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the Montrose Mirror

'THEY HAVE SPOKEN, AND THEY HAVE SAID NO' City Council votes 3-2 to deny liquor license

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-With an all-ages crowd filling the room, Mayor J. David Reed opened the regular Montrose City Council meeting of Tuesday, Dec. 17. "Good evening, ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls," Reed said, and led in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

All city councilors were present. There was one change to the meeting agenda, as Item 14 was moved up after Item 9.

Mayor Reed took time to honor the Centennial Middle School students who wrote essays on the challenges facing the City of Montrose. "It's really great to see the future of our community," Mayor Reed said. "These kids are wonderful." The Mayor presented the You Make a Difference Award to Jolene Wurst, for her volunteer work on behalf of the Friends of the Library book sales.



Despite wintry weather, interested citizens showed up for the Montrose City Council meeting of Dec. 17, to ask questions, comment, register concerns, and for some, to be honored for their work on behalf of the community. Mirror staff photo.

Continued pg 36

PROJECT 7 MEMBERS MEET WITH PROJECT 7 WATER AUTHORITY AS COST OF RESILIENCY PROJECT SOARS



In attendance for the Project 7 Water Authority December 19, 2024 monthly board meeting were (center L to R) Montrose residents Brian White and David White, not related. During public comment Brian White addressed the board, "I've lived here 39 years. How many times has there been a problem with the [Gunnison] Tunnel?"

Story and photos by Gail Marvel

MONTROSE-The Project 7 Water Authority Board held their monthly board meeting on Dec. 19. The meeting agenda, posted on the front door, was available to attendees when requested.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jake Foreman. During the meeting there were no introductions of board members, alternates, staff, advisors, and administrative subcontractors, making titles and roles of those speaking difficult to ascertain. Roll call for board members present was taken; however, when Delta Representative Kevin Carlson arrived late, there was no mention of adding his name to the roll call.

Minutes of the Oct. 24, 2024, meeting were approved and there were no changes to the agenda.

Background:
Resiliency Project Advisor

Continued pg 26

UPDATED GUIDELINES FOR LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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

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

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

Thank you,
Caitlin Switzer,
Montrose Mirror Editor

THE MONTROSE MIRROR

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

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

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DIVISION OF INSURANCE ASKS COLORADANS TO BE CAREFUL WHEN SHOPPING FOR HEALTH INSURANCE

Special to the Mirror

DENVER - The Colorado Division of Insurance (DOI), part of the Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA), offers a reminder that open enrollment for individual market health insurance (for people that don't get their insurance from an employer) continues until **January 15**. The DOI encourages people who haven't chosen coverage for 2025 to take advantage of this time to enroll plans that meet the robust benefit requirements of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), because quality health insurance is a key component in maintaining one's health and the health of one's family.

If you or a family member need help determining what kind of questions to ask when considering health insurance, or you just want some assistance decoding the language of a health plan, contact the Division of Insurance Consumer Services Team: 303-894-7490 / DOI_Insurance@state.co.us / doi.colorado.gov (click on "File a Complaint").



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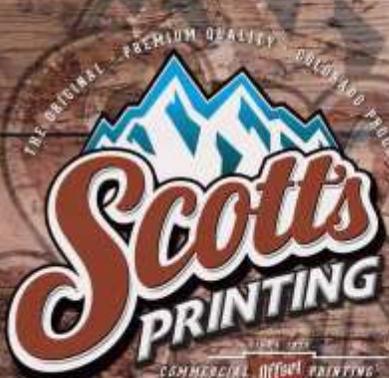
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CITIZEN'S CLIMATE LOBBY TO MEET JAN. 7

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-On Tuesday Jan. 7 at 5 Citizens' Climate Lobby meets at Montrose library meeting rm. Progress on recycle building codes with Montrose County Commissioners. Nonpartisan, National, Environmental. All Welcome info 970-765-9095.



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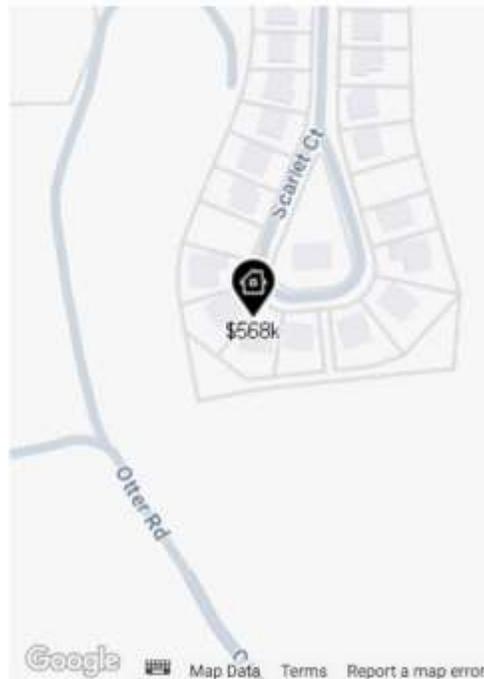
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

FOREST SERVICE OFFICES CLOSE FOR CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS

Special to the Mirror

DELTA — The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests announce it will close its offices Wednesday, Dec. 25, 2024, and Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2025, in observance of Christmas and New Year's Day, both federal holidays. Please plan accordingly for any of your GMUG National Forest needs. Offices will resume regular business hours Thursday, Dec. 26, 2024, and Thursday, Jan. 2, 2025. While Forest Service offices will be closed, permits for firewood can still be pur-

chased [online](#) or at any of the following locations:
-Paonia Flower Shop—201 Grand Avenue, Paonia, Colorado; (970) 527-4664
-Desperado General Store—40486 D Road, Crawford, Colorado; (970) 921-5665
-Gambles Work Wear—178 E. Bridge Street, Hotchkiss, CO; (970) 872-8002
If you are planning to purchase Christmas tree permits, you have the option to buy them online by visiting <https://www.recreation.gov/tree-permits/gmug> or in person at any of the following loca-

tions:
-Valley Ranch Supply—57454 Highway 330, Collbran, CO; (970) 487-3000
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-Odin Recreation—10964 Hwy 65, Mesa, CO; (970) 618-7062
-Desperado General Store—40486 D Road, Crawford, CO; (970) 921-5655
-Gambles Work Wear and Gambles Too—178 E. Bridge Street, Hotchkiss, CO; (970) 872-3535
-Paonia Flower Shop—301 Grand Avenue, Paonia, CO; (970) 527-4664
-Crested Butte Chamber of Commerce—601 Elk Avenue, Crested Butte, CO; (970) 349-6438
-Fullmers Ace Hardware—820 W. Tomichi Avenue, Gunnison, CO; (970) 939-7433
All GMUG Christmas tree permits expire at midnight Dec. 31, 2024.
For information and updates on current fire restrictions, conditions, and recreation opportunities on the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests, visit the [forest website](#). Connect with us on social media ([X](#) (Twitter) and [Facebook](#)).



FACTS & FICTION

Is it true the City of Montrose is providing a new platform for locals to stay informed and engaged with all of the great things happening here in Montrose?

Yes... "Montrose Lifestyle" is a digital magazine for Montrosians, neighbors, visitors, businesses, and other stakeholders, a digital city square, and an action catalyst for personal and professional success, relocation, and visitation. The City has partnered with [Montroselifestyle.com](#) to provide current and timely community information, a community calendar, a community job board, a podcast, an online marketplace for "Made in Montrose" products, and so much more. It is a new campaign and it is a work in progress. As you move through our new platform, please reach out anytime to offer suggestions or to ask any clarifying questions. We are really trying to create a system of communication for locals to hear from locals, but in a safe, positive and comfortable environment. There will be no place at [Montroselifestyle.com](#) for negativity and chaotic misinformation. We are so excited about this new project and we hope you are too!

We have a few hundred followers so far, but we would love to cross the 1,000 mark before the end of January. If you want to be "in the know" on all city projects and want to learn the "why" behind the many things going on in Montrose, you will want to sign up for our Montrose Lifestyle website and newsletter. Please visit: [montroselifestyle.com](#) and click on subscribe to get started. Have a wonderful holiday season!

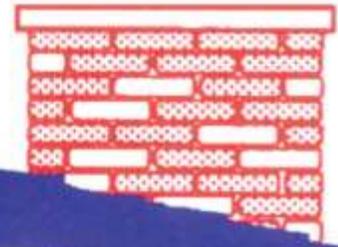
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE COUNTY APPROVES \$24 MILLION FOR NORTH CAMPUS BUILDING

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— Montrose County Commissioners approved a \$24 million contract with Stryker & Company to construct a new county building at the December 18, 2024 board meeting. The new facility will

house critical county departments including Human Services, Public Health, Human Resources, and Finance.

The decision to build a new campus follows years of planning dating back to 2021, and a comprehensive assessment of

the current South Campus building, constructed in the 1960s. Despite significant maintenance and renovations, the building requires substantial repairs estimated to cost just over \$49 million.

The new county campus is located near the Justice Center, and will offer improved access to essential county services for Montrose County residents. This modern facility will provide a more efficient and convenient experience for both community members and county staff.

“This investment is essential to ensure the long-term sustainability and effectiveness of county government,” said Commissioner Roger Rash. “The new campus will provide a facility that meets the needs of our community for years to come.”

Construction on the new campus is expected to begin immediately, with an anticipated completion date of August 31, 2026.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE REGIONAL HEALTH ANNOUNCES MONTROSE'S FIRST GASTROENTEROLOGIST, DR. MICHAEL PAOLUCCI

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE – Montrose Regional Health is continuing to grow with the community, announcing Montrose’s first gastroenterologist with the arrival of Dr. Michael Paolucci at Montrose Regional Health.

“We are excited to welcome our community’s first gastroenterologist, Dr. Michael Paolucci,” says Jeff Mengershausen, CEO of Montrose Regional Health. “Caring for you like family means increasing access to the care you need right here in Montrose. Dr. Paolucci is an experienced physician

diagnosing and treating digestive health. We are happy to offer our communities even more advanced care, right here at home.”

Dr. Paolucci has over 27 years of experience in gastroenterology, including diagnosing and treating GI issues, colon cancer screenings, colonoscopies, upper endoscopies, interventional/advanced endoscopy, and more. Dr. Paolucci is board-certified in Gastroenterology & Internal Medicine.

Before coming to Montrose Regional



Health, Dr. Paolucci practiced in Colorado Springs at the fastest-growing and largest gastroenterology practice in southern Colorado. Paolucci is excited to be at Montrose Regional Health. “I’m eager to practice in a rural area again,” said Dr. Paolucci. “I wanted to be at a hospital where I am free to make the best decision for the patient, and I am excited to be where the patient is truly the focus of what we do.”

The new service means patients in the Montrose region have access to expertise in diagnosing, treating, and supporting individuals with gastrointestinal concerns. Dr. Paolucci is located in the new Ambulatory Care Center building at 3330 S. Rio Grande Ave. in Montrose and is accepting new patients.

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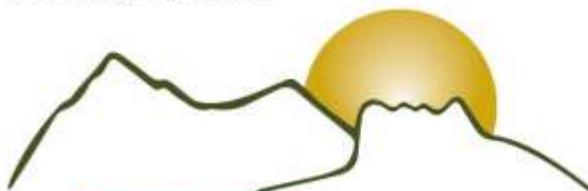
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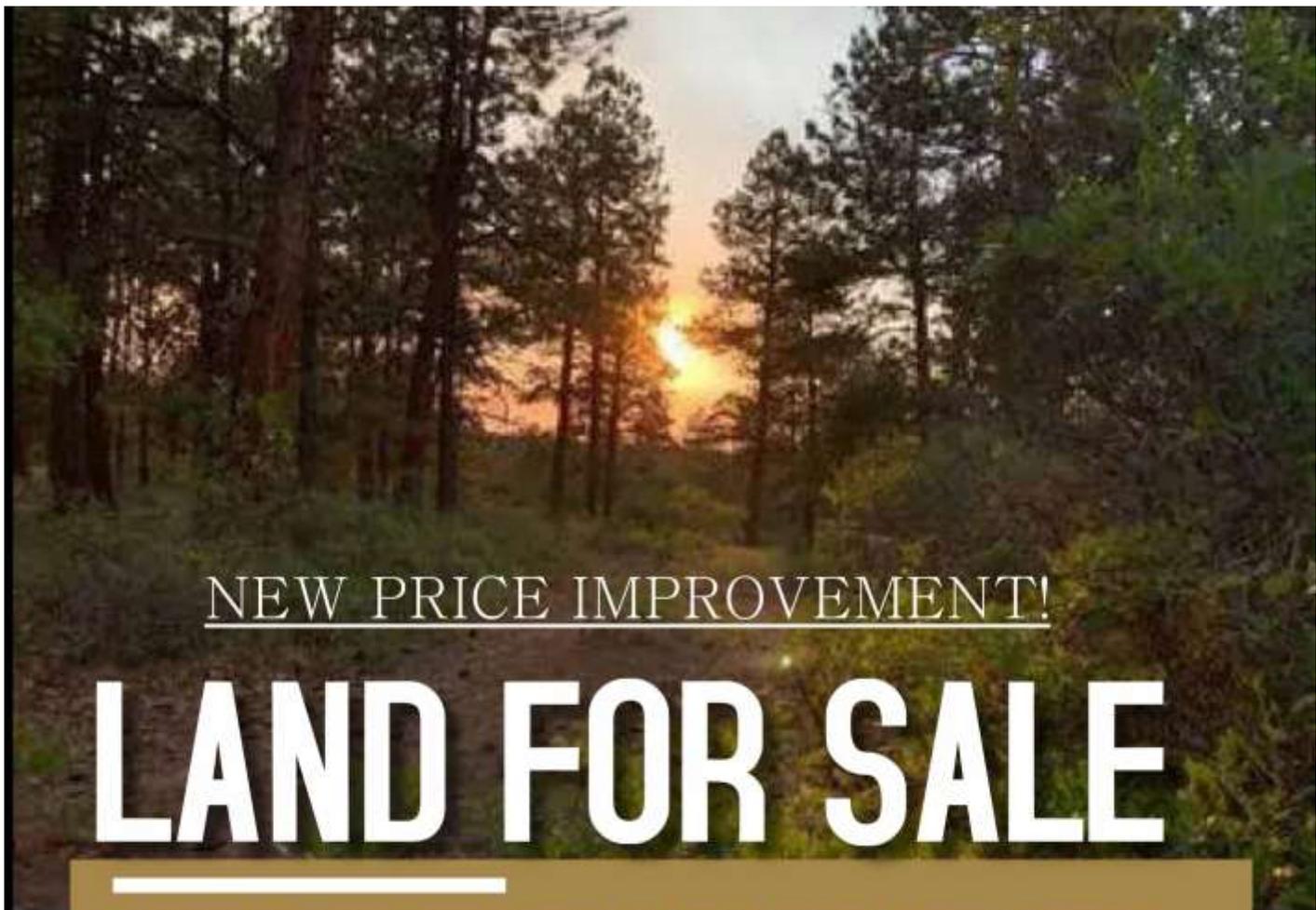
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BOCC APPROVES NORTH CAMPUS PROJECT IN FINAL MEETING OF 2024



Montrose County Sheriff Gene Lillard presented the annual Public Safety Sales Tax Report. Meeting Screenshot.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-The Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) worked through a busy end-of-year agenda on Wednesday, Dec. 18. BOCC Chair Roger Rash opened the meeting, and all joined in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

All commissioners were present.

Pastor Roland Kassales of Victory Baptist Church delivered the invocation. "...We ask your help, you give us every breath that we breathe...Lord we are grateful to live here, we just ask that you would bless this meeting..."

Chairman Rash expressed thanks for all the pastors who come to bless commissioner meetings throughout the year. "...It has really been important to us that that happens...we do appreciate it very much."

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

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

COUNTY MANAGER

County Manager Frank Rodriguez had no changes to the meeting agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioners approved Consent Agenda items, with Res 60-2024 assigned to Item 15.

MONTROSE COUNTY LOCAL LIQUOR LICENSING AUTHORITY

Commissioners left regular session to reconvene as the Montrose County Local Liquor Licensing Authority, voting to approve an application for a Liquor Sales Room for Cottonwood Cellars at 5482

Hwy. 348.

Rash thanked Liquor Licensing Clerk (and City Clerk) Lisa DelPiccolo and thanked the City of Montrose for allowing her to assist.

GENERAL BUSINESS AND ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

The first three general business items were for Montrose Regional Airport.

Commissioners voted to approve the 5th (Fifth) Amendment to the On-Call Architectural and Engineering Services Agreement entered into 12/19/2023 with Cor-gan Associates Inc. for Design, Bidding and Construction Services for the Monumental Sign for Montrose Regional Airport as detailed in Exhibit A, for a not to exceed amount of \$25,851.

The designers will present choices, Director of Aviation Lloyd Arnold said. "We're going to get three concepts...it's going to be a rather large sign, we want it to be prominent, say welcome to Montrose, and be representative of our community."

Commissioners also voted to approve the award of the Request for Proposals for the Floor Covering Replacement Project at Montrose Regional Airport. Guthries Floor Coverings, LLC was the only responsive bidder. This represents a budgeted one-time expense in the amount of \$60,736.20.

Commissioners approved Change Order Number 1 in reference to the Parking Lot Reconstruction, to include Non-Federal items, for a total increase of \$404,501.04, bringing the total cost of the project from \$1,295,255.84 to \$1,699,756.88.

"Thank you, Merry Christmas," Arnold said.

County Attorney Marti Whitmore introduced Resolution 62-2024, extending a moratorium of acceptance of new applications for power generation uses in Montrose County for six months. The extension will allow the new board of County Commissioners to address the issue in January and beyond, she said.

Commissioner Sue Hansen said, "When we do these moratoriums it really crops up some emotion and some thoughts that we're trying to eliminate solar from Montrose County; nothing could be further from the truth, we're just trying to get these regs right. Turns out it's pretty com-

plicated...a new board's coming in in January and we felt like that was a more prudent approach, to get their input and move forward with this..."

Chairman Rash said that neighbors need to be protected as well. "...What I don't want to see...is our entire valley filled with solar panels and wind farms...it's not pretty...I still have a problem with our state and federal government creating the crisis, putting our farmers in harm's way financially by creating artificial inflation in oil and gas, fertilizers, all those things. "They create the crisis and dump the solution onto us and we are obligated to do something to save the farm when in fact they created the crisis. To me that's wrong."

Rash gave kudos to staff and to planning commission members for their work. The BOCC voted two to one, with Rash opposed, to approve Resolution 62-2024.

Commissioners considered authorizing the Chair's signature on a bid award and contract in the amount of \$24,039,967.20 to Stryker & Company, Inc., for construction of the Montrose County North Campus Construction Project. The contract amount consists of Stryker & Company's base bid of \$22,895,206.86, and the County's five-percent Owner contingency of \$1,144,760.34. The Stryker & Company, Inc bid was the lowest responsive bid. The project is anticipated to start on or after Dec. 18, 2024 and be completed by Aug. 31, 2026. The item represents a budgeted expense.

Facilities Director Jennifer Murray said that the team is working to find further cost savings through value engineering.

Commissioner-Elect Scott Mijares asked to be allowed to comment.

"When we are done sir," Rash said.

"There is a process here."

Mijares asked if he could speak from the floor or the podium.

Rash said, "When we are done with our questions you can present 'em from the podium."

County Manager Frank Rodriguez said that value engineering efforts will take the users of the building into account, and commended Jennifer Murray and her staff for the work they are doing.

BOCC APPROVES NORTH CAMPUS PROJECT from previous pg

The building has been reviewed, discussed, and talked about, Commissioner Sue Hansen said. "We do have a South Campus that's in need of being replaced," Hansen said, adding that the staff has had to endure 'bats in the belfry.'

"You have to take care of your employees, you have to take care of your facilities and buildings," she said, noting that the process has been ongoing since 2021.

BOCC Vice Chair Keith Caddy said it would cost more to restore the old building, and the option of using an unfinished structure at the Colorado Outdoors also will not work.

Hansen said that the Colorado Outdoors URA was developed for taxpaying entities.

Murray said that experts were called in to evaluate the old South Campus building. Shoring is needed, and there is significant structural movement in the old building. If the North Campus is approved, the county will need to operate from the old building for the next two years. "...A lot of the building is not ADA -compliant, and that's a huge issue these days..."

Cost estimates are around \$50 Million for the 75,000 square-foot structure even before structural issues are addressed, she said.

Rash said, "A past County Commissioner by the name of David White is writing stuff in the press about us blaming that board—well, I will put the onus on that board, 'coz they could've fixed this building at half the cost. Just like they could've fixed the courthouse at half the cost. Instead, they decided to build an event center, which delayed everything...now we are paying probably 50 percent more...Keith and I could've gotten this going immediately...kicking the can down the road has financial consequences...these are all ongoing issues that were left to Keith Caddy and I to resolve...so this board has worked their tail off. For Mr. White to write comments in that publication is despicable, and he owns that."

Commissioner Sue Hansen reminded Rash that there are actually three members of the Board of County Commissioners. "This investment is not without some caution...we have some unknowns in the future. It's not without really a lot of care to make sure that this is the right deci-

sion...we are left without options in this case, there are some sacrifices that will have to be made...there are some uncertainties we have to take into account..." Rash said that the building needs to be addressed. Also, "When I came in the courthouse was a mess..."

Commissioner-Elect Scott Mijares spoke. He said that many of his comments had already been addressed during the meeting, but read his prepared remarks. "...As County Commissioners we are responsible for all of the county's assets on behalf of the taxpayers. Among our many responsibilities are that we are authorized to enter into contracts on behalf of the county....as County Commissioner Elect...I am concerned that this board is considering a \$24 Million dollar contract to build a North Campus facility on the next to last meeting of its term without the consultation of the two incoming county commissioners representing the majority of the new board...we need time to digest it, distill it, and test it out to see if what has been said is actually true...if the building is unsafe, where will our 100+ County employees report to work for the next 21 months, and are there any feasible options being considered? These are questions that the taxpayers deserve answers to before the board executes a \$24 Million contract that may limit more sensible solutions to this difficult situation."

Although the BOCC had spent time discussing why the half-finished building in the Colorado Outdoors Complex is not a viable option, Mijares suggested that there might be a deal to be made there. "...it's pretty much a blank canvas right now...whatever damage there is is probably minimal considering the quality of the construction...it's worth looking into...it would reduce the time of construction considerably...my last remark is that we had a considerable Consent Agenda here...some of the issues are pretty routine...I would really like to know more about some of the things that got passed in one vote."

Facilities Director Jennifer Murray made some follow-up comments.

Chairman Rash said that if Mijares were attending meetings he would have realized that the building has been vetted,

and that it would be a mistake to attempt to buy a building that is involved in litigation like the Colorado Outdoors building. "Also...all of the items on the Consent Agenda are gone over...so do your homework sir..."

Hansen said the county has done its due diligence and is proceeding because there is a need. "This is not something we started last Tuesday...your accusations are unwelcome and unwarranted...I am ready to make a motion..."

Commissioner Elect Rick Dunlap also spoke, "My comments are on the portion of the building that's going to require immediate attention. As it stands currently none of those employees will have to be moved out of that section...when they get into this and find that it may entail more, have we looked at places to put those employees so they can still provide service to the public?"

Murray said yes, that if pockets of staff need to be relocated there are spaces in the building and there are rental opportunities. "But services would...not be centralized."

Rash discussed possible options, "...We have office space, and we have put a lot of thought into this. This has been a long process. It hasn't just been slammed on the table..."

Dunlap said that his concerns are for the safety of the employees who must work in the building and the safety of the public that enters the building.

"Thank you sir, we appreciate the comments," Rash said.

County Manager Frank Rodriguez said that staff has been working with structural engineers, who have confirmed no safety concerns. Still, "We as your staff are postured to make the right decision...we will not jeopardize our employees or the public safety..."

It would cost at least \$23 Million to rehabilitate the structure at the Colorado Outdoors, and probably more, Rodriguez noted.

Commissioners voted to authorize the Chair's signature on a [bid award](#) and [contract](#) in the amount of \$24,039,967.20 to Stryker & Company, Inc., for construction of the Montrose County North Campus Construction Project, as reviewed by

BOCC APPROVES NORTH CAMPUS PROJECT from previous pg

by Counsel.

PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE

Public works Director Rick Nichols presented the Montrose County Road and Bridge Sales and Use Tax Presentation, recapping 2024 projects, planned 2025 projects, and future projects.

PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX REPORT

Sheriff Gene Lillard presented the [annual Public Safety Sales Tax Report](#).

EMERGENCY MANAGER SCOTT HAWKINS

Commissioners voted to approve [Resolution Number 61-2024](#) as presented by Emergency Manager Scott Hawkins, adopting the [updated 2024 Montrose County Base Emergency Operating Plan \(EOP\)](#). This Base EOP will supersede the 2021 Montrose County Emergency Operating Plan adopted Dec. 15, 2021 by Resolution #60-2021. In 2024 the State Division of Homeland Security Emergency Management (DHSEM) required all Counties

participating in Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) to update their County Base EOP to meet the 2024 State-identified critical, base, and enhanced criteria. Montrose County's 2024 EOP has been revised to meet those requirements.

SOUTHWEST OPIOID REGIONAL COUNCIL

Commissioner Sue Hansen presented two items for approval, related to the Southwest Colorado Opioid Regional Council (SWCORG). Commissioners voted to approve:

- [an agreement with Janet Rowland to provide services](#) for SWCORG in furtherance of the goals enumerated in the SWCORG two-year plan; and
- [An agreement with Cole Cooper to provide services](#) for SWCORG in furtherance of the goals enumerated in the SWCORG two year plan.

"Thank you Sue for working on this,"

BOCC Chair Roger Rash said. "It is such an important thing for our citizens to get the treatments and the stuff to change their lives."

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioners voted to approve items on the Planning and Development Consent Agenda.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT GENERAL BUSINESS

The BOCC approved the Heller Subdivision Waiver Request based on the findings of fact. after hearing from the applicant and asking questions.

After hearing from the applicant and asking questions, commissioners also approved the Prestige Landscaping LLC Rezone [RZ24-002] proposal to rezone from General Residential (R) to General Business (B). Business Owner Maria Chavez was present to discuss the situation and provide background information. An [objection from a neighbor](#) is included in the meeting packet; Ms. Chavez' [testimony](#), which she presented in person, is also in the meeting packet.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:47am.

Welcome

Delta Health is excited to welcome **JESS SHELTON**, Executive Director to the Delta Health Foundation team.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

EXPRESS EMPLOYMENT EXPANDING TO INCLUDE HEALTHCARE STAFFING

Special to the Mirror

GRAND JUNCTION— Express Employment of Grand Junction/Montrose is excited to announce the expansion of its service offerings with the addition of healthcare staffing. This strategic move will provide comprehensive healthcare staffing solutions to medical facilities across the Western Slope.

To lead this new strategic partnership, Express is thrilled to welcome Sehra Smothers as the franchise owner of *Express Healthcare Staffing Colorado*. A Colorado native and experienced healthcare professional, Sehra brings over two decades of clinical expertise to the team. Her extensive background in various specialties, including Cardiovascular Care Unit (CVCU), Gastroenterology, Pain Management, Spine, and Radiation Oncology, combined with her leadership experience in roles such as Administrator, Director of Nursing, and Clinical Director, makes her uniquely qualified to drive the success of this new offering.

“We are thrilled to have Sehra as a strategic partner to lead our new healthcare staffing venture,” said Nina Anderson, Owner/CEO of Express Employment of Grand Junction/Montrose. “Her passion for healthcare and deep understanding of the industry will be invaluable as we work to meet the growing demand for skilled healthcare professionals on the Western Slope.”

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RED HAWK GIRLS WINNERS AT BLACK CANYON CLASSIC

By Cliff Dodge

MONTROSE-The Montrose Red Hawks girls and boys basketball teams hosted their second basketball tournament of the season over the weekend, as both teams manhandled the competition in each of the three games they played. The victories improved the overall season records of both the boys and the girls teams to 8-1 as the players move into the Christmas vacation as mandated by the Colorado High School Activities Association (CHSAA). The next action for both teams will be on Jan. 7 as the Basalt Longhorns come calling.

RED HAWK GIRLS 45, PAGOSA SPRINGS 37

The Red Hawks opened up play in the Timberline Bank/Black Canyon Classic by defeating the Pagosa Springs Pirates 45-37. The opening quarter set the tone for the entire tournament as the Red Hawks raced out to a 13-point lead as the Pirates were unable to score a single point on the scoreboard. Five Red Hawk players hit the scoring column with Junior Mayce Oberg (17 points) and Junior Maggie Legg (16 points) leading the way. Junior Lilly Nelson led the way on the backboards with 8 rebounds including a pair on the offensive glass. The Red Hawks shot 47 percent from 2-point range, had seven assists, eight steals and turned the basketball over 19 times.



The Montrose girls fight for a rebound vs the Glenwood Springs Demons. Photo by Cliff Dodge.

RED HAWK GIRLS 38, PUEBLO CENTRAL WILDCATS 16

The Montrose Red Hawks used a smothering defense to completely frustrate the visiting Pueblo South Wildcats as the home team raced out to a 25-4 lead after two quarters of action on Friday evening. Coach Steve Skiff's team substituted liberally throughout the second half of action, and the teams actually played even-even throughout the third and fourth quarters. Two juniors, Lilly Nelson and Maggie Legg, led all scorers with 11 points each. Six other Red Hawks also placed their names on the scoresheet. Lilly Nelson was dominant on the backboards as she captured 10 rebounds including 5 on the offensive glass. The Red Hawks passed out seven assists, had eight steals and only turned the basketball over 11 times.

RED HAWKS 45, GLENWOOD SPRINGS DEMONS 24

The Montrose Red Hawks established dominance early in their Saturday afternoon contest as they sprinted out to a 21-6 lead after one quarter of action. The outcome of the game was no longer in doubt as the Red Hawks starting five continued playing a strong defense to go along with a dynamic offense that the Wildcats were unable to handle. Leading the way on the Red Hawks scoresheet was Junior Maggie Legg, who tallied 16 points. Junior Kendall Johnson and Senior Brooke Williams each added 9 points to the Red Hawks total while Junior Lilly Nelson scored 8 points.

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RED HAWK BOYS WINNERS AT BLACK CANYON CLASSIC



C. J. Rocco prepares to grab a rebound vs Glenwood Springs on Saturday afternoon. Photo by Cliff Dodge.

By Cliff Dodge

MONTROSE-The Montrose Red Hawks boys and girls basketball teams hosted their second basketball tournament of the season over the weekend as both teams manhandled the competition in each of the three games played last weekend. The victories improved the overall season records of both the boys and the girls teams to 8-1, as the players move into the Christmas vacation as mandated by the Colorado High School Activities Association (CHSAA). The next action for both teams will be on Jan. 7 as the Basalt Longhorns come calling.

RED HAWKS 53, PAGOSA SPRINGS PIRATES 35

The Montrose Red Hawks hosted the Pirates in their tournament opener on Thursday evening at the fieldhouse, and did it convincingly by the score of 53 to 35. The Red Hawks quickly ran out to a 12-5 lead after one period of play. The margin improved to 30-9 at the half and things never got any better for the Pirates. Junior C.J. Rocco and Senior Caleb Ferguson led all scorers with 14 points each. Senior Brekin Hutto also hit double figures as he dropped 10 points on the offensive end. Ferguson also led the team with 6 rebounds. The Red Hawks passed out 10 assists, had nine steals, and only turned the basketball over 15 times.

RED HAWKS 54, PUEBLO CENTRAL WILD-



The Red Hawks play defense vs Glenwood Springs. Photo by Cliff Dodge.

CATS 40

The next challenge was presented by the Wildcats of Pueblo Central High School, a team with height, quickness, and a physical presence. The two teams played evenly throughout the first quarter of action, but the Red Hawks outscored the Wildcats in the second quarter to lead by the score of 24 to 16 at the halfway point. The Red Hawks continued to play a tough defense to go with a motion offense that saw the Red Hawks increase their lead by 3 points in both the third and fourth quarters. The final score, 54-40, a physical, hard-fought contest with the Red Hawks on top by 14 points. Senior Caleb Ferguson led a very balanced score effort for the Red Hawks as he scored 20 points. Senior Brody Cooling had 10 points while Brekin Hutton added 9. Junior Lane Pressler chipped in with 8 points and C. J. Rocco added 7 points.

RED HAWKS 62, GLENWOOD SPRINGS DEMONS 36

This reporter sat down with Head Coach

Ryan Voehringer prior to the Saturday afternoon game with the Glenwood Springs Demons, and talked about his season-to-date. I asked Coach how good of a team he has and he replied, "We'll know after we play Glenwood Springs this afternoon."

Given the result, Coach Voehringer seems to have a good group to head into league action come January.

The Red Hawks' 26-point victory was a proper sendoff as the team heads into the Christmas vacation. Eight Red Hawks hit the scoring column as the stout defense combined with a fast-moving offense to leave no doubt as to the outcome. Junior C.J. Rocco led all scorers with 19 points. He was followed closely by senior Caleb Ferguson with 15 points, Senior Brekin Hutto with 10 points and Junior Lane Pressler with 8 points. The game was quite physical as both teams saw bodies hit the deck as the Red Hawk defense assured the home team of a hard-fought victory.

Dear Santa,



Sharing Ministries Food Bank has been very busy this year! Our volunteers have filled boxes, served clients, pushed carts, mopped floors, stocked shelves, delivered food, pulled weeds, fixed trucks, repaired freezers, stuffed envelopes, laughed and cried as we shared with our communities.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

WINTER LOGGING OPERATIONS CONTINUE NEAR TINCUP

Special to the Mirror

GUNNISON-The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests’ Gunnison Ranger District announces winter log hauling in the Tincup area for the Slaughterhouse timber sale. The sale includes a mix of Englemann Spruce and Lodgepole pine units selected to break up fuel continuity around the town of Tincup and the surrounding communities of Rainbow and Murdie subdivisions. These treatments will also help to increase resiliency in Lodgepole pine stands infected with Dwarf Mistletoe. Commercial timber harvest is an important tool for promoting a healthy stand, reducing fuels in Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) areas, increasing forest resiliency to insects and diseases and contributing to the economics of surrounding communities.

During winter operations, one lane of National Forest System Road (NFSR) #765 and #764 will be plowed to facilitate hauling and logging operations. Public access will be maintained for over-the-snow travel on the groomed route paralleling the plowed road to the Tincup cemetery. For public safety, the GMUG will post a Forest Order prohibiting public use on the plowed portion of NFSR #765 & 764. Snow plowing is not expected to block driveways or impede access to private lands. Logging operations will continue throughout the winter, weather permitting.

Now in its second year of winter operations, the Slaughterhouse timber sale, a key part of the Taylor Park Vegetation Management project, is aimed at limiting the spread of the mountain pine beetle and lowering the fire danger around Tincup’s residential areas. “Managing multiple use of our National Forests is a complex responsibility,” said Dayle Funka, Gunnison District Ranger. “My team has been working diligently with the logging operators and the Buena Vista Snowmobile Club to ensure continued public access with over-the-snow vehicles, while utilizing winter haul routes to minimize road damage and maintenance.”

Visitors should pay close attention to all road traffic signs when traveling near the area. Logging operations may occur at any time. However, log truck hauling is restricted to Monday through Friday and will not occur on holidays. Please exercise extreme caution when traveling or recreating near active logging operations.

For more information, please contact the Gunnison Ranger District at (970) 641-0471. For information and updates on current fire restrictions, conditions, and recreation opportunities on the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests, visit the forest website. Connect with us on social media (X (Twitter) and Facebook).



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TRIPLE FATAL CRASH ON HIGHWAY 6- ROADWAY WORKERS STRUCK IN SINGLE VEHICLE CRASH

Colorado State Patrol MESA COUNTY- On Dec. 18, 2024, the Colorado State Patrol arrested suspect Patrick James Sneddon (59). He was booked into the Mesa County Jail on the following charges:



Sneddon . Mesa County Sheriff's Office courtesy photo.

- Three counts of Vehicular Homicide-While Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol or One or More Drugs or Both Such Conduct was the Proximate Cause of a Death to Another Person
 - Two Counts of Failure to Yield Right of Way to a Stationary Public Service Utility Vehicle Resulting in Death (Felony, Move Over Law)
 - Failure to Drive in Single Lane (Weaving)
 - Drove vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or drugs or both.
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CHIPETA WATER DISTRICT HOLDS SPECIAL BUDGET HEARING MEETING



On Dec. 20, the Chipeta Water District board held their 2025 Budget Hearing Meeting. The meeting included an update and discussion on the Project 7 Resiliency Project. (L to R) John McCollum, Chris Lindell, Manager Matthew Collier, Matt Miles, and Dan Quigley. Karen Ball attended by conference call. Photo by Gail Marvel.

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE—On Dec. 20, the Chipeta Water District held a Special Budget Hearing Meeting.

The meeting was called to order by President Kathryn Calkins. Water District Manager Matthew Collier, along with board members John McCollum, Chris Lindell, Matt Miles, and Dan Quigley who were present in person; board member Karen Ball attended by conference call.

The minutes from the Dec. 11 meeting were approved unanimously.

-Resolution to Approve the 2025 Budget – Approved unanimously

-Resolution to Appropriate Sums of Money (to spend funds) - Approved unanimously.

-Resolution to Set Zero Mill Levy (the district gets no property tax but is required to declare so in a resolution) – Approved unanimously.

Discussion Update on Project 7’s proposed Resilience Project – John McCollum, Representative on the Project 7 board; Kathy Calkins Alternate.

McCollum circulated a letter from Montrose City Manager Bill Bell to Project 7 Manager Adam Turner concerning the Resiliency Project.

An excerpt from Bell’s Dec. 9 letter said, *“However, we have serious reservations and concerns with the lack of due diligence and communication between Project 7 and each member entity’s management team and governing body related to the details of financing, debt service, shared cost allocation strategies, and overall financial feasibility for not only Project 7 as an organization, but the financial feasi-*

bility for each member entity. Please be reminded that I brought these concerns up with you and your project management team years ago, but our City’s concerns were not taken into account when moving forward with your project.”

McCollum said, “I think our board should also write a letter. We are not getting the answers we need. We’re confused. We still don’t know the cost. They keep holding the GMP [Guaranteed Maximum Price] over our heads. If we don’t accept this by February prices will likely go up. At this last [Project 7] meeting the GMP sounds like it’s \$159.5 Million, but that doesn’t include the \$10 Million we already spent, or the \$28 Million loan we took out that they say they only need \$17 Million of. This becomes a \$177 Million project. That’s not that far from \$200 Million. I think that’s what they want. I don’t see how we can vote for this when we don’t know what we’re voting for.”

In a roundtable discussion, the board expressed frustration that when they and their attorney attended a Project 7 meeting they were not allowed to ask questions.

Referring to the management team, Quigley said, “This is about Project 7. WE

are project 7. This should not be about Garver, D.A. Davidson, and CDM Smith!”

Matt Miles said, “We need to have our [Chipeta] attorney write a letter.”

Quigley said, “We have a Project 7 Attorney, Sarah Abbott, but she appears to be the attorney for the consultants and contractors. She sits with them on their side of the room and confers with them. After one meeting she went out to supper with the consultants. She’s the Project 7 attorney and is supposed to represent us.”

McCollum said, “In an executive session when Huggins [Rick Huggins, financial management team member] was asked to leave the room, Sarah was using his computer.”

Miles said, “John, I never thought about it before, but you’re right, \$177 Million is only \$13 Million away from \$200 Million!”

McCollum said, “At the last meeting Abbot told us she is actually the DMEA attorney. She is leaving and our new attorney is Scott James from the Front Range.”

Matt Miles said, “Why do we need an attorney from the Front Range?”

Kathy Calkins said, “There are definitely some legal and financial conflicts. In the past Project 7 defaulted on a loan and their credit rating is down. It’s not right the way they are pushing this down our throats.”

Miles said, “There is very little public information. They [consultants and advisors] are supposed to be working for us and they’re working against us.”

McCollum said, “Every time they have an outreach [event] it cost thousands.”

The Chipeta board will hold their Jan. 8th meeting at the County Event Center at 5 p.m. Calkins said, “We’ll have a brief board meeting to approve the minutes. We have invited Miles Graham from Garver, and Greg Swartz from D.A. Davidson. We’ll give them about 30 minutes for their presentation and then open it up for board questions. We are inviting all our [water] tap customers to attend so they can hear for themselves and get their questions answered.”

The meeting is not limited to Chipeta Water District customers but is open to the public.

PROJECT 7 MEMBERS MEET WITH PROJECT 7 WATER AUTHORITY AS COST OF RESILIENCY PROJECT SOARS *From pg 1*

Garver was hired in 2019. CDM Smith and builder McCarthy Constructors (a Design/Build contractor joint venture) were hired in early 2023. McCarthy is not a local contractor; however, they went through a public bid process.

Project 7 has its own financial advisors (Raftis), and Municipal Advisors D.A. Davidson/Spencer Fane (full-service investment services) was hired in the first quarter of 2024. Project 7 Attorney Sarah Abbott was hired in October of 2024.

Public Input:

Montrose resident Brian White said, "I've lived here 39 years. How many times has there been a problem with the [Gunnison] Tunnel? The cost you are putting on the people will be there their whole lives. The money comes from developers... I'd like to understand why? People in the town need to know what's going on. With inflation, how are they going to afford this? It's not fair. It should be something that we should be voting on. It serves 40,000 [Montrose] people. The high school [recently defeated proposal] that was voted on. We keep hearing, if there is a fire [that disrupts water delivery], how do we handle it? That's for the Forest Service and BLM."

White referenced Trump's recent election victory. He said, "Trump won the electoral vote and the popular vote. Now it's seven people [the board] voting, it's not fair. We'd like to see this [proposed project] put in the paper. Let people know what's going on, put it in the paper."

Resiliency Update:

Presenter Deputy Project Manager for Project 7 Miles Graham, subcontracted by Advisor Garver, is not an employee of Project 7. Graham said, "A lot has happened since our last meeting. We have done a lot with community outreach (Montrose Forum, Rotary, High Country Shopper, Montrose Mirror, Montrose Business Times, etc.)" There has been outreach to 228 local (Western Slope) trades and vendors and 66 total bids have been received.

Takeaways:

-The Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) has yet to be locked down.

-After the GMP, Project 7 can start procurement.

-In January Garver representatives will meet with governmental entities.

-A decision on the GMP is projected for February.

-In March the GMP will expire, which would cause price increases.

-The Project 7 Board has already voted to fund 75 percent of the design for the facility.

The total cost projection has been as high as \$187 Million and as low as \$159.5 Million. A presenter stated that the cost today is trending at \$159.5 Million:

-\$110 Million direct

-\$30 Million indirect

-\$9.5 Million design engineering

-\$9 Million Risk

Local participation is one third of the overall project, with \$34 Million spent on the Western Slope suppliers.

Chipeta Board Representative John McCollum said, "Is the \$10 Million we've already expended included [in the \$159.5 Million]?"

Response, "No. The cost that you all have paid and invested is not included."

City of Montrose Representative David Bries said, "That seems deceiving. We need the total project expenditures to date."

Response, "Today, moving forward, we will look at financing in total."

McCollum said, "The \$10 Million initially contracted is already spent." Referring to the contract in the board packet he said, "Any savings should go to the owners. The contract wording says cost savings go to the owners, or it's split. I don't understand where you're coming from. Owners would not agree to split any savings [with contractor/advisors]." The presenters indicated they were not planning to ask for the savings to be split.

Graham said, "We'd like to put agenda item Number Four before Number Three."

Note: Much later in the meeting it was discovered that this meeting had two agendas. One was produced by Project 7 staff, which is the official agenda that dictates action items. The other agenda, produced by D.A. Davidson Municipal Advi-

sors Representative Greg Swartz, appeared only in the board packet.

The Swartz agenda called for the board to take action to formally approve advisory groups made up of personnel from each entity. Swartz said, "The advisory groups would be made up of city managers, town managers, and finance staff. This doesn't change the decision making. It's intended for information flow."

McCollum said, "Our [Project 7's] agenda doesn't advertise any motions [action item], put this on the agenda for the next meeting in January."

Swartz said, "I'd like to get authority to talk to people on that lower level now."

McCollum said, "It's redundant. What we are talking about here."

Swartz said, "In my experience, I have to be talking to the finance people. In the interim, can we talk to the staff in your agency?" Swartz mentioned the need for a Cost Allocation Study.

McCollum said, "It comes with a cost for you to meet with our members. Can we agree that when you talk to people, that will cost us money?"

Swartz said, "I find this a bit puzzling. This is Best Practices. I'll say this as clearly as I can. We have to be transparent. We can't tell you what the impact will be on your organization until we talk to your people. The sooner this happens, the more transparent we can be."

Bries said, "As far as the overall affordability of the project, we need that."

McCollum said, "From my perspective, the slides [PowerPoint] are not in the packet. It's an ongoing problem for me. I don't have information that I can take back to my board. I'd like printed copies of what I'm seeing."

Graham said, "Your point is well taken. We can email it out to you."

Swartz continued to push for forming advisory groups and having a Cost Allocation Study.

Bries said, "In the future we need action items to be on our agenda." Board Chair Foreman concurred, "Yes, agreed. Your agenda is different than our agenda. Action items must be advertised on our agenda."

PROJECT 7 MEMBERS MEET WITH PROJECT 7 WATER AUTHORITY AS COST OF RESILIENCY PROJECT SOARS *From previous pg*

McCollum said, "So we have [to hire] another firm, a Cost Allocation consultant?"

Swartz said, "At some point someone will say, how did this get allocated. Each member agency has expressed concern about allocating cost to them."

The board passed Resolution 2024-8 DOLA EIAF Grant; application for a \$1Million grant.

Manager's Report:

Project 7 Authority Manager Adam Turner reported that consumption is up slightly, expenses are tracking for a normal November, and water supply numbers are stable.

Project 7 has income from two rental properties. Project 7 received a Special Use Permit from Ouray County.

Background:

Established on Sept. 29, 1977, the Project 7 Water Authority is a cooperative among seven water entities that provides domestic water to the municipalities and rural areas of the Uncompahgre River Valley.

Project 7 Board meetings are the fourth Thursday of every month at 4:30 p.m.

The seven entities that represent the Project 7 Water Authority are:

- [The City of Montrose](#)
- [The City of Delta](#)
- [The Town of Olathe](#)

[The Tri-County Water Conservancy District](#)

[The Chipeta Water District](#)

[The Menoken Water District](#)

[The Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association](#) (non-voting member).

In a previous meeting Project 7 Authority Manager Adam Turner said, "I have six constituents [water districts] that I am responsible to. Each of those [entities] are responsible to their own constituents [citizens]. I don't go to their constituents; I'm not responsible to them."

Project 7 sets their own rates, which will increase and be passed on to the six entities.

The Mirror:

For coverage that never leaves our readers out in cold ...



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE CELEBRATES 30 YEARS OF MLK DAY

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— Montrose is proud to celebrate 30 years of honoring Martin Luther King Jr. Day with its inaugural Day of Service events, a momentous occasion that promises to engage and inspire our community. This celebration is not just a reflection of our past; it is a commitment to the values Dr. King stood for—equality, justice, and unity.

The Day of Service events in Montrose promise to be an inspiring and enriching experience, featuring a diverse lineup of activities that cater to all ages and interests. From the dynamic Marade, which combines the spirit of a march with the celebration of a parade, to engaging service projects that encourage community involvement, there is something for everyone to participate in.

Attendees will have the opportunity to enjoy thought-provoking film screenings and witness the presentation of humanitarian awards, honoring those who embody Dr. King's legacy of service and compassion. The Children's Read & Dream Storytime is a particularly special highlight, fostering a love for reading while introducing young minds to the values of equality and justice.

Additionally, poetry and spoken word

performances will provide powerful platforms for expression, allowing voices to resonate with the themes of hope and change. Student art displays will showcase the creativity and insight of our youth, reminding us that the future is bright with possibility. These events are not just activities; they are designed to foster dialogue and understanding. Participants will be encouraged to reflect on Dr. King's enduring legacy while empowering themselves to take meaningful action in their own lives.

Observed each year on the third Monday in January, Martin Luther King, Jr., Day is the only federal holiday designated as a National Day of Service to encourage all Americans to volunteer to honor the life and legacy of Dr. King and improve their communities. For 30 years, the MLK Day of Service has grown, and its impact has increased as more Americans embrace the idea that citizenship involves taking an active role in improving the communities where we live, work, and play. As we strive to fulfill Dr. King's dream of creating the Beloved Community, Montrose citizens are committed to showing that joining together in service can unify Americans to transform communities through service and reflection.

“Today we answer Dr. King’s call to serve and are making a difference in Montrose,” said Tonya Maddox the CEO of Our Town Matters. “Let's honor Dr. King's legacy and celebrate 30 years of helping build the Beloved Community by working toward a better tomorrow. Together, let's unite, serve with our neighbors, and transform our communities as we strive toward a brighter future.”

The Jan. 20 festivities will kick off at 9:30 am with opening ceremonies with proclamations from Montrose County and the City of Montrose. The full list of activities and opportunities to volunteer will be listed on the official event website.

“Everybody can be great, because everybody can serve,” Dr. King said. “You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.”

Whether you plan on cleaning up a public space, mentoring a young person, training tutors, or assisting those who are food insecure or unhoused, what you do makes a world of difference. Find opportunities to volunteer for MLK Day of Service and engage with your community while honoring the legacy of Dr. King at mlkdaymontrose.com



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PROPERTY HIGHLIGHTS

- 3 Bedrooms
- 2 Bathrooms
- 2 Car Garage
- 1,710 Sq Ft
- Breakfast Nook

This single-story Colorado home backs onto the Montrose Golf Course, offering scenic views of the course, lush grounds, and mature trees. The home features a covered deck, granite countertops, a spacious living room with a large window for ample natural light, and a dining areawith views of the course. The kitchen, complete with a cozy nook, also overlooks the course. Additional amenities include in-floor heating, an evaporative cooler, Leaf guard gutters, a two-car garage, a radon mitigation system, a roof that's only ten years old, extra insulation throughout, and a convenient doggie door. Located in a peaceful neighborhood, the home is close to all the amenities Montrose has to offer. It boasts a split floorplan with three bedrooms and two bathrooms, with large closets, an open kitchen layout, and all appliances included. Come visit...it is all about lifestyle!



Michelle Klippert CRS, GRI, SRES, SFR, ABR
Broker/Owner

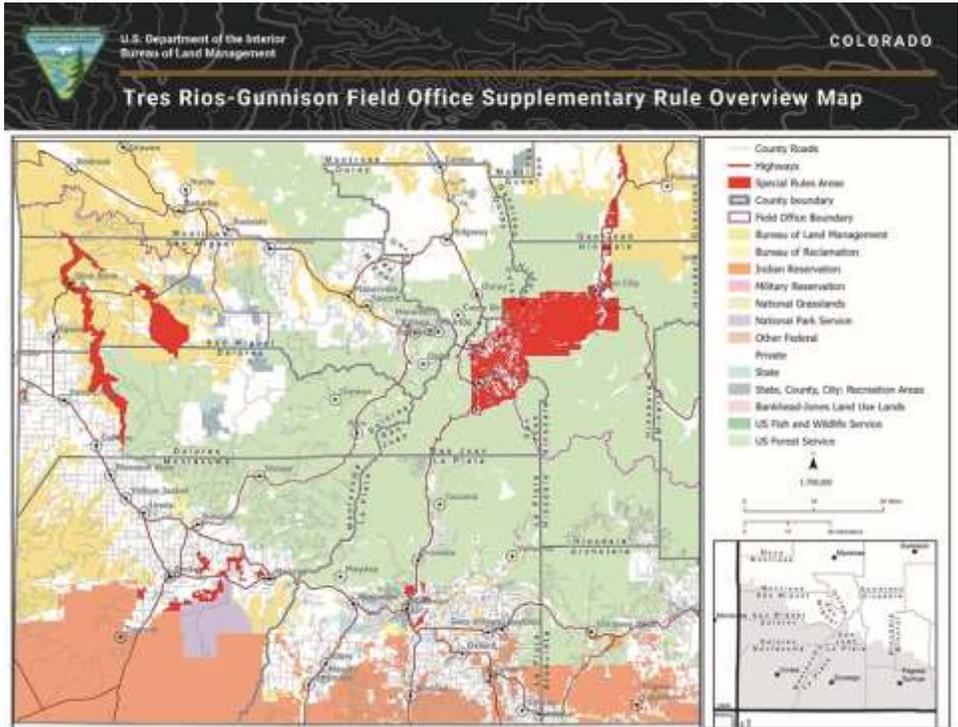
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

BLM IMPLEMENTS RECREATION DECISIONS FOR TRES RIOS AND GUNNISON FIELD OFFICE PUBLIC LANDS



At right, Map showing areas (in red) of the BLM Tres Rios and Gunnison field offices where the supplementary rule will apply. Courtesy image.



. MONTROSE— The Bureau of Land Management has finalized a supplementary rule implementing decisions pertaining to motorized and non-motorized travel, day-use areas, camping, and seasonal wildlife habitat in the Tres Rios Field Office and the Silverton area of the Gunnison Field Office. The rule applies to BLM-managed public lands in Archuleta, Dolores, Gunnison, Hinsdale, La Plata, Montezuma, Montrose, Ouray, San Juan, and San Miguel counties, excluding public lands within Canyons of the Ancients National Monument.

Growing visitation to public lands in Southwest Colorado has increased pressure on critical winter wildlife habitat,

recreation destinations, archaeological sites, and other resources. Establishment of the rule will enable the BLM to implement and make enforceable regulatory decisions in the 2015 Tres Rios Field Office Resource Management Plan, as well as the 1990 Dolores River Corridor Management Plan, the 2010 Alpine Triangle Recreation Area Management Plan, the 2020 Tres Rios Field Office Transportation and Access Plan for Travel Area 1, and the 2020 Silverton Travel Management Plan. These measures respond to growing visitation by restricting certain activities and defining allowable uses in special management areas to provide for visitor health and safety, protect wildlife, and prevent

degradation of natural and cultural resources.

“The BLM worked closely with the local communities to develop plans with a shared vision for managing a wide range of public land resources and resource uses,” said **BLM Southwest District Manager Stephanie McCormick**. “This supplementary rule implements decisions that support the unique quality of life enjoyed by our Southwest Colorado communities.”

A Notice of Final Supplementary Rule will publish in tomorrow’s Federal Register. For more information or for questions about the rule, please contact BLM Supervisory Staff Ranger Tyler Fouss at 970-882-1120.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL:LETTERS

ARE CITIZENS NOT ALLOWED TO QUESTION THE MEMBERS OF THIS BOARD AND ITS STAFF?

Editor:

Should those charged with managing the county's business actually know something about business? Apparently not.

I am speaking about Commissioner Roger Rash, Commissioner Sue Hansen, and County Manager Frank Rodriguez. YES, I am calling them out by name because they have not been shy about calling me out by name. As a soon to be County Commissioner, overwhelming elected by the citizens of our county, I will not be silent as career bureaucrats run amuck in the management of our county's assets. Our taxpayers deserve to know how their money is being spent and be assured that important decisions are being made by responsible, competent leaders. Let me explain.

On Wednesday, December 18th I offered testimony ([view my testimony](#)) at the bi-weekly BOCC meeting. On the agenda was consideration and possible approval of a contract to build a new building for our county employees. My testimony was intended to suggest options to moving forward on a \$24,000,000 North Campus Facility on North Grand next to the Justice Center. As a duly elected County Commissioner set to assume office in less than one month you would think my thoughts would be well received. Wrong. Not by this board. Their arrogance and willingness to gaslight the public was on full display.

My concern was that far more discussion, deliberations, and transparency to the public was needed before a decision of this magnitude should be made. It is true that this project has been discussed for several years, but mostly behind closed doors and not to the point where a fully informed decision can be made. In fact, Jennifer Murray, Facilities Director, said that the value engineering was not complete and architectural plans have not been finalized. ([Min. 22:30 of video](#))

One of the suggestions I presented was to consider the abandoned Colorado Outdoors Medical Center. It is a 55,000 sq. ft. partially constructed building next to the Fairfield Inn. It is listed for sale at \$11,500,000 but the price has just been dropped to \$9,775,000. The building has over 30 liens on it, mostly by local contractors who were not paid for their work. (See listing link) <https://www.loopnet.com/Listing/121-Tributary-St-Montrose-CO/32504429/>

I feel like exploring this option deserves discussion from the public, our local contractors, and our new board. It would/could decrease the cost of a new building for our county employees, help our local contractors get paid, decrease the construction time, and make use of a building that could possibly remain partially constructed for years to come.

After my testimony I sat down in the gallery and was immediately attacked by name with no real opportunity to respond. "We have already vetted this option and it is not feasible," said Commissioner Rash. "Anyone who thinks they want to jump into a project that has litigation going on is a fool".

This is remarkable because in the same breath he said that the county had already vetted the building, looked at it, and made offers on it. ([Min. 44 of video](#)) As an investor in real estate I can tell you that purchasing a property that has liens on it or is in foreclosure can be an excellent opportunity. I am not sure what Commissioner Rash's experience in real estate investing is, but I would be happy to debate him on the subject. It was also pointed out by our board that the listing did not include the property. This is false and can be verified by the listing. Montrose County Manager Frank Rodriguez stated that even if we got the building for free we would have to spend over 23 million dollars to get it where they needed it to be. He went on to say that the steel in the building is probably failing; and that the structural steel is only allowed to be exposed for 2-3 days. I would dispute County Manager Rodriguez regarding those statements and will be asking him about that when I get sworn in as Commissioner in January.

Perhaps the most disturbing comment came from Commissioner Hansen when she said that I was accusing the board of not doing their due diligence and that my "accusations" were not welcome or appreciated. This came from a sitting commissioner that I will soon be serving with. Are citizens not allowed to question the members of this board and its staff? Are our questions and suggestions to be seen as "accusations" by our public officials? This is not in the best interest of the public. Why is it that limited details of this transaction were not disclosed until the day of the vote? Are we to take the word of our public

officials at face value without the opportunity to ask questions or verify the information they provide?

What about our incoming commissioners? This vote was made literally on your way out the door by 2/3 of the board members terming out. It was done without the consultation of the 2 new commissioners who will inherit this project. Is this the way you want your government to operate?

There's much more to say about this meeting and subsequent vote. I would encourage everyone to go to the [video and watch](#). My testimony begins at ([Min 36:12 of video](#)) but I would encourage you to watch from ([Min. 17:05 of video](#)) where Facilities Director Jennifer Murray begins her presentation to the board. Please pay attention to statements made regarding the safety of the South Campus. Many of these statements are in direct contradiction to statements made at the December 9th working group meeting. I have posted a transcript to my website.

<https://scottm4montrose.com/commissioner-meetings>

It is a 61-page document but you can go to the pages I cite below for statements made about the safety of the building.

[Stanley Stoll, Structural Engineer - Page 35, Emily Sanchez question and response - page 49, Roger Rash - last sentence of page 49.](#)

In conclusion, I campaigned on the promise to represent the taxpayers of Montrose County, not the bureaucracy. I intend to fulfill that promise regardless of the consequences. I will never surrender the authority granted to me by you as your County Commissioner to anyone...ever. I will be thoughtful as to who I receive advice from and always apply the "trust but verify" doctrine. If you are a county employee, please do not see me as a threat to you or your job as I will never ask more of you than I do of myself. I will always support you when it comes to delivering services to our community in an efficient, affordable manner.

I hope that I will be able to live up to your expectations as a community knowing that I will never be able to please everyone but will always act in the best interest of our community as a whole.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you.

Yours very truly, Scott Mijares

CITY COUNCIL VOTES 3-2 TO DENY LIQUOR LICENSE From pg 1

CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT NO NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Michael Badagliacco spoke. Badagliacco said that he grew up here, attended Northside Elementary, Centennial Middle School, and is a 1983 graduate of Montrose High School, an Air Force Veteran, and his parents had a business in the community. He expressed opposition to Montrose becoming a sanctuary city. Throughout his life Montrose has been a community deeply rooted in traditional American values, family, and rule of law, but these values have been gradually eroded over the past two decades. "...Many of my fellow citizens including myself have grown weary of our local, state, and federal elected officials, as they have resorted to misdirection and double speak, effectively bypassing our laws by disregarding the fundamental principles of the rule of law. They have declared themselves sanctuary states, disregarding the constitution and the rule of law, the very principles upon which our great country was founded. This behavior is not leadership...embracing sanctuary status or even recognizing it is a violation of federal law and the constitution and the supremacy clause...declaring Montrose non-sanctuary status would establish its validity regarding the rule of law," he said. "There are some on this council that believe that Title VI prohibits Montrose from declaring non-sanctuary status...nothing could be further from the truth..."

(Editor's Note- Badagliacco's comments are printed in full in this issue of the Mirror.)

Debbie Morris spoke next, with her husband Lance. They live on South 2nd Street, and called attention to a public safety issue, the increase in traffic flow and volume at South Second Street and Park Avenue. "...I'm proud to live Downtown, but there's an issue that has been continuous...and that is the volume of traffic that is being funneled through South 2nd and Park...I have seen an increase in multiple motor vehicle accidents, there's also been a pedestrian accident...two years ago we had a truck enter our back yard and do \$20,000 worth of damage. They came through South Second and Park. In the last three weeks there's been three different

motor vehicle accidents, and yesterday there was a motor vehicle accident that came through the pedestrian area...it went up into a sidewalk and came to a standstill six inches from our fence. The other truck came clear across Park and remained there between the curb and the sidewalk..."

Debbie Morris said that she and her husband have spent their own money to make the area nice, and the recent traffic accidents have caused damage. She asked the City of Montrose to institute changes to the area to improve safety for pedestrians and for those who live in the area.

Next to speak was Cindy Olinghouse, who wished Council a Merry Christmas, and asked them to read the *Book of Daniel*, to "understand what is going on our time and in our season."

"It all has to do, it goes back to non-sanctuary city, but we're still waiting for you to make a decision on, to change your minds and make us that."

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda items were approved as presented.

NEW LIQUOR LICENSED DRUG STORE APPLICATION

City Attorney Chris Dowsey introduced a liquor license application, which was the subject of a public hearing at the previous council meeting. The applicant's attorney and petitioner were present; Mayor Reed shared his thoughts, and asked his fellow councilors to comment.

Mayor Reed and Mayor Pro Tem David Frank took the stance that approval is the only correct decision. "...I cannot see any reason...to deny the application," Frank said. "The rule of law is very clear."

Those who don't think the license will help the city don't have to shop there, Frank said.

Councilor Ed Ulibarri raised the possibility of minors being served. "My concern is the public health and safety."

Councilor Judy Ann Files said that local voters did not vote to approve even wine and beer in grocery stores. The needs and



The Mayor presented the You Make a Difference Award to Jolene Wurst, for her volunteer work on behalf of the Friends of the Library book sales.

desires of the community have been stated, she said. "They have spoken, and they have said no."

Following the discussion, the Montrose City Council voted three to two (Ulibarri, Doug Glaspell, and Files voted to deny; Frank and Reed voted to approve) to deny a new Liquor Licensed Drug Store license at 16400 S. Townsend Avenue for Dillon Companies LLC, doing business as City Market #40, for consumption off of the licensed premises.

ORDINANCE 2677-SECOND READING

With Councilor Ed Ulibarri voting to deny based on concerns he has expressed regarding changes to height and density requirements, Council voted four to one in favor of Ordinance 2677 on second reading, an Ordinance repealing and reenacting Chapters 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, AND 15 of Title 11 of the Montrose Official Code and making conforming amendments to Chapters 3, 6, 12 and 14 in connection therewith.

All councilors expressed appreciation for the efforts of staff.

ORDINANCE 2678 - SECOND READING

Council voted unanimously to approve Ordinance 2678 on Second Reading, amending Ordinance No. 2645 which appropriated funds for defraying the expenses and liabilities of the City of Montrose, Colorado, during the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2024; said expenditures of the City of Montrose over and above those anticipated at the time of adoption of the original budget for the fiscal year

CITY COUNCIL VOTES 3-2 TO DENY LIQUOR LICENSE *From previous pg*



Mayor Reed took time to honor the Centennial Middle School students who wrote essays on the challenges facing the City of Montrose.

beginning January 1, 2024; said expenditures of the City of Montrose over and above those anticipated at the time of adoption of the original budget for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2024.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH MONTROSE RECREATION DISTRICT

Also approved was the annual IGA with the Montrose Recreation District for shared services.

RESOLUTION 2024-22

Council voted unanimously to adopt Resolution 2024-22, declaring its official intent to reimburse itself with the proceeds of a tax-exempt lease-purchase financing for certain capital expenditures undertaken or

to be undertaken by the City; generally identifying the capital expenditures; and providing certain other matters in connection therewith.

CONSERVATION EASEMENT ACQUISITION WITHIN COLORADO OUTDOORS

With Morada historian Chris Trujillo in attendance, City Council voted unanimously to approve \$150,000 in expenditures for the purchase of a conservation easement within Colorado Outdoors to preserve the historic and culturally important Morada site in the LaRaza Neighborhood.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND PROMISSORY NOTE UPDATE

Council voted unanimously to approve an update to the MOU and Promissory Note for Sunshine Peak Apartments and the Montrose County Housing Authority.

POLICE DEPARTMENT SERVER REPLACEMENT

Also approved unanimously was the authorization of \$295,198.21 for the replacement and upgrade of the Montrose Police Department's existing Motorola Flex server hardware and software. This upgrade includes the addition of a Disaster Recovery (DR) server, which will be located at the WestCO Dispatch Center.

LEASE RENEWAL WITH CIMARRON RESERVOIR COMPANY

The lease renewal with Cimarron Reservoir Company was approved unanimously.

SAN-MIAMI SEWER IMPROVEMENTS CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT

As previously discussed, Council voted unanimously to approve a contract award to Haynes Excavation in the amount of \$86,877.22 for construction of the San-Miami Sewer Improvement Project.

6600 ROAD SIDEWALK EXTENSION PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT

The final action item of the evening was approved; a professional services contract award to Del-Mont Consultants in the amount of \$47,200 for completion of survey and civil design associated with the 6600 Road Sidewalk Extension Project.

STAFF REPORTS

Sales Tax Manager Leanne Whittaker presented the Sales, Use & Excise Tax Report.

Mayor Reed wished Council, staff, and citizens a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and a wonderful New Year.

With no further business, "We will stand adjourned," Reed said.

SAVE THE DATE A COMMUNITY WIDE CELEBRATION

Service Projects • Parade/March
Humanitarian Awards • Art Contests
Movie Screening • Children's Read & Dream

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DELTA HEALTH APPOINTS NEW CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TO DRIVE STRATEGIC GROWTH

Special to the Mirror

DELTA— Delta Health has welcomed Nicholas Colleran as its new Chief Operating Officer (COO), a leadership move designed to enhance the organization's strategic initiatives and operational performance.

"I am excited to welcome Nicholas Colleran, to the Delta Health team," said Jonathan Cohee, MHA, OT, Chief Executive Officer for Delta Health. "Nick will be supporting our health system by overseeing all aspects of the operations; he has a strong healthcare background and will be a tremendous asset to our team."

With 17 years of experience in healthcare, Colleran has developed broad expertise in hospital operations and practice management. His career began in a private practice clinic, which sparked his interest in healthcare and led him to pursue advanced degrees in the field.

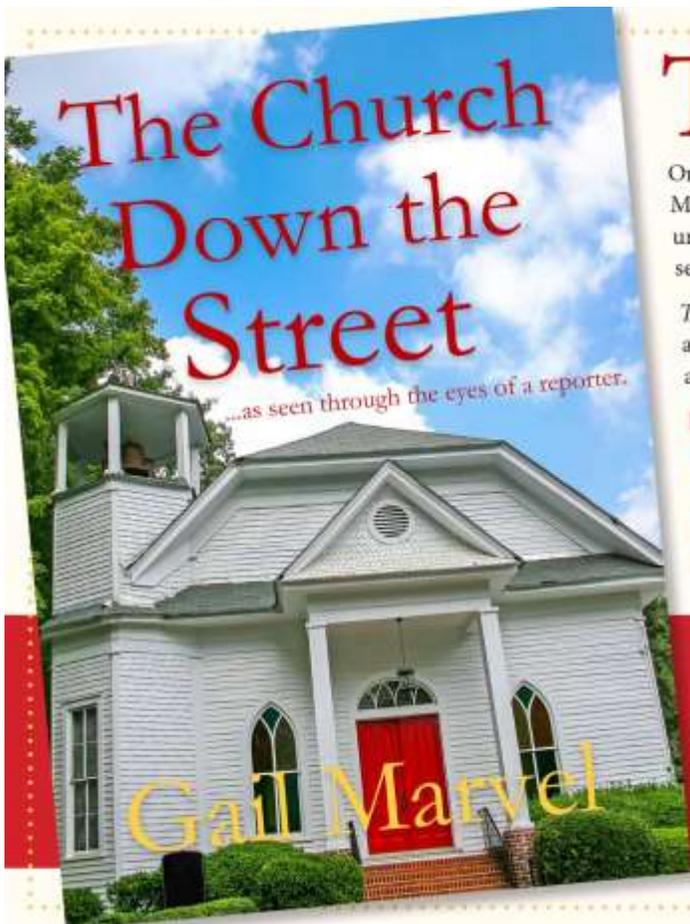
"I am truly excited to join the team as the new COO of this incredible healthcare system, in Delta County," said Colleran. "Together, we will continue to build on the foundation of excellence, compassion, and care that this community deserves. I look forward to working with each and every one of you as we continue to strive to make a positive impact, and improve the health and well-being of all Delta Health patients."

Nick's career progressed at a community healthcare system, where he rose to Vice President of Operations, overseeing multiple service lines and driving operational improvements. He later served as Vice President and Chief Operating Officer for a 180-bed hospital, managing budgets, capital projects, and service line optimization-- achieving cost reductions and improving patient outcomes.

Nick is skilled in strategic planning, process improvement, and financial management with a proven ability to drive growth and enhance clinical performance. His passion has always been for community healthcare. Nick holds a Master of Science in Healthcare Administration and an MBA from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He is dedicated to advancing healthcare through innovation and operational excellence. He is also an actively engaged community member, having served on several boards and advisory committees.

Nick relocated to Delta with his wife Lauren, a kindergarten teacher, and their two children. Outside of work, Nick enjoys cooking, golfing, and spending time outdoors with his family.

To learn more about the Leadership Team at Delta Health, visit deltahealthco.org.



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
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- Become more aware of source material used in the worship service
- Compare and contrast music presentations and selections
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Gail Marvel's book, *The Church Down the Street*, is available online at Amazon.com and wingedpublications.com.

GAIL MARVEL
Montrose Author & Reporter



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE REGIONAL HEALTH CELEBRATES 1000TH SUCCESSFUL OPERATION WITH MAKO ROBOTIC-ARM ASSISTED SURGERY SYSTEM

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— Montrose Regional Health is excited to announce that it has successfully completed its 1000th successful operation with the Mako Robotic-Arm Assisted Surgery System. This milestone reflects the hospital’s continued dedication to utilizing advanced medical technology, ensuring the best and safest experience for patients.

“Congratulations to Western Slope Orthopaedics and to our entire surgical team,” said Jeff Mengershausen, CEO of Montrose Regional Health. “This milestone demonstrates Montrose Regional Health’s commitment to bringing technology and innovation to our rural communities to enhance patient care.”

The Mako System is designed to assist orthopedic surgeons in performing knee and hip replacements for patients suffering from arthritis, and results in less pain and shorter recovery times when compared to manual joint replacement surgery. The system uses an innovative approach to these operations, beginning with a CT scan which creates a 3D based model of the patient’s joint. Orthopedic surgeons then use this 3D model to create a personalized surgical plan which assists them in performing the joint replacement procedure with complete precision.

The surgeon remains in control of the



Montrose Regional Health Celebrates 1000th Successful Operation with the Mako Robotic-Arm Assisted Surgery System. Courtesy photo.

procedure, aided by precise measurements from Mako. This can result in a more predictable surgical experience and increased accuracy. The technology is utilized by several Western Slope Orthopaedics surgeons including Dr. Vineet Singh, Dr. Timothy Judkins, Dr. Thomas Dwyer, Dr. Josh Bagley and Dr. Ryan Albrecht.

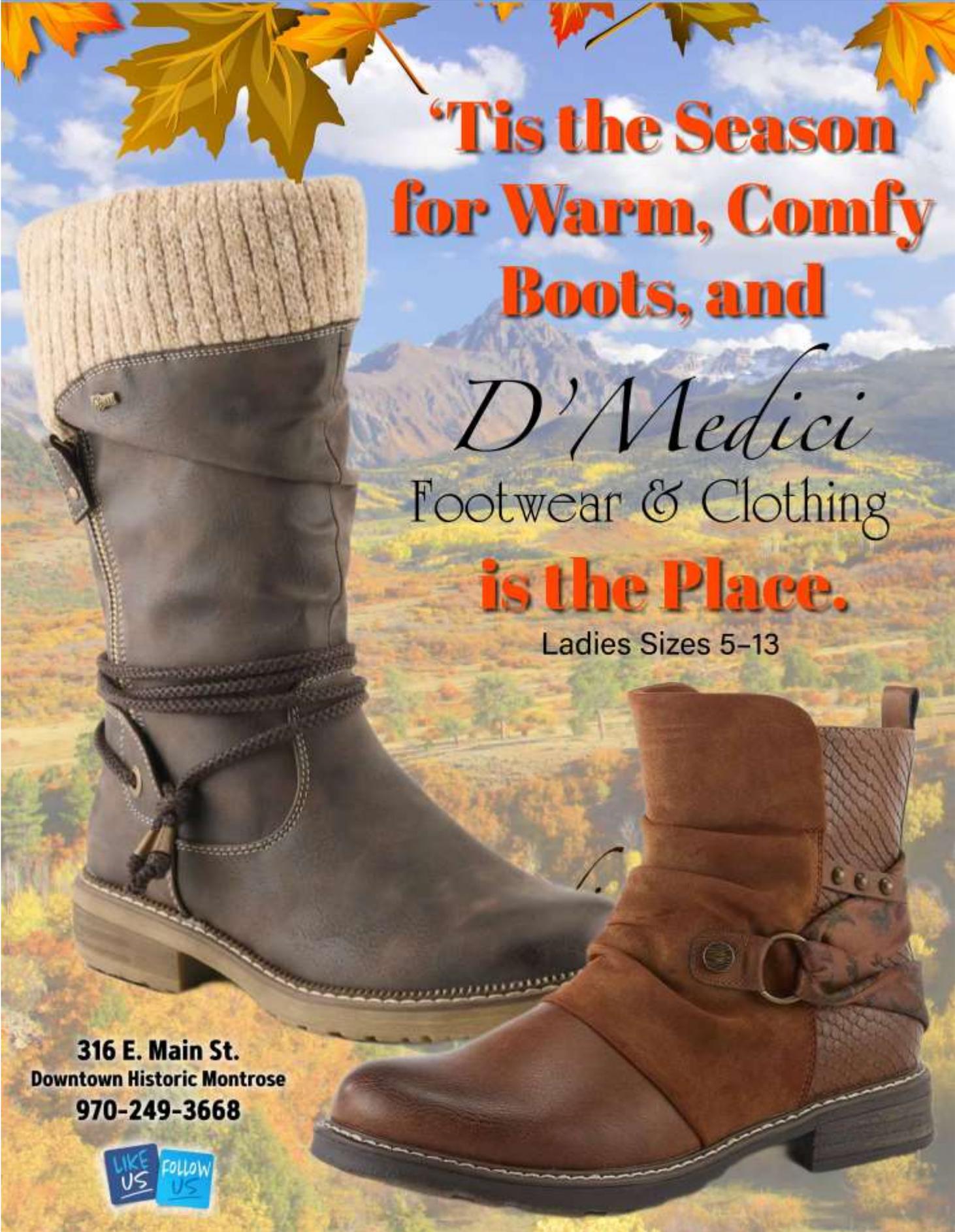
Montrose Regional Health has a reputation for offering advanced care often associated with large cities. In addition to ac-

quiring the Mako Robotic-Arm Assisted System, in early 2024 MRH acquired the ExcelsiusGPS® System for minimally invasive spine operations, and was the first hospital on the Western Slope to offer the daVinci Surgical System.

To learn more about the Mako Surgical Robotic System and if this procedure might be right for you and your lifestyle, contact Western Slope Orthopaedics at (970) 249-6641

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

PROJECT 7 – NEW WATER TREATMENT PLANT?? – PUT THE BRAKES ON! (*Financing & Consumer Cost is Simply Unaffordable & They Know It*)

By David White

I attended the Project 7 Special Board Meeting last Thursday, December 19th and, quite frankly, was shocked at what I heard.

As I've written about in the past, Project 7 is the "wholesaler" that produces our local area drinking water from the water we receive through the Gunnison River and which is diverted through the Gunnison Tunnel into the Fairview Reservoir where it is piped to Project 7 for treatment and then us. Whether you are provided water by and billed for it by the City of Montrose, City of Delta, Town of Olathe, Tri County Water Conservancy District, Menoken Water District or the Chipeta Water District, your water comes from Project 7 which is a consortium of these entities and the Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association.

For the last 20 years or so, the Project 7 Board of Directors has studied and planned for a second water treatment plant that would provide some redundancy in the ability to provide treated drinking water to us in the event of a failure of the main treatment plant due to a mechanical failure, a terrorist attack, natural or other disasters, etc. This is all well and good, however, the management and the board are, by all evidence, not particularly adept at the business end of taking on such a project in this writer's opinion. While all board members seem to be genuinely interested in the well-being of our citizenry and the constituency that they represent, it doesn't appear that the business acumen needed to run such an organization is as strong as it needs to be. This became very evident at last week's meeting when it was disclosed that Senior Vice President of D.A. Davidson & Co., Greg Swartz, who has been hired to facilitate the debt financing of the proposed back up treatment plant, stated that they were brought into the process just six (6) months ago, long after the other participants in the project had been brought in to determine the plant size, engineering, construction design and costs, etc.

Last week's meeting was scheduled to inform the Board of the latest estimated construction cost for this 2nd plant. How does \$159.5 million dollars sound? And that's just for the first 75% of the plants' cost. They're still working on getting the rest of the numbers together, which doesn't include roughly \$10 million they've already spent and probably another \$17 million or more dollars that will be needed to get to the full build price! Let's call it \$200 million dollars for the whole thing! And, Project 7, as we heard, has such weak credit as well as over \$20 million in current debt (according to what was reported at the Board meeting), that even if they could get financing for this project, investors who would be purchasing bonds or other debt instruments to finance it would most likely have to bear a risk that is way too high UNLESS the member entities are the ones obligated for the entire debt needed to pay for this project which means that ultimately, you and I as customers and users of treated water produced by Project 7 would be on the hook for hundreds of millions of dollars in principal and interest debt (for decades) for a treatment plant that will, at best, produce less than ¼ of the treated water the existing plant produces today. Insanity!

At the meeting, Mr. Swartz all but demanded that the Project 7 Board establish two advisory groups – one to go into the technical aspects of the project as well as the strategy and operations end of it and Project 7 and then a second that would be a finance subcommittee working group that would be comprised of City and Town Managers along with the water district managers and all of their finance staffs to which he and D.A. Davidson & Co. would have full access to gain insight and understanding of these member entities abilities to take on the gargantuan debt that will be required for this project. Remember, Project 7 doesn't have the borrowing capacity to build this 2nd treatment plant, so those that are truly obligated to finance it are the 6 member or-

ganizations.

In addition, D.A. Davidson is demanding that something known as a Cost Allocation Study be performed. This study should have been done long ago as it would determine, on average, what percentage of the treated water produced by Project 7 is used by each member district or municipality. This percentage, which fluctuates depending upon the season, will determine how much each member will pay in debt service on the new treatment plant as well as how high rates paid for our treated water will increase for each of us. Believe me, water rates could easily triple or quadruple in no time flat. The one apparent piece of sanity that has come into play from a member is seen in an email from Montrose City Manager Bill Bell to Adam Turner, Manager of Project 7. A copy of it was included in the December 19th Board Packet wherein he states: ***"...we have serious reservations and concerns with the lack of due diligence and communication between Project 7 staff and board to make this project a reality and we do appreciate the work that has been done so far. However, we have serious reservations and concerns with the lack of due diligence and communication between Project 7 and each member entity's management team and governing body related to the details of financing, debt service, shared cost allocation strategies, and overall financial feasibility for not only Project 7 as an organization, but the financial feasibility for each member entity."***

I fully predict that given the City of Montrose's need to capitalize their upcoming new Public Works Complex (perhaps as high as \$54 million dollars out of a potential \$71 million dollar project) as well as their ongoing debt service payments for the monies they borrowed by issuing Certificates of Participation (COPS, with D.A. Davidson & Co. as their financial advisors and facilitators) for the Colorado Outdoors project (aka MURA – Montrose Urban Renewal Authority). Add to this the debt obligations for the Police Operations

PROJECT 7 – NEW WATER TREATMENT PLANT?? – PUT THE BRAKES ON!

From previous pg

Center and other small debt, taking on the role of an “obligor” for the Project 7 treatment plant project’s debt will make their role in the plant a non-starter as evidenced by Manager Bell’s comments above. They simply cannot tie their hands behind their backs for the next few decades by being on the hook for this project given the need for other future City projects.

While certainly admirable and forward thinking, without figuring out how you’re going to pay for something as a calculation to determine affordability ahead of starting a project of this size, you’ve made a fatal error. Such is the case here. It’s like trying to buy a house and not knowing what the bank will loan you to do so. Furthermore, given that water usage may fluctuate dramatically amongst the 6 members over the years to come, it is the fiduciary responsibility of Mr. Swartz and D.A. Davidson to determine how much capacity each member has to pay on a debt of this size as payments into the “pool” of money needed to service a \$200M debt will be quite large and could literally bankrupt some of the smaller water districts.

Simply put...Project 7 is in over their heads. Way over! A new structure and governance model is sorely needed and soon. Put a tourniquet on the bleeding. Regroup. Be transparent with the public. Get a professional management and finance team in place and figure it all out before you bankrupt yourselves.

If you, as a reader, are concerned enough about this matter, contact the Project 7 Board of Directors as soon as possible...

City of Montrose - David Bries (970-240-1484 - dbries@cityofmontrose.org)

- City of Montrose – City Councilor Doug Glaspell (alternate board member) – dglaspell@cityofmontrose.org
- City of Delta- Kevin Carlson, Mayor (970-874-7566 - kevin@cityofdeltanet.net)
- Town of Olathe- Jake Foreman, Mayor (970-323-5601 or 970-581-5919 - jacob.foreman@geocities.com)
- Tri-County Water Conservancy District- Vicki Ripp (970-874-5127 or 970-249-3369 (info@tricitywater.org))
- Menoken Water District- Randy Meaker (970-249-5118 or 970-249-3242)

Chipeta Water District- John McCollum (970-209-5137 - jmccollum@rvemontrose.com)

Adam Turner, Manager of Project 7 ([Project 7 Water Authority - Home](#))

Mr. White is an active citizen & community leader as well as a business owner, entrepreneur, former Colorado Springs City Councilor and Montrose City Councilor as well as Montrose Mayor. He was a two-term Montrose 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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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

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MESA COUNTY INVESTIGATES MAILBOX MAIL THEFTS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The Mesa County Sheriff's Office is investigating a rash of mail thefts. Overnight, multiple neighborhoods in the Redlands and Orchard Mesa had their mail stolen out of their mailboxes. Deputies actively continue to investigate the thefts and are going door to door in the affected neighborhoods. If you have information or video related to these crimes, submit a tip below or call us at (970) 242-6707. You can also make tips anonymously through Mesa County Crime Stoppers. The Mesa County Sheriff's Office cautions residents from leaving mail in their mailboxes for any extended amount of time or overnight. The United States Postal Service offers a program called Informed Delivery, where you can see photos of your mail before it arrives, and the service is free.



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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

COLORADO OFFICE OF NEW AMERICANS AND MIGRATION POLICY INSTITUTE RELEASE GROUNDBREAKING LANGUAGE ACCESS REPORT

Special to the Mirror

DENVER — The Migration Policy Institute (MPI), in partnership with Colorado Office of New Americans (ONA) and with support from The Colorado Trust, has released a first-of-its-kind report assessing the state of language access across Colorado state agency programs and services. The report, "Language Access in Colorado State Agencies: Existing Efforts and Opportunities for Expansion", is now available on MPI's

website.

With more than 300,000 Coloradans whose primary language is not English, ensuring equitable language access is essential to connecting all residents with state services, information, and opportunities. The report highlights Colorado's innovative efforts to expand language access and provides actionable recommendations informed by national best practices.

"Language access in state government is essential to our democracy and our well-being," said State Representative Elizabeth Velasco. "We are tasked with making resources and information available so that Coloradans can make the best decisions for themselves and their families. From the legislative process to state departments, we must continue removing barriers so we can all thrive."

Unlike many states that focus on language access in response to legal challenges, Colorado has taken a proactive, community-driven approach. This assessment positions Colorado as a national leader in improving language access infrastructure.

Dee Daniels Scriven, Director of the Office of New Americans, emphasized the importance of this work: "By investing in inclusive language access practices, Colorado ensures that all residents, regardless of their first language, can participate fully in their communities and access available opportunities. The insights from this report will help state government to target language access interventions for maximum public benefit."

The findings and recommendations in the MPI report will guide Colorado's next steps in enhancing language access across state agencies, improving service delivery, and fostering greater immigrant integration statewide.

For more information, visit Migration Policy Institute's website.



Trump Victory Gala

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January 20, 2025

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MERRY CHRISTMAS, HAPPY HANNUKAH AND HAPPY NEW YEAR! MONTROSE VETERANS MEMORIAL TAKES TWO GIANT LEAPS FORWARD!



This effort by City of Montrose crews is the first dirt turned since we started the project nearly two years ago. Thanks to the city staff including Steve Salazar who was onsite moving big equipment last Thursday, Dec. 19.

Coinciding with this wonderful activity at the memorial site was another leap forward. The MVMC made the first down payment to PG Memorials for the engraved black granite panels depicting military images and benches that will make this park into a memorial. The next step will be to post the project for bidding.

We are grateful to the many donors who have supported us through this process – it is really moving along now! If you would like to get in on the excitement, please visit www.montrosevmc.us to donate now, or write a check to MVMC and drop it in the mail or in person at 4 Hillcrest Plaza Way, Montrose CO 81401.

The MVMC is a 501c3 and is eligible for Colorado Enterprise Zone tax benefits for donations over \$500.

We thank all of our donors and supporters for helping us get to this point. We could not do this without you all, and a big thank you to the city and the county once again.

Sincerely,
Les Williams
MVMC BOD President

City of Montrose equipment operators clear the weeds and level the ground at the new Montrose Veterans Memorial site just south of the Montrose Pavillion at 1800 Pavillion Dr. Courtesy photo.

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE – Important update: We are happy to say the Montrose Veterans Memorial construction process has started!

In early December Montrose Veterans Memorial Coalition board of directors, City of Montrose public works director Jim Scheid, Phil Motley from Motley Architecture, and representatives from Del-Mont Consultants and Buckhorn Engineering gathered at the site of the memorial to discuss the business of basic infrastructure.

The meeting resulted in agreement to begin with bringing electricity and fiber to the building sight. Like a Christmas miracle, several days later that process was started and completed.

During the same meeting the MVMC board asked that the site be cleared of weeds and prepared for dirt work. Earlier last week that process began with improving the parking area in front of the memorial and cleaning up weeds and old fencing. The location now has a completely different look.



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

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

OUR OWN GOVERNOR SPITS ON THE CONSTITUTION AND FEDERAL LAW WHICH HE HAS SWORN TO UPHOLD

Editor:

My name is Michael Badagliacco, I am a proud Air Force veteran. I grew up in Montrose, where I attended North Side Elementary, Centennial Junior High, and Montrose High School, graduating in 1983. My parents were business owners here in our community.

Throughout my life, Montrose has been a community deeply rooted in traditional American values, family, and the Rule of Law. However, over the past two decades, I, along with my fellow Citizens, have witnessed the gradual erosion of these values.

Many of my fellow citizens, and myself, have grown weary of our local, state, and federal elected officials. They have resorted to misdirection and double-speak, effectively bypassing and disregarding the fundamental principles of the Rule of Law. They have declared themselves "sanctuary states," disregarding the Constitution and the Rule of Law, the very principles upon which our great country was founded.

This behavior is not leadership; it is blatant disregard for the Citizens, the Constitution and the Rule of Law. Embracing "sanctuary" status or even recognizing it as anything valid is a violation of Federal Law and the US Constitutions Supremacy Clause.

"8 U.S. Code § 1325" explicitly outlines the consequences of improper entry by aliens. Any alien who (1) enters or attempts to enter the United States at any time or place other than as designated by immigration officers, (2) eludes examination or inspection by immigration officers, or (3) attempts to enter or obtain entry to the United States through a willfully false or misleading representation or the willful concealment of a material fact, shall face fines under title 18 or imprisonment for not more than 6 months, or both. For subsequent offenses, the penalties increase to fines under title 18 or imprisonment for not more than 2 years, or both.

As evident from Governor Polis' declaration, our own Governor spits on the Constitution and Federal Law, which he has sworn to uphold a the Governor of this great state by blatantly disregarding federal law. The state's "sanctuary status", holds no legal validity and should be disregarded as such. And the Governor should be held accountable for his blatant disregard and charged with harboring fugitives, along with every other federal, state or local official who follows suit.

On the other hand, declaring Montrose as "Non-Sanctuary Status," though ceremonial, would establish its validity and Montrose would once again be known for a place that respects the "RULE OF LAW."

Mayor Reed, I understand that you believe Title VI prohibits Montrose from declaring "Non-Sanctuary" status. Nothing could be further from the truth. This declaration has nothing to do with Title VI equal protections; no one's right to due process is violated with a declaration of "Non-Sanctuary Status," and no one is requesting Title VI to be disregarded or for anyone to be discriminated against.

Concerned citizens here are simply asking that federal law, specifically 8 U.S. Code § 1325, be adhered to.

If the Montrose City Council opts to declare Montrose as a sanctuary city, as members of the city council, you would be complicit in the crime of harboring fugitives. If you choose to proceed down this path, I will request our county's Constitutional Officer, Sheriff Lillard, to issue an arrest warrant for each of you who supports such action. If he refuses, I will personally request the Federal Marshal to take action. We, the Citizens, are done with the political games and will not tolerate such actions from our elected officials.

The City Council serves at the pleasure of the citizens of this city. You are our public servants, we are not your subjects. You are elected to represent us, not push your own personal agenda, especially when that agenda violates the Rule of Law.

Michael Badagliacco, Montrose

SEE SOMETHING - SAY SOMETHING



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ANONYMOUS CALL

**MONTROSE REGIONAL
CRIME STOPPERS**



OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

PLEASE SUPPORT THIS GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT

To the editor,

As the United States Department of Agriculture mandates testing of milk for bird flu, our political leaders should support increased public funding for cultivated-meat research. For those who don't know, cultivated meat is grown from livestock cells, without slaughter. Widespread adoption of the new protein would greatly reduce the risk of zoonotic pandemics, since animals are removed from the process.

Though cultivated meat has already gained regulatory approval in this country, it remains too expensive to mass produce. More public money for cellular-agriculture development will help bring these costs down, allowing the product to truly enter the market. Politicians who care about public health, specifically about preventing future virus outbreaks, should support this governmental investment.

Jon Hochschartner, Granby, CT



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

WHY DOESN'T MCA, KIM GILMARTIN, AND BRAD MILLER PIVOT MONTROSE CLASSICAL ACADEMY FROM A TAXPAYER SUPPORTED CHARTER SCHOOL AND OPEN A PRIVATE SCHOOL ?

Dear Editor:

Does anyone else wonder why the politically conservative Montrose Classical Academy (MCA) Board does not start a private school and stop asking taxpayers to fund their academy?

I am not anti-charter school and have supported both Vista Charter and Passage Charter. I have been a speaker at their graduations.

There was terrific collaboration with both schools and MCS D. Yet, I'll admit to being a bit skeptical about this proposed academy as the MCA Board members are not supporters of our local public schools, rather they encourage enrollment in homeschooling, private, or religious schools—of course that is their right and their choice. Even so, I was so disheartened to hear their initial presentation from Kim Gilmartin, a facilitator from the front range, and learn that the reason the MCA Board is so passionate about the need for this academy was because our public schools are failing. They site test scores as the reason and point to their model school, Liberty Common School, who has high test scores. They sure do. When you scroll down, however, it's clear to see why - they have 'insufficient data' on students with disabilities, students who are learning English, students on a READ plan, and students who qualify for reduced meals. In other words, their model school only tests model students. Just imagine what our scores would look like if we only tested our AP students and reported those results!

The majority of our 6,000+/- students are meeting their academic goals and are ready to take the next step, either entering the workforce, joining the military, attending technical schools, colleges and or universities around the country and overseas. The graduating classes last year from Montrose High School and Olathe

High School earned over \$5,000,000.00 in academic scholarships. Earlier this month, MCS D-RE1J was awarded the 2024 Student Achievement High School Award for their Career Pathways Program from the Colorado Association of School Boards. This award is given to the one high school in the state that is deemed "most innovative in approaching education from a new perspective through offering hands-on learning opportunities that prepare each and every student for success." In addition to the academic success of our students, the MHS Red Hawks football team placed 2nd in the state, the Pride of Montrose Marching Band earned a spot in the finals at the state marching band competition, 18 Olathe High School student archers will complete this summer in Florida. Kudos to the Montrose County School District RE-1J (MCS D) school board, students, staff and administration.

MCA attorney Brad Miller, from Colorado Springs, and Kim Gilmartin have been working with the MCA Board for over a year and assisted in drafting their Articles of Incorporation and Application--setting in motion the process to get taxpayers to pay for their academy. That application was submitted in September. However, an initial review deemed the application was incomplete.

At that time, the MCS D Board could have denied the incomplete application, but instead, at the request of the MCA Board, gave them more time to submit a more complete application. That second submission was accepted by the MCS D Board and the timeline for review was started.

Throughout the entire process, the MCS D Board and administration have been open, transparent, respectful, and cooperative. The process and timeline were clearly communicated. Public meetings were held, letters were submitted. In a further show of cooperation, MCS D board

member Neisha Balleck requested the MCS D school board approve \$1,500 to hire an independent review of the application by the pro-charter Colorado Association of Charter School Authorizers (CACSA) and that motion was unanimously supported by the MCS D Board. CACSA members include professionals that "work directly on the task of authorizing charter schools both within school districts and the Colorado Charter School Institute." The CACSA report was delivered on December 6, and contained at least **85 concerns and questions**. As I read the CACSA report, it seemed clear to me that the MCA Application was not correct, complete, or fully developed.

At the December 10 school board meeting, and after respectful discussion often citing the CACSA Report, the MCS D Board denied the MCA application. [https://go.boarddocs.com/co/montrose/Board.nsf/files/DBVLX7588AD5/\\$file/Resolution%202020-2024%20Denying%20a%20Charter%20School%20Application%20by%20Montrose%20Classical%20Academy%20-%20completed.pdf](https://go.boarddocs.com/co/montrose/Board.nsf/files/DBVLX7588AD5/$file/Resolution%202020-2024%20Denying%20a%20Charter%20School%20Application%20by%20Montrose%20Classical%20Academy%20-%20completed.pdf)

What is disheartening to me is to read the letter sent out by MCA to "MCA Parents, Grandparents, and Community Supporters" with a threatening tone and calling the MCS D Board's decision egregious.

Instead of threatening our locally elected volunteer school board, why doesn't MCA, Kim Gilmartin, and Brad Miller use their considerable financial resources and pivot Montrose Classical Academy from a taxpayer supported charter school and open a private school supported by grants and the parents who want it?

Pope John Paul Academy, Colorado West Christian School, and Maslow Academy are all private schools and are doing fine without using taxpayer funds.

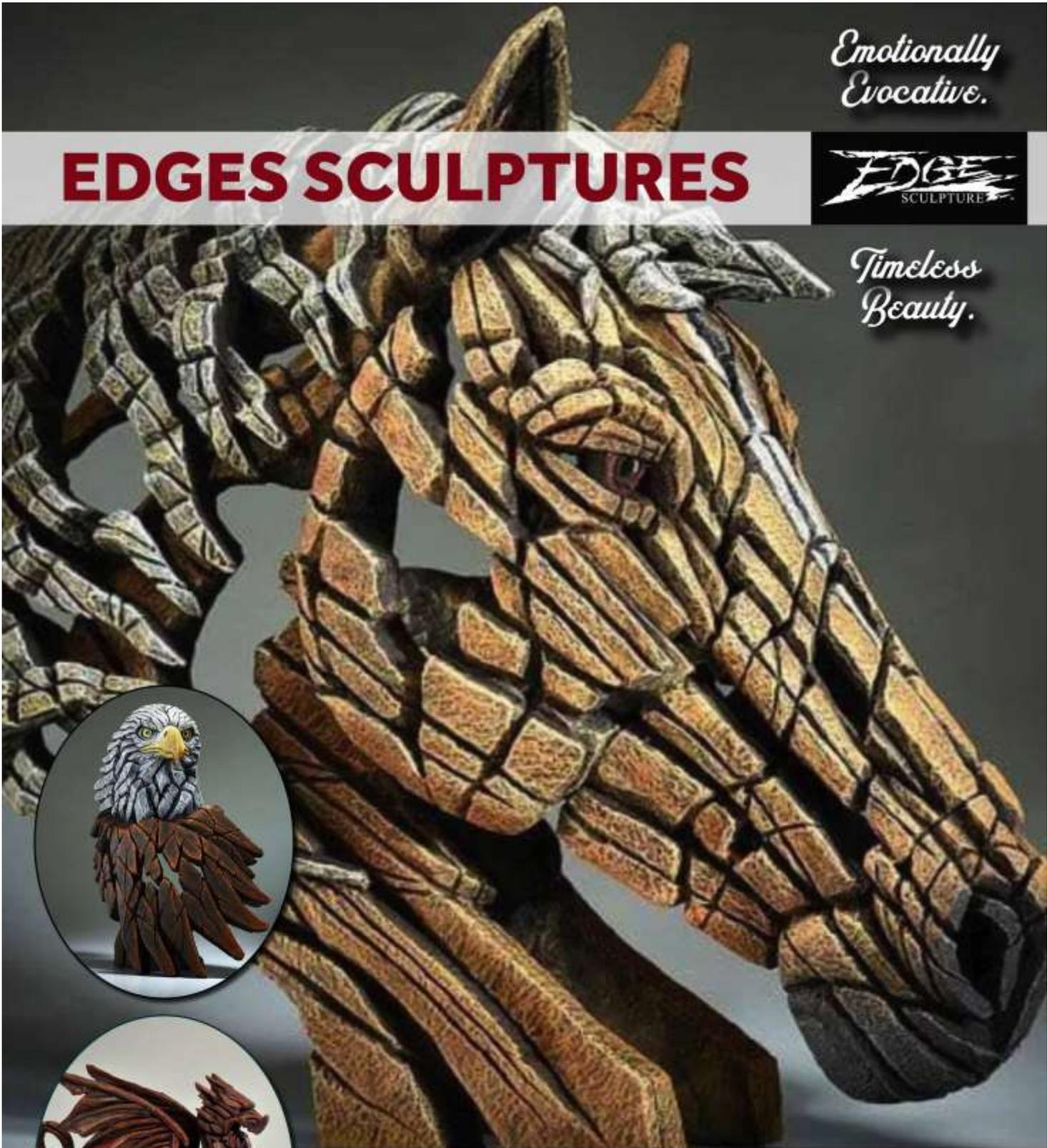
Linda Gann, Montrose

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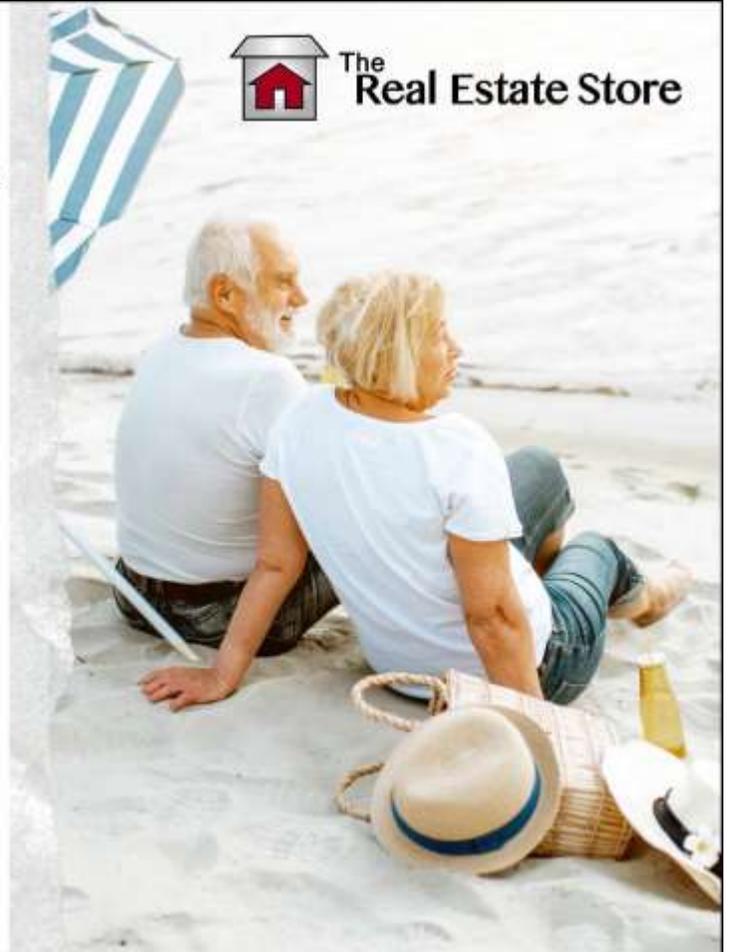
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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION IS ALL ABOUT DESTRUCTION

Editor:

Joe Biden's pardon of Hunter is just one more example of our illustrious media's longstanding coverup of the Biden family corruption. Biden accused his Department of Justice of improperly prosecuting Hunter because he is his son --- basically accusing the DOJ of being a rogue agency. If there were any true journalists left, they would ask the question: If the president sincerely believes that the DOJ is acting improperly and out of control, then why does he allow those members of his administration, especially AG Garland, to continue in their positions? If Biden's accusations had an ounce of sincerity, Garland's immediate firing is mandatory. Of course everyone, including the press and Biden, know Biden is blatantly lying.

Biden this week also issued commuted sentences to almost 1,500 felons and full pardons to 39 others convicted of "non-violent" crimes. While I am certain Biden was fully aware of all the ramifications of his pardoning his son, he probably had no clue what he was signing this time. Those controlling him, however, must have known that a significant number of those people getting a "get-out-of-jail-free" card were reprehensible dirt-bags who should have served their full sentences. One was a physician sentenced to 20 years for defrauding cancer patients by diluting their prescribed chemotherapy drugs and billing Medicare for the full dosage, making millions. People died. How is that non-violent and deserving of clemency? A corrupt Pennsylvania judge jailed kids for long terms on minor offenses in exchange for million dollar kickbacks from for-profit detention facilities. Try telling Sandy Fonzo, whose son committed suicide after he was locked up in that scheme, that this despicable judge shouldn't serve his full sentence. A Chinese national with close family connections to the Chinese Communist Party had his 2022 eight year sentence for possessing 47,000 images of child pornography on his computer set aside. Pure evil. The former comptroller of small town Dixon, Illinois robbed the city of over \$53.7 million over a span of twenty years, and still owes them over \$50 million. Residents living paycheck to paycheck consider the commutation of her 20 year sentence a "real gut punch" to

the city. The CEO of Sentinel Management Group who was convicted for defrauding hundreds of victims of over \$665 million was likewise freed. Numerous drug traffickers and at least one cartel leader are also on Biden's clemency list. I am sure there are many people on the clemency list that most people would agree should have their sentences commuted. So why did Biden's handlers include people who committed heinous crimes which no reasonable person would forgive? Are they just stupid? Maybe the same people that vetted Tim Walz for Kamala's VP running mate also compiled the clemency list? I wish this was just a case of incompetence, but given this administration's consistent track record of actions that are clearly destructive to this nation and its people, these clemencies have to be intentional. Nobody can be that stupid.

A relatively minor action this week on the part of Biden is a stark reminder that his administration is all about destruction and has no interest in the well being of this country's citizens. Biden is spitefully selling off border wall materials for pennies on the dollar less than one month before Trump is sworn into office as a part of a deliberate effort to curtail Trump's goal of securing the border. That border was systematically and deliberately destroyed to allow 10-20 million illegal aliens to pour into the U.S. without background checks, for the sole purpose of increasing the Democrat party's voter base --- American citizens be damned.

We also had another reminder of this Administration's destructive policies this week on the global stage. The Biden administration finally admitted that its policy on Iran has failed. After twelve years of Obama and Biden and the "adults in the room" appeasing and funding Iran to get its regime to pretend it would behave, they admit their attempts to keep Iran from getting nuclear weapons "didn't work." Trump knew, before he took office the first time, that the policy was idiotic and dangerous, and he worked tirelessly to weaken Iran and the terrorists. Instead of continuing Trump's successful policies, Biden and Blinken decided to build Iran and the terrorists back up. Repeating the same errors over and over again might be looked at as incompetence, but, again, no

one can be that stupid.

We have also experienced rioters looting, burning, killing, assaulting, and occupying portions of cities, --- largely with impunity. This country is now seeing a flood of anti-semitism, and this week we saw the pre-meditated murder of an insurance company CEO. Most bothersome, few Democrats seem capable of unequivocally condemning any of this violence. Our soon to be unemployed VP actually supported funding bail money for the rioters. When Biden condemns antisemitism in the United States, he cannot help himself but muddy the water by talking about Islamophobia, but no one is chasing Muslim students off of college campuses. The murder of the UnitedHealthcare CEO has also been met with a lot of "buts" and excuses. Senator Elizabeth Warren's words basically tried to justify the murder on television. "You can only push people so far," she reasoned. Warren is a staunch supporter of Obamacare, which ironically is the present health care system that people hate. Democrats think so little of the American people that they think we can't connect the dots and notice that Democrats are the ones who "pushed people too far" by breaking the health care system and forcing Obamacare down their throats. Democrats got their "Affordable Health Care Act" and nothing is affordable today. Incompetence, or purposely destructive? You decide.

This week's chuckle isn't really funny. It's just ironic. As they do in all tragic shootings, Democrats don't want to let any tragedy go to waste, so they break out their gun control rhetoric. After the tragic shooting at the Wisconsin Christian school this week, the President, who just pardoned his son for gun crimes, called on the nation to get serious about firearm sales.

"Congress must pass commonsense gun safety laws. Universal background checks. A ban on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines." Perhaps he should have added a disclaimer at the bottom: "***Unless you are my drug-addicted son." Biden also this week made some comments about his party running a "scandal free" campaign. Now, that is funny.

Ed Henrie, Montrose

CARTOON BY TIM JONES

WEEKLY CARTOON

SOUR GRAPES

by Tim Jones



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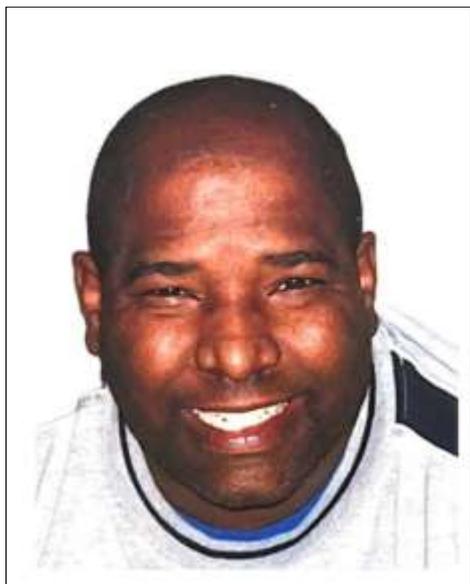
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COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

GENE RUBEN

December 24, 1964- October 27, 2024



GENE RUBEN, also known as Eugene Ruben III, passed away on October 27, 2024 at the age of 59 at Montrose Regional Health in Montrose, Colorado after a sudden illness.

Gene was born in Galveston, Texas on December 24, 1964 to Eugene Ruben Jr. and Betty Ruben, but moved to California at a young age with his siblings. His father and stepfather were both in the Navy, and Gene was raised in military housing. Because of this, he met many interesting people from many different places. He lived all over southern California, but always said he was from Long Beach and Compton.

Gene came from a large family and was the middle child of 6 siblings. He also had many other family members like grandparents, aunts, uncles, and lots of cousins. Later in life, Gene took an interest in learning about his genealogy and where his family came from.

As a child and teenager, Gene could have been considered a troublemaker because of his propensity to get into trouble. His friend Allen said that he used to run away into the canyon near their military housing and Alan said that he and his brother

Jeffrey Kevin would have to go look for him. He also remembered that Gene used to get into trouble at home and tested the patience of his mother and siblings. Later on, he got in trouble and ended up moving in with his brother. His experiences shaped how he interacted with people, and with the choice to work with kids and the disabled. Gene graduated from Serra High School and later graduated from the University of Southern California in Bellflower, California with dual degrees in psychology and recreation administration. His true joy in life was working with kids, which he did for many years at the YMCA. There he accompanied all age groups to various outings in the area. Once some of his students got stuck in the water. He jumped in and stayed with them until they were rescued. It shows what kind of person Gene was. He didn't want the kids to be scared and alone. After the YMCA, Gene worked as the manager of a 99 bed facility that took care of developmentally disabled adults. He also worked at various psychiatric hospitals for children and adults. He was proud of what he did, and he loved working with people.

Gene's passion in life was working with children. He had a great rapport with children. They trusted and listened to him. In California, he counseled many kids in psych hospitals, and one even invited him to her graduation. He moved to Colorado in 1998 to help his sister. There, he worked with both developmentally disabled adults in group homes, and with brain injured adults. He loved all the jobs he worked at because he was a kind and caring person, and he was very good at what he did. He always said that he didn't get into the field because it paid well (because it didn't), but because it was a labor of love. He didn't care about the money; he just wanted to make a difference.

In 1999, after moving to Colorado, Gene met his wife Jennifer while working at a

group home for developmentally disabled adults. They married in Las Vegas on August 13, 2002 and remained married until his death. They settled in Arvada, Colorado, and later in Montrose, Colorado.

Later in life, Gene was a doting grandpa to four grandchildren. Journee was the oldest, followed by Ezra, Odyssee, and Ananias. Gene loved being around his grandchildren, and was especially close to Ezra, to whom he was a father figure.

Gene loved to cook, which he got from his mother. He found it relaxing and cooked almost every day. He was possessive of his kitchen and wouldn't let anyone in it while he was cooking. He was known to make up his own recipes and rarely follow one. He took care of his In-laws Dorothy and Clyde by cooking for them several times a week. He said that's what families do, and it was his pleasure to do it.

Gene proudly wore Nike and Jordan clothing and shoes exclusively. He was all about color-coordinating his outfits and wouldn't leave the house unless he matched from head to toe. He had many outfits and dozens of shoes. He was also proud that he owned a stock in Nike. Despite his love for the brand, he was also known to go to the grocery store in his pajamas. He didn't care what other people thought about it, as long as he was comfortable.

Gene had two daughters. When Gene was asked what the best moments of his life were, he said it was when his daughters were born. His oldest, Taylor Ruben, was born in 1988, and his youngest, Devan Monique Ruben, was born in 1991. They were the first loves of his life, and he adored them. He took care of them when they were babies, cooking and cleaning for them, giving them baths in the evenings before he went to work the night shift, and taking them on outings, including many outings to Disneyland and various sporting events. His girls were proud

GENE RUBEN

December 24, 1964- October 27, 2024

to call him their dad. Gene's daughters adored him. They both remember him as a loving, caring father who taught them how to live a full life. They were blessed to call him their father.

His daughters said Gene was a friend to many and was loved by many. He was a father, husband, son and grandfather. He lived the best life he could with the time he was given and was taken away too soon. He is not here with us but is in our hearts and memories, and with that he will live on. He loved sports, music, food,

movies, and of course his Nike wear. In fact, he played football from a very young child all the way through college. His favorite teams were the Cowboys and the Lakers, and he followed them religiously.

He always made people laugh and was very persuasive. He could talk anyone into anything. He taught those around him to love, and family was everything to him. He was blessed with good friends and family. His family is truly heartbroken that he is gone but valued their time with him throughout his life.

Gene was preceded in death by his parents and his grandparents.

He is survived by his wife, Jennifer Ruben of Montrose, Colorado, his daughter Taylor Ruben from Fresno, California, and two granddaughters, Journee and Odyssee; and Devan Woods from Colorado Springs, and his two grandsons Ezra and Ananias.

He was also survived by his 6 sisters and brothers: Beverly Allen of Aurora, Colorado; David Ruben, Jeffrey Ruben, and Brenda Ruben, all of Texas; Earl.

DENNIS EDWARD HUONDER

July 12, 1941 — December 8, 2024



DENNIS (DENNY) EDWARD HUONDER, a cherished husband, father, grandfather, and friend, passed away peacefully on December 8, 2024, in Longmont, Colorado, at the age of 83. Born on July 12, 1941, in Medford, Oregon, Dennis lived a life marked by dedication to his family and

service to his country.

A proud veteran, Dennis served in the United States Navy after graduating high school. Upon completion of his military service, he was a USPS mailman for a time, before attending electrical trade school. Upon graduation and completion of his internship, he held multiple jobs in the industry. In 1977 he and his beloved wife Rose, moved their family to Montrose for a better quality of life for their family, and a slower pace of life near the mountains. He worked for distant and local companies, ranging from power plants to sawmills. After retirement, he enjoyed working many odd jobs to stay busy. His work ethic and dedication were admired by colleagues and friends alike.

Dennis was a man of integrity and warmth, known for his kindness and generosity. He enjoyed spending time with his family, traveling & camping with Rose, and sharing stories of his naval adventures with everyone. His presence brought joy and comfort to those around him, and his absence will be deeply felt by all who

knew him.

Dennis spent 47 years in Montrose, Colorado, where he and Rose built a life filled with love, family and community. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Rosetta (Rose) (Nyman), his parents, Art and Helen (Renstrom) Huonder, sisters, Judy and Joan & granddaughter Madeline. His legacy is carried on by his three children, Russell Huonder, Edward (Mary Bell) Huonder, Mary (Jeff) Jones, six grandchildren Zachary (Pamela), Andrew, Connor, Kathryn, Adam and Abigail. All who will remember him as a devoted and loving father & grandfather.

His memory will forever remain in the hearts of his family and friends during a celebration of life filled with love, service and dedication. At Dennis' request, cremation has taken place.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, December 28, 2024, at 10 A.M. at Crippin Funeral Home, 802 E. Main St., Montrose, CO 81401. Interment will follow the service at Grand View Cemetery, west of Montrose.

ISSUE 500 Dec. 23, 2024

ART & SOL

HEIRLOOMS FOR HOSPICE

MONTROSE, DELTA, GJ RESALE HOLIDAY SALES BENEFIT COMMUNITY

*By Carole Ann McKelvey
Montrose Mirror Staff Writer*

MONTROSE -- Many of the shoppers coming into Montrose's Heirlooms for Hospice upscale boutique on Main Street don't understand the connection between the popular shop and how its purpose is to benefit Hope West community programs. The holiday season emphasizes just how that connection happens.

Heirlooms Sales Manager Erin Woyak recently revealed that the three Heirlooms shops (Montrose, Delta and Grand Junction) Black Friday sale, Nov. 29-30, benefited with a stellar sale reaping \$37,354 for Hope West.

This connection between the stores and HopeWest and its programs supports not just the hospice programs -- easing the end of life for hundreds of locals -- but also funds counseling for grieving families and camps for kids who have lost loved ones.

Angela Becherl, Store Manager of the Montrose Heirloom for Hospice store, says the retail stores -- which depend entirely upon donations and sells only the "best of the best" -- contribute many of the operating funds for the unique non-profit.

All three Heirlooms stores depend entirely on community donations of clothing, accessories, furniture, dishes, décor, antiques & collectibles. Volunteers serve as cashiers, merchandisers, chalk painters



Heirlooms for Hospice Montrose store volunteers (from left), Joann Waschbush, Char Lazard, Judy Lewis and Carole McKelvey celebrate wrapping Christmas gifts to be donated to area school children to give their parents. (Submitted photo)

and do other important work. It is estimated each volunteer contributes an hourly wage for the success of the boutiques, slashing necessary expenditures. Paid staff also contribute greatly to the success.

The profits from the local stores benefit the hospice, palliative care, and grief and bereavement programs at HopeWest. This entity is unique in Colorado as it is a non-

profit, 501 (c)(3) organization serving Western Colorado in Mesa, Delta, Montrose, Ouray and Rio Blanco counties. They are committed to meeting the unique physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of patients and families, ensuring they receive exceptional care and comfort during life's most difficult moments. The stores also support **Camp Good Grief**, (a weekend summer camp, for children entering

Continued next pg

HEIRLOOMS FOR HOSPICE From previous pg

3rd through 8th grade) providing a safe and compassionate environment for kids and teens to explore their grief issues with peers and build skills for coping with difficult times.

The stores also help support **Itty Bitty Camp**, which is for children entering kindergarten through 2nd grade.

The curriculum is designed especially for young children and includes learning new words to describe their feelings. Being with other children their age lets them know they are not alone. Equine therapy also offers children and teens a unique way to process the thoughts and feelings associated with grief. These seven -week groups provide a variety of activities and interaction with horses. These are just a few of the many programs Hope West offers and the stores and donors contribute to.

During the holiday season the stores are, of course, particularly busy with projects. For example, on Thursday, Dec. 5, the regular afternoon shift of volunteers (six women volunteers) were tasked with the enviable duty of wrapping a ton (all donated) of holiday comfort gifts -- gathered

throughout the year -- for the sole purpose of giving them to children at several Montrose selected elementary schools to give to their parents for Christmas. All the gifts of pajamas, wraps, robes and gloves or slippers are individually wrapped by volunteers with holiday paper and ribbons and with a tag stating the gift is for a mom and/or a dad, what the gift is and its size. It has become a holiday tradition at the store.

Also, the stores have programs to help out the community. The store works with the schools to receive a list of what they need. This is a wonderful way for the kids to surprise Mom or Dad with a wrapped gift from them on Christmas morning. Volunteers say they love this event, as they get to wrap them up into lovely packages and play the part in being a Christmas elf!

The Heirlooms for Hospice stores support many different entities. This includes:

- The Shepherd's Hand, by supplying sleeping bags, tents, blankets.
- Also supported is Life Choices with beauty supplies.
- The list goes on.

Heirlooms managers say the store loves to help wherever possible and where the community needs it, including, but not reserved to.

- Grief counseling services for children, adults and families.
- Hospice and Palliative Care services
- Children's grief camps for local children who have lost a loved one.
- Provide items to area shelters, local animal shelters, and to an American Indian Tribe and the gift program highlighted in this article to area elementary school children at Christmas time which allows the children to gift gayly wrapped presents to their parents.

Full Disclosure: *This story was written by Carole Ann McKelvey (Lawton) whom readers may recognize for her reviews via the column Rocky Mountain Cravings in the Mirror. Carole also volunteers at the Heirlooms store in Montrose. This volunteer service she says is very personal, as Hope West helped ease the end-of-life struggle for Carole's beloved husband, photographer Michael Lawton, when he passed away near Christmas about two years ago, and Hope West also provided Carole with free grief counseling after his death.*



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

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

GAIL MARVEL
Montrose Author & Reporter

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



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 don@allsaintsmontrose.org](mailto:pgor-

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Worship Service Times: Sundays 9AM,

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 week prayer and communion, Wednes-
 day, Noon, Multi-denominational Commu-
 nity Prayer Hour.

All Saints Anglican Church is an Evangelical
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We invite kids preschool and up to join
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 day service. We would love to welcome
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 hope: in us and in our world.

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Pastor Gabe Skillo

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Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Sunday 6 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Study/Prayer 7 p.m.

CELEBRATION CHURCH

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

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

Office Hours: By appointment

Phone: (970) 497-4925

Email: celebrationmontrose@gmail.com

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

Worship Service Times: 9am and 10:45am

Senior Pastor:

Pastor Brandon Mathis

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

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

Demographics: Multi-generational

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

Student (middle & high school) at 9am.

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

CHRIST'S CHURCH OF THE VALLEY

Name of Church: Christ's Church of the
 Valley

Denomination Affiliation: Non-
 denominational Christian Church/Church
 of Christ

Address: 10 Hillcrest Plaza Way. Mont-
 rose, CO 81401

Office hours: Tuesday & Wednesday 9am-
 noon and by appointment.

Contact information:

Phone: 970-249-0530

Email: CCVMontroseCO10@gmail.com

Website: ccvmontrose.org

Name of current Senior Pastor: Ken Law-
 rence

Worship service times: 10:30 a.m.

Mission: Christ's Church of the Valley is a
 loving and welcoming church whose pur-
 pose is to help people to know and grow

in our Lord Jesus Christ to the glory of
 God.

Description: CCV is a multi-generational
 church family. While we are currently pre-
 dominately seniors, we are becoming
 more multi-generational.

Sunday School & Childcare: CCV has
 adult Sunday School at 9 a.m. and Youth
 Church during the 10:30 a.m. worship
 service.

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. Noon on Satur-
 days. 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)

[roseumc.org](http://montroseumc.org)
Current Senior Pastor: Rev. Kevin Young
Worship service times:
 8:30 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual
 9:45 a.m. Christian Education & Fellowship
 11 a.m. Sanctuary
Montrose UMC is a leader in being fully inclusive, loving, and just servants of

Christ. Our church family welcomes people from various cultural and faith backgrounds: single, married, remarried, with or without children, from diapers to dentures.
Wherever you are on your spiritual journey we invite you to come discover hope, joy, peace, purpose.

ROSEMONT BAPTIST CHURCH

Affiliation: Southern Baptist
Address: 1598 E. Niagara Road, Montrose, CO 81401
Office Hours: Tues-Thurs, 9am-4pm
Contact information:
 Phone: 970.249.4887
 website: www.RosemontBaptist.org
 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 Spiritual and Interfaith Community
Address: Services 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., 2nd Sunday of each month; Chai Chats, a Wednesday morning midweek informal spiritual gathering at 10:30 a.m. at Pun Hill Himalayan Restaurant, Mont-

rose; 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. People of all ages are welcome.
There are currently no Sunday School or nursery services provided but craft supplies are available for youth.

ST. STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

Denomination: Anglican-Reformed Episcopal Church (REC)
Address: 2405 Sunnyside Road, Montrose 970-249-4868
Contact: [ststephensmont-](http://ststephensmontrose.com)

rose@yahoo.com
www.ststephensmontrose.com
Rev. Dec. Garrett Agajanian
St. Stephen's is a community of caring Christians rooted in the godly traditions of the past, focused on the challenges of the

present, hopeful for the future, continuing in the Faith once delivered to the saints, using the 1928 Book of Common Prayer.
Sunday: Holy Communion 10 am. Fellowship following service.
Children's nursery available (unstaffed).

SUMMIT CHURCH OF MONTROSE:

Denomination affiliation: Southern Baptist
Address: 10977 60.75 Rd. Montrose, CO 81403
Office hours: Varies
Contact information:
[email:summitchurchmontrose@gmail.com](mailto:summitchurchmontrose@gmail.com)
website:
www.summitchurchmontrose.org
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://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.

<p>Church Directory <i>Mirror Editorial Staff</i> 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</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>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?</p>
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julie@thehiddenlakecommunity.com www.thehiddenlakecommunity.com

URBAN HIP-E NOT WORTH YOUR TIME OR MONEY



By Carole Ann McKelvey

MONTROSE – Another new restaurant in town with great possibilities and not worth it, Sigh!

My son, Ian, and I tried Urban Hip-E last night hoping for a great fresh meal. Nope. He said his “regular Hiro” was “okay,” but the one at Arby’s was better! At least the one at Arby’s is served with Tajiki sauce (like any real Hiro is) and not blue cheese sauce. What?!

I’m sorry to tell you that in my opinion Urban Hip-E is overpriced and not very good. I cannot tell a lie. When I test out a place, I expect to be able to finish the meal and have a good taste left in my mouth. Well, not so this time. I ordered



the Alfredo pasta with spinach. Maybe we just ordered the wrong thing? They did have a lot of fresh-looking salads on the menu. Altogether I spent \$69-plus and it was not good. My pasta was mealy and the sauce was bland. I asked for some Parmesan to spice it up and was given a serving of Mozzarella. The sauce was like you had just mixed together milk and flour and called it a sauce. Maybe there was some butter in there, I don’t know.

Also, ordered a “Spanish Artichoke” which had no flavor. I love artichokes, how can one not have any flavor? It was served with a bland dipping white substance I couldn’t place at all.

Now, the martini I had was served with

three olives and tasted like a “dirty” martini. I have to give them that.

But . . . Urban Hip-E is in the Walmart shopping center across from the Dollar Store. I’m sorry, really I am, but it was just not good. Maybe we ordered the wrong thing? I’m telling you, I won’t go back to try this place again. When I got home I grabbed a frozen chocolate bar from the freezer so I didn’t go to bed hungry. Yikes!

You can order from this menu if you feel like trying it. But I’m betting it won’t be there long enough to do so. Tiny dining room that seats maybe 15 people; used to be an ice cream parlor. Tastefully decorated with lots of baskets and plants.

Nothing “Hippie” about it; take it from an old hippie.

I swear. This is the first time I’ve left a restaurant in town when I felt angry for spending the money I did! I promised myself not to write this review right away as I was upset.

So I waited a day or so.

Nope! Still upset.



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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

MAGIC CIRCLE PLAYERS: THE TIN WOMAN

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Instead of relishing life after her heart transplant, Joy enters a downward spiral, unsure whether she truly deserves a second chance. Meanwhile, Alice and Hank mourn the loss of their son, Jack, whose heart was used to save Joy. At a friend's urging, Joy tracks down Jack's family to find closure. But are Alice, Hank, and their daughter Sammy ready to accept Jack's death? Based on a true story, *The Tin Woman* by Sean Grennan, uses humor and pathos to explore loss, family, and what it means to be given new life. Directed by Merrilee F. Robertson, Assistant Director Stasia Allyn. Tickets at magiccircleplayers.com. Magic Circle Players, 420 S 12th St, Montrose. Box office: 970-249-7838.

Performance dates:

- The Tin Woman-Friday, Jan. 10, 2025 - 07:30 PM MST
- The Tin Woman-Saturday, Jan. 11, 2025 - 07:30 PM MST
- The Tin Woman-Sunday, Jan. 12, 2025 - 02:00 PM MST
- The Tin Woman-Friday, Jan. 17, 2025 - 07:30 PM MST
- The Tin Woman- Saturday, Jan. 18, 2025 - 07:30 PM MST
- The Tin Woman-Sunday, Jan. 19, 2025 - 02:00 PM MST
- The Tin Woman-Friday, Jan. 24, 2025 - 07:30 PM MST
- The Tin Woman-Saturday, Jan 25, 2025 - 07:30 PM MST

DESIGN YOUR OWN YEAR WITH CREATIVE WORKSHOP

Special to the Mirror

GRAND JUNCTION— The Mesa County Women's Network is excited to announce an inspiring and creative workshop to kick-start 2025 with purpose, intention, and artistic expression.

Join us for Design Your Year: A Word of the Year and Hand Lettering Workshop, where two dynamic presenters will guide you through a transformative process to uncover your potential and set meaningful goals for the year ahead. Maggie La Hue, founder of Choose You Coaching, will lead participants through the One Word Challenge, a powerful alternative to traditional

New Year's resolutions. Drawing on insights from the book *One Word That Will Change Your Life*, Maggie will help attendees identify a single word that will guide and shape their year, offering a simple but impactful way to create lasting change. Jolynn Chavez, owner of Fat Cat Pottery, will then help participants bring their chosen word to life through the art of hand lettering. With nearly two decades of experience as a creative entrepreneur, Jolynn will teach techniques to design a personalized, beautiful piece of art that reflects your intentions for the year ahead.

This workshop is perfect for anyone looking to bring clarity, creativity, and focus into 2025.

By the end of the session, attendees will leave with a clear vision for the year and a unique piece of art to inspire them throughout the year.

Design Your Year: A Word of the Year and Hand Lettering Workshop will be held on Jan. 14 from 6p-8p at Abstract & Title Company Board Room 2464 Patterson Road in Grand Junction. Everyone must register for this event, spaces limited.

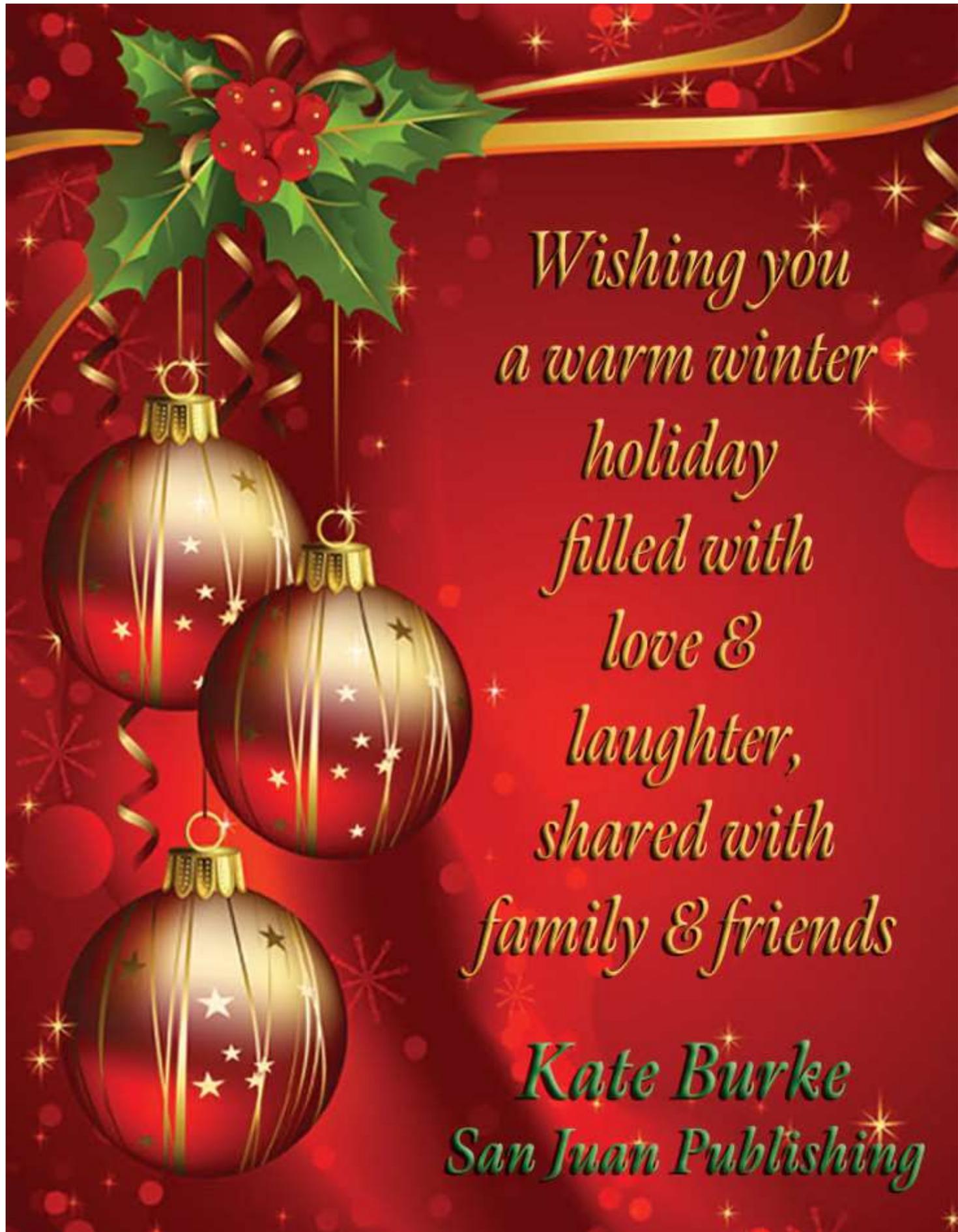
Tickets are \$35 or free for current members. Register at MCWN.US

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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

Dec. 25-Merry Christmas!

Jan. 7-Tuesday Jan. 7 at 5 Citizens' Climate Lobby meets at Montrose library meeting rm. Progress on recycle building codes with Montrose County Commissioners. Nonpartisan, National, Environmental. All Welcome info 970-765-9095.



BREEZE LANDS AT MONTROSE REGIONAL AIRPORT



Breeze Airways' first flight to Montrose was captured by Photographer Gunnison Clamp.

An advertisement for The Montrose Mirror. It features a large black bear on the left, looking towards the right. In the foreground, a person's hands are holding a tablet computer. The background is a scenic view of a mountain range with snow-capped peaks and green slopes. The text "Save a tree - Read the Mirror!" is written in a large, white, cursive font. Below this, the logo for "THE MONTROSEMIRROR" is displayed, followed by the tagline "Your Source for Local Business News and Information". At the bottom right, the phone number "Call For Ad Rates: 970-275-0646" is written in a white, cursive font.