Rebecca. He could always be seen at the girls' sporting events, coaching their Odyssey of the Mind teams, and acting as a judge and chaperone for FCCLA. Ed was blessed with three rambunctious grandsons, Braylen, Logan, and Landyn; sometimes it was tough to tell who was the bigger kid among the four of them! Ed's hobbies included backpacking, hiking, woodworking, home remodeling, and reading.

Throughout his life, Ed had a passion for learning and sharing his knowledge and experiences with others. Ed's faith in God was incredibly important to him and impacted everything he did, including his service to others and his desire to make a difference; this can be seen in his involvement with Habitat for Humanity, serving as a Methodist Church trustee, and in his work with the Masonic Lodge.

We will miss the glint in his eyes, his teasing nature, the ways he challenged us to always be our best, his smile, and his unconditional love and support.

A celebration of his life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, Ed's family asks that you donate time or money to Hope West Hospice, Montrose United Methodist Church renovation fund, or Habitat for Humanity.

ISSUE 483 Aug. 26, 2024

ART & SOL

CELEBRATING SIXTY FIVE YEARS OF LIVE THEATRE MAGIC!

By Lisa Rediger with Brenda Joyce Coda

MONTROSE-Recorded history relies on memory, for few know whether or not what is happening - right now - will be considered significant. Later, a few arbitrarily-chosen people are asked to recall the event. Memory, as we all know, is unreliable, even fickle. So while all that is related here is based on fact, those facts may be jumbled or have different interpretations, depending on the one doing the remembering.

But let's start with the elements of any good story: Who, What, When, & Where.

The 'who' of Magic Circle Players' inception is Bette Dustin Spiro. From determination, fierceness, experience, loss, creativity, and a longing for community, Bette conceived the idea of an all-volunteer community drama group. The 'who' has multiplied over the decades: from a single woman with a big idea, to handful of stalwart volunteers who coalesced around Bette's dreams, to an army of volunteers still investing their time, energy, and talent to perpetuate Bette's legacy of excellence. We believe that live theatre has the power to impact a life.

'What' are we? A non-profit, volunteer organization dedicated to the presentation of quality live theatre, seeking to educate, entertain and involve our community in the dramatic arts. Bette christened the group 'Magic Circle Players' to convey her belief that theatre has four elements: the playwright, the director, actors, and audience - a circle that starts from pure potential and ends in manifestation. Our theatre is the oldest, continuously running live theatre on the Western Slope, and among the oldest in Colorado.

The 'when' is cause for celebration! Sep-

tember 4, 1959, Magic Circle Players opened our first production, *Green Grow the Lilacs*; the show ran two nights at the Montrose Armory. (The City of Montrose Recreation Fund lent us money for the royalties, which we promptly repaid from the play's proceeds. The Grey sisters were our very first patrons and reviewers.) September 6, 2024, **sixty-five years** later, we will open Arthur Miller's classic American drama *All My Sons*; the show will run for eight performances in our very own theatre. The 'when' spans more than six decades. We have progressed from hauling borrowed metal folding chairs, to BYO lawn chairs, director's chairs, and then finally the 'bolted to the floor' upholstered seats. We've transitioned from #10 vegetable tins for lighting, to grids built to light larger areas, to a rigging full of a wide range of lighting equipment.

'Where'? Now that's an interesting story. Don Ogelsby, a Montrose High School teacher, was also in charge of the National Guard armory and offered the armory as a venue, howitzers and all. The story is that there was some consternation regarding the howitzers being used as clothes racks. When the armory was in use, Arcadia Dance Hall was available, but one spring the pungency of a dead skunk created quite an ordeal for the cast and audience. The middle school stages were also part of our nomadic journey until our current location was completed in 1974. Marguerite Lathrop very persuasively convinced the Montrose Recreation District to share their rather large parking lot, and give the theatre a 99-year land lease. And here we are; our original metal building was donated by Walker & Krill, volunteers doing the construction,

2024/2025 SEASON
65 Years of Theatre Magic

Buy Season Tickets Now

| | |
|--|--|
| arthur miller's ALL MY SONS SEPT 2024 | THE GENTLEMAN NOV 2024 |
| THE WIND JAN 2025 | YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU MARCH 2025 |
| READERS THEATRE JULY 2024 | INTO THE WOODS MAY 2025 |
| SPECIAL EVENTS | MAGIC DOESN'T JUST HAPPEN JUNE 2025 |
| | A SHERLOCK CAROL DEC 2024 |
| | Disney HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL JR. JUNE 2025 |

COME Play WITH US

970-249-7838 • mcp@montrose.net
MagicCirclePlayers.com • PO Box 1897 • Montrose, CO

Courtesy image Magic Circle Theatre.

the money raised penny by penny. An addition in 2016 gave us much needed storage space, and our 2024 facility remodel has given us an exterior facelift that reflects the magic that is inside!

We invite you to 'come PLAY with us;' come audition, buy a season ticket, or just come see a show. You are the steel in our foundation, investing in our community every time you donate, volunteer or attend a production. Thank you for being part of the legacy of 65 years of quality live theatre in Montrose.

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>

WHAFTV

Wed., Sept. 25

5:30-7:30 pm

Open to Public

Fall Watercolor

with Kate Burke

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/>

<https://kathrynrburke.com/calendar/>

Decorate Wine Glasses with machine-washable Glass Paint

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.



This paint is the bomb! It's cured and baked on, so you can wash it.



LA NOUE
DUBOIS

Winery, 67289 Trout Rd. Montrose



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



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

Mosaic, 21 N Cascade Ave, Montrose

Alcohol Ink

Creative Color

with Kate Burke

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

Register online

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

Sign up in store or online

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



MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY

ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

Office Hours: By appointment.

Contact Information: (970) 249-2451
<https://www.allsaintsmontrose.org/> Rec-
 tor: The Rev Preston Gordon, [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 worshipers of Jesus.

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

SPIRITUAL AWARENESS CENTER

Denomination affiliation: Independent Interfaith

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

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

Office – 970-252-0908

Contact information:

Rev. Dr. Arlyn Macdonald,

970-252-0908, arlyn@spiritaware.org, www.spiritaware.org

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

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

ST. STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

Denomination: Anglican-Reformed Episcopal Church (REC)

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

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

rose@yahoo.com

www.ststephensmontrose.com

Rev. Dec. Garrett Agajanian

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

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

Sunday: Holy Communion 10 am.

Fellowship following service.

Children's nursery available (unstaffed).

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY From previous pg

SUMMIT CHURCH OF MONTROSE:

Denomination affiliation:

Southern Baptist

Address: 10977 60.75 Rd. Montrose, CO 81403

Office hours: Varies

Contact information:

email: summitchurchmontrose@gmail.com

website:

www.summitchurchmontrose.org

Senior Pastor: Interim Pastor.

Worship service times: Sunday Worship is

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH OF MONTROSE

Denomination Affiliation: Independent Baptist

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

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8am-12pm

Contact Information: Phone (970) 249-

6874; email at info@vbcmontrose.org;

website: vbcmontrose.org

Current Pastor: Roland Kassales

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

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

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

Church Directory

Mirror Editorial Staff

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

information to the Montrose Mirror:

Name of church

Denomination affiliation

Address Office hours

Contact information (phone number, email address, website)

Name of current Senior Pastor

Worship service times

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

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

Do your church services include Sunday School and childcare?

Local Immunization Providers



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

HEALTHY
RHYTHM
ART GALLERY

PRESENTS



THE POWER OF THE MIC

A Spoken Word Open Mic

4TH TUESDAY EVERY MONTH

SIGNUPS START AT 6:30

\$10 ADULTS/\$5 UNDER 18

SHARE UP TO 5 MINUTES OF POETRY,
SLAM POETRY, COMEDY, STORYTELLING, ETC.

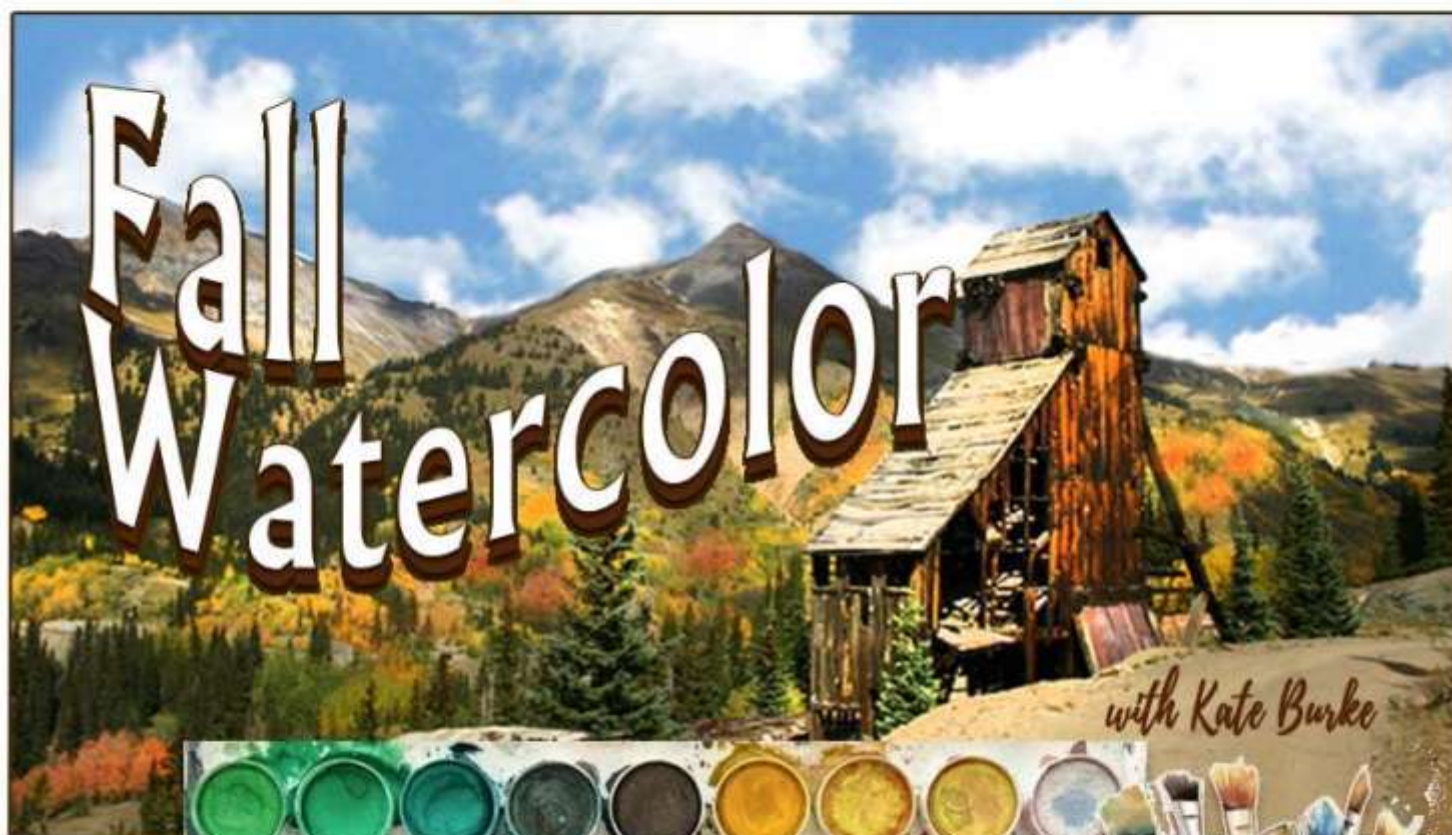
SOME MATERIAL MAY BE FOR
MATURE AUDIENCES

33 N. UNCOMPAHGRE AVE. MONTROSE
MORE INFO 970.417.3772

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.

<https://kathrynRburke.com/092524WHA-FV>

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| | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| Dee Holman.....970-209-0032 | Gary Cooper.....970-209-7710 |
| David Kienholz.....970-209-1430 | Aaron Tobler.....970-275-0780 |
| Chris Cooper.....970-270-3284 | Steve Zahnhiser.....970-765-1719 |
| Justin Covington.....970-275-4189 | Cheryl Larsen.....970-596-8801 |
| Nicole Goza.....970-209-2548 | Vicki Jones.....970-209-3018 |
| Mark Covington.....970-209-1956 | Yvonne Lund.....970-209-6421 |
| Office: 1563 Ogden Rd Montrose, CO 81401.....970-249-6658 | |



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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 Montrose Area Woodturners meet second Saturdays 9 am. Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners. For location and information contact: 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

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

MONTROSE CITYSCAPE: DUTCH BROS COFFEE COMING UP

Photo by Harry Switzer
MONTROSE-The new Dutch Bros. location at 2605 South Townsend is expected to open in the near future.

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Recommendations for Residential
Xeriscape for Montrose, Colorado

By Ginny Price, Retired Colorado Master Gardener/Small Acreage Assistant

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