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the Montrose Mirror

CITY APPROVES UP TO \$55M IN CERTIFICATES OF PARTICIPATION WITH UMB BANK TO CONSTRUCT NEW PUBLIC WORKS FACILITY



"Council authorized the borrowing of Certificates of Participation for the construction of the Public Works Facility Project, as Ordinance 2679 passed on First Reading—"authorizing and approving a site lease and lease purchase agreement between the City and UMB Bank, N.A. (solely in its capacity as trustee); approving not to exceed \$55,000,000 principal amount of certificates of participation, series 2025..."

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE- Councilor Judy Ann Files was absent, all other councilors were in attendance for the regular Montrose City Council meeting of Tuesday, March 4. City of Montrose Youth Councilors Shiloh Warthen and Reign Icasiano were also present.

There were a number of citizens attending the meeting, and members of city staff were present as well.

Mayor J. David Reed called the meeting to order and asked all to join him in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Pro Tem David Frank had no changes to the meeting agenda. "The agenda stands as presented," Mayor Reed said.

PROCLAMATION-AMERICAN RED CROSS MONTH

"The first order of business is a very pleasurable order of business..." Mayor Reed asked Christie Kaster of the American Red Cross to step forward as he read a proclamation honoring March as American Red Cross month. Kaster was

Continued pg 12

A CHAT WITH JOLIE CLARK, PRESIDENT OF HOTCHKISS SHEEP CAMP STOCK DOG TRIALS

Special submission by Sue Zanol

REGIONAL-WHAT ARE THE HOTCHKISS SHEEP CAMP STOCK DOG TRIALS (HSCSDT)?

The HSCSDT is a sporting event that showcases the border collie and handler as they work together as a team to fetch 3 or 4 sheep on a timed course. There are different levels of competition from inexperienced dogs or handlers to professional seasoned dogs and handlers. It is also fun to watch dogs move the sheep on and off the field.

WHAT WILL SPECTATORS SEE?

Dogs and handlers from across the United States and Canada will come to scenic Hotchkiss, Colorado. Spectators will watch them perform their magic as a working team following a timed course. An outrun, lift and fetch are at the beginning of the course with the sheep moving in a straight

Continued pg 6



The dog pictured with Clark is Orrin. Photo by Sue Zanol.

UPDATED GUIDELINES FOR LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Dear Readers:

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you,
 Caitlin Switzer,
 Montrose Mirror Editor

the Montrose Mirror



Fresh news for busy people
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 Published every Monday in Montrose, Colorado, the Montrose Mirror reaches a readership of over 25,000 across the region.
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We welcome community contributions and commentary! Please note, submitted content does not necessarily reflect the views of the *Montrose Mirror* or its editorial team.

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FACTS & FICTION



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Background: Born in Delta and raised on dairy farms in western CO. Bill attended Univ. of Wyoming where he earned Bachelor's Degrees in Psychology and Criminal Justice. Bill also attended Pepperdine Univ. School of Law and obtained a Master of Public Administration degree from the Univ. of Wyoming before serving CO Governor Bill Owens in the Office of Policy & Initiatives. Bill served as President of the CO Municipal League, CO City & County Managers' Assoc., and Black Canyon Rotary Club. Bill also served on the International City & County Managers' Assoc. Gov't Affairs & Policy Committee and is a past recipient of the prestigious ICMA "Career Development Award."

Favorite Community Event: 4th of July Celebration

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I am proud to serve our community because: Montrose is the perfect place to raise a family and I am so grateful for the opportunity to make a lasting impact on our community by working alongside my staff and many community leaders around Montrose to make seemingly impossible things a reality over the past 13 years.

Questions? Call Bill Bell, City Manager at 970-901-8580



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HOTCHKISS SHEEP CAMP STOCK DOG TRIALS From pg 1

straight line and going around the handler who is standing at a post. The dog then drives the sheep through a left or right hand designated panel.

Finally, the dog and handler will shed (separate) the sheep and drive them all into a pen.

All of these skills are done in a seven to nine minute timeframe!

WHERE IS IT LOCATED?

The HSCSDT is located in a large pasture with majestic mountains as a backdrop, just one block from downtown on 2nd Street across from the Hotchkiss Fire Station. Hotchkiss is located approximately one hour from Grand Junction (take U.S. 50 East to Delta. Turn left at the stop light and keep going on CO-92 East. Hotchkiss is called the friendliest town around. It's a place where everybody knows everybody!

HOW MUCH \$\$?

IT IS FREE!! MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR MOTHER'S DAY WEEKEND FUN, MAY 9-11, 2025 7:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. (approx)

TIPS:

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- Get a program at the entrance that explains the course and terminology used.
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- ✓ **Special Community RoundUp**
From March 15 through April 15, every round-up donation will directly benefit The Village on San Juan— an innovative housing community that provides affordable, supportive housing for at-risk young adults and seniors in Montrose.
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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

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THE GREATEST DANGER TO TRUE GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY

Editor:

As Elon Musk is finding out, the greatest danger to true government efficiency lies within the bureaucratic deep state, embodied by public employees who think they call all the shots.

On a smaller scale that same malady exists here in Montrose with our city and county government. As more and more taxpayers begin to realize this, it becomes clear that our City and County Governments need an administrative realignment.

Dee Laird, Montrose

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

HELP SELECT THEME FOR NEW CITY HALL ART INSTALLATION

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— The City of Montrose is inviting residents to help shape the future of public art at City Hall by voting on the theme for a new artwork installation on the southwest exterior wall of the building.

The installation — potentially a mural, metalwork, or a combination of both — will be a lasting piece of public art. The project has a total budget of \$50,000. To ensure community voices are heard, the city is launching a survey in early March where residents can vote on one of three potential themes:

Interactive – A dynamic artwork that invites public participation, such as a design you can pose with, a 3D element that creates a unique perspective, or an installation that changes with the viewer's angle. This theme is meant to be engaging and fun, making the artwork an experience rather than just something to observe.

Local Shout Out – Highlighting elements unique to Montrose, such as local history, landmarks, or notable figures.

Botanical – Celebrating the natural beauty of the region through plant and floral imagery.

"The city is excited to bring this art installation to life in downtown Montrose, and we want the community to be a part of this process," said Michelle Wingfield, DART and community programs coordinator. "By voting on the theme, residents can help guide the creative direction of this installation."

The survey will be available through the city's website, social media channels, and community partner networks. The online survey will close March 23. No public meeting is planned for the theme selection process.

Next Steps

Once the theme is selected, the city will launch a Call for Entry, inviting artists to submit their proposals. A project team—including city staff, representatives from the Montrose Center for Arts, downtown business owners, Youth City Council members, and City Council members—will review submissions and select a final design by early May. The artwork is expected to be installed in the summer of 2025, with a public celebration to follow.

To participate in the survey, visit: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CityHallArtVote> or follow the City of Montrose on social media.

For information about the City of Montrose visit CityofMontrose.org.



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- PEANUT BALL & LABOR BALL
- NITROUS GAS
- POSSIBILITY OF EARLY DISCHARGE FOR FAMILIES MEETING CRITERIA
- MINI-FRIDGE, MICRO-WAVE AND COFFEE POT

CITY APPROVES UP TO \$55M IN CERTIFICATES OF PARTICIPATION WITH UMB BANK TO CONSTRUCT NEW PUBLIC WORKS FACILITY *From pg 1*

joined by several Red Cross volunteers; she gave a brief statement and honored the local Red Cross heroes. The Red Cross has 264 volunteers across the Western Slope, and they "turn compassion into action every day," Kaster said.

CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Reed read aloud the "preamble" to public comment, after which one constituent stepped up to speak. Cindy Olinghouse addressed the City Council, "I'm simply asking you yet again, please make Montrose a non-sanctuary city. Life is changing all over our nation, and I think it's important we get in step with what's going on."

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council voted to approve the minutes of the February 18, 2025, special City Council meeting and the February 18, 2025, regular City Council meeting.

TAVERN LIQUOR LICENSE TRANSFER APPLICATION

Hampton Inn General Manager Maria Palomera was present to answer questions, and councilors voted to approve the transfer of the Tavern liquor license at 1980 N. Townsend Avenue from Montrose Lodging LLC, doing business as Hampton Inn, to S3 Montrose LLC, doing busi-

ness as Hampton Inn, for consumption on the licensed premises.

ORDINANCE 2679 - FIRST READING

Council authorized the borrowing of Certificates of Participation for the construction of the Public Works Facility Project, as Ordinance 2679 passed on First Reading—"authorizing and approving a site lease and lease purchase agreement between the City and UMB Bank, N.A. (solely in its capacity as trustee); approving not to exceed \$55,000,000 principal amount of certificates of participation, series 2025, in connection therewith; authorizing officials of the City to take all action necessary to carry out the transactions contemplated hereby; and related matters."

ORDINANCE 2680 - SECOND READING

Council voted to approve Ordinance 2680 on Second Reading, amending the zoning district designation of Spruce Point Subdivision from R-3A, Medium High Density District with conditions to R-3A, Medium High Density District without conditions.

ORDINANCE 2681 - SECOND READING

Also approved on Second Reading was Ordinance 2681, amending Title 3 Chapter 5 Sections(s) 12, 13, and 19 regarding the City water and sewer systems.

CEDAR VIEW SUBDIVISION NO. 2

PLANNED DEVELOPMENT FILING 2 FINAL

PLAT

Council voted to approve the Cedar View Subdivision No. 2 Planned Development Filing 2 Final Plat to create 19 residential lots and associated easements, rights-of-way, and open space.

EAGLE RANCH SOUTH FINAL PLAT, FILING 1

The Eagle Ranch South Final Plat, Filing 1 to create two residential lots and associated easements was approved.

STAFF REPORTS

There were no staff reports.

YOUTH COUNCIL REPORT


"Our Non-Profit Expo, designed by the Youth City Council, is coming up rather rapidly," Youth Councilor Shiloh Warthen said. "That will be on the 24th of March from 4-7:30 at the Pavilion, and we'd love to see you all there."

Youth Councilor Reign Icasiano reported on the marketing efforts for the non-profit expo, including social media posts and a banner above Main Street.

"Thank you, we always appreciate what you guys have to offer to us," Mayor Reed said.


With no comments from Council and no further business,

"Council stands adjourned," Mayor Reed said.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

THE CLOCK IS TICKING

Editor:

Wow it's hard to believe in such a short period of time the damage that has been done by the new County Commissioner team of Pond and Mijares.

Their unprofessional behavior has created a Toxic environment that has permeated throughout the offices and halls of every county building.

Maybe it's just me, but a county commissioner conducting county business at a business he owns, AKA Wild Horse Wine and Whiskey, seems unethical.

It is 130 days until the voters of Montrose County can start the official petitions to recall Mijares and 160 days to recall Pond.

We are Watching You.

Gwen Vaughan, Montrose



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Holding Public officials of Montrose, CO Accountable to "We the People"

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Check us out on   

Dear Editor,

For several months, **Mr. David White** has authored a weekly op-ed in *The Montrose Mirror*, raising serious concerns about the operations of the City of Montrose government, supported by what appears to be legitimate and substantiated evidence. In response, the **Montrose City Council** has dismissed these concerns, even going so far as to publicly call **Mr. David White** a liar without providing any specific evidence to support their claim.

It is imperative that these matters be addressed transparently and publicly. We are inviting **Mayor J. David Reed** and **Mr. David White** to participate in a public event to clarify the truth and dispel any misinformation among the Citizens of Montrose.

We hereby invite **Mayor Reed** and **Mr. White** to this forum, publicly herein, allowing them to identify a mutually convenient time and location. We anticipate that any individual who declines the invitation is unable to justify their position.

Mayor J. David Reed and **Mr. David White** may acknowledge their invitation by emailing Montrose D.O.G.E. at info@montroseDOGE.org.

We will coordinate the event based on the responses we receive from them, as well as from the Citizens of Montrose.

We encourage Citizens of Montrose who are interested in attending the forum to email info@montroseDOGE.org to express their interest in hearing the responses from both **Mayor Reed** and **Mr. White** live and unedited.

We encourage readers to monitor *The Montrose Mirror* for further updates on this initiative.

Sincerely,

Montrose Citizens D.O.G.E.

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5:00 PM

**MONTROSE
CHRISTIAN CHURCH**



GUEST SPEAKER:
MORGAN SPRADLING

Morgan is the owner and founder of Highland Cycles in Montrose, Colorado. He has participated in all kinds of sports, from football to alpine climbing but fell in love with off-road motorcycling in 2002 and is a massive part of his life. Morgan believes that dirt biking is an amazing way to spread the gospel to an incredible group of people!

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CITY HEARS UPDATES ON STREET WORK, VETERANS MEMORIAL



March 3 Work Session Screenshot.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-The Montrose City Council held a work session on Tuesday, March 3. Mayor J. David Reed welcomed everyone and apologized for opening the work session five minutes late, saying that he had had another meeting that "was running over a little bit..."

The public is welcome to attend work sessions, Reed said, but no public comment will be taken. "...This is a time for Council and staff to interchange and talk about the upcoming items that we will be considering..." Mayor Pro Tem Dave Frank was absent; all other councilors were present.

Details of all discussion items are included in the work session packet.

The first scheduled item, Historic Preservation Commission Applicant Interview, was deferred to the next work session.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Council heard from City Engineer Scott Murphy regarding the Moving Montrose Forward Street Maintenance Contracts, with two items to be considered:

- Change Order No. 3 in the amount of \$1,260,726.21 to A-1 Chipseal's Moving Montrose Forward Surface Treatment Contract for completion of the 2025 surface treatment and scope of work; and
- consideration of \$3,768,000 in expenditures for completion of the Moving Montrose Forward 2025 Contracted Street Maintenance Project. This includes the award of a construction contract to Oldcastle SW Group (DBA United Companies) in the amount of \$3,700,000, and authorization of \$68,000 in direct expenditures payable to Delta-Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) for relocation/replacement of conflicting streetlights within the project area. Public Works Director Jim Scheid presented for consideration the Sidewalk Improvements Project Expense Authorization.

The final item for discussion was a Street Sweeper Purchase Recommendation.

Fleet Superintendent Shane Brandt spoke about the process of purchasing a replacement sweeper for the current street sweeper which has aged and incurs high maintenance costs.

Public Works Director Jim Scheid said that interviews are being conducted for an Urban Forester. "...We'll be able to bring on a forester soon."

GENERAL COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Councilor Judy Ann Files spoke about the City Tree Board. "...this was something that kind of grew out of my years of being on the Tree City USA board. We have worked a lot on city code...now we're hoping to hire an urban forester..."

Files said that the city is working on licensing and insurance requirements for companies that trim trees in Montrose.

Mayor J. David Reed said that cottonwood trees are "one of the worst culprits, they rot from within and you don't know they're rotten 'til they come down."

Scheid said that the City's Urban Forester will work closely with the contracting pool to reduce risk and to train.

Scheid gave an update on the Veterans Memorial Project. The memorial will be located near the Botanic Gardens at the Montrose Pavilion. Scheid showed slides of the conceptual drawings. "This is a partnership with Montrose County and the Montrose Veterans Coalition..."

City Manager Bill Bell asked to move the second council meeting in April up to May, due to conflicts with Spring Break week at local schools. "There are a few of us who are normally gone during spring break week...a lot of times we'll schedule a retreat in between meetings, out at a restaurant or something like that, we could have dinner and talk about committee meetings and that kind of thing...we'll plan on that, I'll touch base with Dave Frank..."

Mayor Reed said that Mayor Pro Tem Dave Frank was not present due to his mother-in-law passing away.

Council took a five-minute break before returning for a special city council meeting. The agenda for the special meeting states it would involve, "An executive session for a conference with the City attorney for the purpose of receiving legal advice pursuant to C.R.S. Section 24-6-402 (4)(b), and the following additional details are provided for identification purposes: active and potential litigation update."



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OPINION/EDITORIAL:LETTERS

OPEN LETTER TO CONGRESSMAN JEFF HURD

Dear Mr. Hurd,

I am a resident and constituent of Congressional District Three in Montrose, Colorado, #CO03 #CD3. I identify as DEIA. I am a mom, a social worker, a disabled individual, a member of the Indivisible Montrose group...and so, so much more.

I am writing to request that during your next Congressional District work period, from March 13 to March 23, 2025, you hold an in-person town hall in Grand Junction, open to any of your constituents in your district.

It was unfortunate that you did not attend the event on February 22, 2025 in Grand Junction, put on by four local Indivisible groups in the Grand Junction area. We created the event for all concerned citizens (Democrats, Independents, Republicans, or non-voters) of Colorado Congressional District Three who were hoping to speak with you. As one of the organizers, I was sincerely hoping to meet you, speak with you, hear from you, and maybe work

with you, if possible, as the newly elected moderate Representative of this district.

You recently voted to advance the proposed ten year Republican budget bill. This bill would significantly reduce or entirely eliminate critical safety programs that are of great assistance to individuals and families who face barriers to housing, education, healthcare, food security, employment and other needs to be cared for in an American civil society. I want to know why you would vote FOR a budget that HARMS the lives of your constituents in CD3, when one of the main purposes of the American government is to deliver public services to help its citizens?

I was a recipient of such wonderful and generous entitlement programs when I was obtaining my Masters in Social Work degree. When I was completing my degree ten years ago, I utilized: The Division of Vocational Resources (DVR) whose 78.7% funding comes from the Dept. of Education, Medicaid 50% match from the Fed-

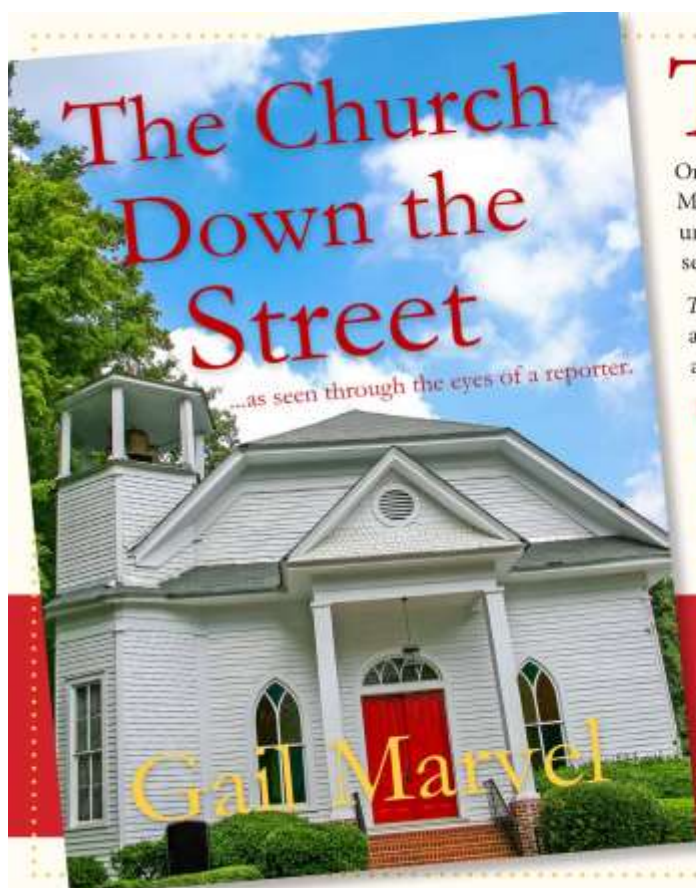
eral Govt. and SNAP, 100% funded by the Farm Bill.

I am grateful for the amazing, supportive Federal and State programs that enabled me to get a Masters degree in Social Work. This degree allows me to work within the limits of my disability and still be of service to my neighbors in Congressional District Three. I am serving my community with acts of service, as I was taught to do in my Baptist Sunday School class, loving others as God has loved me. Coloradans and Americans are facing challenging and uncertain times. Your constituents are eager to share their concerns with you in person as they are seeking understanding, clarification, and reassurance from you, as their designated Representative in Congress.

I look forward to hearing from you or one of your office representatives about when and where you will be holding your next in-person town hall in Grand Junction.

Respectfully,,

Holly L. Speaks, MSW



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

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

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

Readers will:

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

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

GAIL MARVEL
Montrose Author & Reporter





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DURANGO DEMONS 32, MONTROSE RED HAWKS 23



Junior Maggie Legg fires a jump shot over the outstretched arms of a Discovery Canyon defender. Photo by Cliff Dodge.

By Cliff Dodge

MONTROSE-The Montrose Red Hawks girls' basketball dream season carried them into the heart of the state high school playoffs as the Red Hawks qualified for the Sweet Sixteen, but were denied entry into the Final Eight on Wednesday evening by a bruising defensive effort by the Durango Demons on their home court. Both teams struggled with any consistent offensive efforts as both defenses stood tall. The Demons amassed 32 points while surrendering only 23 points to the Red Hawks. The 9-point victory punched the Demons ticket to the final eight which was played on Friday, March 7th. The Demons were crushed by the Air Academy Kadets 55-25.

The Red Hawks fought gamely against the Demons but were defeated by the score of 32-23. The Red Hawks were unable to unleash their offensive power and were unable to catch the Demons which ultimately ended their season.

Mayce Oberg led all Red Hawk scorers with 10 points. Maggie Legg chipped in with 6 points while Brooke Williams added 4 points. The Red Hawk rebounders were led by Williams with eight caroms which included 5 rebounds on the offensive glass. Mayce Oberg had 5 rebounds and Lilly Nelson gathered in 3 in a losing effort. Passing out assists has been a strong point all season for the Red Hawks, but on Wednesday evening the team had only 2 assists to go along with 8 steals. The Red Hawks committed 17 turnovers which did not aid their cause.

The 24-25 edition of the Red Hawks finished the season with 20 wins versus only 5 losses, a major achievement for this team. The future of Red Hawks girls basketball looks bright indeed as Brooke Williams is the only graduating senior. Eleven of the twelve players will return as well as players from the junior varsity who will fight for a place on the varsity bench. Head coach Steve Skiff undoubtedly is looking forward to next season and another run deep into the CHSAA playoffs.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

FARMERS GROW CROPS, RANCHERS GROW CATTLE BUT CASA JUST GREW AN ENTIRE COMMUNITY

Editor:

A couple of years ago, Jim Haugsness, a leader of CASA of the 7th judicial District (Court Appointed Special Advocates) walked me around a 15-acre wasteland on the U.S. 50 By-pass, incapable of growing anything beneficial. Last Wednesday, at The Forum in Montrose, we learned from Carlton Mason, Executor Director of CASA, that over the past two years, CASA grew a remarkable entire community, The Village on San Juan. Each fully-equipped small home is approximately 460 -820 square feet, arranged in pods of three. Fifteen units are occupied by young adults (18-24) coming out of foster care and fifteen units are occupied by those over 62 requiring supportive housing assistance. Each pod has a mix of members of both generations. Three more units are occupied on an emergency housing basis. The project also includes a community center, officing a Housing Navigator and Case Manager who oversees various supportive programs for the tenants. A public bus stop for All Points Transit provides transportation throughout the area.

The mix of occupants is designated as an intergenerational supportive housing development and is recognized by Colorado and across the nation as a leading example of what can be accomplished by awareness of a serious need and innovative creative thinking by an area non-profit. The project, costing around 10 million dollars, funded by a creative mix of grants, loans and donations, is returning value to the area manyfold in terms of construction costs, employment, rehabilitation, reduced law enforcement activity, reduced emergency room visits and increased productivity for many. For some, it keeps them from "becoming homeless" and for others it is a path "out of homelessness." For more uplifting information on this and two other CASA housing projects, Google "The Village on San Juan" and "CASA of the 7th Judicial District." Mason has also vastly expanded the mission of CASA, supporting abused and neglected children in the court system, to now include "Youth & Advocacy Services"

As a former CASA Board member years ago, I departed the Forum presentation with a sense of awe and admiration seldom experienced these days.

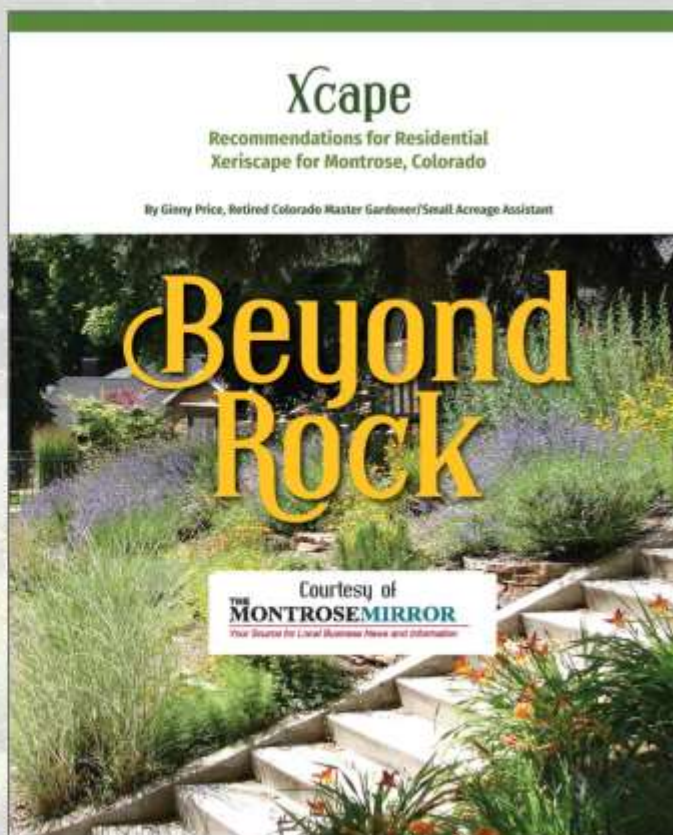
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John W. Nelson

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

ABSCONDING WITH MILLIONS OF ILLEGAL TAX FREE MONEY DOESN'T REQUIRE A SMART PERSON, ONLY A CORRUPT ONE

Editor;

Had to chuckle at Jo Clugg's whining last week about whether some unfamiliar folks paid their fair share of taxes. But then Donald Trump was included in that group. Didn't you know Jo that was one of the first things the Democrats harassed Trump about and found he had followed the tax rules established by congress? And just for the record President Trump does not take a salary for his time as president. He didn't the first four years and he isn't doing it now. He donates his salary to numerous charities. How many Democrats do that? It's strange how that is kept so secret by the media, but the hate-Trump news outlets have overturned every rock they could lift to only look for events they could twist into lies in order to file phony prosecutions against Donald Trump. But in the end they all ended up with egg on their faces and they certainly are mad!. President Trump is a humble man who doesn't flaunt his private business achievements, and beliefs. And the fake hate Trump left-wing media isn't about to give you the honest truth by informing you about it. So you can quit worrying about Trump paying taxes! But I noticed some names Jo left out who are rubbing

their ill-gotten riches in America's face. How about the whole Biden crime family? Stumbl'n, bumb'l'n, slurr'n, stagger'n Joey boy continually proved to be the victim of his own rhetoric of being a, "lie'n dog-faced pony soldier". (like the old saying, it takes one to know one) It would have been quite fitting if Joe would have looked in a mirror every time he made that remark. Oh well, now that he is thankfully out of office he can stare in the mirror anytime and admire that "pony soldier"! There is no proof any of that clan paid income taxes on their \$millions and \$millions in divided family bank accounts for bribes and hand-outs of \$billions from foreign communist adversaries. Even the \$billions Biden gave Zelensky has strangely resulted in being untraceable.....Hmmm! And what about the Biden sonny boy, Hunter who deducted tens of thousands of dollars from income taxes for payments made to prostitutes and a sex club resulting in a saving of \$106,000 from his taxes! (NY. Post, 6-22-23). Those in politics didn't acquire their \$millions of wealth on government salaries that bought their numerous multi-million dollar beach-front mansions! Another perfect example are the Obamas.

They didn't buy their several \$multi-million beach-front mansions on a government salary either! Oh darn, I almost forgot, they're all Democrats who are above the law and don't have to pay taxes contrary to their claims that Republicans ARE NOT "above the law"!

And what about another one, Democrat governor Jared Polis? Despite his net worth estimated to be in the hundreds of \$millions, he paid nothing in federal income taxes in 2013, 2014, and 2015. His overall rate during that time would have been 8.2%----less than half of the 19% paid by a worker making \$45,000 in 2018. (propublica.org, 11-4-2021).

So now Jo, you should have a better idea who really might be on "the take" by avoiding paying their "fair share of taxes" on obviously \$millions of income. Check out Democrat Charles Rangle about his tax-free rental income. At least President Trump earns his money by being a hard worker and smart.

Absconding with \$millions of illegal tax free money doesn't require a smart person, only a corrupt one. Like Ronald Reagan used to say, "don't be afraid to see what you see"!

Jerry Bartholome, Montrose



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

TONYA MADDOX: H.E.R. STORY - HEROINE. ENTREPRENEUR. REVITALIZER

Written by Jen Wolfe & Justin Tubbs

MONTROSE—Over the past nine years, Tonya Maddox has built a reputation as a dynamic force in Montrose's business community. As an entrepreneur, she has launched multiple businesses, founded a regional chamber of commerce, and played a key role in advocating for small businesses in Montrose County.

Maddox first moved to Montrose in 2017 to serve as publisher of the *Montrose Daily Press*. She, her now-late husband, and their son quickly put down roots.

"My husband loved the outdoors, and as a stay-at-home dad, he introduced our son to hiking, camping, fishing, and all that Colorado has to offer," she said. "We fell in love with the beauty and scope of the Western Slope."

In 2018, she left publishing to start her own business, Our Town Matters, a full-service marketing firm. At the start, it was a one-person operation with no clients, but Maddox had a goal: to help locally owned businesses compete with large chains.

"Seven years later, that goal remains the same, with a few tweaks," Maddox said. "We still cater to locally owned businesses, but we now work with businesses that have multiple locations across the Western Slope, throughout Colorado, and in other states."

Dedication to the business community

Beyond growing her own company, Maddox has been instrumental in shaping Montrose's business environment. When the 130-year-old Montrose Chamber of Commerce dissolved in 2018, she saw a void that needed to be filled.

In 2020, she gathered a group of business leaders to discuss the need for a new chamber to support Montrose County businesses. The result was the Greater Montrose Chamber of Commerce, a 501 (c)(6) organization dedicated to providing advocacy, networking, and resources for businesses of all sizes.

Maddox also serves on the board of the Montrose Economic Development Corporation, helping to drive business growth and economic initiatives in the region.

Sandy Head, Executive Director of the Montrose Economic Development Corporation, recalled meeting Maddox before she made the decision to relocate.

"She insisted that she wanted to know the nitty-gritty and asked that I not hold back on challenges that may lie ahead," Head said. "We are extremely fortunate that she made the right decision to bring her amazing drive and talents to Montrose." Today, the chamber has more than 130 members, ranging from small startups to global businesses with local headquarters. Thanks to Maddox's leadership, it has become a hub for mentorship, collaboration, and advocacy. "Due to Tonya's never-ending drive and dedication, we have a strong, growing Chamber once again," Head said.

In 2023, Maddox also founded *The Montrose Business Times*, a free online publication focused on telling the stories of local businesses and covering economic developments in the region.

"Tonya is dedicated to the business community," said Justin Tubbs, a newspaper editor with a decade of experience in the industry, whom Maddox brought on when founding the Business Times. "She believes that fair and accurate business reporting is an important part of any healthy business community."

Late in 2024, Our Town Matters and *The Montrose Business Times* moved west on Main Street to be closer to the heart of downtown. The Chamber's board also decided to lease space in the new building.

Its central location, at 501 E. Main St., allows Maddox and her team to engage with businesses and interact with walk-in traffic. A spacious conference room, available to all local businesses for a nominal fee, has created new opportunities for collaboration. The building also houses *Montrose Matters Live*, the podcast Maddox created to highlight local businesses and events. Past episodes are available at www.OurTownMatters.net.

Championing community engagement

Maddox has played a key role in organizing local events and initiatives. She found-



Montrose Entrepreneur Tonya Maddox.
Courtesy image.

ed and continues to coordinate the *Women of Distinction Awards* in Montrose each year, celebrating the achievements of women in the community. She also led efforts to establish the city's first Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebrations. In 2024, she was recognized with the town mayor's *You Make a Difference Award*. Montrose Mayor J. David Reed praised Maddox's impact. "Over the past eight years, Tonya has worked tirelessly to advance women in leadership, businesses in Montrose, and numerous events that add value to our community," he said. "Her enthusiasm and energy make every event that she participates in even better."

As a Black woman business owner in a rural area, Maddox has faced challenges. "The good old boy network still exists," she said. "I know how people may perceive me, but I aim to surprise them by being more and better than they expect. I break down barriers by doing good for my community and staying true to who I am." She acknowledges that systemic obstacles still exist. "There are barriers that generations before me haven't been able to break down," Maddox said. "But I don't

TONYA MADDOX: H.E.R. STORY - HEROINE. ENTREPRENEUR. REVITALIZER From previous pg



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let someone else's insecurities change me. By the end of a conversation, neither of us sees in color. I am comfortable in my skin and in my shoes."

Resilience and the road ahead

Two years ago, Maddox's husband passed away unexpectedly.

"His death brought me to my knees," she said.

"That's something all business owners should understand—there will be setbacks that knock the wind out of your sails. But you are stronger than you think."

Despite support from family in Texas, Georgia, and North Carolina, she and her son chose to stay in Montrose.

"The community rallied around me," Maddox said.

"Faith gave me strength when I had none. Family isn't just blood—it's close friends and a strong community that make a home."

Sandy Head noted Maddox's resilience. "Tonya has had to cope with very devastating personal challenges. Through it all, she has remained active and committed to her community," she said.

"Regardless of how overbooked her calendar is, she never hesitates to ask others if they need help."

Looking ahead, Maddox plans to expand her work beyond Montrose. She wants to grow *Our Town Matters* and develop broadcast partnerships to increase exposure for clients. One of her long-term goals is to franchise her marketing firm to serve small towns across the country.

"I named my company *Our Town Matters* because I saw the need for businesses like mine in small towns everywhere," she said. "I hope to offer franchise opportunities so others can bring this model to their own communities."

Even as she explores new opportunities, Montrose remains home. "I love this town," Maddox said.

"And as long as I can make a difference, I'll be right here—doing what I do best."

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RED HAWKS QUALIFY FOR ELITE EIGHT-MONTROSE RED HAWKS PLAYOFF GAMES



Junior Lane Presler battles two Demons for a rebound. Photo by Cliff Dodge.

By Cliff Dodge

MONTROSE RED HAWKS 46, THORNTON TROJANS 39

MONTROSE-The Montrose Red Hawks boys basketball team entered the CHSAA 5A state tournament last week with a victory over the Thornton Trojans here at the field house on Feb. 28 by the score of Red Hawks 46, Trojans 39. Senior Kaleb Ferguson led all scorers with 17 points. Junior C. J. Rocco chipped in with 10 points as the Red Hawks outscored the Trojans in every quarter. The victory ushered the Red Hawks into the Sweet Sixteen, the next step toward the big dance at the Denver Coliseum in Denver.

MONTROSE RED HAWKS 61, DURANGO DEMONS 47

The Red Hawks played and defeated the Durango Demons twice during the regular season, once here in Montrose and once on the Demon's home floor. The question being asked was, "Can the Red Hawks beat the Demons for a third straight time.?"

The answer to this question of questions was a resounding "YES." The Red Hawks broke on top and led 13-9 after the initial quarter. The home team outscored the Demons 13-8 in the second canto and then went on to outscore the visitors 35-30 throughout the second half to take a 61-47 victory. The Red Hawks kept the pressure on throughout the second half and forced the Demon's to foul in order to get the basketball back. This sent the Red Hawks to the charity stripe more than 30 times in the second half to secure the victory, and march into the Elite Eight.

Senior Kaleb Ferguson led all scorers with 18 points, while Lane Pressler and C. J. Rocco each added 15 points to the score sheet. In all, eight Red Hawks entered their names in the score book. Ferguson and Pressler dominated on the boards, each hauling down 10 rebounds. The Red Hawks passed out 14 assists and came up with 4 steals while turning the basketball over 18 times. The Red Hawks shot 59 percent from the field and 33 percent

from behind the three-point arc.

THE FALCON FALCONS 65, THE MONTROSE RED HAWKS 51

The Red Hawks journeyed to the venerable Denver Coliseum on Friday, March 7 and began their quest for a playoff victory. Unfortunately, the Montrose Red Hawks basketball squad was outscored 65-51 in a non-league battle with the Falcons of Falcon, Colorado. The Red Hawks had an outstanding season as one of the final eight teams in competition for the 5A state title. The Red Hawks finished their season with 19 wins and just 7 losses, and more than ready for next season to begin. The Red Hawks will graduate Brody Cooling, Jack Beshoar, Brekin Hutto and Kaleb Ferguson. The Red Hawks return C.J. Rocco, Lane Pressler, Otto Sandeno, Jonathan Rytlewski, Mason Swallow, Josh Hanks and Bodhi Schafer. In addition, the roster of the junior varsity will be seeking playing time at the varsity level. Head coach Ryan Voehringer must be looking forward to another deep run into the CHSAA playoffs.

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

A POSSIBLE SOLUTION TO DEMOCRATS ATTACKS ON THE SECOND AMENDMENT

Editor:

There might be a solution to the Colorado democrats constant attack on our constitutionally guaranteed second amendment rights. But its not simple. Each red county in Colorado needs to have the ability to license firearm businesses and thereby shield them from unconstitutional gun laws coming out of Denver. Currently any law passed by the state (constitutional or not) must be followed by all businesses licensed by the state. Otherwise, the businesses lose their license and can no longer do business in Colorado. Right now, there are an estimated Twelve unconstitutional gun bills being voted on at the capital. And each of them is a clear violation of the second amendment of the constitution. The democrats clearly do not care about personal freedoms or a person's right to protect themselves from criminals or a tyrannical government.

In reality (yes, I know something the democrats do not subscribe to) the individual

states should have no say in settled constitutional issues. All the gun laws proposed by the democrats are a violation of our constitutionally guaranteed freedoms. Most of these proposed gun laws have already been struck down by the supreme courts in other states. So, my proposal is that any state that continues to violate their citizens' constitutional rights should lose all federal funding. And all gun businesses in those states should be issued a federal or county business license so they can operate without state interference. This if implemented would put an end to Colorado's additional background check which has been a choke point on a timely background check. This would also put a stop to the three-day waiting period, a right delayed is a right denied. As well as the red flag laws, and constitutional carry will be the law of the land. No more permission slips and fees to participate in a constitutionally guaranteed freedom. Sounds simple in theory but I have no

illusions that this will be simple to implement.

But nothing worthwhile is easy. But to do nothing is to accept that the second amendment can be violated by anyone in elected office who disagrees with it. "Shall not be infringed" is not an ambiguous statement. The constitution does not give us citizens the right to own and carry guns the constitution protects that God given right from a government and misguided citizens that want to subjugate and control its citizens.

So, what are the first steps we need to take? Contact all our federal congressmen, women, and senators as well. And get their input and see how many we can get behind this.

We can also contact our state representatives and senators and let them know that we intend to take this issue out of their hands because of their lack of fidelity to the constitution.

RAY LANGSTON, MONTROSE

WILL THE BOCC REQUIRE ME TO CONFORM, COMPLY, SUBMIT, AND OBEY?

Editor:

I am generally happy to not examine too closely the actions of those who are willing to perform the necessary duties of local government, as they are doing what I do not wish to do, and they mostly do me little harm.

The Montrose BOCC has forced me out of my complacency. I must now ask to be informed of EXACTLY what they have in mind for the new Director of Public Health. Dr Ahmed promises to promote health equity. That means that my normal good health will be degraded to that of the less fit and healthy. How does he think that he will do that? What does the BOCC intend?

What authority does the BOCC confer upon the Director of Public Health? When this bozo has a brain fart at 2AM and poops out an edict in the morning, to what extent does the BOCC require me to conform, comply, Submit, and OBEY? I walked against the arrows and did not wear a mask during Dr Ahmed's previous

regulatory triumph and am not likely to comply in the future. I will be affected again by any obedience by actual health care providers, the people who actually do the work. Will Ahmed have the power to slap old folks into solitary confinement? Will he have the power to destroy businesses and livelihoods as he has done before? Will the Montrose County Sheriff enforce and jail recalcitrants? What does the BOCC intend?

Aside from the mystery of BOCC intent, there is Dr Ahmed himself. In his multi column biography every sentence is a statement that makes him unqualified and unsuitable for any position of public trust in Montrose County. Why is this glorious international luminary in Montrose County among the hicks? His cited academic credentials omit their sources, and he does not claim to be credentialed at even the level of Dr Jill. Why is he called "doctor"?

Then there is the part (that I do not detect in Ahmed's biography) that is sand-

bagged in euphemism and innuendo that must be of concern to duly diligent citizens in every stealthy candidate. Our educators and librarians issue bland denials that they are grooming minors as sex perverts.

The public health director is in a position to be the action arm facilitating the actual genital mutilation of children by that growing industry. Has the BOCC done their due diligence to be assured that Dr Ahmed will not do that? Is he contractually prohibited from side hustles? Do they grant him authority in the area of "mental health"? What does the BOCC intend?

Before appointing him to an illustrious and we can be certain excessively paid position, we should first see if he can get and hold a job at Murdoch's or Ace Hardware for six months.

I prefer that Dr Ahmed be fired, now.

The tenets of the Totalitarian Left are conform comply Submit OBEY.

What does the BOCC intend?

Charles Zimmerman, Montrose

OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

REVISIONIST HISTORY – CITY AND COUNTY LEADERSHIP AND THEIR ALLIES

Why is the truth so hard to live with?

By David White

Why do we find local government leadership, at all levels, along with their allies in the media and “friends” within a circle of supporters, having such a difficult time dealing with the truth of what they’ve allowed to occur in our community? Facts don’t matter nor does the truth. It’s easier to call those who ask for accountability liars, disrupters, troublemakers, et al. as well as to publicly denigrate and gaslight those people than to take responsibility for what the leaders of the community should be doing to stop the rot inside their organizations.

Over the course of the last month, this writer has provided hard evidence of such corruption, nepotism, insider dealings and the like by our City Council and their City Manager along with community organizations and yet, no one in authority addresses the facts. Thousands of taxpayer dollars given away to family and friends and friends of friends, yet nothing is done by those who took an oath of office to protect the interests of the citizens. Nope... just more smack talk and threats of limiting 1st Amendment rights come out of their mouths. Amazing!

Yet, nonsensical reasons for shutting down City operations for a good 6 hours on February 26, 2025, were worthy of a press release and a Montrose Press regurgitation of it. Thousands of dollars in salaries were spent, according to the City’s press release, to facilitate staff cleaning up the City government’s operations:

“City facilities, including the Animal Shelter, City Hall, Public Works, and the Wastewater Treatment Plant, will close at noon on Montrose Day to allow an opportunity to clean up and clean out paper and electronic information, surplus materials, and debris from both inside and outside of city offices and facilities.” (City Offices to Close for Clean-up on “Montrose Day” Wednesday, February 26)

Similar shutdowns occurred in 2018 and 2019. Records of shutdowns before or after (until 2025) haven’t been found as of

this writing.

The basis and justification for the “cleanup” is found in the press release wherein reference is found in a City Charter drafted in 1913 and adopted on January 14, 1914

Montrose Day - Sec. 91. The City Council shall, by ordinance, designate a certain day in the spring of each year to be known as “Montrose Day,” and shall, by notice and proclamation, request all the citizens of the said city to cease from their vocations, to close up their stores and places of business the same as on a holiday and devote the entire day to cleaning up the streets and alleys and public and private places of said city and to setting out shade and ornamental trees, beautifying said city, and improving the roads and streets of said city. Proper committees shall be appointed each year by the City Council to have this work in charge and to enlist the active services of each citizen in the city in said work. (Charter of the City of Montrose, Colorado. Adopted January 12, 1914)

Research finds that Section 91 no longer exists nor does a reference to Montrose Day appear in current City ordinances or in the Charter adopted in 1967 or in subsequent amendments to it over the years since.

What does exist, in ordinance, is ***Sec. 6-1-5. – “Spring clean-up and Fall clean-up”:*** ***“The City may, at its discretion, implement an annual Spring or Fall Clean-Up. During which special collections in residential areas will occur at no charge. The City will advertise the Clean-Ups and residents will be required to place unwanted items by the curb and call City Hall, using the designated phone number, when items are ready for pickup.***

(A) Fall Clean-Up shall be for the purpose of collecting leaves and lawn trimmings only. Leaf Bags will be available at City Hall, and the first bundle of four bags will be provided at no charge. Additional bundles may be purchased.

(B) Spring Clean-Up shall be for the purpose of collecting general household

items such as unwanted appliances, scrap materials, landscape materials such as leaves, grass clippings, limbs, and other items as may be identified by the City. (Res. No. 2005-32, 6-2-2005)”

So, revisionists, under the guise of using a historic benchmark, are up to something in this writer’s opinion.

Once again, the questions need to be asked. Your tax dollars at work so that bureaucrats can ***“clean out paper and electronic information?”*** Really? Even if the “historic stretch” by the City that Montrose Day rules apply to us in 2025 (in spirit if not law), I suspect that City leaders in 1913 didn’t contemplate that getting rid of “information” was a worthy goal for Montrose Day especially when you close, in addition to the above named City offices, the Police Department, the Municipal Court, City Hall and Public Works.

So, what “information” was dumped? What laws were violated? What important public information was relegated to the landfill or some electronic dump in the sky? Personal experience with a neighborhood issue last year tells me that the “clean out” of public information is an ongoing thing and not just one to be honored on Montrose Day. Ugh!

The arrogance of our public officials is beyond the pale. They tell us what they’re doing to us, and no one steps up to challenge them for fear of being “brow beaten” into submission or face the loss of a job or business opportunities in the community? Apparently so, BUT don’t underestimate the ire of the populace, City Council. I sense a revolt brewing, and you folks need to wake up and listen before you find yourself sitting on a corner wondering what happened. That goes for City Management too.

And what about Montrose County? Opinions and threats from the progressive left and their skills in the progressive paper of record (it’s not the Montrose Mirror) are growing louder that conservative Commissioners Scott Mijares and Sean Pond are about to send the County into a tailspin because they’re not going to put up with

REVISIONIST HISTORY – CITY AND COUNTY LEADERSHIP From previous pg

the Federal and State government's overreach in the areas of public lands, economic policies, etc. or the obvious internal managerial tilt into the proverbial weeds.

Placating various self-serving entities seems to be the new "everyone needs to get along" and "collaborate" mantra being espoused by certain County leaders whereby your position is ultimately weakened to the point where the advantage goes to the other side. The struggles grow as the demographics change. We can't

afford to lose our heritage folks, but that appears to be what many want to see happen.

When all is said and done, you, the citizen, need to step up. I keep saying it and I hope folks are waking up and listening. The liberal "woke" elements are already way into making systemic changes to our culture and lives in this valley. It won't stop with Montrose...to these folks, changing the political color to purple is an admirable and near-term goal. We're close. Does it continue or do we claw it

back? It's up to you.

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 & one great grandchild.




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Montrose Citizens D.O.G.E. is a community watchdog organization dedicated to rooting out corruption and shining a light on questionable actions by our public officials. We will continue to do so, even when those officials and their surrogates come after us and accuse us of not being willing to put our names on it. We do not feel the need to make ourselves the focus; instead, we intend to focus on the actions of public officials in our reporting.

In the Saturday 3/8/2025 edition of the *Montrose Press*, Dennis Anderson's personal progressive twists and turns became a glaring reflection of his true intent. His waning influence is evident; his ship sailed years ago. He struggles with the truth. Self-righteousness is his flag. His ability—and the ability of others—to handle differing opinions is their affliction. There appears to be no solution. We recommend reading *The Indoctrinated Brain* by Dr. Michael Nehls.

Montrose Citizens D.O.G.E. is also a platform for the intimidated to exercise their First Amendment right to free speech through an anonymous process. People are willing to die for their country but are not willing to sacrifice their livelihoods by speaking the truth for fear of retribution. We are keenly aware of the powerful individuals who maintain control over their employees, often restricting open discussion with the public taxpayers who pay their wages. Whether in government or corporate settings, we have experienced countless moments of compromising ourselves to provide for our families. Young families are particularly vulnerable, as this issue is widespread in our society. Consider the doctors, veterans, and healthcare workers who were fired or discharged for refusing untested vaccines.

Montrose Citizens D.O.G.E. operates as a bipartisan platform with no political affiliation, dedicated to "seeking truth in governance." We will continue to invite those who wish to anonymously communicate their concerns. Nothing will be published without thorough and complete verification of the truth. Our primary goal is to reveal facts to voters who are discerning enough to determine legitimacy for themselves. We are simply a communication conduit—a group of citizens concerned with truth in governance.

When a new CEO, CFO, VP, Commissioner, or Councilor takes charge, it is imperative that they evaluate their organization from top to bottom. When Dennis Anderson criticizes those in charge for evaluating employees and rendering their opinions, it should tell everyone all they need to know. As for his opinion of Montrose Citizens D.O.G.E., it seems that Mr. Anderson is struggling with the right to free speech and a free press. Oh, poor me! What happened to his "Sugar Daddy" candy? If Dennis Anderson believes Montrose Citizens D.O.G.E. is a secretive and conspiratorial organization, it's time for him to look in the mirror (no pun intended).

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

WEST REGION WILDFIRE COUNCIL'S AARON JOHNSON RECEIVES NATIONAL WILDFIRE MITIGATION AWARD

Special to the Mirror

REGIONAL-The West Region Wildfire Council (WRWC) is proud to announce that Aaron Johnson has been selected as a recipient of the 2025 Wildfire Mitigation Award. It's the highest national honor for outstanding work and significant program impact in wildfire

preparedness and mitigation. The award is presented by the National Association of State Foresters, the National Fire Protection Association, the USDA Forest Service, and the International Association of Fire Chiefs.

Johnson, who serves as WRWC's Wildfire Mitigation Specialist, has been recognized for his leadership in wildfire risk reduction, community collaboration, and efforts to make communities across the Western Slope more fire-adapted. His work has helped landowners and local governments implement proactive mitigation strategies, secure funding for critical projects, and strengthen partnerships to reduce wildfire risk.

"This award is a testament to the incredible collaboration happening in our region," said Johnson. "Wildfire mitigation is a collective effort, and I'm honored to work alongside dedicated community members, agencies, and organizations who are committed to protecting our landscapes and communities before a fire occurs."

Johnson will be honored at the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) Conference in Kansas City, Missouri, on March 28, 2025, where he will join other award recipients in sharing insights on wildfire mitigation strategies nationwide.

Support Wildfire Mitigation in Our Communities

The West Region Wildfire Council relies on grants, partnerships, and generous donations from community members to continue this critical work. Citizens' support helps fund mitigation efforts, provide technical assistance, and expand our impact across the region. People can make a donation today to help WRWC create safer, fire-adapted communities.

Donate here: cowildfire.org/donate

For more information about the Wildfire Mitigation Award, visit: <https://www.stateforesters.org/wildfire-mitigation/>.

About the West Region Wildfire Council

The West Region Wildfire Council (WRWC) works to reduce wildfire risk and increase resilience across Delta, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montrose, Ouray, and San Miguel Counties in Colorado. Through education, technical assistance, funding opportunities, and collaboration, WRWC supports communities, landowners, and agencies in proactive wildfire mitigation efforts.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

ARE WE NOW SUBJECT TO THE POLICIES OF THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION?

Editor:

The Hiring of Montrose County's New Health Director

Recently, Montrose County hired Mr. Mirza Mashrur Ahmed as the new County Health Director. In a meeting on March 3rd, 2025, County Manager Frank Rodriguez referred to Mr. Ahmed as a "Doctor" but quickly corrected himself, clarifying that Mr. Ahmed holds a Bachelor of Medicine degree from Bangladesh, not a medical degree or PhD recognized in the United States. This distinction is significant, as individuals with PhDs—such as Dr. Jill Biden—can legally use the title "Doctor," but a Bachelor of Medicine does not qualify someone to be recognized as a "Doctor" in the U.S. in the same way.

In the U.S., to practice medicine, an individual must have credentials recognized by the Medical Board of the state in which they wish to practice. Mr. Ahmed does not hold such credentials. However, it is important to note that it is not a requirement to be a Medical Doctor to hold the position of Director of Public Health for Montrose County, which raises an important question: *Why not?*

The Lack of U.S. Citizenship and Residency: A Potential Issue

Additionally, while Mr. Ahmed is legally authorized to work in the U.S., he is neither a U.S. citizen nor a resident of Colorado. This situation raises another important concern: Shouldn't government positions require that individuals be U.S. citizens?

Was the County Manager Misleading the Board of County Commissioners?

It appears that the County Manager may have overstated Mr. Ahmed's qualifications, or perhaps merely inferred such, in an attempt to present Mr. Ahmed as more qualified to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC), who knows? This situation raises concerns about the hiring process as the BOCC understandably relies on the County Manager to make hiring decisions and recommendations to the BOCC when appropriate, but this misstep could have left them in a difficult position, particularly if they were misled about the candidate's qualifications.

Was the Other Finalist More Qualified?

Sources have suggested that the other finalist for the position may have been more qualified than Mr. Ahmed. While we don't have all the details of her qualifications, we do know that she is a U.S. citizen and meets the necessary qualifications for the job.

Transparency, Integrity, and Expectations in Public Office

This situation brings up significant questions about transparency, integrity in hiring practices, and the expectations we have for those in public office. Furthermore, it leads us to question whether Montrose County is now subject to policies and practices that conflict with the values of the community. Should we really want someone who has spent many years working for the World Health Organization (WHO) shaping our local health policies?

This hiring decision and its associated concerns leave us wondering whose interests are truly being served. Are Montrose County's health policies now influenced by the W.H.O.'s broader global agenda, or are they still grounded in the needs and values of the local community?

Michael J Badagliacco "MJB"

Citizen, Montrose, CO



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

SHERIFF'S DEPUTIES SEIZE METH, FENTANYL, ECSTASY AND SUSPECTED CARFENTANIL AS A RESULT OF TRAFFIC STOP ON HWY 50 WEST OF DELTA



Illegal narcotics seized. DCSO Courtesy photos.



seat passenger was identified as Nakisha Ramirez, age 27 of Montrose. All three were booked into the Delta County jail on felony drug charges and appeared on Tuesday, March 4, 2025 before a Montrose County Judge who was performing advisements for Delta County. The Judge set bond for all three suspects as follows: Junior Rosales-Blanco was given a \$60,000 cash bond, Nakisha Ramirez was given a \$100,000 cash bond and Manuel Sepulveda was given an \$80,000 cash bond. Sheriff Taylor and Undersheriff Archibeque would like to thank Deputy Bradbury, Deputy Ruble, K-9 Teg, Deputy Horn and Sergeant Clymer for their efforts in identifying and removing dangerous narcotics from the streets of Delta County. Fentanyl is a highly dangerous narcotic which has killed many citizens across the Western Slope, State of Colorado and United States.

The Sheriff's Office is dedicated to aggressively investigate and prosecute illegal drug activity in Delta County and seizures of over 1500 fentanyl pills, 454 grams of meth as well as powdered forms of Fentanyl and Carfentanil is a huge win for the safety of kids and citizens in Delta County. The Sheriff's Office is proud to support two K-9 Deputies – Teg and Jocko, who along with their handlers are certified in the detection of illegal narcotics. K-9s are a vital tool in the fight against illegal drug use and distribution in Delta County and are a great asset to our community. Thank you Deputies, on a job well done!

****All charges are merely an accusation and individuals arrested and charged are presumed innocent until such time they plead guilty or are found guilty in a court of law.**

Delta County Sheriff's Office

DELTA-On Monday, March 3, 2025 at approximately 9:13 pm, Deputy Bradbury with the Delta County Sheriff's Office conducted a traffic stop near the intersection of G-50 Rd and U.S. Hwy 50 west of Delta after the driver was observed swerving and having difficulty maintaining a lane of travel.

As Deputy Bradbury was beginning his traffic contact, Deputy Ruble and his K-9 partner "Teg" arrived on-scene to assist. While Deputy Bradbury continued his investigation and conversation with the occupants of the vehicle, K-9 Deputy Teg was deployed for a free air sniff of the vehicle. K-9 Teg alerted to the presence of illegal narcotics inside the vehicle and the three occupants of the vehicle were asked to exit the vehicle. A probable cause search of the vehicle by Deputies led to the discovery of the following illegal narcotics:

-Approximately 150 grams/1500 Fentanyl

in pill form,

-Approximately 12 grams of ecstasy pills,

-Approximately 454 grams of methamphetamine,

-Approximately 50 grams of Fentanyl in powder form, and

-Approximately 21 grams of suspected Carfentanil, an extremely potent opioid, which is more powerful than fentanyl and is used as a sedative for elephants.

As a result of the search and subsequent discovery of the above large quantity of dangerous, illegal narcotics within arm's reach of each of the occupants; all three occupants were arrested and charged with a multitude of drug related felony charges including possession and possession with intent to distribute illegal narcotics.

The vehicle driver was identified as Junior Rosales-Blanco, age 23 of Montrose, the front passenger was identified as Manuel Sepulveda, age 44 of Delta and the rear



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

HAWK RANCH CONSERVATION PROTECTS AGRICULTURE AND WILDLIFE HABITAT BENEATH NEEDLE ROCK

Special to the Mirror

CRAWFORD-Colorado West Land Trust (CWLT) is pleased to announce the permanent conservation of Hawk Ranch, a 270-acre property in Delta County, nestled beneath the iconic Needle Rock. This collaboration with the Hawk family ensures the protection of agricultural heritage and critical wildlife habitat, securing its legacy for future generations. This project was made possible by the support of Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) through the Keep it Colorado Transaction Assistance Program, the North Fork Committee of the Colorado Parks, and the Wildlife Habitat Protection Program.

Conservation has long been central to Darold and Christy Hawk's vision for their land. Witnessing nearby properties sold and subdivided only deepened their resolve to shield Hawk Ranch from development pressures. By partnering with CWLT to place the ranch under a conservation easement, the Hawks have guaranteed that its agricultural and ecological values will endure.

"In the end, you hope to leave a legacy," Christy Hawk said. "The land is what you leave, and you leave it untouched. We've worked so hard to keep this ranch, and we don't want to see it developed. Once the land is gone, you never get it back—this land is going to stay the way it is."

The Hawk family's ties to the land run deep. Darold's father, a World War II veteran, purchased the original property in 1951. Darold and Christy inherited 40 acres and five cows, embarking on a journey that has spanned over four decades. Today, Hawk Ranch is a thriving cattle and hay operation, a testament to their hard work and commitment.

Darold's contributions to the local ranching community extend beyond his land. As a farrier for more than 45 years, he has cared for generations of ranching families' horses and was recently honored with the Delta County Livestock Association's Service Award. "Horseshoeing isn't just a trade; it's a way of serving the community," Darold said. "I've helped the same families for generations."

Hawk Ranch is more than an agricultural operation—it's a sanctuary for wildlife. The property's diverse habitats provide vital resources for elk, mule deer, turkey, black bear, and other native species, enriching the region's ecological health. By conserving the ranch, the Hawks are preserving a vital connection between agriculture, wildlife, and the people of Delta County.

"We are honored to partner with the Hawk family on this significant conservation project," said Nick Jacobson, CWLT Conservation Specialist. "Their actions safeguard a vital connection between the land, its history, and the wildlife that call it home."

Hawk Ranch stands as an example of the power of conservation. The Hawk family's dedication to their land and community has not only secured a brighter future for the region but also created a lasting legacy that will inspire others to steward the natural beauty and resources of Western Colorado.



Darold and Christy Hawk of Hawk Ranch. Courtesy photo.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

DEMOCRATS SHOWED THEIR TRUE COLORS THROUGHOUT TRUMP'S ADDRESS

Editor:

My last Mirror letter (3/3) talked about the contradictions between Democrat "narratives" and their actual policies and actions. Not surprisingly, the very next day during Trump's address to Congress, multiple Democrat politicians proved my point in multiple ways. Dozens of Democrat women arrived in the House chamber wearing pink attire to protest Trump's policies affecting women. (The narrative.) However, in glaring contradiction, just one day earlier, every single Democrat senator voted against protecting women and girls from biological males dominating women's sports and sharing their locker rooms. (The action.) Not a single one of the Democrat women wearing pink voted to keep men out of women's sports. Their actions disprove their narrative that they care one iota about women.

Democrats showed their true colors throughout Trump's address. Writer Brecan Theis summarized Democrats' actions best when he said "Amid Trump's speech detailing major reforms and honoring Americans victimized by far-left policies, the American people saw Democrats devolve into the ice-cold soullessness one has come to expect from a party grasping for relevance." Those Democrats refused to stand for the families of those brutalized and murdered by illegals, like Laken Riley and Jocelyn Nungaray. Likewise for Corey Comperatore, the father who died protecting his family from gunfire at the rally where Trump was shot. They refused to acknowledge Payton McNabb who suffered traumatic brain injury when a male claiming to be female ruthlessly spiked a volleyball into her face. They couldn't even bring themselves to stand for D.J. Daniel, a 13-year-old brain cancer survivor, whom Trump made an honorary Secret Service agent. When released Russian hostage Marc Fogel was introduced, everyone with a heart stood and clapped. Unbelievably, even for them, Dems defiantly remained silent. You would think Trump informing young Jason Hartly that he was accepted into West Point would at least provoke some courteous, lukewarm applause, but not so with Dems.

While discussing his attempts to bring about a peaceful end to the Ukraine war,

Trump asked Democrats if they "want to keep it going for another five years." After noticing Sen. Elizabeth Warren clapping in response to his remarks, the president quipped, "Pocahontas says yes." In addition to endless war and death in Ukraine, Democrats almost certainly would have stood for the repeal of American's right to defend themselves via the 2nd Amendment; restrictions on their 1st Amendment's right to free speech; continued invasion of millions of illegal aliens; the unfettered "right" to abortion through nine months; the genital mutilation of young children; and continued waste, fraud, and corruption in our federal bureaucracies.

Trump gave a great rundown of his extraordinary accomplishments in just his first 43 days. Americans understand that he is revitalizing our energy sector, shrinking an out-of-control and corrupt federal bureaucracy, working to reduce crime, securing the border, protecting women and children, and generally undoing the madness of the last four years. Is it any wonder that an overwhelming majority of Americans approved of Trump's address? As Trump described one common sense policy after another, Democrats either sat sullen faced or humiliated themselves with pathetic, sophomoric theatrics. Trump blasted Dems for rooting against American success, correctly pointing out that no amount of success he could achieve for America would satisfy Democrats. What do Democrats even stand for anymore? Anyone who can't stand for any of those ordinary Americans who were thrust into extraordinary circumstances (Corey Comperatore, et al) is not only anti-Trump, but also anti-American. Democrats refuse to celebrate America's wins because that forces them to celebrate Trump's wins and his agenda. Congratulations Democrats. You've now disgusted the entire country. Sen. Slotkin gave the Democrat response to Trump's congressional address. You guessed it. More "narrative" to hide the actual policies and actions. You might have thought she was a Republican. Her comments were full of language about the working class, bringing down prices, and even praised Ronald Reagan. (The "narrative.") No one believed a word she

said, though, because it was obvious the deranged behavior we saw on the House floor was the real Democrat party. (The actions.) The real Democrat party passed Biden's hilariously titled "Inflation Reduction Act" that included \$27 billion for the "Greenhouse Reduction Fund" intended to "revitalize communities." Little of that fund revitalized anything other than the coffers of a range of nonprofits associated with former Obama and Biden administration officials. Of that \$27 billion, \$20 billion was rushed out the door to eight nonprofit groups in the days after Biden lost the election – before Trump took office. One former EPA official is on a secretly recorded video saying it was like "tossing gold bars off the Titanic." Some of those groups were formed just one month after it was revealed billion-dollar slush funds were up for grabs. The board and staff of those groups include Democrat donors, people with connections to the Obama and Biden administrations, and prominent Democrats like Stacey Abrams.

Some quick chuckles. 1) During Trump's address he quipped to HHS Secretary R.F. Kennedy that America is healthier than he originally believed because – according to the Social Security databases – we have "over 130,000 people who are over 160 years old."

2) Apparently, Hunter Biden is having difficulty making a living now that his father is no longer president? 3) I just paid my 2024 property taxes, which were again 150% of what I paid for 2022. You will recall all those great things our illustrious Governor Polis said he was going to do to get our property taxes under control? (The "narrative.") Well, I just received in the mail information on the only thing Polis "accomplished". We are all now eligible for "the State of Colorado's solution for homeowners struggling to make property tax payments through a low-interest loan that's payable over time or when your home is sold." (The action.) That sweet Mr. Polis. He figured out a way to keep those inflated taxes flooding into government coffers by offering overburdened taxpayers "low-interest loans." We should nominate him for "Democrat of the Year" for being so generous. What a guy!

Ed Henrie, Montrose

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

SWAMP MUSINGS

Editor:

Lots of noise coming from DC. Lots. And that is all it is- noise.

Here are just a few of my thoughts and observations

-The adults are back in charge. After a disastrous previous administration, we finally have an aura of competency. Recall Biden nominating a man, who dressed like a woman, to be a deputy at the Public Health Service? Well, Dr Rachel (born Richard) kept his/her junk and advocated for pediatric mutilation. Good thing Rachel Levine wasn't around when I was 6 years old and wanted to be a pirate because today I would be missing one eye and one leg and have a hook on one arm. Let's focus on health for all citizens, not just a small segment and let's utilize common sense. If an adult wants to become a butterfly, then at least wait until they're intellectually competent and can make informed decisions.

-The amount of graft and corruption is appalling and it is not just Democrats. Republicans are also deeply immersed in the graft and corruption. The GOP blusters and bellows about the Democrats being corrupt yet they're all collegiate when it comes to accountability. Here's a thought- let's audit every single member of Congress, all 535 of them. Let's compare their net worth, when they entered Congress, and what it is today. Dollars to doughnuts, the vast majority has increased their net worth at our expense. Your wallet is thinner because we do not hold them accountable. Why is DC afraid of DOGE? Because corruption is afraid of exposure. Have you noticed that Congress doesn't wail, all that much, about abortion these days because it fears exposure (DOGE) more.

-The legacy media is really up in arms. CNN, CBS, NBC, ABC, MSNBC, AP, Washington Post, New York Times, Fox News, all of them are so shrill. Why? Because they screwed us, big time, the last four years. They knew Biden wasn't up to the job, they knew he had to have booster

shots to get up, they knew he pooped in his pants meeting the Pope for the first time. They knew Kamala (Que Mala) Harris was an empty pantsuit but they pressed on with their narrative. Well, they were caught lying about it and the emergence of independent media relegates the legacy media to the back row. They've lost influence, marketshare and revenue. More than likely, CNN and MSNBC may not survive as a stand-alone network and CBS, NBC, and ABC will be 2nd tier media outlets. As consumers, we have options and we have demonstrated we opt to get our news elsewhere.

-We are a Republic, not solely a democracy. The Deep State (yes, kiddos, it is real) is still attempting control of all of us citizens. Very similar to how the European Union, all unelected individuals, are controlling much of the lives of every European. The Deep State wants to decide, for you and I, what cars we can possess, what stove we can use, how we get our energy. Have you noticed the new laundry equipment? It has all sorts of features but it doesn't get clothes very clean because Washington has limited how much water each washer can utilize, so we must pay more for laundry detergent and wash clothes a second time. What was wrong with the dependable and functional top-load washer was that Washington decided it needed to control us. Recall the talk about eliminating gas stoves? Very reminiscent of Communist-style regimes.

-Give the current administration a chance. Even if Trump and his team are partially successful, America (you and I) still win. I don't have to like the Philadelphia Eagles but I have to respect and admire their success. The same with politics. Competition normally provides the best results.

-Let's move beyond voting for political brands, please. My vote is not a Valentine's card that says "I love you, Democrats" or "I love you, Republicans." No, our vote is sacred because it is the only input we have to implement the policies and how the country is to be operated the

next four years. I am not inviting Mr Trump for dinner any time soon, not that he would know who I am. However, I want the President to work hard on behalf of the American people, not those who are NOT citizens. We, the citizenry, pay the taxes and our government should work for us, not other countries or those who are not citizens. Remember- the government works for us, not the other way around. My taxes should not fund a conflict in Ukraine while neglecting our citizens in North Carolina, or Florida or Oklahoma devastated by natural disasters.

-Time to move the government out of Washington DC. Move the USDA to Omaha or Kansas City KS, the Department of Interior to Grand Junction CO. Move the FAA to Nashville and the Department of Commerce to Atlanta. Why not place the NIH in Scottsdale (Mayo Clinic)? While we're at it, take the FDA and break it up into its specialties.

Why is the FDA involved with food when the USDA is? Regarding FDA's role with medicine and pharmaceuticals, place them near a research center such as Duke or UNC? Additionally, let's not revere sacred cows and let's split up DOD- place the Dept of the Navy in Jacksonville, the Dept of AirForce/Space Force in San Antonio, the Dept of Army is Springfield MO, and the Marines in Yuma AZ. Oh, they're not congregated together for mutual collaboration? Well, see how that has worked since the Pentagon DOD civilians love working remotely. We have Zoom, Teams, and many other platforms where they can collaborate from different venues.

I have many more but then folks would wonder if I am "touched" or biased or way out in left field. Probably a summation of all the aforementioned. Bless my heart!

Robert Franco, Montrose

"There's no limit what a man can do or where he can do if he doesn't mind who gets the credit"

- Ronald Reagan

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DELTA HEALTH LABORATORY RECEIVES ACCREDITATION FROM COLLEGE OF AMERICAN PATHOLOGISTS

Special to the Mirror

DELTA— The Accreditation Committee of the College of American Pathologists (CAP) has awarded accreditation to the Delta Health Laboratory in Delta, Colorado, based on results of a recent on-site inspection as part of the CAP's Accreditation Programs Recognized for rigorous and robust standards, CAP accreditation elevates quality and mitigates risk, important ways that laboratories can contribute to improved patient outcomes.

The facility's director, Kenneth Shaffer, was advised of this global recognition and congratulated for the excellence of the services being provided. Delta Health's Laboratory is one of more than 8,000 CAP-accredited facilities worldwide.

"The prestigious CAP accreditation reflects our unwavering commitment to delivering high-quality laboratory services to our patients" said Jonathan Cohee, MHA, OT, Chief Executive Officer. "As a rural healthcare system, we're incredibly proud to

meet these rigorous national standards, demonstrating an excellence in healthcare. This achievement is a testament to our laboratory team's dedication to innovation and quality, ensuring our patients receive the highest standard of care."

During the CAP accreditation process, designed to ensure the highest standard of care for all laboratory patients, inspectors examine the laboratory's records and quality control of procedures. CAP inspectors also examine laboratory staff qualifications, equipment, facilities, safety program and record, and overall management. These reviews help verify activities and reflect the most recent best practices.

With over 23,000 laboratory participants, in addition to accreditation, the CAP offers proficiency testing/external quality assessment (PT/EQA) programs, quality improvement tools, and protocols and guidelines to ensure excellence in all areas across the laboratory. Built on a foundation of pathologist expertise, the College of American Pathologists partners with laboratories worldwide to elevate the quality of laboratory medicine with best-in-class solutions designed to drive operational excellence, achieve diagnostic confidence, and ensure the best patient care.



Delta Health. Courtesy photo.

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Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— On Thursday, March 13 the Montrose School District, NuVista Federal Credit Union, and Black Canyon Rotary will host the 2025 Financial Reality Fair at the Montrose High School gymnasium. This will be the 8th year that this fun and educational event will be held for high school seniors from the Montrose County School District. The event is expected to bring more than 350 students together from Montrose High School, Olathe High School, Black Canyon High School, PEAK Academy, and VISTA Charter School.

The Financial Reality Fair is a half-day event which has consistently and effectively taught our community's high school seniors how to handle money in a real-world experiment. Through a safe and interactive App called "Bite of Reality" each student is assigned a hypothetical life, including a spouse and child, job, income, credit score, and student loan. Each student must then go shopping for their family and choose between pricing options for groceries, furniture, childcare, transportation, housing, utilities, household needs, clothing, personal care, entertainment, and more. Once students exceed their budget, they need to visit the credit union table to learn about budgeting.

This interactive activity will teach teens how to make financial decisions and give them a better understanding of the challenges of living on a budget. Students will have to deal with a pushy "car salesperson" and a commission-based "realtor," and weigh their wants versus their needs. There's even a "Fickle Finger of Fate" that will give the students unexpected "expenses" or "windfalls"—just like in real life.

Students win raffle prizes at the event and after the event, they can complete online financial education courses for a chance to win more cash prizes. Finally, they can apply for a Bite of Reality scholarship, last year, 6-\$1000 scholarships were awarded. Many Montrose businesses and organizations show their support of the financial fair through sponsorships ranging from \$100 to \$1,000. Additionally, the event attracts more than 50 enthusiastic volunteers. The event will be held from 9am – Noon at the Montrose High School gym and is free to graduating seniors attending a Montrose County School District school. NuVista Credit Union is able to provide The Bite of Reality App through an exclusive partnership with the GoWest Foundation. The GoWest Foundation works with credit unions and community partners throughout Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming to provide solutions to pressing issues impacting the financial health of the people and communities they serve. More information about the Bite of Reality program can be found at <https://gowestfoundation.org/financial-reality-fairs/>.



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COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

JUDY PATTERSON

April 15, 1941 — March 2, 2025

JUDY PATTERSON passed away March 2, 2025, at her home in Montrose, Colorado.

Judy was born in Ashland, Ohio.

The daughter of John and Margorie Rafeld. She met her husband, Bill Patterson, at the tender age of 13 at the Pony Barn during the county fair. Not allowed to date until she turned sixteen, Bill waited patiently and came to the house on the day of her 16th birthday and the rest is loving history. Bill and Judy were married for almost 66 years, exemplifying the essence of true love for their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Judy had a long business career while raising her five children.

Bill and Judy started their business, TEI Rock Drills, in 1980, which has proudly grown into a successful international business. Everyone that worked with Judy knew that she was the backbone and heart of TEI.

Judy is survived by her husband, Bill, her brother Dick, her children John (Lisa), Glenn (Debby), Joe (Becky), Sue (Dave), and Ed (Chawntee). Her grandchildren are Alex (Jennifer), Paige (Adam), Charlie (Lilly), Samantha (Taylor), Lance, Tessa, Max (Natalie), Zach (Lauren), Savanna (Nate), Cheyenne, Domonic, Jazzmyn, and Andrew (deceased) and (25) Great Grandchildren.

The family will hold a Celebration of Life Open House at Bill and Judy's home on Saturday, March 8th from 2:00 – 4:00pm. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to HopeWest Hospice in Montrose, Colorado.

We know Judy is running barefoot in the fields beside her dad, her beautiful curls flowing behind her, and loving being with her mom and Grandma Bertha and her beloved friend Myra and brothers Roger and Ted again.

"Be the things you loved most about those who are gone"



RICHARD RONALD JOLY

June 2, 1960 — February 22, 2025



RICHARD RONALD JOLY lived in Montrose, Co for over twenty years, his story began in Tampa Florida where he was born and raised. He graduated from Hillsborough High School in 1978, after graduation he moved to Dallas, Tx and attended Christ for the Nations Bible College. After living in Dallas, Tx for two years he moved to Tulsa, Ok where he enjoyed doing street ministry. He loved maps and had a heart for world missions. He would pray over the maps for the people of the world. He met and married Phyllis Martin in 1982. They had one son Joshua Michael Joly, they ended up divorcing in 1986. When he arrived in Colorado, he began work in construction and carpentry trades. He met Flor Joly through mutual friends, and they soon married. They had a son, Andre Levi Joly who was born in 1991. Over time Richard began a new career joining the ranks of the Airport firefighters where he eventually became Chief. He served faithfully for over a decade before he changed his passion and went to serve All Points Transit, which he loved above all the jobs he had. He had such great joy in serving the community and helping others in so many ways.

Above all he loved the Holy Ghost and the Lord. He loved to talk for countless nights and hours about the Lord where iron sharpens iron, so he sharpened those he encountered and all the

people who heard him speak.

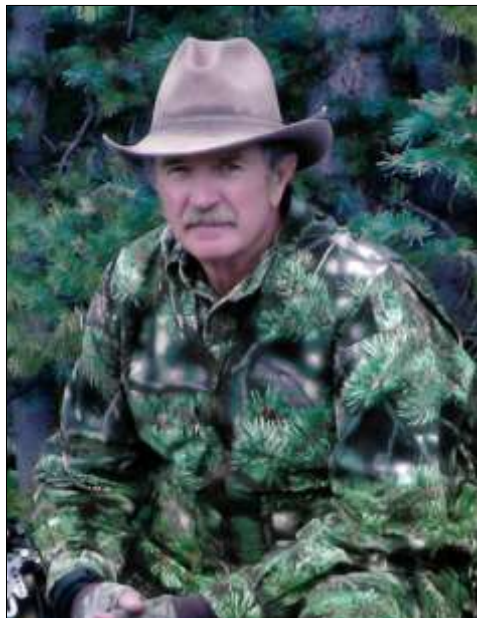
He was at his home on 2/22/25 where he drew his last breath believing in the Lord, where those who saw him said he was at complete peace. Some of his joys were music, dancing and singing. Karaoke night in Montrose may never be the same. He enjoyed camping and fishing, especially around Lake Powell.

He is survived by his sons Joshua (Anne) of Rogers, Arkansas and Andre Joly of Gaylord, Mi. and Stepdaughter Thimetis Molina of San Antonio, Tx. His grandchild Caleb, also from Rogers, Arkansas. His Parents, Andre and Marcell Joly of Florida as well as four sisters, Delores (David) Kruhm of Florida, Sharon (Eddy) McGuirl of Florida, Julie Davenport of Florida and Dianne (Raphael) Ortega. His former wives Phyllis and Flor and Sister-in-laws Edith Hidalgo Paiz and Vicky Taff and Brother-in-law Rick Martin.

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

L. WAYNE CARLTON

January 27, 1944-February 11, 2025



L. WAYNE CARLTON, 81, passed away on February 11, 2025 at his home in Montrose, Colorado.

Wayne was born on January 27, 1944, in Washington, D.C. He grew up in central Florida where his lifelong passion for hunting and fishing began with the guidance and enthusiasm of his beloved Uncle, Harvey Beckham. Wayne was known for his ability to mimic countless animal sounds—a skill that earned him the nickname "the kid with 1,000 noises" in his youth.

At the age of 17, Wayne enlisted in the United States Navy and served his country for 3 1/2 years. He was assigned to the USS Franklin D. Roosevelt CVA-42 and then to the USS Shangri-La CVA-38 aircraft carriers. One of the most unforgettable stories he told from his time in the service, was the tale of how he 'fell' overboard off the aircraft carrier into the Mediterranean Sea, all to settle a debt on a bet—an early testament to his tenacity and fearlessness. This determined spirit and intestinal fortitude to face a challenge and do the unexpected was prevalent throughout his entire life. After he was honorably discharged from the Navy, he returned to Florida and married his high

school sweetheart Linda Lea Willits in 1966.

In 1967 he went to work for his mentor and dear friend Dempsey Sapp, owner of Florida Pest Control. With dedication and determination, he became the highest grossing pest control service salesman within a short time during his 9-year employment. He attributed this success in large part due to a training course given by Dale Carnegie called "The 5 Great Rules of Selling". He highly valued the knowledge gained from his Dale Carnegie training and relied on this throughout his life. He would often say, "Well, I just used my Dale Carnegie on 'em!"

Wayne fell in love with Colorado after making a few hunting trips out west with Dempsey. Wayne's entrepreneurial spirit led him to move to Colorado in 1976, where he and Linda built a legacy through their many business ventures. He founded and operated several companies, including Carlton's Pest Control, Inc., Carlton's Calls, Inc., CamoWest and Native by Carlton. His ingenuity and creativity revolutionized the hunting industry after he developed the first diaphragm elk call in the early 1980s. This innovation forever changed game calling and cemented his reputation as a pioneer in the field.

In 1982 a local hunting guide hired Wayne to call elk for Rich LaRocco, writer for Outdoor Life Magazine. Once the article "Get Elk With A Turkey Call" was published, Wayne and Linda's lives were set on a new course to what would become Carlton's Calls, Inc. Wayne invested great thought and creativity into each product he sold and seminar he gave. He wanted others to experience a close encounter in the wild and have their own story to share.

In 1988 Wayne moved his family and business to Edgefield, SC, home of the National Wild Turkey Federation and then returned to Montrose in 1991. Carlton's Calls, Inc. was sold to Hunter's Specialties in 1998. Wayne remained a lifelong advocate for hunters and wildlife conserva-

tionists. He continued for years as a game call consultant and public speaker. In 2016, Wayne and his son Marc, again with the support of Linda behind the scenes, started Native by Carlton.

For many years Wayne was actively involved in the National Wild Turkey Federation and Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. He was a lifetime member and past Board of Director for both organizations. He was the founding president of the NWTF Chapters in Gainesville, FL and Montrose, CO. While involved with the RMEF at the national and local levels, many people from across the United States were inspired by Wayne from attending one of his many game calling seminars. He often helped these organizations with fund raising efforts. One of his more memorable contributions was donating his iconic western hat for auction that raised \$24,000.

Though many people might assume elk hunting was his first love, it was turkey hunting. When he moved to Colorado and discovered the Western Colorado turkey population was nearly decimated, he brought the NWTF and Colorado Parks and Wildlife together. He and 17 volunteers worked to reintroduce turkeys to the Western Slope.

Wayne's other accomplishments during his career included hosting Elk Country Journal TV Show for 6 years. He also appeared on numerous TV shows such as The Ultimate Outdoors, Bushnell's Secrets of the Hunt, Turkey Call, and many hunting shows on the Outdoor Channel.

Wayne had a vast array of hobbies and interests and was always a goal setter. When he said he was going to do something, he did it. He was not bashful to try new things and was a lifelong learner. In addition to his knowledge and experience with pest control, game calling and hunting, he was also a mule man, songwriter, singer, racquetball player and auctioneer.

His love for mules started with his first mule, Rocky. Wayne trained Rocky to

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

L. WAYNE CARLTON

January 27, 1944-February 11, 2025

jump in the back of his Dodge pickup truck just like a dog. He enjoyed the competition of playing racquetball.

He participated in many tournaments at the Montrose Athletic Club. Those who ever had the privilege of playing against him would learn firsthand how he earned the nickname "Killer Carlton."

He had a wicked kill shot that he perfected with lots of practice. He wrote songs and took singing lessons so that he could sing his songs in public. With the help of Dave Watson, fellow hunter and former bass guitarist for the Oak Ridge Boys, and some other talented musicians, the "Wayne & Watson" music CD was completed.

Wayne was not shy about giving credit to the Lord for his life and accomplishments. Many times, during his adventures he called out to the good Lord to help him in his time of need. His under-

standing of the Lord's creation and creatures was as unique as he was.

Wayne is survived by his loving wife of 58 years, Linda Lea Carlton; his children Rachel (Dean) Cooper, Marc (Stephanie) Carlton, 4 grandchildren and 1 great granddaughter whom he loved to sing to. From his first marriage while in the Navy, he is survived by his daughters, Deborah Samuels, and Dorothy Graff and 4 grandchildren. He is also survived by 2 nieces and his younger sister Suzanne (Jay) Carlton-O'Leary. He was preceded in death by his parents John Thomas Carlton Jr. and Dorothy Mae (Beckham) (Carlton) Brown; his brother Marc Allen Carlton; and sisters Kathleen Ann Carlton and Priscilla Leah (Carlton) Brick.

Wayne's influence was truly immeasurable on his family, friends, hunters, and outdoors enthusiasts across North America. His infectious zest for life, generous

sharing of knowledge, and ability to entertain with his storytelling will be profoundly missed. However, the legacy he leaves behind guarantees that he will never be forgotten. When you hear the bugle of the mighty wapiti, you will remember Wayne.

The family wishes to extend their heartfelt gratitude for the support Wayne received from his friends, personal trainers, therapists, doctors, nurses, and caretakers during his 20-year journey with Parkinson's Disease.

While at auctioneering school, Wayne became aware of the needs of St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital. It was his wish, if someone wants to donate in remembrance of him, please consider giving to St. Jude's. A Celebration of Life gathering is planned at Celebration Church, 2900 Sunnyside Road, Montrose, Colorado 81401 on Saturday April 26, 2025 at 1:30-4pm

DARYL WAYNE BARAJAS

December 2, 1976 — February 27, 2025



DARYL WAYNE BARAJAS was 48 years old when he passed away on Thursday, February 27th at St. Mary's Regional hospital in Grand Junction. He was born on December 2nd, 1976, here in Montrose to Jesus and Joyce (Lopez-deceased) Barajas. Father to Abby and Ava of Montrose, Brother to Ben (Caroline and niece Sadie) Barajas of Denver and Lisa (Greg) Saunders of Montrose. Daryl went into the Peace Corp, where he obtained his GED. He then went on to the Vo-tech, in Delta, and studied CAD, which he was employed doing. As a family we went to Mexico numerous times to visit family there and spend our summer vacations, having many wonderful adventures there too.

Daryl was very close to his family, especially his daughters Abby and Ava, and the love of his life, Stacy. He was also remarkably close to his many extended family members, friends and his dogs, Chica, and Pepper Pots who passed away previously. Daryl was the youngest in our family and had the nickname of "Chiquitin," which means little or young one. Daryl loved the mountains and the great outdoors enjoying camping, hunting, fishing, and snowboarding. He loved his music, his Vans shoes, his RC cars, good food, UFC fights and so much more. Daryl loved life! Daryl was a man who made his mark in this world not with grand gestures or fancy titles, but by the basic goodness and generosity of his character, by the quality of his involvement with his family, friends, and fellow man, and how he brought out these

qualities in others. There were many wonderful aspects to Daryl's life, and the many ways that he touched our lives. He will be remembered as a good son, a wonderful brother, the best dad a daughter could ask for, a cherished soulmate, a great friend and mentor. He made our lives richer and fuller. Now that he has passed away, of course there is emptiness and pain, confusion and maybe even anger at death coming to soon, but in many ways, the gift of Daryl's life is still here with us. He lives on in our memories and stories, and in what all of us have become because of him. So, I encourage you to share-today, tomorrow and in the years to come- your memories and stories. In this way we will keep the gift of Daryl's life alive.

ISSUE 511 March 10, 2025

ART & SOL

THE BAREFOOT LAUREATE: THE LESSONS OF THE LANDSCAPE: ROOTING DOWN TO RISE UP

By Wendy Videlock

PALISADE—Where are you from? How has the place you were raised or the place you now live informed the stories you are telling, the songs you are singing, the language you are making, the gifts you are bringing, the human you are being?

These are the questions we should all be sure and ask ourselves now and then. A teacher of mine often says, *Be noble for you are made of the stars; be humble for you are made of the earth.*

Wendell Berry tells us *if we don't know where we are we don't know who we are.* Dolores LaChapelle reminds us to find a beloved place, set down roots and build the community of which you want to be a part.

Gary Snyder tells us wherever we are, *know the flowers and tread softly.*

I myself was raised in the American Southwest, otherwise known as Ute and Hopi Land, Navajo Nation, Scorpion Country, the Four Corners, the plateau, The Place of Stones that Glow, The Middle of Nowhere, or Dry Land. The Southwest is the companion which has been with me all my life.

I've an affinity for ghosts, and so, dwelling as we ghostly do, with the caw and the screech and the pinyon moon, where the freeze and the thaw and the witness are together alive and together entombed, here on the edge of a high desert world where all is stone, and all is sky, here where an ancient sea surged forth

and slowly died, here where the ruins and the peaks have changed their names to butte and bluff, here where the Ute had slowed their feet and harvested the pinion seed, here where the reach of the canyon ends or begins, or infers —like knowledge, it's always a rapture or a bit of a blur— (one could soar on the wing or fall in) — here where the rolling stone knows the world is only made of sand, and the arc is the mark of the fallen star, here where the ghosts and the slopes are wan, and empty of virtue and of sin, I lower a bridge, and watch the morning fog roll in.

The tenets of the Southwest include sandstone, snaky little creek beds, colored lizards, quietude, palo verde, trails of quail, cat tracks and vast, breathtaking vistas.

The spiritual core of the desert is ancient, tragic, mythic, historic and marked by grains of sand.

Make no mistake: in the desert there will be abandoned refrigerators, tumbleweeds and piles of spent bullet shells alongside morning glory. There will be the bones of a crow scattered within a patch of globe mallow in the spring. This is the lesson of the desert. The old artists called this lesson *memento mori*, the necessary remind-

er of death or decay, the little tap on the shoulder that reminds us all of this is fleeting. Without warning, rocking chairs that tell a story, blades of grass and morning glory, corridors and canyons forming, arrowheads and autumn storming, endlessness, *memento mori.*

I was raised in the Sonoran Desert, on the outskirts of a burgeoning Tucson, which has become a sprawling city, so it made sense that after living in various places, (across the world and across the Southwest), that I should set down roots and we'd raise our kids at the rural edges of red rock country here in Western Colorado.

My father was Syrian. My mother Irish Catholic. They settled in the desert. Culture for me was a kind of landscape connected to the mysteries of language and spiritual pursuit.

How could I not become one undeniably drawn to the murmurings that stir within the religions, stories, myths and history that haunt this land?



Western Slope Poet Laureate Wendy Videlock. Courtesy photo.

THE LESSONS OF THE LANDSCAPE: ROOTING DOWN TO RISE UP From previous pg

My husband and I moved to the Grand Valley, (Palisade, specifically), thirty years ago. We had no jobs here, no family here, a few scant dollars in the bank, two kids under the age of two, a dog, a cat, a Chevy Blazer, and a determination to embrace the adventure of our new lives.

Since then I've explored this little valley and its surrounding towns and changing landscapes. I have listened, taken notes, made inquiry, written poems, taught in all kinds of venues, schools and universities, written a few books, raised a couple kids, loved a whole bunch of critters and humans, learned a few disciplines, practiced my craft, worn lots of hats, shed a few skins, enjoyed myself and suffered my

sins, have served and underserved my community.

There have been many changes but through it all, I remain a wide-eyed child of the high desert landscape. There is nothing more soothing to my peace of mind than the sight of a red-tailed hawk perched on the gnarled limb of a cottonwood tree. Nothing more spellbinding than the desert sky at night. Nothing more chillingly beautiful than waking to the sound of a pack of coyotes celebrating a kill down in the arroyo.

Everything about my life, my understandings of the world, my paintings, my books and my poems arise from my relationship to the land which surrounds me— and is

underneath my feet.

So, I ask you, dear readers, where are you from, what stories are you telling, what songs are you singing, what gifts are you bringing, what human are you being? If you would like to send me your responses I'd be delighted to hear from you! I would love to include snippets from your answers in an upcoming column!

Wendy Videlock of Palisade serves as poet laureate of Western Colorado. Her Tedx Talk can be found [HERE](#). Her books can be found wherever books are sold. Reach her at westernslopeword@gmail.com




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Contact Author and Speaker:

🌐 laurenhallruddell.com

✉ agescapesnow@gmail.com

1/2 day retreats with the author beginning in May.
Email for more info.



FOR MEXICAN IN MONTROSE, CAN'T BEAT EL JIMADOR

By Carole Ann McKelvey

MONTROSE -- Despite the plethora of Mexican places here, I seem to always seem to end up at El Jimador. Say I'm wrong, but I think their margaritas are the best. A girlfriend called me the other morning and said she had a doc appointment in Montrose and, would I like to meet for lunch before? Uh, yes!

So El Jimador, here we come. She was already there when I pulled in. And enjoying a Diablo margarita. Little bit early, but nothing other to do that afternoon, so I ordered a small Diablo too. A late breakfast of Huevos Rancheros looked good, and my friend decided on the small side of Chiles Reyeno. Dove into those complimentary chips and salsa right away. The prices here are great and orders are big, so no worries there.

For lunch you can choose from entrees (made to order) from lunch combos at \$6.99 or order from the full menu. Lunch is served from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. All orders come with rice and beans.

Lunch:

Speedy Gonzales (1 taco/1 enchilada); 2 crunchy tacos; beef burrito; beef burrito, beef taco; chile reyenno; beef enchilada; crunchy beef taco; chimicanga; or there is a cheese quesadella with chicken; beef enchilada; cheese quesadeya; grilled cheese quesadeya with cheesy rice; and 2 grilled soft chicken tacos.

Lunch entrees, from \$8-\$9:

Lunch Mexican cheese steak; pollo loco; pollo a la Mexicana; pollo Santa Fe; chori pollo; arroz con pollo; pollo feliz; and pollo Yuca-tan; hueves con chorizo. Not into chicken, look further.

Maybe have a lunch fajita from \$8.75-11:

Chicken, steak, Texas, chicken and steak, and shrimp.

Of course, you can order from the entire menu all day if you wish. Don't forget the great margaritas!

El Jimador is located in Montrose at the corner of 12th and Townsend. Call 970-249-8990.



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

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

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

GAIL MARVEL

Montrose Author & Reporter

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



CARTOON BY TIM JONES

WEEKLY CARTOON

SOUR GRAPES

by Tim Jones



Lighthouse Eatery
970-964-7570

Ray's Corner Cafe
970-417-4340

Trattoria de Sofia
970-249-0433

Rib City
970-249-7427



Alpen Confections
970-648-0609

Crash Burger
970-249-0825

Coffee Trader
970-249-6295
970-787-9021

Tacos & Beer
970-964-4448

Tacos & Beer on Main
970-964-4999

Pahgre's
970-249-6442

Premier Sponsor:
Montrose Farmers Market
970-249-0705

Horsefly Brewing
970-249-6889

Jimmer's BBQ,
Burgers & Beer
970-252-1227

Fiesta Guadalajara
970-249-2460

El Jimador
970-249-8990

Busy Corner White Kitchen
970-323-6215

Delta: CB's Tavern
970-399-3570



Stone House
970-240-8899

Sidelines Sports Bar
970-765-0129

Amelias Hacienda Restaurante
970-249-1881

Delta: Pour Ernie's
970-546-0074



MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY

ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

Office Hours: By appointment.

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

Worship Service Times: Sundays 9AM,

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

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

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

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

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Olathe, Co 81425

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

Pastor Gabe Skillo

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Sunday 6 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Study/Prayer 7 p.m.

CELEBRATION CHURCH

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

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

Office Hours: By appointment

Phone: (970) 497-4925

Email: celebrationmontrose@gmail.com

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

Worship Service Times: 9am and 10:45am

Senior Pastor:

Pastor Brandon Mathis

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

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

Demographics: Multi-generational

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

Student (middle & high school) at 9am.

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

CHRIST'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)

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-](mailto:ststephensmontrose@yahoo.com)

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

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

SUMMIT CHURCH OF MONTROSE:

Denomination affiliation: Southern Baptist
 Address: 10977 60.75 Rd. Montrose, CO 81403
 Office hours: Varies
 Contact information:
[email:summitchurchmontrose@gmail.com](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 Feb. 23 we will have a family Bible study, "Lord, Teach Me to Pray," 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 following services for a potluck brunch.
 Please visit <https://www.summitchurchmontrose.org/events>

VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH OF MONTROSE

Denomination Affiliation: Independent Baptist
Address: 2890 N Townsend Ave., Montrose, CO 81401
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8am-12pm
Contact Information: Phone (970) 249-

6874; email at info@vbcmontrose.org; website: vbcmontrose.org
Current Pastor: Roland Kassales
Worship Service Times: Sunday School at 9:30am, Sunday AM Service at 10:30am, Sunday PM Service at 6pm, Wednesday Night Service at 6:30pm (all services include childcare)

Victory Baptist Church exists to exalt God, edify saints, and evangelize the lost. Demographics: Victory Baptist serves everyone with age-appropriate classes, groups, and activities. Families with children make up the majority of VBC with young adults, singles, middle-aged couples, and seniors comprising the rest.

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

information to the Montrose Mirror:
 Name of church
 Denomination affiliation
 Address Office hours
 Contact information (phone number, email address, website)
 Name of current Senior Pastor
 Worship service times

Please give a one sentence description of your church and its mission in the Montrose community.
 Brief description of your current church demographics (predominately family, youth, seniors, singles).
 Do your church services include Sunday School and childcare?



Where Luxury Meets Affordability

Cimarron Creek is a community that offers new, upgraded, beautifully crafted, move-in ready manufactured homes. If you place value on a quiet neighborhood, camaraderie, and a sense of well-being, then Cimarron Creek is for you.

Amenities

Large Open Common Areas
Scenic walking trails
Quiet, Peaceful Atmosphere
Community Center
Lending Library
Fenced in playground
Dog Parks
Community Garden

Most Homes Include

8x8 Matching Sheds, Upgraded appliances, Garden Tubs, Electric tiled fireplaces, 8x16 Patios With Large Awnings; Large lots with grass, trees, built-in sprinklers



901 6530 Rd. #1000 Montrose, CO. 81401
970-249-0493 Open 8am-5pm Mon-Fri
manager@cimarroncreekcommunity.com
www.cimarroncreekcommunity.com

MEET MONTROSE

Beautiful Western Colorado community-elevation of 5,794 feet-is nestled within easy reach of a vast selection of experiences. Plummeting depths of Black Canyon

National Park to the east; towering, majestic San Juan Mountains to the south;

Expansive Uncompahgre

Plateau to the west, lake-bejeweled Grand Mesa to the north; Montrose Rec Center (the newest, largest recreation center on the Western Slope) and expansive water sports park right in the middle of town. Montrose is surrounded by an endless variety of

prospects for exploration and adventure. A little something for everyone-shopping, fishing, biking, photography, camping, swimming, motorsports-you get the idea!

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS: NON-PROFITS

MONTROSE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM SEEKS TO GROW 'MUSEUMS FOR ALL' FUND TO SUPPORT ADMISSION FOR SNAP RECIPIENTS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE – The Montrose Children's Museum is excited to announce its ongoing efforts to grow the 'Museums For All' fund, which offers free admission to families with a SNAP benefits card. This initiative is part of the museum's commitment to making learning experiences accessible to all children, regardless of their economic background.

The 'Museums For All' program allows

families who participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to enjoy access to the museum at no cost. This program helps ensure that all children in the Montrose community can experience the joy of hands-on learning, creativity, and exploration in a welcoming environment.

"We believe every child deserves the opportunity to discover, play, and learn without financial barriers," said Whitney

Murphy, Board President of the Montrose Children's Museum. "With the support of generous community donations, we're working hard to rebuild this fund so we can continue offering free admission to families in need. We are grateful for the ongoing support of our community, and we invite local businesses, families, and individuals to contribute to this important initiative."

In addition to its mission of inclusivity, the museum is actively working with local partners to raise awareness about the program and encourage donations. All contributions to the 'Museums For All' fund will go directly toward covering the costs of free admissions, ensuring that children from all walks of life have equal access to the educational opportunities the museum offers.

The Montrose Children's Museum has been a beloved part of the community since its opening, providing an engaging space for children to interact with exhibits that inspire curiosity and creativity. The museum relies on the generosity of donors, sponsors, and grants to keep its programs running and make them accessible to everyone in the area.

To donate to the 'Museums For All' fund or for more information about the program, please visit the Montrose Children's Museum website

at www.montrosechildrensmuseum.org/donations or contact the museum directly at 970-964-9995. The museum is located at 221 Colorado Ave., Unit A.

About Montrose Children's Museum: The Montrose Children's Museum is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing interactive, hands-on learning experiences for children of all ages. The museum offers a variety of exhibits designed to inspire curiosity, foster creativity, and promote learning in a fun and engaging environment. Through community partnerships and outreach programs like 'Museums For All,' the museum strives to make its educational resources accessible to everyone in the Montrose community.



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Rib City
970-249-7427

Stone House
970-240-8899



Fiesta Guadalajara
970-249-2460

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Jimmer's Steak & BBQ
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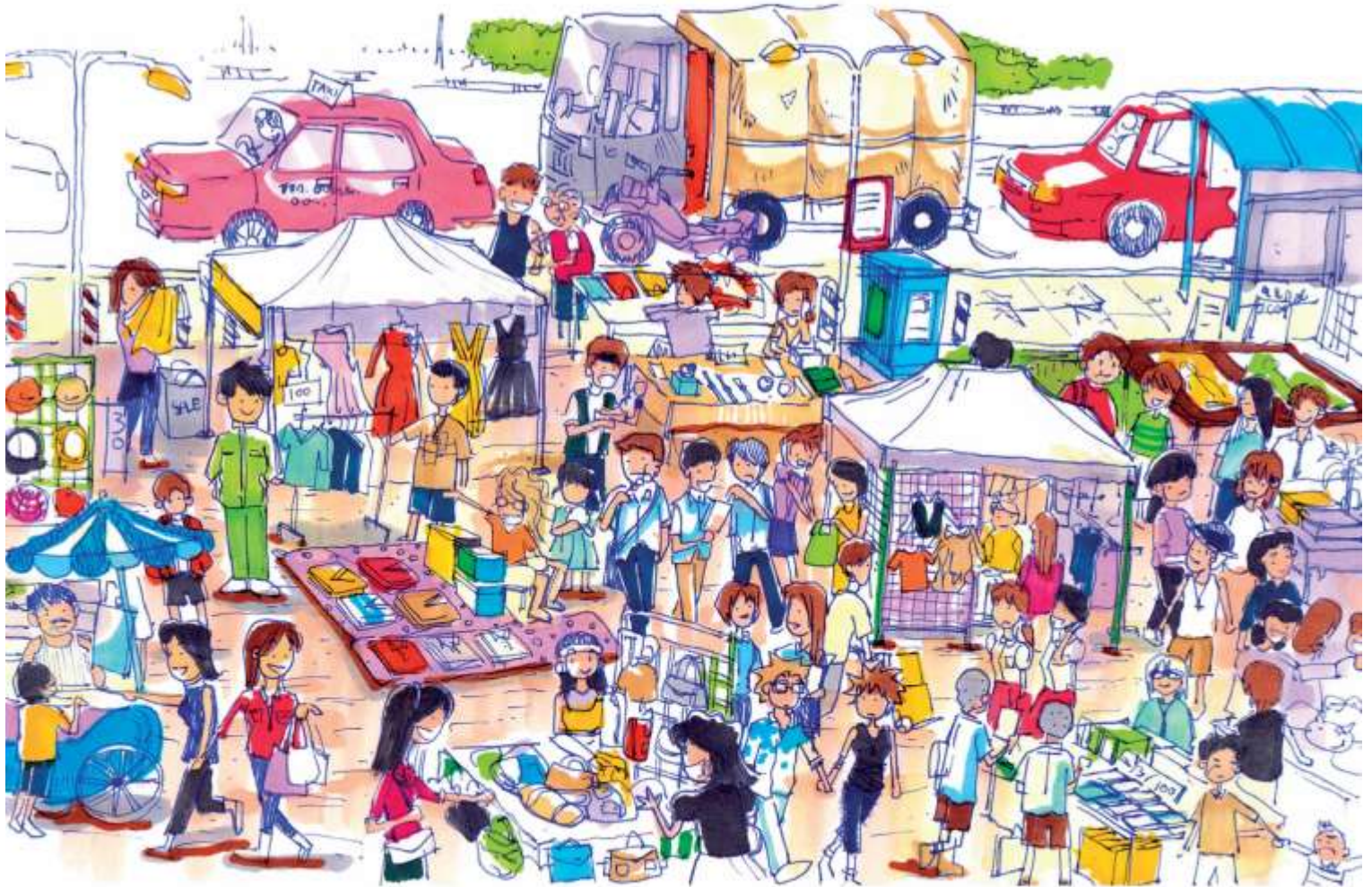


2025 March Madness CRAFT SHOW

Friday March 28th | 9:30am-6pm

Saturday March 29th | 9am-4pm

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The Satisfied Woman

SEX AND SELF CARE ARE CORRELATIVE



By Gia Pirelli. Courtesy photo.

MONTROSE—Let's talk about the elephant in the room. How is your sex life? Pause for one minute, take an honest look at that, and then come up with 3 words to describe your sex life. And how does that make you feel? Panic, complacency, anxiety? Remember these are just words you're reacting to. Words that describe a situation. You are not your situation. Situations change all the time, depending on the forces acting upon them. Pema Chodron once said, "You are the sky. Everything else— it's just the weather." Now, choose 3 words to describe how you want your sex life to be. For example, if your 3 situational words are "what sex life?" Then let's look at why. I'm not talking about if you're in an abusive relationship, that requires professional help, and safe distance. For the purpose of this exercise, we are talking about the average woman, over 25, under 90, of sound mind and body.

I don't care how old you are, I don't care what religion you are, I don't care what orientation you are. Sex is important. It fosters intimacy and closeness between two people. It is a level of communication that goes beyond words. It releases vital hormones like Oxytocin, Dopamine, Prolactin, and endorphins that contribute to our feelings of joy and well-being. This spills over into every area of our life. It is also, I am convinced, the Fountain of Youth. Ponce de Leon had it all wrong. Poor schmuck was searching all over the land for a literal fountain. Facepalm. It would be interesting to hear what his wife had to say about their sex life.

But back to you. Time to take stock. Take your power back, and treat yourself like the awesome, radiant, sparkly supernova that you are. Now. When was the last time you shaved your legs and your girly bits? Wore perfume, styled, or even brushed, your hair? Got a pedicure? Wore jewelry, not just your wedding ring that won't come off because you're bloated [today](#). When was the last time you wore something so sparkly, you literally saw spots after gazing lovingly at it in the sun? Do you wear clothing with numeric sizing? And do you buy it at a store that also sells dog food and lawn mowers? Be honest. This is for you. When was the last time you went shopping for something pretty and impractical for no reason other than to make you (or your husband, partner) smile? When was the last time you went and had Margaritas with a girlfriend and laughed until one of you almost peed? What kind of underwear are you wearing? If you say Jockey or Walmart, for the love of all that is holy, stop reading and immediately remove them, burn them, preferably with some Sage and Palo Santo to cleanse the bad energy from your home. Then get online, or go to Luxe or Dillard's immediately and choose

something worthy of you. It doesn't have to be sheer, or go up your butt. Just something you think is pretty and makes you feel sexy. I'm serious here. If you walk through life treating yourself and your hoo-ha as an afterthought, and your partner as a potted plant--the artificial kind from Hobby Lobby, then your sex life is probably less satisfying than a gas station sandwich. And the granny panties aren't helping either. Plus, food for thought, if you don't mow the grass and clean up the park, no one wants to play there. Truth and facts.

Conversely, if your sex life is mind-blowing, then congratulations! You're already living a life of joy and satisfaction and putting yourself first. Yep, you heard me, you first. All the people who rely on you would have not you if you let yourself slip away. A wise woman, with a fabulous marriage, once told me "Me first, we second." Taking care of him first, seeing to his meals, doing his laundry, cleaning up all his crap, running all the errands, cleaning the house, that's great but it also breeds resentment if you're not doing this with a joyful heart. Which then makes you bitter and annoyed, and he has no idea why. That's not sexy. If you're taking care of others, but secretly feeling ripped off for it, you know what they call that in clinical terms? Co-dependent behavior. Means you do stuff you don't want to do in order to "keep the peace," or "because if you don't do it, it won't get done," or "no one does it right except you..." etc. This is a cycle of doom for you, for your marriage and probably for your kids, if you have them. As women, we tend to take it all on, and then put ourselves last on a very lengthy list of crap to do. Then we wonder why we are exhausted, hormonal, depleted, overweight, depressed, resentful and sitting here reading this article, in Jockey underwear, with a sleeve of

SEX AND SELF CARE ARE CORRELATIVE *From previous pg*

of Ritz crackers, wondering what the Hell happened to the vibrant, sexy woman we used to be. But there's hope.

Take time every day, not just your birthday, to take care of yourself. To celebrate yourself. Not just for your sex life, for quality of life. Treat yourself as you would treat your best friend. Treat yourself like you wish your husband or partner treated you—and soon they will notice, and 9 times out of 10, follow suit. And you will start to treat them better and celebrate them as well. When you're less harried and exhausted, when you're not feeling bitter toward him (or her) your whole world will shift, and with it, your sex life. You begin a cycle that builds momentum. And if you're single or celibate by choice, then self care is still vital to your mental health and well-being. Self care is a basic expression of your self-love and self-respect. It is valuing yourself enough to put yourself at the top of your list. BE the person who makes you happy. Don't expect it to come from others.

Here's how you start: Buy yourself some flowers. Brush your hair, gently, and may-

be recall when your mom or someone used to brush it for you. Get a nice smelling body scrub and some body butter and polish your skin once or twice a week. Don't just rush in and out of the shower as if it were a military drill. Pretend you're at a spa and have an array of products to give yourself a spa treatment at least once a week. (They can come from Walmart or Ross, they don't have to be expensive. Just be careful, you don't want to smell like Dark Night in a Back Alley.) Get a pedicure once a month. Non-negotiable. Even horses get them. Be better than a horse. Drink enough water. You're like a plant, things shrivel if you don't get enough water. Get enough rest every night. Stretch your body. Eat actual food. Buy a cool pair of shoes. Get rid of your ratty, "practical" underwear. You may keep two pair. I can't imagine why you might need more than two days in a row, unless you are in prison. And it should be kept separate from your feminine, lovely lingerie so as not to contaminate it. Do this for YOU. Not for him or for anyone else, but for YOU. There is a certain satisfaction and quiet, almost

regal power in wearing some sexy little number under your clothes. Even, or maybe especially, when no one knows it's there. You carry yourself differently, with more confidence and your chin is high. Same goes with jewelry, by the way. You know you're an absolute Goddess, who just happens to be out walking her dog, rolling through City Market, balancing her checkbook.

Goddesses do mundane stuff too. Just ask Persephone. Half the year she has literally nothing to do. She probably watches reruns of Yellowstone and files her nails. But she does it in her fantastic underwear and a silky caftan (not "active wear") and probably wears ropes and ropes of salt water pearls.

When you treat yourself with respect and remember that you are a Goddess worth celebrating, not just one day a year, but every day, magical things start to shift and happen. Others start to celebrate you too. And before you know it, you can kiss the old 3 words goodbye, and start to live the 3 you chose. You have the power to do this. And it's time you remind yourself.

*Save a tree –
Read the Mirror!*

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BY GEORGE S. KAUFMAN & MOSS HART

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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

DATES AND TIMES-MAGIC CIRCLE PLAYERS 'YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU'

Magic Circle Players

Mar 14, 2025 - Mar 29, 2025

The winner of a Pulitzer Prize and an Academy Award, *You Can't Take it With You* by George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart, is a quirky, fun, old fashioned comedy served with a clash of the classes. Tony Kirby, the son of a snobbish Wall Street banker, falls madly in love with Alice Sycamore, a beautiful young woman from a good natured, loving family who teeter on the edge of eccentric. Can these two families, who couldn't be more different, survive a dinner party?

Tons of laughs, surprises, and a few "BOOMS" will leave you wanting more! Directed by Michelle Terry.

Tickets at magiccircleplayers.com.

Magic Circle Players, 420 S 12th St, Montrose. Box office: 970-249-7838.

Friday, March 14, 2025 - 07:30 PM MST

Saturday, March 15, 2025 - 07:30 PM MST

Sunday, March 16, 2025 - 02:00 PM MST

Friday, March 21, 2025 - 07:30 PM MST

Saturday, March 22, 2025 - 07:30 PM MST

Sunday, March 23, 2025 - 02:00 PM MST

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SAVE THE DATE! LOCAL EVENTS CALENDAR

ONGOING-

COLUMBINE QUILTERS meet at Welcome Home Alliance Warrior Resource Center, 4 Hillcrest Plaza Way Montrose. 1st Saturday except for July at 9 am.

FRIENDSHIP QUILTERS meets at the Montrose County Events Center, 4th Thursday Jan - Oct, 3rd Thursday Nov - Dec, 9am.

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.

MONTHLY

Feb. 4-April 11--The Montrose AARP Tax-aide site will be in operation from Feb. 4 through April 11 at the Senior Center in the Montrose Pavilion, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 9am - 2pm. Reservations are required and can be made now by calling 970-252-4889.

March 10-Want your voice heard in protecting our public lands? Join us for food, friendship, and tips on letter writing to decision makers. We'll provide resources and advice. Snacks provided, BYOB. Join us at the Ridgway Library on March 10 from 1-2:30pm. Sponsored by Northern San Juan Broadband and Great Old Broads for Wilderness Questions? Contact: northernsanjuan@greatoldbroads.org

March 18- 7pm, Delta Library Community Room. "The Great Dinosaur Discovery." is a 1976 documentary about the dinosaurs of Dry Mesa Quarry in Delta, Colorado. The film was produced by Brigham Young University (BYU) and aired on public television stations across the United States.

March 26-Help Foster, Kinship, and adoptive families-Attend a wine dinner March 26 at 6 pm in support of Foster Connections. Click here for [reservations link](#).

MONTROSE HIGH SCHOOL MARCH DIVISION AWARDS



MHS Division Award winners L-R Orlando Rangel, Alfonsina Lopez-Cruz, Anayeli Navarro-Coronado, Gavin DesChamp, Andres Prado-Lugo, Leydi Contreras-Padilla, Anika Harris, Erica Haddock, Carissa Tabor, Caylie Velasquez, Goku Macias, and Trent Sondergard. Courtesy photo.



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