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the Montrose Mirror

A TRUE BROTHERHOOD OF BROTHERS

By Bob Cox

MONTROSE-The Arps brothers, Edward, Otto, Gustave, and Albert were originally from Wisconsin, where their family was well-known in the Calumet area. They came to Colorado in the late 1800s and made a significant impression on the state, especially in the Ouray and Nucla areas.

In the early 1900s, competition rifle shooting was very popular in Colorado. Nearly every well-publicized event resulted in one or more of the Arps brothers in



The Arps Brothers first became somewhat famous due to their superior marksmanship. This photo, taken at the Ouray Gun Club, depicts (L-R): Gus Arps in cart, unidentified man, Albert Arps, Otto Arps, Charley Pearson, Barney DuPraw, Andy Sneva, Ed Arps, Alf Armstrong, George Armstrong (little boy.) Photo courtesy of the Denver Public Library History Collection.

Continued pg 20

MONTROSE LIBRARY USED BOOK SALE

By Jeff Rice

MONTROSE-This weekend is the Friends of the Montrose Library Used Book Sale at the Montrose Library. Friends Members get in Thursday night from 4p-7p (you can join at the door for \$15) while the public is welcome Friday (10a-6p) and Saturday (10a-5p). Sunday is Bag Day (1p-3p) where for \$5 you get a reusable bag and can fill it with as many books as you fit. The prices of these books are the cheapest around at \$1 for soft covers and \$2 for hard cover with children's books being 4 for \$1. Since 1986 the Friends of the Montrose Library have been helping to support our local library by



Courtesy Photo Friends of the Montrose Library.

generating funds to sponsor programs that are beyond the standard limiting budget. These funds are raised by our amazing community members donating their used books to be sold at our twice a year book sale. You might not think that donating a used book can make a difference, but collectively it absolutely does. Each of our sales are a little bit more of a success than the previous one. Our spring sale generated over \$8,000 which was then used to help sponsor three author visits as well as the summer reading programs for both teens and adults.

Did your child possibly meet the famous author Brandon Mull last year? That was

Continued pg 3

[Rev. Dr. Arlyn Macdonald:
Willing to Stand for Peace!](#)

[Op-Ed
By David White!](#)

[RE-1J Board Considers MCA
Application Review Process!](#)

[Fall Color Photos
By Harry Switzer!](#)

[Reader Photo Spotlight:
By Deb Reimann!](#)

UPDATED GUIDELINES FOR LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Dear Readers:

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you,
Caitlin Switzer,
Montrose Mirror Editor

THE MONTROSE MIRROR

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.

For additional information and advertising opportunities, please contact:

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MONTROSE LIBRARY USED BOOK SALE From pg 1

made possible because of our sales.

The sale is not just a financial win but also a display of Montrose humanity at its best. The Friends of the Library are completely volunteer based. The amount of behind the scenes volunteer hours are staggering as your fellow Montrose citizens donate significant hours to help sort the donations from the amazing community.

Winter is coming and now is the perfect time to stock up on your "to be read" stack for those short days ahead. We highly recommend coming on Thursday night to get the best opportunity for the selection of deals. However, great finds will be had all weekend long.

We hope to see you this weekend at our Used Book Sale where you will be able to score a new to you book for \$1 or \$2 while supporting programs that make a significant impact for the Montrose community.



Fall Book Sale

The Friends of the Library (FOL) Fall Book Sale is coming this week!



• **Members Only Sale:**
Join today!

Thursday, October 3, 4 - 7 PM

• **Public Sale:**

Friday, Oct 4, 10 AM - 6 PM

Saturday, Oct 5, 10 AM - 5 PM

**Sunday, Oct 6,
1 - 3 PM: \$5 Bag Sale**



320 S 2nd, www.montroselibrary.org
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MIRROR ARCHIVE SITE NOW LIVE

Mirror staff report

MONTROSE-Looking for something that has appeared in an older issue of the Mirror? Visit www.backmmirror.com to find most of our previous issues. Many thanks to our friend John Nelson of www.DineOutMontrose.com for building this site for us!



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1ST RESPONDERS KNOCK DOWN FIRE ALONG THE RIVER TRAIL



Photo by Carole Ann McKelvey

MONTROSE-The Montrose Fire Department quickly knocked down a fire in the wilderness area along the Uncompahgre River Trail near Oak Grove Rd. on September 27 about 3 p.m. Helping were the Montrose Police Department and the Highway Patrol.

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P7 WATER AUTHORITY - REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY RESILIENCY PROGRAM

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Minority and Disadvantaged Business Enterprises are strongly encouraged to participate



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Mon, Sep. 30th
10am-11am MST

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Meeting ID:
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Bid Deadline:
Monday, October 28th

Onsite Outreach



Wed, Oct. 2nd



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Montrose, CO**

Just south of Colona on the West side of
the highway at the large green barn



**(Optional) Pipeline Viewing
8am Start**

**Open House
1pm-3pm**

Questions?

Scott Goodall

Preconstruction Director

480-973-1274

SWGoodall@McCarthy.com

Chris Kostelny

Project Manager

847-208-5331

CKostelny@McCarthy.com

Mark Andrews

Sr. Project Manager

562-254-3925

AndrewsMR@CDMSmith.com

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY & RESILIENCY PROGRAM COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Project 7 Water Authority invites the public to learn more about the Regional Water Supply & Resiliency Program at a Community Open House on Wednesday, Oct. 2, from 4 to 6 p.m. at the location of the proposed new water treatment plant (35679 US-550) Just south of Colona on the west side of the highway. Parking available onsite at the large green barn.

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7TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT ATTORNEY NOMINEE SETH RYAN WITHDRAWS FROM COLORADO GENERAL ELECTION

Special to the Mirror

DENVER — Seth Ryan, District Attorney for the 7th Judicial District, who had been nominated to the same District Attorney seat, has filed paperwork with the Colorado Secretary of State's Office to withdraw as a candidate in the November 5, 2024 General Election.

Because this withdrawal has occurred after the September 9 certification of the ballot content, Mr. Ryan's name will appear on the ballot for voters in the 7th Judicial District. The Colorado Republican Party can fill the nomination vacancy pursuant to 1-4-1005 C.R.S. Should the Colorado Republican Party nominate a replacement candidate to fill this vacancy, votes for Mr. Ryan will be counted as votes for the replacement candidate by county clerks pursuant to 1-4-1005(4)(b)(II) C.R.S.

Ballots have been printed and were sent to military and overseas voters by September 21. Ballots will be sent to all remaining active voters beginning October 11.

The 7th Judicial District contains Delta, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montrose, Ouray, and San Miguel Counties. As of September 1, 2024, there were 77,286 active voters in those six counties. Notification will be posted on the Secretary of State's website and county clerks will make similar notifications at their respective Voter Service and Polling Centers.

For more information on the General Election, please visit [GoVoteColorado.gov](https://www.GoVoteColorado.gov).





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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

QUESTIONS FOR MCSD SUPERINTENDENT DR. CARRIE STEPHENSON

Dear Dr. Stephenson,

Earlier this week I was notified of a post on Facebook from you that was shocking. You wrote, "Not all Trump supporters are racist. But all of them decided that racism isn't a deal breaker."

The man who commented on your post, Mark Bray, was one of the Board members who voted you in. He wrote, "The superintendent should tread lightly when it comes to politics, especially when she wants the tax-payers to fund a new school." If you had made a derogatory comment about Harris supporters, it would have been inappropriate as well.

Dr. Stephenson, you are an acting representative in education for ALL families no matter what political persuasion, as well as a leader in our community. Why would you label the many constituents who support Mr. Trump as racist?

Second, why are you insulting voters when you need their support for a new high school?

Third, is your position so separated from the reality of many families' opinions and political bent in Montrose County that you feel emboldened to make a public, political comment thinking there would be no repercussions?

Fourth, according to the MCSD document, [Qualifications/Authority and Responsibilities of Superintendent](#), it states that the superintendent shall "maintain and enhance the school district's standing in all its internal and external relationships [emphasis added]." [Is your behavior enhancing relationships in the community?

Sincerely,

Leah Vandersluis



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- Current Board Member for Welcome Home Alliance for Veterans
- Current Board Member of Grace Community Church
- Past Montrose County Fair Board Member
- Past Volunteer Firefighter - Montrose Fire Protection District
- Past Member of Montrose County Sheriff's Posse
- Past Board Member CASA of the 7th Judicial District

More About Rick

- Associates Degree in Business Management
- Married to my wife, Karen, for 52 years
- Proud father of 3 sons, with 8 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren
- Resident of Montrose County for 42 years.

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Feeling like it's all about "winning" and no longer about the people?

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-Vote-

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Special to the Mirror

GUNNISON— The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests, in partnership with the Wilderness Land Trust (WLT), announce the acquisition of approximately 203 acres of private land, known as inholdings, within or next to federally designated Wilderness areas in Gunnison County. This acquisition helps protect these lands so future generations can continue to enjoy Colorado's wild places.

The acquisition includes:

- **Copper Glance:** A 10.33-acre mining claim in Gunnison County, Colorado, located within the Maroon Bells-Snowmass Wilderness. This area, established by the Wilderness Act of 1964 and the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1980, spans the White River and Gunnison National Forests in the Elk Mountains. It surrounds the popular Maroon Bells Scenic Area, a key entry point for Wilderness visitors.
- **Jacob Straeder:** A 10.32-acre mining claim in Gunnison County, Colorado, providing recreational access and hunting opportunities. This land lies less than 1,000 feet from the boundary of the Raggeds Wilderness, which was designated under the Colorado Wilderness Acts of 1980 and 1993. The Wilderness is known for its dramatic rocky peaks and rugged ridgelines in the Ruby Range.
- **Cross Mountain:** 183 acres consisting of 11 mining claims in Gunnison County, Colorado. The acquisition is located within the Fossil Ridge Wilderness and the Fossil Ridge Recreation Management Area, which was established by the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1993. The area, about 16 miles northeast of Gunnison, includes granite peaks, high mountain lakes and valleys shaped by ancient glaciers. Fossil Ridge itself rises above 13,000 feet and contains the fossilized remains of prehistoric sea life.

"This acquisition protects wild and undeveloped viewsheds and consolidates private ownership within National Forest System lands, eliminating the need for special use authorizations," stated Dayle Funka, Gunnison District Ranger. "Acquisition of these parcels will help strengthen and preserve Congressionally Designated Wilderness Areas."

The newly acquired lands contain sensitive alpine ecosystems and important wildlife habitats. This acquisition also enhances protections for Wilderness character, improves recreational and hunting opportunities, helps address climate change, simplifies land boundaries and supports local economies through outdoor activities.

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

MAINTENANCE SCHEDULED FOR SILVERSHIELD TRAIL



Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests' Ouray Ranger District will conduct significant maintenance on National Forest System Trail (NFST) #199 – Silvershield trail Sept. 28-29. Located in the Uncompahgre National Forest, the trail will undergo repairs to stabilize loose areas on steep slopes and improve the trail's tread.

The project was prioritized due to the increased traffic following the U.S. Forest Service's acquisition of the West Gold Hill Dinosaur Track site. This site features the longest known dinosaur trackway in the world, with 134 consecutive footprints spanning 106 yards.

This collaborative trail maintenance effort involves Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado, City of Ouray, Ouray Trail Group and the Ouray Ranger District. Approximately 50 volunteers will participate in the project, aiming to enhance access to the trackway and fortify steep sections of the trail, improving long-term sustainability.

To ensure safety and avoid delays, hikers are advised to avoid the lower section of the NFST #199–Silvershield trail, below the NFST #207–Oak Creek trail, during the construction period. Alternate routes to the dinosaur track site include NFST #208–Twin Peaks trail or NFST #200–East Dallas trail.

For more information, contact the Ouray Ranger District at (970) 240-5300.

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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Celebrating 50 years in the community

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Friends of the Montrose Library
Fall Book Sale!

Montrose Library Meeting Room
October 3rd - October 6th

FOL Members Only:	Public Hours:
Thursday, October 3 4-7 p.m.	Friday, October 4, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.
	Saturday, October 5, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
	Sunday, October 6, 1-3 p.m. (\$5 bag sale)

MONTROSE REGIONAL LIBRARY DISTRICT

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A TRUE BROTHERHOOD OF BROTHERS *From pg 1*

top scoring slots. Their skill with rifles was especially recognized in Ouray, where at least three of the four were routine winners, but the Arps boys set their sights on much more than rifle targets.

The Arps were in Colorado only a few short years when they established a hardware store in Ouray. The store, by all accounts, was successful and another similar store was established in Nucla. In 1906, the boys began looking at opening a bank in Ouray. One bank already existed, but the Arps brothers insisted that the growing mining town would support another.

In the August 2, 1907 edition of *The Ouray County Herald*, it was announced that Edward Arps had just returned from Denver. The opening paragraph read: *Edward Arps returned from Denver Tuesday, having been out several days on business in connection with the opening of the Bank of Ouray. He consulted with the state bank examiner with reference to his proposed plan and finds that there are only a few things to be adjusted until the bank can be opened on the plan proposed by Mr. Arps.*

Another group of investors, also wanting to establish a second bank in Ouray, had filed the necessary information. They were waiting in the wings. Ultimately, the Arps bank did not go through, but the Arps boys continued to prosper. They incorporated their stores in Ouray and Nucla, and, in 1913, a rival Ouray hardware store, Carney Hardware, suffered a bad fire. The Arps brothers acquired a large portion of the goods saved from the fire. According to news accounts, most of the Carney merchandise was sent to the Nucla Store. A short time later, Edward Arps moved to Mississippi. Otto Arps was left to manage the Ouray store.

Early in January of 1917, Otto Arps' wife Anna passed away and Otto decided to sell the store.

While there was much speculation regarding what the Arps brothers next move would be, not much was printed about them until May of 1922, when they announced that they intended to lease the famous Cashin Mine near Paradox. The mine had gained notoriety for its good silver and copper and for being the scene

of a grotesque murder in November of 1922. It was that rich ore that attracted the attention of the Arp investors.

Part of the announcement, which was chronicled in the *Nucla Independent*, read: *Through the efforts of Edward Arps of Arps Brothers a lease has been procured on the famous Cashin mine in Paradox. The leasers will be Edward Arps, Otto Arps, John Lemmon and Visser Pomeroy, all of this city. It is the intention of the leasers to immediately open the property and snip some of the high grade ore known to be in that rich mine. The Cashin mine is about nine miles above Bedrock on La Sal creek.*

'There are sufficient buildings on the property to make a town the size of Nucla. Big buildings, little buildings and all kinds of buildings line the creek bank for half a quarter up and down. One big mess hall is almost as large as the Nucla dance hall. The buildings for housing the big oil engines are located just below the tunnel and they contain sufficient machinery for beginning immediate operation.

It did not take long for the Cashin to once again get attention. About six months after the lease was finalized, on November 25, 1922, Ed Arps was approached by a reporter for *The Daily Montrose Enterprise* at the train depot in Montrose. Here is the resulting report:

TAKES RICH ORE FROM CASHIN TO OMAHA SMELTER

Ed Arps was in Montrose Saturday on his way to Omaha to which place he is taking 105 sacks of ore from the Cashin Mine to be smelted. He made the shipment by express. Mr. Arps had a piece of silver ore almost as big as a brick, which he had taken from the Cashin mine and which looked like a piece of silver bullion. Recently he took ten sacks of this ore to Durango and got \$200 a sack for the shipment, and he hopes to do even better at Omaha. This ore is also from the Cashin Mine in Western Montrose County.

The week before the rosy sounding account above, the *Nucla Independent* published an article that was entirely different. Parts of that article was also published in the *Montrose Daily Press*. This is part of the November 13, 1922 article in

the Montrose paper:

... The mine proposition looked like a winner tight from the first, however, breakers were encountered when the first shipment of ore was made, as it was found that the smelters could not sample the native copper ore. To take a sample of ore, the ore must be crushed and pulverized down to a flour consistency, the copper from the Cashin Mine being almost in its pure state, would not crush or break up, so it was impossible to secure an average sample of the values, the ore being practically refused unless sold for about one half its value.

The article went on to explain that the ore problems had placed the Arp brothers and their partners into a deep financial crisis that threatened the very existence of all the Arps holdings, including the Nucla Hardware store, then the strike of the high-grade silver mentioned in the *Enterprise* promised to bail the company out and put the Arps on solid ground once again.

The supposed bonanza lasted less than one year. In October of 1923 Edward and Otto Arps, having divested their interest in the Arps Right Price store in Nucla, filed for bankruptcy. The filing papers also included the failed development of the Michigan Colorado Copper Company. The Arps owed nearly 20 men wages that totaled more than \$7,000. Only two Montrose creditors were named. Charles Ackerson was owed \$40 and Hartman Bros. held a \$1,770 note on a truck. In all, the brothers and their investors owed nearly \$30,000.

On October 16, 1923 the area said goodbye to most of the Arps. *The Montrose Daily Press* printed the following article:

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Arps and sons, Gordon, Vernon and Lewis, and Otto Arps leave today by auto for California, and possibly the state of Washington.

The Arps brothers have lived in Nucla for a number of years and for the past 12 or 15 years have been interested in the Nucla hardware store, which is at this time in the hands of S.B. Wonder, trustee.

The Arps brothers, and especially Otto Arps, have been trade builders and the

A TRUE BROTHERHOOD OF BROTHERS *From previous pg*

hardware store prospered for Nucla under their management for years and the success of the flour mill and creamery has been largely thru the efforts of Otto Arps. The Arps brothers have failed in Nucla, not on account of being poor business managers, but on account of the unfortunate case they have had for the past year on

the Cashin mine.

It was believed when they first assumed charge of the famous Cashin mine that there was still millions of dollars of hidden wealth under the sandstone cliff of La Sal Creek, but the Arps brothers and others who invested cash and labor in the enterprise found to their disappointment that

the once bonanza mine would not yield up its riches and the result was that practically everyone connected with the lease were bankrupt.

Edward Arps lived to 90 years of age and died in 1965 in Modesto, California. Otto also died in the Modesto area. He died in 1958 at the age of 80.

CHANGING NEEDS?

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RE-1J BOARD CONSIDERS MCA APPLICATION REVIEW PROCESS

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-The Montrose County School District RE-1J Board of Education met for a regular work session on Tuesday, Sept. 24.

Present for the meeting were Board President Sarah Fishing (District E); Board Vice President Steve Bush (District G); District A Director Neisha Balleck; District B Director Ted Valerio; District C Director Alice Murphy; and District F Director Jody Hovde.

District D Director Tom West was absent. Fishing led in saying the Pledge of Allegiance. The Board approved the meeting agenda.

"We do not live stream work sessions," Fishing said, as she opened the session, "In case anybody is confused about that."

DISCUSSION

The work session agenda listed three discussion items. Directors considered the Montrose Classical Academy (MCA) Charter School [application review process](#); the contract review for Vista Charter School; and the Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB)'s upcoming [Delegate Assembly](#).

MONTROSE CLASSICAL ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICATION REVIEW PROCESS

Members of the MCA board were present at district offices for the discussion, although they did not participate.

RE-1J Superintendent Carrie Stephenson said that the district's legal team has determined that there is information missing from the application. A letter has gone out and MCA will have 15 days to submit the missing information.

Stephenson reviewed the timeline for the [application process](#).

There will be a special community engagement meeting on Oct. 27, an interview on Nov. 19, with review by the District Accountability Committee (DAC) set for Dec. 3.



RE-1J Board of Education directors participated in the work session Sept. 24. Pictured are District C Director Alice Murphy; District B Director Ted Valerio; and District F Director Jody Hovde. Mirror staff photo.

The public review and final decision will take place on Dec. 10, Stephenson said.

The board spent time discussing details, such as how much time to allot for each speaker at the community engagement meeting.

"We want to hear from as many people as possible," Fishing said.

"It's crucial that we listen to the voices," District F Director Jody Hovde said.

During the Interview process, 20 minutes will be allotted for a presentation by the applicants.

"It's their 20 minutes to talk," Board Vice President Steve Bush said.

District B Director Ted Valerio said, "It would be counterproductive if they are being scolded (while presenting)."

Directors appeared to reach consensus that they would like the DAC to provide the Board of Education with an informed and detailed recommendation.

A [rubric has been created](#) to assist the process.

More information on the MCA application

review process is included in the Sept. 24 [meeting board docs](#).

VISTA CHARTER SCHOOL CONTRACT REVIEW

Stephenson briefed the board on the upcoming contract review for Vista Charter School. Vista is requesting a release to the [Colorado Charter School Institute \(CSI\)](#). The decision will appear on a Board of Education agenda in two weeks.

"It really is about resources...they operate pretty independently," Stephenson said.

Fishing asked all directors to research the impacts of releasing Vista to CSI.

DELEGATE ASSEMBLY

The work session agenda states, Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB) recommends that school boards have a discussion about current legislation and suggest those recommendations to the district's representative for input at the annual [Delegate Assembly](#) in October.

The next regular meeting of the RE-1J board of education will take place at District Offices on Tuesday, Oct. 8.



RED HAWKS SPORTS ROUNDUP



Football practice walk through. Photo by Cliff Dodge.

By Cliff Dodge

CO-ED CROSS COUNTRY:

The Montrose Cross Country teams from the high school, the junior high school and the middle school all fared well at the Delta-Sweitzer Lake Invitational meet last weekend.

The Montrose Red Hawks placed 6th in the girls 5K race with Millie Crane leading all Red Hawk finishers as she placed 9th in the competition. Other finishers included Jaiden Bresett (23st), Lucy Waschbusch (34th), Julia Witte (50th), Ashley Haynes (52nd), Addisyn Mower (59th), and Kyler Jones (79th).

The Red Hawks boys team finished 5th in a field of 14 teams. Josiah Graff led all Montrose runners as he finished 4th individually. Other Red Hawk runners finished as follows: Jose Chavez (26th), Phin Howe (27th), Graysen Vidmar (48th), Gage Stroup (56th), Gavin Sulzen (62^{sn}), Diego Renteria (73rd), Tyler Surles (75th), Nic Ortega (87th), and Gabe Lee (107th).

The Montrose Middle School girls 3K run saw the Red Hawks take second place in the competition. Ava Godbe led all Red Hawk finishers with a second place finish. Other finishers included: Vaylen Veatch (14th), Lily Davis (16th), Ruby Reighter (24th), Luelia Boisan (26th), Alexia Diaz (29th), Paige Obumanick (30th), Evellen Davis (31st), Makenzie Metcalf (32nd), Hailey Francis (35th), Aspen Ballen (37th), Yanelly Estrada (52nd), Dora Diaz (53rd) and Samantha Ray (56th).

The middle school boys 3K run was dominated by the Red Hawks. 10 of the top 40 finishers ran under the Red Hawks banner. Oliver Diaz led all Red Hawks with an 8th



Palisade batter attempts to hit an Isabelle Mott fast ball. Photo by Cliff Dodge.

place finish. Other finishes included: Calvin Lisenby (9th), Elijah Rosentreter (15th), Charles Lalone (16th), Gus Bray (19th), Luke Judkins (22nd), Ezekiel Mora (28th), Atlee Hayes (33rd), Koen Scheidegger (34th), Wm. Martindale (35th) and Jack Bates (39th). 15 other Red Hawk runners also finished the 3K run.

RED HAWKS VOLLEYBALL:

The Montrose Red Hawks Volleyball team travelled south last Friday and took on the Durango Demons on the Demons home floor, coming away with a hard fought 3-1 victory. The win improved the Red Hawks overall season record to 9 wins and 3 losses. The Red Hawks improved their league record to 4 wins and 1 loss.

Montrose was forced into overtime to win the first match by the score of 26-24. The Red Hawks caught their second win and won the second set 25-19. The Demons found the third game to their liking as they eaked out a 25-22 win. The fourth game was tight from the opening serve to the final point. Again, the Red Hawks were forced into overtime by the Demons, and as in the initial game the Red Hawks prevailed by the same 26-24 score to win the match 3 games to 1. The loss dropped the Demons record to 5 wins and 5 losses.

The Red Hawks will hit the road once again on Tuesday as they travel to Grand Junction to take on the Grand Junction Tigers on their home court.

Stay tuned.

RED HAWKS SOCCER:

The Montrose Red Hawks soccer team travelled to Palisade last week and took on the Palisade Bulldogs on their home pitch, winning the contest by the score of 4-1. The win improved the Red Hawks season record to 6 wins against and 1 loss. The league record now stands at 4-0 while the Bulldogs saw their season record fall to 1-6.

The first half of the contest was a close knit affair with the Red Hawks taking a 1-0 - lead after the first 40 minutes. The offense kicked into high gear in the second 40 minutes as the Red Hawks erupted for 3 goals while the defense stood tall and limited the Bulldogs to a single goal and a 4-1 victory.

The next action for the Red Hawks soccer team will be a home match on Tuesday as the Fruita-Monument Wildcats invade the Red Hawks pitch. The Kick-off is scheduled for 3 p.m.

RED HAWKS SOFTBALL:

The Montrose Red Hawks played host to the Palisade Bulldogs softball team last Tuesday. The game was tight for the first two innings but the Bulldogs put on their hitting shoes and outdistanced the Red Hawks by the score of 21-7.

The Bulldogs jumped on the Red Hawks for 4 runs in the top of the first inning. The Red Hawks returned the favor in the bottom of the second inning as they pushed 5 runs across the plate. This would be the last lead the Red Hawks would hold throughout the six-inning game. The Bulldogs would then score 4, 8 and 5 additional runs to close out the contest.

The Bulldogs gave up four singles to the Red Hawks.

Cheyenne Whitcomb drove in a pair of runs with a seeing eye single in the bottom of the second inning. Freshman Abby Blacker and junior Abby Siegel had the other Red Hawk runs batted in.

The Red Hawks saw their overall season record drop to 3-11, and their league record sink to 1-6. Next up for the Red

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RED HAWKS REMAIN UNBEATEN, WIN 35-12 OVER FRUITA-MONUMENT

By Cliff Dodge

MONTROSE-The unbeaten Montrose Red Hawks football team remained unbeaten as they secured a road win over the Fruita-Monument Wildcats by the score of 35-12 on Thursday evening

Head coach Brett Mertens described the start of the game. "They kicked to us. We took the ball and we went on a nice long drive which took about six minutes off the clock and punched it in with Junior Elijah Womack, a nice start to the game. We then got a three and out and got the ball back in good position, went down and punched it in again. I think Junior Chase Mehan scored that one on the first play of the second quarter."

The Red Hawks kicked off and disaster struck the Wildcats. Coach Mertens explained that the Wildcats put the ball on the turf and the alert Red Hawks defense recovered the fumble. The offense took advantage of the short field and again scored their second touchdown of the contest with Senior Quarterback Chris Mock running for the score.

Mertens noted that the Wildcats offense had been pretty well shut down. "This was halfway through the second quarter and they had only run five plays on offense and we had a 21-0 lead. The Wildcats put together a nice drive. They actually had some luck throwing the football

on us and went down and scored. They made it 21-6 as we blocked the PAT and then we received the kick-off and with seven seconds left in the half we were able to punch it in. We threw a fade route, Chris Mock to Hunter Gurule, for a touch-down and a 28-6 lead."

Things got no better for the Wildcats as they kicked off to the Red Hawks. "Opening the second half we kicked off, and the defense held. Our offense moved the ball down the field and Aidan Grijalva scored from 15 yards out and that made it 35-6. The Wildcats were able to get a score late which made it 35-12. Our defense played tough again. They like to hit and we are good at stopping the run. We gave up a few pass plays in the second quarter that we would like to be able to stop. All we can ask is that they play as hard as they can and they always do that. It was a good night for the defense."

Coach Mertens reflected on the season to date. "It's nice to be 5-0 but in reality we just have to keep worrying about ourselves. Truly we have not played any of the top teams in the state as yet although we played some good teams, Durango and Fruita tested us. If we think we have arrived and are not getting better than we are certainly going to be beaten. I think we are on track and I am proud of our kids. I think they have a good understand-

ing of not getting too far ahead of themselves, just taking it one week at a time, worrying about us and getting better every week so that we can be playing our best football come November."

Mertens looked ahead to the rest of the schedule. "We play Falcon on the road this week and then we play Doherty at home. Doherty is a team that came down from 5A so we have never played them before. Then we play Mesa Ridge, currently ranked 6th in 4A. They will be a tough test for us obviously and so will Doherty. They are not ranked but they are a good team. Widefield is on the road and we finish the season at home here against Pueblo West, currently ranked number one in 4A."

Coach Mertens then drilled down on the Red Hawks and the top teams in the league.

"Our league is tough. Right now we have between us, Mesa Ridge, and Pueblo West, we have three teams ranked in the top 10, actually in the top six. We definitely have some tests that are coming up that we have to get ready for. I will be honest with you that we are not going to look to those until we cross the current bridge. Obviously, we have Falcon this week and we are not going to get ahead of ourselves. We are going to focus on them."



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

OUR SCHOOLS NEED REALISTIC PRIORITY ASSIGNMENT TO THE THINGS THAT NEED TO BE PAID FOR

FROM WHERE I SIT: an opinion piece. Our town is busy discussing the funding of a new high school. Nothing in the discussion thus far has indicated that 'the kids' need the 198 million dollar albatross or for that matter that such a huge amount of administrative space is necessary. Administrative space does little for improving academics. Instead it just offers the teachers a place to hide from the students. When I was in school the teacher's office was their classroom desk and you can bet we knew where to find the 'educator' when we needed him or her.

Now I have written about campus security several times before. First and foremost Montrose needs a SECURE CAMPUS! Ariel views of the Georgia campus where a recent shooter held sway is wide open. Investigation shows that he walked on campus that morning with the 'tool of his evil deed,' stashed it, went to two classes and proceeded to his murderous hell. With an effectively operated CLOSED CAMPUS his ingress with a firearm would have made this much more unlikely. But in Montrose the students walk on in the morning and off and back on for the afternoon. As the "Church Lady" on Saturday Night Live used to say, "HOW CONVEEENYEENT!" The Georgia school had two full time on-campus police officers. How many does our High School have?

Sans a huge police force and presence on campus all the time our schools, not just the High School, need to have a high steel security fence around it with manned magnetometer entrances and lock down at

commencement of school, with the strictest of requirements (no exceptions) for leaving or returning to campus. Of course this is an over simplification of both the problem and the solution however it would be a good beginning for the safety of our children. You know, no education no matter how good is worth a damned to a person killed or crippled because of a community's ignorance and ostrich-like behavior. No security is worth having unless the administration is security minded.

I hate to give New York City credit for anything but maybe we should ask them how they keep this kind of stuff from happening in their public schools. I cannot believe that nothing is happening there. How do they keep a lid on it?

So my thought is that we should make the campus as safe as can be done and after that is accomplished think about upgrading the facility. My opinion is that doing serious preventative maintenance would have kept the many additions from falling into disrepair. It generally does, you know. Whether we are talking about factories, office buildings, homes, airplanes or automobiles. If you do serious preventative maintenance whatever you do it to WILL LAST LONGER AND BE BETTER.

BUT THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS TO KEEP THE CHILDREN (AND THE STAFF) UNHARMED DAY TO DAY and comfortable with their safety in their environment.

And now for the financial part of my comments. My statistics may not be right on but let us look at them and if they are even close, we don't need to be spending

\$198,000,000 plus interest on a fancy new edifice. It is my understanding that about 60% of the students qualify for school lunches. IF the other 40% live in a house where I live their folks will be laying out another \$700 per year in taxes to pay for the school. To those in the 60% group the \$300-400 they pay in additional tax will take a month's food off of that family's table. The same goes for my family for my contribution of \$700 annually.

Also, about 60% of Montrosians are retired folks living on fixed incomes.

Most retirement incomes don't include cost of living adjustments so they will be really strapped.

Landlords will raise rents, merchants will raise the prices they charge to cover their tax increases so without belaboring the point, the citizens of Montrose will likely feel the pinch of about 12% one way or the other to pay for this proposed Taj Mahal.

Who among us has 12% left over at the end of each month?

I say secure it, fix it, add to it and let the town's folk have a little left to live on--- many of them are the parents of the children who will do without and the others have already supported the education of their generation's kids.

IN SHORT, ANY PERSON WHO VOTES FOR THIS BOND ISSUE HAS ABSOLUTELY NO RESPECT FOR THE WORKING FOLKS OR THE RETIRED FOLKS' FINANCIAL WELLBEING WHO ARE THEIR NEIGHBORS IN MONTROSE.

Bill Bennett, Montrose

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

ARIEL CLINICAL SERVICES CELEBRATES 30 YEARS OF TRANSFORMING LIVES

Special to the Mirror

GRAND JUNCTION-Ariel Clinical Services, is proud to celebrate its 30th anniversary of dedicated service to the community. For three decades, Ariel Clinical Services has made a lasting impact by supporting children, families, and adults through life's most challenging times, offering hope, stability, and support when it is needed most. Founded in 1994, Ariel has grown from a small local organization into a trusted and respected provider of comprehensive services, including foster care placement, adoption, and host homes and residential and support services for adults with intellectual developmental disabilities across

Colorado. Over the years, Ariel has partnered with countless counties, families and professionals to ensure that every individual receives the compassion, guidance, and resources they need to thrive.

A Legacy of Caring and Support

"We are deeply honored to have served our community for 30 years," said [CEO/Executive Becky Hobart. "Our mission has always been to provide a safe and nurturing environment for children and adults during times of need. Whether placing children in loving foster homes, helping families through the adoption process, or offering essential services to adults with disabilities, we remain committed to transforming

lives for the better."

Milestones of Success

Over the last three decades, Ariel has achieved numerous milestones:

Serving families statewide: After opening our Grand Junction office in 1994, Ariel opened an office on the Front Range in 2000, an office in Colorado Springs in 2005, and an office in Delta in 2013 and serve families across the entire state.

Number of Programs: Ariel has added numerous programs through the years to support the needs of the community. In 1994, we started a foster care program and became a licensed adoption agency; we started a mentorship program, a visitation program, and a therapy department. In 2004, our adult program was started out of need for a particular individual who was aging out of foster care and into adult care. Since that first individual, we now have a residential program, day programming, job coaching, and recreation groups ensuring they have access to housing, employment, and community integration opportunities. Children, youth, and adults received mental health support through therapy, behavioral support services and therapeutic mentoring.

Looking to the Future

As Ariel celebrates 30 years of service, the agency is also looking to the future with ambitious plans for growth and innovation. CEO/Executive Director Becky Hobart added, "We are excited to continue expanding our programs to meet the evolving needs of children, families, and adults. Our commitment to delivering high-quality, compassionate care will never waver, and we are extremely grateful to be able to serve our community in this way."

About Ariel

Ariel Clinical Services is a multi-program non-profit agency specializing in Trauma Informed Care (TIC) for children that have experienced abuse and neglect and adults with Intellectual Developmental Disabilities. Our Trauma Informed Care team are experts in providing safe and nurturing environments where individuals can develop their strengths, maximize their potentials, and fully participate in society. For more information about Ariel Clinical Services, please visit www.arielcpa.org or contact Kathy McCoy at kmc-coy@arielcpa.org or (970) 245-1616.

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SCARECROW FESTIVAL TO BE OCT. 5 & 6!

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-On Oct. 5 & 6 - SCARECROW FESTIVAL 10am -4pm. Scarecrows will be descending on the Montrose Botanic Gardens -- and all will be up for bids in a silent auction, as well as other items of fall decor. Kids' activities, face painting & fall crafts. The Montrose Library's Bookmobile will join us on Saturday only. Come in costume if you like! Free admission; donations always welcome.

SING US A SONG...YOU'RE THE PIANO MAN – JIM WITTER

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The Delta Montrose Community Concert Association will delight audiences with the performance of Sing Us A Song...You're The Piano Man, our first concert of our 2024-2025 season. The concert is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 5, 2024 at 7 pm at the Delta Performing Arts Center, 822 Grand Avenue in Delta, CO. Doors open at 6 pm.

Jim Witter is a superb showman, great musician and an excellent creator of appealing shows including Piano Man (Billy Joel & Elton John), I Write The Songs (Barry Manilow), Crocodile Rock (Elton John) and Brothers (beloved musical duos). Based outside of Toronto, Jim and his fine sidemen will present the famous highlights of Billy Joel's career along with some lesser-known artists. His band will lend color, rhythm, vocals and fun to the show.

Single admission tickets will be available at the door on the evening of the performance, \$25 for adults, \$5 for students. For more information please contact Bob 970-835-4480 or Connie at 970-249-4308 or visit our website at www.deltamontroseconcerts.com.



Jim Witter . Courtesy photo.

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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.

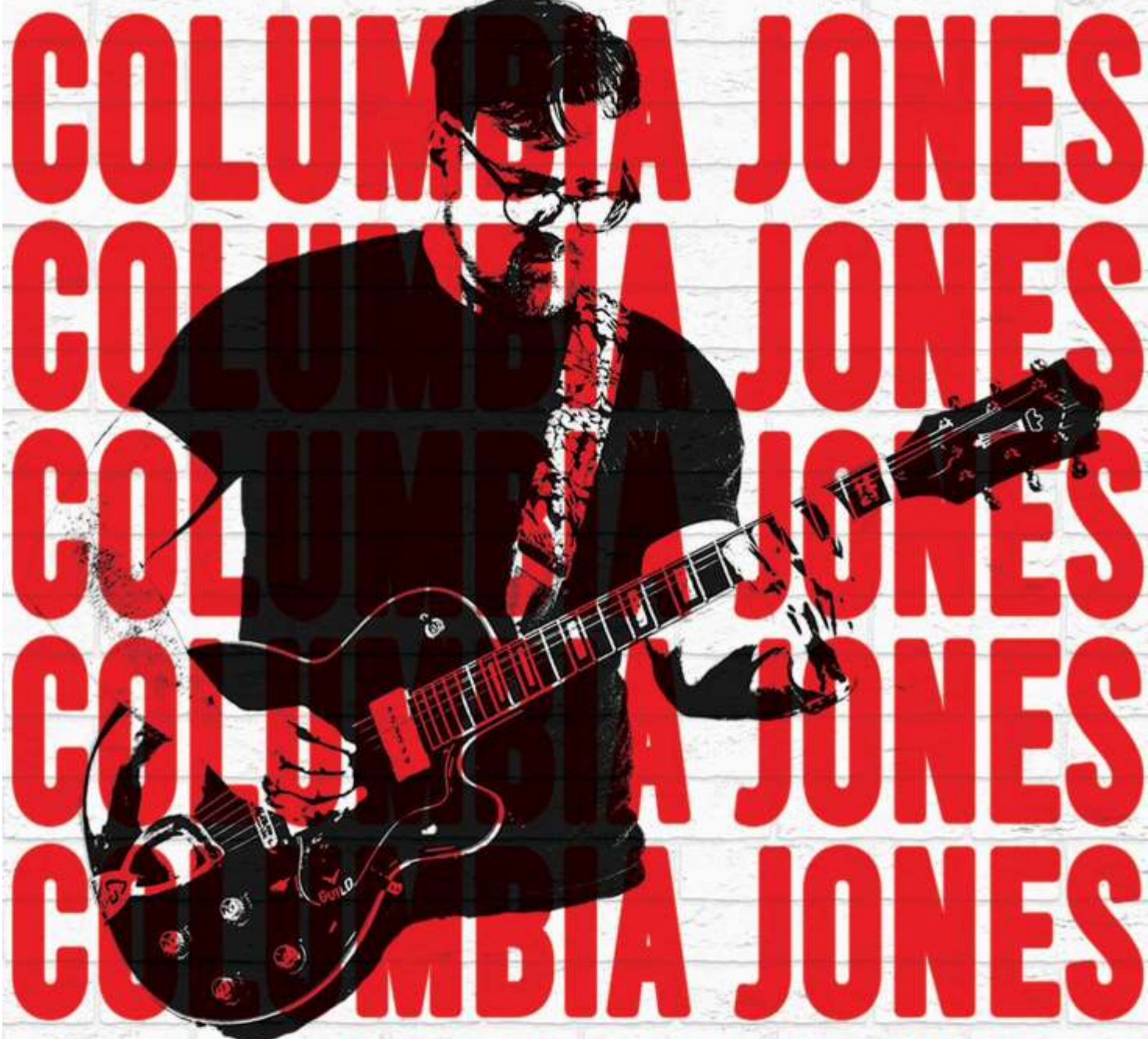


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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

A NO VOTE IS STRONGLY URGED

Editor:

The proposed Montrose County School District bond question is not supportive of taxable property tax increase. The cost of inflation has caused the annual household income to be reduced significantly. In addition to the myriad of property taxes owners currently pay this bond issue is a single item increase to be paid over a 25-year period and if passed will be immediately assessed in the 2024 tax year to be paid starting January 2025. In addition to Residential and Business Properties this progressive tax may include other categories of property such as Improved Commercial Properties, Agricultural and Renewable Energy Properties, Industrial Properties, Vacant Land and Personal Property. Taxpayers should also be aware of the add-on cost of doing business to commercial businesses that elect to pass on the added cost of this Bond by increasing the cost of GOODS and SERVICES to consumers. All voters are urged to consider the total economic wellbeing of the individual taxpayers and the financial wellbeing of our community which is already heavily encumbered. A NO Vote is strongly urged.

Dee Laird, Montrose

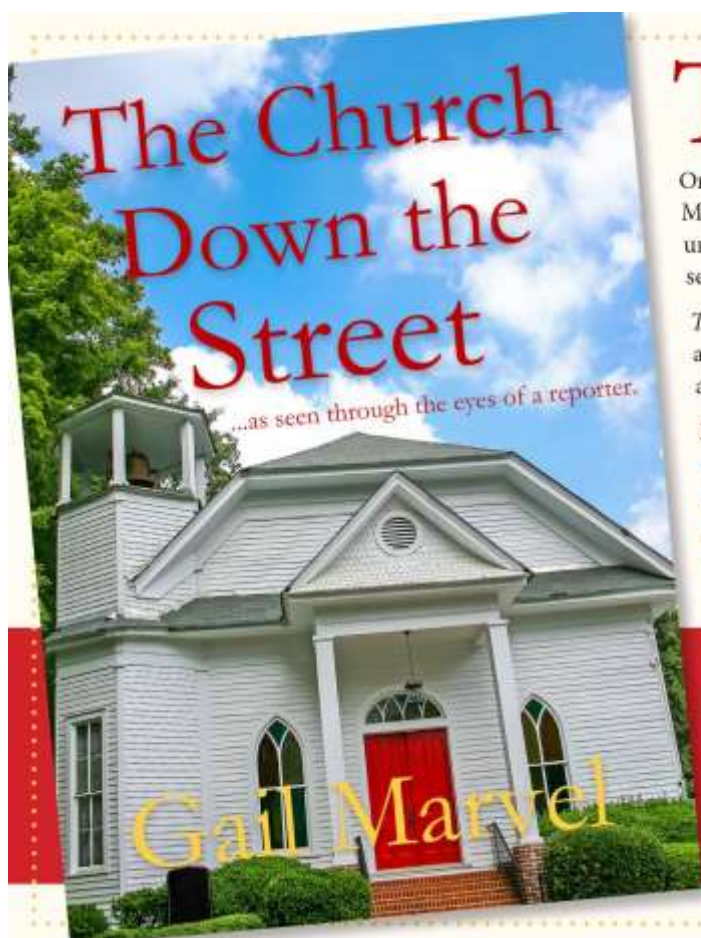
INCREASE PUBLIC FUNDING TO HELP DEVELOP NEW PROTEIN

To the editor,

I was happy to read New Zealand's government has invested \$6 million into cultivated-seafood research. For those who don't know, cultivated meat is grown from animal cells, without slaughter. It offers numerous potential animal welfare, environmental and public health benefits.

Rather than standing in the way of progress — as some American states have by preemptively banning the technology — our country should be leading the way. Forward-thinking legislators in the United States should be increasing public funding to help develop the new protein.

Jon Hochschartner, Granby, CT



The *Church Down the Street*, published pre-COVID, peers into the worship services of more than 70 churches, some of which have a weekly attendance of less than 10.

Organized in a topical format (Hospitality, Program & Source Material, Music, Meditations & Invitations, and The Message), the author uses an unbiased approach to allow readers to experience the worship service as seen through the eyes of a reporter.

The Church Down the Street contains anecdotes and stories from the actual worship services and asks thought-provoking questions that allow readers to draw their own conclusions.

Readers will:

- See strengths and weaknesses in the worship service
- Re-evaluate hospitality toward visitors
- Become more aware of source material used in the worship service
- Compare and contrast music presentations and selections
- Discern the value and content of the sermon.

Gail Marvel's book, *The Church Down the Street*, is available online at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) and [wingedpublications.com](https://www.wingedpublications.com).

GAIL MARVEL
Montrose Author & Reporter



FORAGE PLOT *Field Day*

DELTA COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
OCTOBER 11, 2024
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM



*Intro and Field Walk -
Todd Ballard, CSU*



*Spray Calibration -
Katie Alexander, CSU*



*Alternative Forages -
Hannah Holm, American Rivers*



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

LOCAL GROUP WILL HOST EVENT ABOUT RANKED-CHOICE VOTING

Special to the Mirror

DELTA—Ranked-choice voting is on the Colorado ballot this year, and a Delta County group believes voters must learn about this new election method.

Colorado voters will soon decide whether to abandon party-line primaries and advance the top-four, highest-ranked candidates to the general election regardless of party affiliation. Proposition 131 proposes adopting such a system—often called ranked-choice voting or instant-runoff—for state and federal elections.

Restore the Balance – Delta County, a nonpartisan organization building “an alternative to political extremism,” will host a meeting and presentation about this initiative on **October 17**, starting at **5:30 p.m.**, at the **Yarrow Taproom** in Austin, Colorado.

Randy Spydell, an election-reform advocate and retired geologist, will present on different voting methods, including the differences between what Proposition 131 proposes and traditional single-choice voting.

“There are several ways to conduct an election,” said Spydell. “My goal is to leave my audience with a better understanding of how communities—whether a small town or a nation of millions—can elect their leaders.”

As voters grow increasingly dissatisfied with the traditional two-party system, ranked-choice voting and other comparable election reforms have gained popularity nationwide. Similar measures have passed in Alaska and Maine. Municipalities, such as New York City, San Francisco, and Minneapolis, have also adopted ranked-choice voting for citywide elections. Even political parties—including the Virginia Republican Party and Democratic Party affiliates in Alaska, Hawaii, and Kansas—recently used this method to select their nominees.

“Many are frustrated with their choices on the ballot,” said Aaron Clay, chairman of RTB-Delta County. “It’s only natural they are curious about alternative systems.”

RTB-Delta County regularly organizes educational events related to voting and elections. In July, the group invited representatives from the Delta County Elections Office to share how the county counts votes, certifies ballots, avoids fraud, and conducts fair and open elections.

“Our republic can only thrive when voters are well-informed,” said Clay. “Restore the Balance is committed to educating voters about how they can keep democracy alive and vibrant.”

The event is free to the public and will begin with a social hour, during which people can mingle, drink, and eat. The presentation will begin at 5:30 p.m.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

PROJECT 7 WATER AUTHORITY HOSTS COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE AT SITE OF NEW DRINKING WATER TREATMENT PLANT *Protecting the regional water system that nearly 60,000 people rely on*

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE – Project 7 Water Authority invites the public to learn more about the [Regional Water Supply & Resiliency Program](#) at a Community Open House on **Wednesday, Oct. 2, from 4 to 6 p.m.**

The Regional Water Supply & Resiliency Program will provide approximately 6 million gallons of water per day to secure the region's drinking water supply. Today, nearly 60,000 people in the municipalities and rural areas of the Uncompahgre River Valley receive drinking water from one treatment plant and one source: the Gunnison River, conveyed through the 115-year-old Gunnison Tunnel.

The existing single-source system, with many single points of failure, makes the region's aging drinking water system susceptible to significant risks from wildfire, drought, and infrastructure failure. By adding a second treatment facility, located just south of Colona, the Regional Water Supply Program will protect our drinking water supply for years to come.

Who: Project 7 Water Authority and its member entities:

The City of Montrose, City of Delta, Town of Olathe, Tri-County Water Conservancy District, Chipeta Water District, Menoken Water District

What: Regional Drinking Water Supply & Resiliency Program Community Open House

When: Wednesday, Oct. 2, 2024

4 p.m. – Community Open House begins

6 p.m. – Event concludes

Where: 35679 US-550, Montrose, CO 81403

At the location of the proposed new water treatment plant. Just south of Colona on the west side of the highway. Parking available onsite at the large green barn.

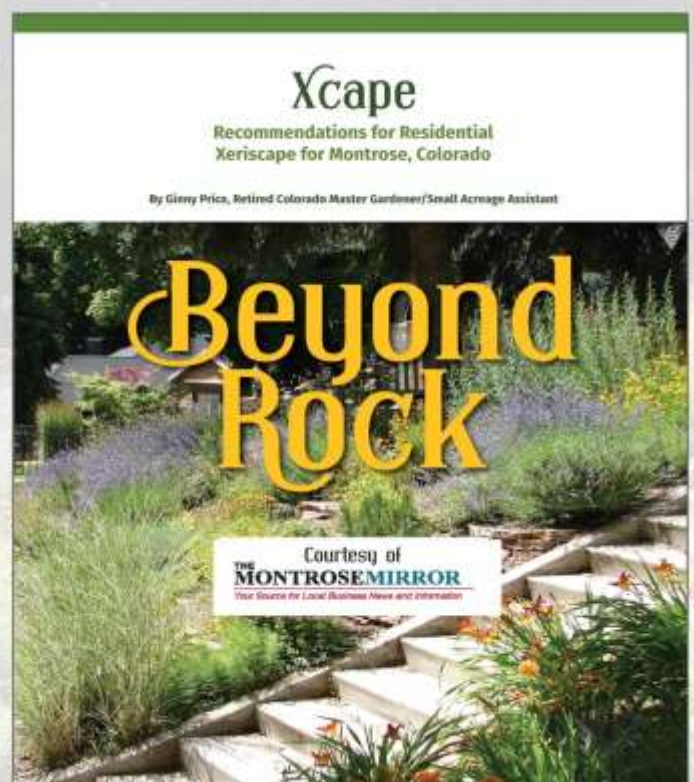
About Project 7 Water Authority

Since 1977, [Project 7 Water Authority](#) has supplied high-quality potable drinking water to more than 50,000 people in the Uncompahgre River Valley. Established to address regional water shortages caused by undersized and outdated treatment facilities, Project 7 is unique cooperative effort among [seven water entities](#): City of Montrose, City of Delta, Town of Olathe, Tri-County Water Conservancy District, Chipeta Water District, Menoken Water District, and Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association. Learn more at [Project7Water.org](#) or email Project7@Montrose.net.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

UPCOMING TRAFFIC IMPACTS AND CLOSURES FOR DRILLING OPERATIONS ON 6300 ROAD, 6290 ROAD, AND AMBER ROAD

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE—Montrose County is announcing temporary road closures to accommodate drilling operations at three locations within the county. The drilling is scheduled to begin on October 7th and will continue on Oct. 8th. The drilling will allow staff to see the materials under the road surface. This data will be used for engineering future projects.

Road Closure Details:

6300 Road: The road will be closed 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM on October 7th.

6290 Road: The road may experience delays of up to 30 minutes from 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM on October 7th. There is a potential for additional delays from 8:00 AM to 10:00 AM on October 8th if necessary.

Amber Road: Partial closures will be in effect from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM on October 8th. Local traffic will be accommodated, but delays may occur.



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CIMARRON CREEK

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

GUNNISON POLICE OFFICER CHARGED WITH INCEST

CBI News Release

GUNNISON— The Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) arrested a Gunnison Police Officer Wednesday night on the charge of Incest. 41-year old Daniel Huff will make his first court appearance Friday afternoon. He is currently being held without bond at the Gunnison County Detention Center. The arrest follows a three-week investigation into an allegation that Huff sexually assaulted an adult female. The request to investigate was made by the 7th Judicial District Attorney's Office after CBI received a tip of potential abuse involving Officer Huff. The Gunnison Police Department has placed Officer Daniel Huff on administrative leave per department policy..

The charges are merely accusations. The defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.



HEALTHY RHYTHM ART GALLERY

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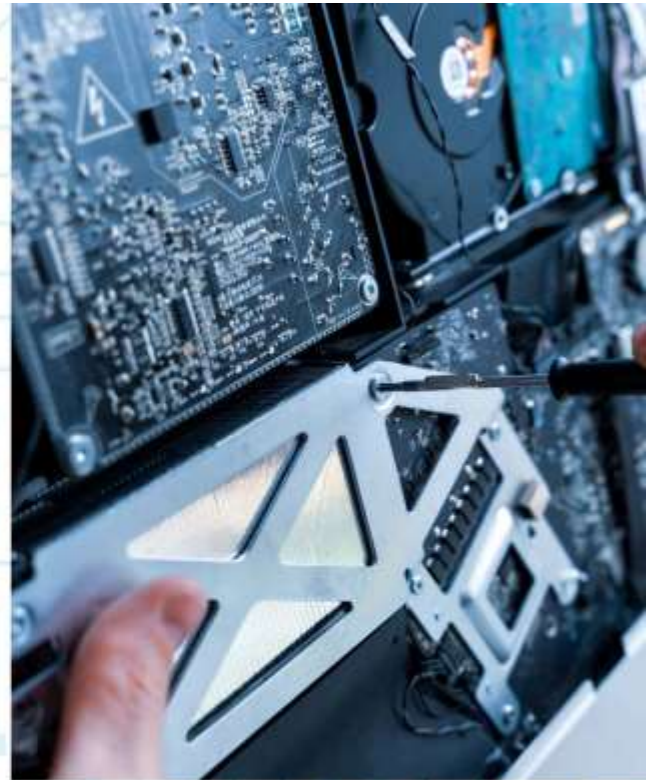
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Harold kept accurate records, took photos, and filed stories with the newspapers.



A riveting presentation with photographs and maps from Zeni's well-documented book, *Promise*, by San Juan Publishing.

Joe will have signed copies of his just-printed new book available after the presentation.

Montrose Senior Center, Montrose Pavilion

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

"A REPUBLIC IF YOU CAN KEEP IT"

Editor:

This was the answer Benjamin Franklin gave to Elizabeth Willing when she asked what type of government the constitutional convention had given the citizens (September 17th, 1787). One of my biggest pet peeves is when I hear a politician in the U S say our democracy. The United States is a Republic, a constitutional Republic to be exact. "Article IV section 4 of the U S constitution; The United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a Republican form of government, and shall protect each of them against invasion; and on Application of the Legislature, or of the executive (when the Legislature cannot be convened), against domestic Violence".

And the democrats continue to try and change this country into a democracy. And when democrats are in control of the federal government, they refuse to protect the individual states from invasion, and in some instances, they encourage people to invade our country. Which explains our lack of boarder security. A democracy is a form of government where your individual rights do not exist if you are outnumbered. A constitutional republic protects your individual rights from the majority. The constitution does not grant our rights it protects our rights.

If you understand this basic premise, then you understand why there is so much vitriol between the two parties. And seeking a third-party solution is not the answer either. Ben Franklin and many other founding fathers knew there would always be people who would try and change our nation into something different. Which is why he made that statement. Barrack Obama himself said he was going to fundamentally change our country. And at the end of his second term admitted that

he ran into a problem, the constitution was not so easy to overcome, and change. Our country and our states function best when our elected officials embrace our

republic rather than try to change it into something it was never meant to be.

VOTE ACCORDINGLY

Ray Langston, Montrose

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MIRROR IMAGES: FALL COLORS



Fall color photos and a Landcruiser by Harry Switzer; bottom left landscape photo by Mirror staff.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

A \$400M HIGH SCHOOL? – ARE SCHOOL DISTRICT PRIORITIES OUT OF TOUCH WITH THE COMMUNITY? WHAT HAPPENED TO THE 3RS?

What's Going on that the public doesn't know about?

By David White

While it is generally acknowledged that Montrose High School is housed in an older collection of buildings, the argument for and the question being presented to area voters on the November 5, 2024 General Election ballot asking the taxpayers to approve almost \$400,000,000 in bonded debt (combined principal and interest) to pay for this new school, is seemingly doomed to fail given the incredible increase in property taxes that it would force on our community where a large number of folks live on a fixed income or have limited resources to afford an increase of hundreds or thousands of dollars in new taxes.

In addition to this request, the public should know that this proposed increase in the mill levy doesn't stop with just this item. The Montrose RE-1J School District still has the authority to raise their general mill levy by roughly another 2 mills to pay for their operational costs and much more. The school bond debt, if approved, would only be a portion (albeit, a big one) of the total mill levy for the school district. Add another few hundred dollars to your property tax bill if the school district increases their general mill levy!

While not being discussed by the School Board or the District Administration, Matt Miles, a successful local real estate developer has put forth an offer to have the District build a new high school on land he is developing on Ogden Road near The Bridges subdivision with a buy in from him on the land on which a school would be built. Perhaps someone on the School Board should look into this offer and schedule a meeting to discuss it.

Turning to another school district related matter that the public needs to be aware of, I must bring to your attention the following:

I received a letter from a concerned citizen (presumably a parent) last week that has raised alarm bells in my mind and may very well do so in yours. Their letter began

with the following statement:

"I thought you might want to know that Montrose High School brought in a transgender person to talk to all of the incoming freshmen about when to have sex and not have sex."

The letter writer went on to say:

"The school is heavily promoting the sex club under the misleading title 'The Alliance.' One of the school counselors is sponsoring this club and she comes on the intercom once per week to invite the entire school to their meeting."

The letter writer provided me with several pages of a handout given to these freshman students (copies available upon request). These handouts were prepared by, and presentations made by Axis Health System ([Axis Health System | Primary, Behavioral, & Dental Healthcare](#)). Locally, Axis was formerly known as the Center for Mental Health. Axis provided four (4) staff persons (Rosie, Cortni, Paige & Reyna who make up the school-based therapy team) to discuss not only the above topic, but also to discuss the topics of "Consent and Coercion" as related to different written "scenarios" that the students were given. The handout stated: ***"Remember, giving consent happens within friendships, work relationships, family and with intimate partners."***

Using the Delphi Technique (getting a group...typically a small one, to arrive at a conclusion that the presenter or program writer has predetermined), the students were broken into groups or "pods" (as the handout stated) where small group discussions were held on determining when "consent" vs. "coercion" was used in each of the different scenarios the students were given to drive an outcome. As an example, the following "scenario" is taken directly from the handout given to the freshman students:

Scenario 2

"Jay and Bree are hanging out in her room and no parents are home. Bree starts kissing Jay on her bed. Jay says,

"Woah, let's slow this down some." Bree says, "Oh JJ, I just love you so much and my parents are gone so it may be our only chance we get to do this! Bree starts kissing him more and taking off her shirt. Jay does care about Bree AND doesn't want to get in trouble with his parents or Her's. They have only been dating a couple of days. Jay states, "Can we just watch a movie and chill?" Bree said, "Don't you like me? Please, I really want to make out." Jay isn't sure he wants to AND he's not hating it. Jay and Bree then make-out."

"Was there consent? Was there coercion? What could Jay have said in this situation? "Hey babe, tonight I just want to snuggle."

As you might imagine, most of the scenarios (4 out of 6) presented to these freshman students (remember, most of these students are only 14 years old) were sexually suggestive or involved sexual situations. Sorry folks, I may be old fashioned, but, in my opinion, how the hell does all of this relate to what they're in school to learn? Is the School Board aware of what happened? I suspect that School District Superintendent, Carrie Stephenson, not only knew but sanctioned this Freshman Class indoctrination session.

More to the point, were the parents of the incoming freshman notified of this presentation by Axis Health System and Montrose High School? If so, were students allowed to opt out of this presentation? If not, why not?

Axis Health System promotes themselves as being a caring organization with the resources to help those in crisis, whether that crisis includes thoughts of suicide, drug and alcohol abuse, mental health issues such as depression and much more, yet they're promoting, through materials presented to 14-year-old kids, the potential for future mental health or suicide issues related to sexual and other activities that they're ill equipped to deal with at this age.

Continued next pg

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE 3RS? From previous pg

Before we spend hundreds of millions of dollars on a new high school, let's get back to the 3Rs. Let's get back to traditional values. Let's teach our kids the value of hard work, taking responsibility for their actions, i.e., the understanding that while they have free will, with that free will comes good decision making and accountability for themselves to society. Why have the educators who condone what is going on not realized that they're not making Montrose and our country better

with these "wokie" types of programs? While a group of involved citizens who care deeply about our youth struggle to achieve permission from the RE-1J School Board to start a new charter school (Montrose Classical Academy - [Montrose Classical Academy | Charter School | Montrose, CO, USA](#)), the school board seemingly condone activities taking place right under their very noses that fly in the face of logic and raising up good, law-abiding citizens.

It's time for all of us who are parents and grandparents or just citizens wanting a bright future for our youth and country to stand up and tell this School Board to put a stop to this nonsense and get back to teaching our kids what they need to learn to be successful in life.

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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OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

WHY HUNTERS NEED PREDATORS

by Ted Williams

COLORADO—"Predator cleansing," a term recently hatched by wildlife researchers, does not mean what some hunters might imagine and want. Attempting to create more game by cleansing -- i.e., killing -- predators is an ancient, counterproductive practice as wrong-headed as ethnic cleansing. But it's still widely practiced via predator-killing contests, legal and popular in most states, and by some game and fish agencies. What the researchers have discovered is that the "cleansing" is done by, not to, the predators. Cougars, wolves, coyotes, and bobcats save deer, elk, moose, and caribou by cleansing the wild of a fatal malady called Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). CWD was first seen in 1967 among captive mule deer in Colorado. In 1981 it showed up in wild Colorado elk. Since then it has spread to 35 U.S. states and five Canadian provinces.

"A CWD outbreak among the 60,000 to 100,000 elk in the Greater Yellowstone Basin, the largest concentration of free-ranging elk in North America, is an impending eco-disaster," warns Dr. James Keen, wildlife veterinarian for the non-profit Animal Wellness Action. That disaster may be underway. Last November CWD showed up in Yellowstone National Park.

The pathogen is not a virus or a bacterium, but a malformed protein called a "prion." Humans can't kill it because it's not alive. But predators, all CWD-immune, deactivate it by digesting infected flesh. Deactivation is 96- to 100-percent complete, according to four peer-reviewed studies. And because CWD-stricken animals stumble, predators select them.

CWD may jump to humans. That's why the Centers for Disease Control warns hunters not to handle or eat infected game (in the unlikely event that they can identify it). In 2022 two hunters who ate venison from the same CWD-ravaged deer herd died of prion disease. Given the extreme rarity of human prion infections, this seems an unlikely coincidence.

"Princeton University disease ecologist Andrew Dobson and the late Canadian pro-hunting wildlife ecologist Valerius Geist theorize that killing off the wolf allowed CWD to take hold in the first place," reports the *Journal of Animal Ecology*.

"Predator cleansing is proposed as a possible natural solution for the biological control of CWD."

The piece goes on to note that CWD is "killing hundreds of thousands, perhaps eventually even millions, of free-ranging deer and elk in the United States and Canada."

For at least a century cougars have been essentially extirpated from the East, Southeast, Great Plains, and Midwest, which may explain why CWD is now epidemic in these regions.

But CWD is also epidemic where cougars persist. In some of the West, however, the disease is less prevalent where cougars are most abundant.

This from American-Canadian mammal biologist Dr. Paul Paquet who monitors CWD in wolf habitat:

"To date and in general, CWD has not thrived where wolf populations are active."

In Colorado, where trophy hunters annually kill about 500 cougars, CWD is epidemic and increasing. Currently, 42 of 51 deer herds and 17 of 42 elk herds are infected.

CWD is also epidemic and increasing in Wyoming, where trophy hunters annually kill about 350 cougars. In one deer herd in west-central Wyoming, 74 percent of hunter-killed male mule deer were CWD-infected. "It's the highest that's been recorded, maybe anywhere in the world," says Wyoming Game and Fish Department biologist Daryl Lutz. Statewide, CWD in hunter-killed male mule deer was 18.9 percent in 2023, up from 17.6 percent in 2022. CWD in hunter-killed male white-tailed deer was 30.3 percent in 2023, up from 25.9 percent in 2022.

These and similar results in

other states call into question the wisdom of permissive, in some cases unrestricted, hunting and trapping of cougars, wolves, coyotes, and bobcats.

If the whole of nature is good, no part can be bad. It's time for all hunters to recognize predators as allies, not competitors. At least in Colorado, hunters can vote to help deer, elk, and moose by checking "yes" on Proposition 127, a November ballot measure to protect cougars and bobcats.

Ted Williams is a lifelong hunter and former game and fish information officer.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

CATLIN WITH HIS VAST EXPERIENCE IS BY FAR THE BETTER CHOICE

Editor:

One of the most important decisions for Montrose voters on November 5 is the selection of a senator for Senate District 5. In this race former House of Representatives member Marc Catlin is running against newcomer Cole Buerger. The difference between these two candidates couldn't be any greater. Catlin has served multiple years in the Colorado House of Representatives, while Buerger has virtually no experience in public service. During his years in the House of Repre-

sentatives Catlin was widely respected by both political parties for his expertise in Colorado water laws, consequently he was selected as the vice chair of the all important Agriculture, Water and Natural Resource Committee. He was a member of the Capital Development Committee and a ranking member of the Housing and Local Government Committee. His years of service on behalf of our western slope have been exemplary. His opponent Cole Buerger is certainly a newcomer to politics with no history of any public service. He

and his "partner" own a food service truck in Silt, apparently his only experience in small business. His stated goal is to focus on kitchen table issues but he carefully avoids any position on Colorado being a sanctuary state for illegal aliens and apparently has no position on any anti-police issues passed by his party.

This certainly seems to be one of those no-brainer questions often seen in elections. Catlin with his vast experience is by far the better choice in this race.

Dee Laird, Montrose

TRY EARNING OUR SUPPORT THROUGH PLAUSIBLE METHODS

Editor:

I just read the plea from our current superintendent regarding our support for an increased mill levy to pay for a new high school. While she outlines reasons the locals should support this project, she fails to address the reasons our school system is failing students currently. A building that needs updating is certainly something for the community to be monitoring but an administration that doesn't take re-

sponsibility for students doing so poorly is bold and naive to think that throwing money into a new building is going to change this downward trend. The figure I last heard was that students on average in our local schools were reading at levels in the 46th percentile. This is shameful but not as shameful as begging us all to fund a new high school with this woman as superintendent with the wonky politics and failing curriculum that we currently have.

Try earning our support through plausible methods to create results and an earnest desire to listen to what we want to see more of in these schools. And let me tell you, it's not liberal politics!

There's a reason the private schools have waiting lists, more people are home schooling and there's a new charter school on the horizon. And it's not because the high school is old. Get real...

Lisa Reynolds, Montrose

LODGING TAX INCREASE WILL CREATE MORE REVENUE FOR THE CITY TO SPEND ON PET PROJECTS

Editor:

In reading the 9/23 issue of the Montrose Mirror it struck me that our Mayor and city council have adopted a "Just tell them what they want to hear" attitude toward the citizenry and then they turn around and do whatever they decide they want to do. As an example I would put forth the discussions regarding increasing the Lodging Tax: On page 41 Caitlin Switzer reports the following: "Council voted to adopt Ordinance 2671 on second reading, amending Title 5 Chapter 2 Sections 1 and 5 of the Official Code of the City of Montrose, Colorado, increasing the hotel room tax from .9% to 6% and limiting the use of the funds generated to assist in addressing the impact of tourism on the City of

Montrose.

Then on page 35 The Mayor and city council wrote that "We want to be as transparent as possible regarding the use of these revenues. Therefore, we have included in the ballot language itself this exact breakdown of how the hotel/lodging tax monies will be used: **33% Access to Quality Affordable Housing 25% Street Maintenance 20% Tourism Management and Community Events Promotion 17% Access to Childcare Services 5% Expansion of Public Transit Option**"

A huge jump in the Lodging tax from .9% to 6% is a stretch but I am less concerned with the amount than I am with what it is being used for. 20% of the Funds raised go to something that actually has the word

"Tourism" in it, while the rest is devoted to projects that require a great deal of verbal gymnastics to actually say they are addressing the impact of tourism.

Montrose is not and likely will never be a prime destination spot for tourism, but rather is a stopover for tourists on their way to somewhere else. Street maintenance should already be covered by other taxes and fees paid by the residents, while Affordable Housing, Childcare, and Public Transit (More than half of the funds generated) are feel good projects to attract exactly what sort of tourists?

This strikes me as a plan to simply create more revenue for the city to spend on pet projects rather than specific needs.

Mike Rape', Montrose

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

IF I WERE WANTING TO CONVINCE VOTERS TO FORK OVER \$200 MILLION FOR A NEW HIGH SCHOOL, I MIGHT NOT WANT TO INSULT A MAJOR SEGMENT OF THOSE VOTERS

Editor:

Earlier I wrote about the fact that newsrooms across the country are finding themselves in freefall, but don't seem to want to ask themselves why they are in such dire situations. They can't imagine that it might be because they have abandoned any semblance of journalistic integrity and are now no more than mouthpieces for the Democrat party. I mentioned the Montrose Daily Press as an example after they had to go to two issues per week. The Grand Junction Sentinel just announced they too are going to two issues per week. They recently published an editorial explaining that the reason their reporting is blatantly anti-Republican is that "truth is the only standard," and the truth is, "Republicans are more prone to lies, exaggerations, and wacky statements." Ironically, nowhere in their thoughts has either publication considered that their declining readership and ad revenue might have something to do with their continually denigrating and insulting conservative Republicans, which make up the majority of their potential readership and ad revenue.

I saw the same lack of self-awareness this week when I read Montrose County Schools District superintendent Carrie Stephenson's post stating: "Not all Trump supporters are racist. But all of them decided that racism isn't a deal breaker." Sorry, but if I were wanting to convince voters to fork over \$200 million for a new high school, I might not want to insult a major segment of those voters by calling part of them racists and the rest of them supporters of racism. Conservatives already have many concerns about our public school system, and such slander only adds to those concerns. They find it abhorrent that we pay astronomical sums to finance an incredibly expensive public system that horrendously underperforms. For example, despite being the world's most prosperous nation, the U.S. Ranks 36th in math. Montrose High student's proficiency rating in math is only 33% and in science 22%. Not only do many of our students lack useful skills and behaviors that would make them employable, they are taught to despise themselves and their country. Our history is distorted. Our constitutional traditions are trashed. Stu-

dents are taught whites are inherently racist and evil. (Superintendent Stephenson claims Critical Race Theory is only taught in upper level college courses, but we know better.) The largest teachers' union in our state passed a resolution committing them to fight capitalism as an economic system that must be destroyed. Parents know without a doubt their public school children are being indoctrinated --- not educated.

Equally concerning, parents are realizing that our government and our public schools believe our kids belong to the government. Education Secretary Carona showed his contempt for parents when he stated he doesn't have "too much respect" for parents who have been "misbehaving" at school board meetings. They're "acting like they know what's right for kids!" Educators are all-in on the idea the State owns our children and can not only indoctrinate them, but physically modify them as they see fit, without our consent or even our knowledge.

Superintendent Stephenson indicated that "If the Greatest Generation could build a high school during those hard times" (1940) "why can't we do it now?" Here's a news flash for the superintendent - America's greatest generation would be appalled at the state of today's public education system and would be the last to financially support such nonsense.

The Montrose School District has other problems in convincing the voting public to increase their property taxes by \$200 million. Property taxes have already skyrocketed this past year. Advocates for a new high school want to ignore the fact that my property taxes increased by 60% this year (due to Bidenomics and Polis being unwilling to do anything to help the situation.) I am assuming that some of the substantially increased property tax revenue has gone to the school district? If so, a logical question is: What is the school district doing with that increased cash flow?

I have yet to see where MCSD has addressed the questions regarding its administrative staffing levels compared to other school districts. During the recent primaries it was reported that MCSD had twice the administrators as Mesa County School District and half the number of students. Our

Superintendent should be happy to provide the comparative analysis refuting that contention. (Just the facts.) Continued silence tends to give credence to the report. Much has been said about MHS having "reached the end of its lifespan with a building that is crumbling and systems that are routinely failing," but I find those arguments less than convincing. The pictures in the "Just The Facts" presentation showed stained ceiling panels, wooden benches worn but apparently sturdy, and some superficial damage to an eave over an entryway. Where are the pictures showing unsafe conditions or things that cannot be fixed with routine maintenance? Where is the building crumbling? It is apparent the facility needs a full size elevator, so why hasn't one been built? Sorry, but if you don't have funds for routine maintenance or an elevator, perhaps you should have thought more seriously before voluntarily increasing the MCSD salary and hourly payroll by 34%.

I totally agree with the school district that 55 entry points poses a security concern. A logical question is what has the school district done to ensure the safety of the children given that concern? I know it is easy to be critical from afar, but adding a number of trained full time armed guards and decreasing the administrative staff would seem to be a no-brainer if our children are in danger.

I agree with Superintendent Stephenson that "We owe it to our community to create a public school system that is a beacon of economic growth, local pride, and civic responsibility." I

, however, think all that has more to do with the content and quality of the education than the building that education occurs in. Thus far, in spite of spending hundreds of thousands of dollars preparing and presenting the bond proposal, I have seen little evidence supporting the need for a new high school. "Aging" or "old" does not necessarily mean no longer useable or safe. I welcome any evidence that will show me where I am wrong. And please, just the facts please - no more platitudes about "our responsibility" and "considering the big picture."

Ed Henrie, Montrose

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Special to the Mirror

OLATHE – River Valley Family Health Centers announces their receipt of the **NQL (National Quality Leader) Gold Award**, awarded by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to the top 10 percent of health centers in the United States. The clinic has earned this distinction for the last five years in a row and is one of only three health centers in Colorado to receive the award.

In order to be named a National Quality Leader, clinics must meet or exceed national benchmarks for clinical quality measures in areas such as behavioral health, cancer screening, heart health, HIV prevention and care, and maternal health. They must also report a minimum number of 70 patients in a CQM (clinical quality measures) group.

In addition, River Family Health Centers also received the **2024 Advancing Health Information Technology (HIT) for Quality Badge**. This distinction recognizes the Centers' use of an electronic health record (EHR) system, offering of telehealth services, exchange of clinical information online and their engagement of patients through health IT.

Kaye Hotsenpiller, Chief Executive Officer, says "We take pride in providing exceptional care to a diverse population of patients and would not be able to receive a gold award without the gift that each of our staff members bring."

Since 1994, River Family Health Centers has been providing high quality healthcare in an integrated and culturally respectful manner to uninsured, low-income and migrant and seasonal agricultural workers in the Olathe area. With three locations, including a recently opened Montrose site with a full-service on-site pharmacy, everyone is welcome, including those with Medicare, Medicaid, Commercial Insurance, CICIP or no insurance.

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) provides equitable health care to the nation's highest-need communities, such as low-income, rural communities, transplant patients and patients with HIV. They serve more than 1,900 rural counties and municipalities across the country and support nearly 22,000 health care providers through loan repayment and scholarship programs.

For more information, contact River Family Health Centers' Chief Operations Officer Jessica Sweet at 970-263-1914 or jsweet@rivervalleyfhc.com.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

MOUNTAIN LIONS ARE OUR FRIENDS AND ALLIES

By Dan Ashe

I've hunted practically as long as I can remember, pursuing small game, upland birds, waterfowl, and deer, elk, and caribou. It's been a lifelong passion, and helped shape my values as a career wildlife conservation professional in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

I was privileged to lead America's 570-unit National Wildlife Refuge System, the world's largest system of lands and waters dedicated to wildlife conservation, at nearly one billion acres. And I was honored to be nominated by President Barack Obama and confirmed by the U.S. Senate as the 16th director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, serving as director for nearly six years.

Today, I am one more wildlife professional, and hunter, proudly adding my name and voice in support of Proposition 127 – Cats Aren't Trophies.

I readily admit, I've never been much for so-called "trophy hunting". Especially so, when the animals are chased to exhaustion by commercial outfitters, using dogs and GPS tracking, and then shot by a "hunter", while perched helplessly in a tree. It violates a foundational value for "fair chase" that I was taught as a child. I was also taught that hunting is a form of harvest, yielding "free range" delicacies that reconnect us to the land and water. Part of that connection is a learned respect for the game we hunt, not desire to dominate or eliminate them.

But hunters are predators, and as a community, we have long harbored a bloodlust for competitors, like mountain lions.

We have contributed to societal mythologies and fears, and despite the wisdom of mid-1900s conservation scholars like Aldo Leopold, we have continued to scapegoat and brutalize these creatures in the name of game management.

Maybe we do this to hide our own inadequacies. It is much easier to blame declining elk or deer populations on mountain lions or wolves, than to grapple with habitat loss and fragmentation, drought and water scarcity, and changing climates. Those would require that we deal with humans and our ever-expanding desires for more, and cheaper, and easier, and now.

And even more nonsensical, emerging science is telling us that these apex predators aren't the enemy, but rather, allies. They are likely providing an important ecosystem service in checking the spread of Chronic Wasting Disease or CWD, an existential threat to healthy deer and elk populations.

42 of Colorado's 51 deer herds and 17 of 42 elk herds are infected with this 100 percent fatal, brain-wasting malady. The disease started in Colorado and spread across the Midwest and Rockies. It has killed hundreds of thousands of elk, deer, and moose, and it's getting worse.

The pathogen is not a virus or bacteria but a "prion" -- a protein that slowly and painfully destroys brain tissue in deer and elk. There is no evidence that these CWD prions are "zoonotic" and can infect humans, but public health officials warn against eating CWD-infected game in precaution.

Prions aren't living things, so they can't be killed with antibiotic or antiviral medications. They can only be "deactivated", and amazingly, science is telling us that they are deactivated in the digestive systems of predators like lions and wolves. So again, these animals are our natural allies.

As a scientist, I know that correlation is not causation, but sometimes it can be a powerful indicator. There is good science that lions will selectively prey on CWD-infected animals, and that makes sense, because infected animals would be weaker and easier to kill. And what we can observe is that where there are no lions, there are higher rates of CWD-infected animals, and where there are lions, there are low levels of CWD infection, or none at all.

Killing 500 lions, every year, in Colorado is not simply unscientific and unethical, it is interrupting their vital work as a bulwark against CWD.

For as long as there have been hunters, and as long as hunters have been managing wildlife, we have scapegoated and persecuted apex predators, like mountain lions. It's time for change.

Mountain lions are our friends and allies. Let's start treating them that way. Voting yes, in support of Proposition 127, is a great beginning.

Dan Ashe has worked for 41 years in the field of wildlife management and conservation. He served for 22 years in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and is currently President and CEO of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

CLIMATE CHANGE MAY CAUSE US TO LOSE HOME AND AUTO INSURANCE

Edited by Tony Hoag-Citizens Climate Lobby Montrose

COLORADO-Climate change is hitting home. We don't yet know what impacts it will have in our daily lives, but extreme weather due to climate change is impacting our lives now, in the past and it may be even more severe in the future. Extreme weather events due to climate change are becoming hundreds of million dollar events in Colorado. It's a reflection of the fact that two catastrophes hit us on a regular basis: hail and wildfire. People don't realize how big of an impact hail has in Colorado. It's not the case anymore that the hail season is over once we get to June or July. The hail season really does persist throughout the summer and it's similar with Wildfire. The Wildfire season in Colorado was typically over in August and September. That's not the case anymore. Now the Wildfire season goes into the fall. We also saw the Marshall fire in winter in Colorado.

The practical effects of climate change causing more extreme weather events is that the price for people's homeowners insurance and their car insurance in Colorado is skyrocketing. When you look at our homeowners insurance market those insurance premiums are increasing because insurance companies have been losing money eight of the last 11 years. and that's a reflection of climate change.

Colorado homeowners are reporting premium increases ranging from roughly 30% to more than 130% in just the past few years and we have had one of the biggest changes in rates from 2018 to 2023 including a 57.9% jump during that five year time period in our state. The Denver Post reported 330,000 homes in Colorado with moderate to severe risk of wildfire damage with a large number of those structures in the Wildland Urban interface ar-

ea. Elsewhere there has been a 50%-100% jump in premiums, especially in the cases of HOAs not getting offered insurance for the next year altogether. Home Insurance is not in a sustainable place now with rising insurance premiums. There's a lot of fear if you can't get insurance which oftentimes means you can't get a mortgage. Pocketbook issues are creeping up like when you balance increased property taxes versus how to pay for groceries and now higher insurance premiums. People are really suffering and that is creating a perfect storm.

Extreme weather here in Colorado has been estimated that over the last 10 years Colorado was second after Kansas to see an increase of 275% in the frequency and magnitude of large weather events. Problems persist in Hail alley in eastern Colorado and forested areas across the state. We have more people in the path of those catastrophes with more cars and more homes and at the same time the insurance industry is experiencing inflationary market conditions that everyone is in their household is.

Record-breaking inflation, everything that insurance pays for is going up in cost from lumber to glass to labor shortages. These are all things that the insurance industry is looking at in the cost to repair and rebuild. At the same time the insurance that insurance companies purchase called - reinsurance- to cover them for big catastrophic billion dollar events, we're seeing that go up at record-breaking paces.

Many insurance companies may just leave the state which could cause a tipping point.

People are talking about just the inability to afford the coverage which for a lot of people starts to feel like the inability to afford home ownership and we're seeing around the country this dramatic number

of uninsured homes as well as this growing problem that's a hollowing out of coverage so the insurance that people are able to afford covers less than it used to and we're seeing higher deductibles. The end result is you won't be able to have enough money to rebuild the house as it was. You'd have to put in more than you used to. So either homes are becoming underinsured or far too many people uninsured - about 6 million American homes are uninsured representing something around \$ 1.6 trillion dollar in market value and that data is from 2021. Our expectation is that when the 2023 data comes out later this year the numbers will be even higher.

We're going to see even more uninsured homes in Colorado and all around the country. That leads to the real systemic concern that our housing market could be in real trouble. If we start seeing disasters destroy homes or do serious damage to homes when there is no more insurance or there's not enough Insurance to rebuild not only does that leave people to have to move, it creates blight in communities that can really have this ripple effect.

The heat waves we've seen just this early summer alone, along with the number of Storms, wildfires, and hail that seems to be piling up, there is clear recognition that climate change across the board is doing much more damage than we had collectively accepted in years past.

This piece was adapted from a conversation Colorado Sun Reporter Michael Booth, had with Mike Conway, the insurance commissioner for the state of Colorado, Carol Walker from the Rocky Mountain insurance information Association, and Doug Heler who is the insurance representative and expert for the consumer Federation of America.

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

DUSTIN JAMES STROUD

May 27, 1994 — September 15, 2024

DUSTIN JAMES STROUD passed away on September 15, 2024, on Minnesota Creek in Gunnison, Colorado. He was 30 years old. His celebration of life was held at 2 p.m. on Sunday, September 22, 2024, at Heritage Hall in the Hotchkiss Fair Grounds, Hotchkiss, Colorado. Dustin was born on May 27, 1994, at Saint Mary's Hospital in Grand Junction, Colorado to mother Georgette Cox and father Mikal Stroud. Dustin grew up in Delta, Colorado where he attended school and graduated from Delta High School in 2012. He attended CMU at Grand Junction, Colorado. Dustin also obtained his A.I. certification on April 14, 2019. He met Kayla Gerlits and they were married May 4, 2022. They celebrated four amazing years together. His career path was working on the family ranch. Dustin enjoyed team roping, video gaming, spending time with family and friends, riding horses, playing Dungeons and Dragons, shooting his bow and guns, and spending time with his dog Beau. Dustin is survived by his wife, Kayla Stroud, his brother, Cordell (Heather) Stroud, his niece, Peyton, nephew, Logan Stroud, his aunt, Lisa Stroud, grandparents, Patricia and Clint Stroud, and mother, Georgette Cox-Black. Dustin is preceded in death by his father, Mikal Stroud and grandmother, Micky Cox. In lieu of flowers the family is asking for donations to be sent to Alpine Bank where an account has been set up for Dustin's niece and nephew's college fund.



SAM "BIG LOKO" TRUJILLO

May 17, 1977 — September 21, 2024

It is with great sadness and heavy hearts announce the departure of our beloved Son, Brother Father and Uncle. Sam "Big Loko" Trujillo, 47, city of Montrose passed away September 21st, 2024, with family by his side, due to a short battle of kidney failure.

He leaves behind parents Jerry and Tammy Trujillo of Montrose, children Donna Jo (Sky) McCarty of Grand Junction, Billy Trujillo of Denver, Sammy Trujillo of New Mexico, Sister Jaunita (Clay)Freeland of Montrose, Brother James (Trisha) Trujillo, partner Tawnya Goetz, with 13 nephews and nieces and many more great-nephews and great nieces.

Sam was well known throughout Colorado, traveling to Colorado Springs, but always coming back to the valley to be with family. He had a heart as big as the Colorado mountains that he loved dearly.

There will be a memorial service be at 1p.m. October 4th, at 602 N. Nevada. There will be a repast immediately after the memorial.



CELEBRATING LOCAL BEAUTY.



COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

DIANE (KREBS) BEAN

November 11, 1938 — September 20, 2024

ALICE DIANE (KREBS) BEAN- November 11, 1938 - September 20, 2024 of Montrose, Colorado passed away at her home.

Diane was born in Montrose Colorado on November 11, 1938. She graduated from Montrose County High School, Colorado Women's College, and Colorado University School of Nursing. She lived most of her adult life in California. Nursing offered a variety of employment opportunities including public health, surgery, children's asthma, in-service education and school nursing.

She met and married Dan Beardshear who was in the Marine Corps which allowed the opportunity to work in many locations. That marriage ended in divorce.

Diane met Doug Bean in Joshua Tree, California and they married on September 26, 1998. They enjoyed travels and adventures. They moved back to Montrose in 2006 and appreciated the many new friends they made.

Diane believed in the power of the 12-Step Program and was a 60-year member of Alanon. She was passionate about supporting those in recovery and was a friend, mentor and wise sponsor to many. Anyone who entered Diane's realm felt seen, heard, and known. It was a gift in all her relationships.

Diane was a member of P.E.O. and enjoyed spending time with her friends in

the organization.

Diane was calm, kind, caring, generous of heart and reliable. She honored confidentiality and offered guidance and wisdom when asked. She was a faithful friend and made a difference to many.

Diane loved to sing, especially the old favorites. She faithfully did her daily puzzles and usually had a jigsaw going, especially when Sandi visited. She began each day with daily readings, and a good mystery was always nearby.

She loved nature, the majestic mountains, the peaceful deserts and the tranquil oceans. She liked to proudly brag that she climbed Mt. Sneffels with her brother, Stu. She found solace in Joshua Tree National Monument and spent much time there. She was a seeker and found upliftment and inspiration from speakers and healers of all modalities.

Diane felt blessed to be born into the Krebs' family. She and her siblings all appreciate and reminisce about the values taught and modeled by their parents and the contribution that nurturing environment made to the rest of their lives.

Diane is survived by her siblings J. Stuart (Barbara) Krebs (Montrose); Sandi Key (Littleton, Colorado); and Garee Zellmer (Marquette Michigan); sisters-in-law, Barb Chesshir (Port Aransas, Texas) and Carol Bean (Cambria, California); brother-in-law



David (Jean) Bean (NYC, New York); nieces and nephews; step-family; cousins, and many friends.

Diane was preceded in death by her husband, Douglas Bean; her parents, S. Stuart and Rose Krebs; niece, Cinda Newman; cousin, Hope (Henry) Henes; brother-in-law, Jerry Bean; and many special cousins.

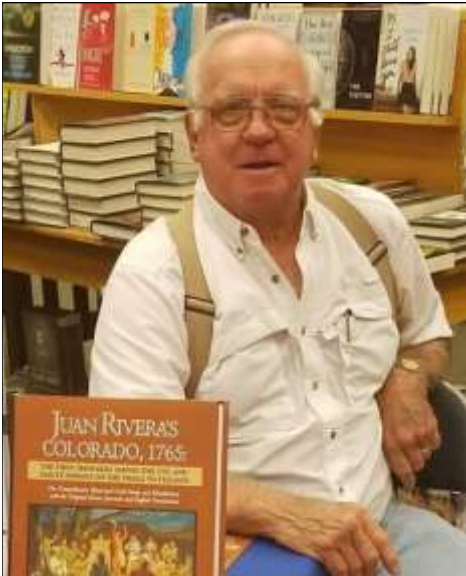
Diane's charities of choice are Shriners Hospitals for Children, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, and Hillsdale College. The family extends appreciation to Hope West, 725 S. 4th St. Montrose, CO 81401. No services are planned.

Thank you for reading

THE MONTROSE MIRROR

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

STEVEN GUY BAKER



Montrose archaeologist and historian, (the "legendary" Steven Guy Baker as some knew him), caught the west-bound express over the Great Divide on September the 20th, 2024. He passed away peacefully at home, as a result of a long-term battle with COPD and CHF. Steve was born in Topeka, Ks. in May of 1945 and raised and schooled in Holton, Kansas. He was the son of Guy Weldon ("GW") Baker and Mildred (Millie) Merl (Metzger) Baker, both originally of Ozawie, Ks. He had two older sisters, Mary Elizabeth and Susan Alice, and a younger brother, Dan Brent. Although his father was an attorney and member of the bar, he primarily managed his construction company (G.W. Baker Construction) specializing in the aggregate business in northeastern Kansas. Steve's mother was a High School English teacher who later in life went into real estate. Steve's early working years were spent in rock quarries and sand pits working for his dad. He graduated from Holton High School in 1963, received a B.A. in anthropology from the University of Kansas in 1968, and an M.A. in American History from the University of South Carolina in 1974. He began his archaeological career as a teenager in 1964 with the Kansas State Historical Society and worked (mostly) steadily in that profession until

his retirement.

Steve married Lynn Clum in Marietta, Georgia in 1970 and they had two daughters, Chelsey Marie (1973) and Jennifer Abbott (1974). In 1975 Steve moved the young family from South Carolina to Montrose and began doing consulting archaeology after short stints as a flunky plumber and a wrangler in the hunting camps. Steve and Lynn divorced in 1979. He formed Centuries Research, Inc. in 1977 and retired from it in 2022. It was one of the first private archaeological firms in the nation and over the years brought many archaeologists to Montrose and took its place in the business life of the community from where it survived the west slope depression of 1982 as a very small operation. Steve was involved in a great many interesting archaeological projects, including some of the larger energy related ones in Colorado. He had something of a charmed ability to get involved in important work and his immense bibliography is testimony to them. He worked in Manitoba and New Brunswick in Canada, Georgia, South Carolina, Kansas, Washington, Arizona, Utah, and Wyoming. After moving to Colorado, he became a specialist on the Western Slope and Ute Indians and historical archaeology of mining communities. He wrote many articles and reports on Colorado archaeology and the highly regarded book containing the first descriptions of western Colorado (Juan Rivera's Colorado 1765...).

In 1985 Steve married Nancy Ellen (Hankemeier) Carter of Des Moines, Iowa and they together had two sons, Christian Guy (1986) and Matthew Steven (1988). Nancy and the boys and his daughters grew up assisting in his archaeological work where the family had great times while earning and doing interesting things. Steve always believed his studies of the past were important in preserving and illuminating the cultural heritage of west-central Colorado and did much pro-bono work on its behalf. He was commonly a featured speaker to groups about the

Western Slope and well known there and in Colorado. He was active in community affairs, serving on the Montrose Parks Board, the County Historic Landmarks Board, and Lions Club. He was an honorary life member of the Chipeta Chapter of the Colorado Archaeological Society where he served as both president and VP and the Montrose Historical Society. He was a charter member of the Colorado and Utah Councils of Professional Archaeologists. For many years he was a regular donor of his rare blood type and for years proudly volunteered as a bedside companion to the dying via two hospice groups. He and Nancy were active leaders in Cub and Boy Scouts. Steve was particularly proud to have been invited to join the venerable "Montrose Think Tank Bored" coffee group and was among the last of its surviving members. Steve had little tolerance for cities, intellectual or any other forms of dishonesty, politics, or those who would not accept responsibility for their actions.

Steve was an eclectic hobbyist enjoying horseback riding, canoeing, hunting, fishing, traveling, puttering in his workshop, particularly making toys, and collecting toy soldiers. Steve, along with his faithful white burro, "Caroline" was the featured character in the Montrose Centennial pageant in 1982 as the "old Storyteller." That dynamic duo routinely cut antics in parades up and down the western slope and even managed to get red lighted and pulled over by a state trooper for squirting him with a water gun on the 4th! Steve always worked hard to try to make some kind of fun or joke and, despite some rough spots, managed to have a wonderful half-century run as part of the Montrose community. Steve was a hard worker, devoted to his family and willing to take on about any job there was in order to provide.

Steve was preceded in death by his parents and is survived by his beloved wife of 39 years, Nancy Ellen Baker, of the home. Other survivors are children: Christian of

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES-STEVEN GUY BAKER From previous pg

Gypsum, Co.; and Matthew Baker (Ivy) of Choteau, Montana; Chelsey Baker-Hauck (Mike) of Denver; Jennifer Abbott Morris (Juan) of Centennial; stepdaughters Lisa Marie Bunch (Lee) and Jennifer Mary Carter of Des Moines, Iowa. The Bakers have six grandchildren. Steve's siblings- Mary Baker of Kernersville, North Carolina and Susan Borden of Glen Carbon, Illinois; and Dan Baker (Debbie) of Topeka, Ks. and a number of nieces and nephews also survive. Steve will be buried (in the wooden casket he had built years ago) in the Grand View Cemetery in Montrose where he will have a great view of the wonderful Uncompahgre Valley! Steve always felt his most rewarding work was in mentoring young people, including his own children, and teaching them how to shoulder responsibility and work hard with pride through his archaeological work and helping him and Nancy out on the little Baker farm at the west edge of Montrose.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to HopeWest Hospice in Steven's name.

NICOLE ANN COOLING ***July 31, 1975 — September 21, 2024***



Nicole was born July 31, 1975. This charming infant grew into a delightful, warm-hearted woman. God called her home September 21, 2024, after a short, but hard-fought health battle. She was the daughter of Bill and Pearl Cooling, growing up in Montrose; graduating from Montrose High School where she enjoyed participating in summer softball and being on the Marlin Swim Team among other activities. Her sense of humor managed to keep the family in stitches, and her orneriness in disbelief! But all of this was shadowed by the kindness in her heart. Nicole worked as a medical coder for Delta Health. She leaves behind many who cherished her upbeat spirit and 'can do' attitude. She was a great mentor to her daughters, Mia and Val. She is also survived by her mother, Pearl Cooling; her sister, Rebecca Romero; her beloved nieces and nephew, Jamaica, Asia, Essa, Michael and Maya. Her father, Bill Cooling, was there to guide her to heaven's door ... stopping, of course, to watch the Broncos win a game along the way!

We, as family, feel very blessed to have been a part of Nicole's life.

Now more than ever...

Thank you for reading

THE MONTROSE MIRROR

ISSUE 488 Sept. 30, 2024



ART & SOL

WILLING TO STAND FOR PEACE

Rev. Dr. Arlyn Macdonald

MONTROSE-There are more than 30 designated dates to celebrate different aspects of peace throughout the year. But peace should be practiced every day. We often think of peace only in terms of war and the threat of war is heavy today. Every incident of war in any part of the world affects every other part, for whether we admit it or not, we are a global community, a global family. What happens on the other side of the world affects us here.

So, it follows that everything someone else does affects us personally and what we do affects everyone else. There is no disguising or ignoring this Truth. We are a living part of the Oneness of All Life. We are all here together to learn and grow and evolve.

All religions and spiritual paths teach that what we sow, we reap. They also teach us to make good choices to treat our fellow human beings and all other beings as we want to be treated. Some people have a hard time doing that. Take a look at the "leaders" of the world countries today. They think it is okay to create chaos. And then our young people think it is okay.

When and how is the world going to change? When will humanity realize that it is on a self-destructive path to extinction?

The answer is that each one of us must change to a belief in peace now. Peace is an act of Love and Love is the basis of all life. We have to pray for peace, live for

peace, and be active and stand for peace. Peace is a spiritual choice.

It begins within - with a personal commitment to be the peace - to think peace, to speak peace, and to act with peace. This doesn't mean we turn a blind eye to what is happening within and around us just to keep the peace. Keeping the peace is not the answer. Being the peace is.

When you just keep the peace, you don't resolve the issues. The issues remain, but you agree to live with them. When you are the peace, the issues are resolved for the highest good of all, not the highest good of one, and everyone is then free to grow and thrive.

Listening to our inner life, having a dialogue with our thoughts and emotions, finding a solution that honors all parts of us, asking for Divine assistance through prayer, using meditation to bring quiet into our lives on a daily basis, and guarding ourselves from taking in the unrest in the outside world. All of these help us stay in peace. And when we are in peace, we can begin to radiate peace out into the world and help others return to peace. I am reminded of the little book, "The Great Silent Grandmother Gathering," written by Sharon Mehdi. She begins, "On a blustery early summer day, when the news was bad and the sky turned yellow, a strange thing happened in the town where I live. That morning, two grandmothers who had never met, not even by

accident, put on their summer Sunday clothes, their most comfortable shoes, their favorite sun hats, and walked to the park in the center of town."

The idea of standing for peace grows and the story ends with media reports about the hundreds of thousands of women, many of them grandmothers, gathering in all the public places, parks, and places of worship. The women carry no banners or signs, they don't shout slogans, and they don't belong to any organization. When interviewed by reporters and asked why they were gathering, "...one of the grandmothers said, 'We're saving the world.'"

Perhaps this is what is needed to save the world, people willing to stand for peace. Standing for peace symbolizes a spiritual commitment to be the peace from a personal to a global level. It means changing beliefs to ones based on peaceful resolution and peaceful living.

Maybe the wisdom of the grandmothers will lead humanity to peace. I don't know, but I do know that as a grandmother and a great grandmother, I am working very hard to bring peace into my own life and into the lives of others. I would gladly put on my Sunday clothes, my comfortable shoes, and my sunhat and go to the park to join other grandmothers and anyone else interested in peace to stand in the silence and radiate peace to the world. Are you willing to stand for peace and help change the world?

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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

BARDIC TRAILS VIRTUAL POETRY SERIES WELCOMES EIRENE HAMILTON



Featured reader Eirene Hamilton, above and at right. Courtesy photos.

Special to Art & Sol

TELLURIDE- The Bardic Trails virtual poetry series is proud to welcome Eirene Hamilton of Bluff (UT) as our featured reader this Tuesday Oct. 1 at 7 pm MT.

As she would begin, "Ta'neezahnii nilí. Bit'ahnii yáshchíín. Tábaahá dabicheii. Naakaiidine'é dabináí."

Utah Diné Eirene Nakai Hamilton is a continuous San Juan River valley resident. Retired from 30 years of teaching, she now devotes time to writing, gardening, ethno-botany and artistic ventures. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in English and Education from Abilene Christian University. She was also a Bilingual and TESOL-endorsed educator most of her teaching career.

Working as an educator in Arizona, Eirene became literate in her first language, *Diné Bizaad*. Many of her written works are bilingual pieces. Her short stories and poems have been published in University of Arizona Press' *Suntracks* and *Diné Reader* (2021), *Bilingual Resources*, *Sacajawea: Translator and Guide* published by Modern Curriculum Press, *Satchel Story Objects*, *WET An Anthology of Water Poems and Prose from the High Desert and Mountains of the Four Corners Region* and *FERTILE An Anthology of Earth Poems and Prose from the High Desert and Mountains of the Four Corners Region*, and online, the *Canyon Echo*.

As a former member of the Four Corners Poets and the Bisti Writing Project, Eirene supports community literacy and enjoys facilitating writing workshops for young writers. Volunteering in Grand Canyon Trust conservation projects greatly expanded her knowledge of botany and desert springs habitats.

She is a board member of Project 1100, a nonprofit founded by botanist and mentor, Dr. Mary O'Brien. Project 1100 advocates for the robust survival of 1100 species of Utah native bees and countless others in the western United States. In her home community of Bluff, Eirene volunteers at an established community garden, a happy union of plants and pollinators!

Bardic Trails has undergone some recent changes. Talking Gourds is now solo hosting the virtual zoom series on the first Tuesday of each month, although the Wilkinson Public Library will continue as a collaboration partner and fiscal agent. Also, San Miguel County Poet Laureate Joanna Yonder recommends as prompt this month: "Inward-Outward."

No longer needing to register with the library, participants are encouraged to visit <<https://www.tellurideinstitute.org/western-slope-calendar>> to get the zoom link each month, if they aren't already on our mailing list. Thanks to the Cantor Fam-

ily, the Guttman Family Foundation, CCAASE and our Fischer and Cantor contest participants for supporting our program and projects.

Bardic Trails is a project of the Telluride Institute's Talking Gourds Poetry Program in collaboration with the Wilkinson Public Library.

For more information, visit the website: <https://www.tellurideinstitute.org/western-slope-calendar>. Other Talking Gourds projects include the Stories & Poems Norwood live reading series in collaboration with the Lone Cone Library on the third Wednesday of every month, the Stories & Poems Naturita in collaboration with the Naturita Community Library on the third Sunday of every month, the national Fischer Poetry Prize contest and the state/national Cantor Poetry Prize contest (both now closed until April), the Western Slope Poet Laureate award in collaboration with Grand Junction's Center of the Arts (given every two years), the San Miguel County Poet Laureate collaboration (given every two years), the annual Karen Chamberlain lifetime achievement award given in collaboration with the Mountain Words Festival of Crested Butte, and the MycoLicious MycoLuscious MycoLogical Poetry Show in conjunction with the annual Telluride Mushroom Festival.



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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

KELVIN KENT SHARES ICONIC HIMALAYAN CLIMBING EXPERIENCES



Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Imagine what it would be like to get 14 tons of equipment to the base of an unclimbed peak in the Himalayas – a peak that has never been climbed before. Picture yourself on an iconic expedition that took place before there were any roads, no possibility of helicopter support, no cell phone or digital communication.

On Friday Oct. 4 at 7pm, in Baldridge Hall of the Montrose United Methodist Church, team member Kelvin Kent will present a powerful narrated visual show highlighting the obstacles and difficulties of scaling two of the most famous world climbs. Conducted over 50 years ago, the teams set out to conquer the south face of Annapurna in the pre-monsoon season and the southwest face of Everest in the post monsoon season.

The program is free; contributions can be made towards the historic church building that is undergoing restoration work. Entry is off of South First Street in Montrose and the presentation will last about an hour. Refreshments will be available. Kelvin has resided in Montrose and Ouray since 1976 and has participated in many world-wide expeditions. He is the published author of five books, with three being local hiking guides.

He is a Fellow of the British Royal Geographical Society and served as a British army officer for 16 years, mainly in the Far East, before coming to Colorado, where he owned three small businesses and became a community leader and highly successful in the area of fundraising. His wife is retired Montrose dentist, Becky Lindsay.

Kelvin Kent gained a wealth of experiences serving with the British Royal Geographic Society and British army. He will share some spine-tingling stories Friday, Oct. 4 at 7 pm at the Montrose United Methodist Church. Courtesy photo.



PRESERVING HISTORY AND OUR HERITAGE: SLIDE SHOW

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-On Oct. 2, The Montrose County Historical Society will be hosting Chris Miller, Executive Director of the Interpretive Association of Western Colorado (IAWC), who will present a slideshow, Preserving History and Our Heritage, highlighting eight projects that the non-profit organization administered over the past 15 years. The program addresses the Celebration of Diverse Places, Traditions, and Stories. At the heart of the projects is the preservation of Western Colorado's cultural heritage and landscapes. It is open to the public and will start at 7 pm.



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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.

COMMUNITY SPIRIT CHURCH

United Church of Christ (UCC)

Address: 504 N. 1st Street (HAP Building)

Office hours: Call or text for appointment

Phone: 970-765-7070

Email: spirit@communityspiritucc.org

Website: communityspiritucc.org

Current Pastor: Rev. Wendy Kidd

Worship service: Sundays at 11am

Mission: Our commitment to a more inclu-
sive and accepting world is steadfast, and
we will continue to work towards a future

where everyone can live freely and au-
thentically.

Demographics: We are a small congrega-
tion of mostly adults and seniors, however,
we are always ready to welcome families
and children.

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. 10AM on Satur-
days with potluck at Noon. Children's
Church will be offered as needed.

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.

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY From previous pg

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 older 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, info@fpcmontrose.com, www.fpcmontrose.com

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jesse G. Mabanglo

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

support one another through spiritual growth, worship, and service in our community, country, and world. We also encourage children and youth to grow their relationship with Christ through our children and student ministries.

HILLCREST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Denomination affiliation: United Church of Christ

Address: 611 South Hillcrest Drive, Montrose, CO 81401

Office hours: By appointment

Contact information:

Phone number: (970) 249-9047

Email address: office@montroseucc.org

Website: montroseucc.org

Current Pastor: Rev. Wendy Kidd

Worship service times: Sunday, 10 a.m.

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

on life's journey.

Church demographics: HCUCC welcomes all ages to worship with

us. (predominately family, youth, seniors, singles)

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

MONTROSE MISSION OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH

Affiliation: Orthodox

Meets: 2057 S. Townsend, Montrose, CO

81401 and Cimarron Creek Clubhouse.

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

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

MONTROSE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Denomination Affiliation: United Methodist

Address: 19 S. Park Avenue Montrose CO. 81401

Office Hours: M-Thu, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Contact Information: 970-249-3716, office@montroseumc.org, [mont-](http://montroseumc.org)

montroseumc.org

Current Senior Pastor: Rev. Kevin Young

Worship service times:

8:30 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual

9:45 a.m. Christian Education & Fellowship

11 a.m. Sanctuary

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

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

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

ROSEMONT BAPTIST CHURCH

Affiliation: Southern Baptist

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

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

Contact information:

Phone: 970.249.4887

website: www.RosemontBaptist.org

email: office@rosemontbaptist.org

Senior Pastor: Rolland Kenneson

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

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

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

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

matter what stage of life they are in.

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

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

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY *From previous pg*

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-](mailto:ststephensmontrose@yahoo.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).

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 a.m. followed by a time of fellowship and snacks.

Beginning Sept. 8 we will have a family Bible study, "Who's in Charge?" following fellowship from 10:45-11:30 a.m. All family members are welcome.

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

Camp.

We have communion on the first Sunday of each month and meet later in the day for a potluck dinner at 5:30 p.m., followed by a prayer session at 6:30 p.m.

Please visit [https://](https://www.summitchurchmontrose.org/events)

www.summitchurchmontrose.org/events for more information.

Summit Church welcomes people of all ages!

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?

HEALTHY RHYTHM CONCERT SERIES PRESENTS

ALICE DI MICELE

LIVE AT

HEALTHY
RHYTHM
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THUR OCT 17

DOORS 7

SHOW 7:30

***“Alice’s music has that
great combination of
earthiness & groove that
keeps it funky from the inside
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ADVANCE SEATS \$20 · DAY OF SHOW \$25

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WWW.HEALTHYRHYTHM.NET * ALICEDIMICELE.COM





Friday, Dec. 6th • 9:30am to 6pm
Saturday, Dec. 7th • 9am to 4pm
Sunday, Dec. 8th • 11am to 4pm

Montrose County Fairgrounds Friendship Hall

For Vendor Information call

Debbie 970.531.2438 or email montrosefootwear@aol.com

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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-

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

Oct. 2-Project 7 Water Authority invites the public to learn more about the Regional Water Supply & Resiliency Program at a Community Open House on Wednesday, Oct. 2, from 4 to 6 p.m. at the location of the proposed new water treatment plant (35679 US-550) Just south of Colona on the west side of the highway. Parking available onsite at the large green barn.

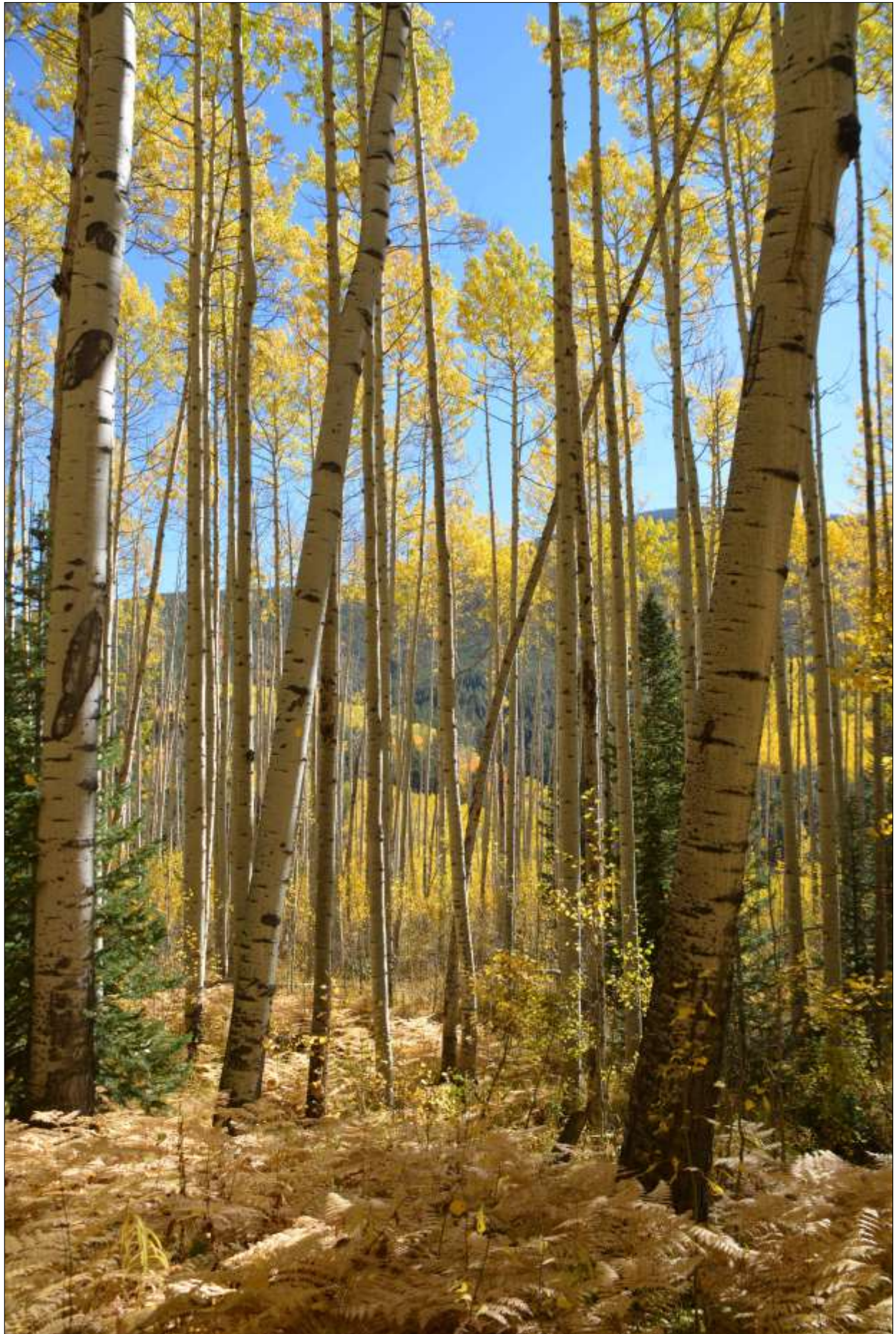
Oct. 2 -The Montrose County Historical Society will be hosting Chris Miller, Executive Director of the Interpretive Association of Western Colorado (IAWC) will present a slideshow, Preserving History and Our Heritage, highlighting eight projects that the non-profit organization administered over the past 15 years. The program addresses the Celebration of Diverse Places, Traditions, and Stories. At the heart of the projects is the preservation of Western Colorado's cultural heritage and landscapes. It is open to the public and will start at 7 pm.

Oct. 5-From 9am-noon Unc Watershed Cleanup at Ridgway State Park. Join the Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership and Colorado Parks & Wildlife at Ridgway State Park for a cleanup around Ridgway Reservoir. Volunteers will meet inside the Dutch Charlie Entrance of the park at the marina boat ramp. All ages are welcome! More details and what to bring will be shared after sign-up:<https://www.uncompahgrewatershed.org/event/2024-unc-watershed-cleanup-at-ridgway-state-park/>

Oct. 5 & 6 - SCARECROW FESTIVAL 10am-4pm. Scarecrows will be descending on the Montrose Botanic Gardens -- and all will be up for bids in a silent auction, as well as other items of fall decor. Kids' activities, face painting & fall crafts. The Montrose Library's Bookmobile will join us on Saturday only. Come in costume if you like! Free admission; donations always welcome.

Oct. 18-Montrose Area Woodturners will host their 2024 Art Exhibition and Sale, Friday, Oct. 18, 4 pm - 7 pm at the Cobble Creek Clubhouse 699 Cobble Dr.

READER PHOTO SPOTLIGHT: DEB REIMANN



Photographer Deb Reimann snapped this bit of gold....aspen and ferns near Crested Butte.