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ASSOCIATION



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RE-1J ENROLLMENT DECREASED BY 163 STUDENTS SINCE LAST YEAR, NEW CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICATION RECEIVED, TITLE IX CHANGES VACATED, SURVEY PLANNED FOR NEW MHS

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-The Montrose County School District RE-1J Board of Education convened for a regular meeting on Tuesday, April 8. Present were Board President Sarah Fishering (District E); District A Director Neisha Balleck (attending virtually); District B Director Ted Valerio; District C Director Alice Murphy; District D Director Tom West, and District F Director Jody Hovde. Board Vice President Steve Bush was absent.

Fishering called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. Following the Pledge of Allegiance and Approval of the Agenda was the Student Spotlight, as well as the Recognition and Awards for educators. For those viewing the meeting via livestream, this portion of the meeting was unfortunately a silent affair as there was no sound.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT/RECOGNITION/DONATIONS
District Public Information Office Matt Jenkins, whose resignation was

Continued pg 19



The Montrose County School District RE-1J Board of Education convened for a regular meeting on Tuesday, April 8. Board Vice President Steve Bush was absent, District A Director Neisha Balleck attended virtually, all others were present in District Offices. Meeting Screenshot.

SNOW CAPPED CIDER AND WINE BAR: HISTORIC, HIGH CLASS, AND HARD (CIDER THAT IS!)

By Lauren Hall Ruddell

CEDAREdge-"The Lord is good to me, and so I thank the Lord for giving me the things I need: the sun and the rain and the apple seed." Were these words spoken by a modern evangelist or perhaps a hippie farmer? Not modern, no, but evangelical and an early hippie would be true. John Chapman, born in Massachusetts in 1774, is the author of this statement. School children may know him better as Johnny Appleseed. What school kids may not know is that most of the apples he propagated and gave away were not the 'apple a day keeps the doctor away' kind. They were mostly what the older generation would have called 'spitters', apples so bittersweet and full of tannins that they could not be eaten raw. You took a mouthful and spit it out. But they made for wonderful hard cider. Swedenborgian Johnny was a deeply religious man, but those of his faith believed that alcohol consumption in moderation was up to the considered judgment of each person. Hard cider was a safe beverage in frontier times when water purity could not necessarily be counted on. No conflict with religious principles hampered his apple evangelism. Food author Michael Pollan has stated that, "Johnny Appleseed was bringing the gift of

Continued pg 5



Kari Williams and Patric Matysiewski behind the bar. Photo by LHR.

[Western Slope Poet Laureate Wendy Vidlock:
The Barefoot Laureate!](#)

[Carole Ann McKelvey's Rocky Mt.
Cravings Visits Greenwoods in Ridgway!](#)

[Burnout: The Silent Stealer of Energy.
Sleep and Focus! By Gia Pirelli](#)

UPDATED GUIDELINES FOR LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Dear Readers:

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you,
Caitlin Switzer,
Montrose Mirror Editor

the
Montrose Mirror

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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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Library Yarn Storming Project

Thursday, April 17
11am—1pm
Library Meeting
Room



Yarn-storming is the act of covering or decorating public objects with colorful knitted or crocheted items. Bring your knit or crochet project and ideas for a yarn-storming project at the Montrose Regional Library! Art installation details will be announced at a later date. Free for all ages and abilities. No library card required!

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE REPUBLICAN WOMEN LUNCHEON & PROGRAM WITH CARLTON MASON

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Montrose Republican Women Luncheon & Program-Friday, April 18 at Noon @ Hampton Inn Montrose. Brown bag lunch Montrose will discuss county operations and plans in the works. Montrose CASA Executive Director Carlton Mason will discuss the mission of CASA, projects and other youth and family advocacy services for the 7th Judicial District. Bring a friend! Call Kerri - 970-209-5170 Bring a friend! Call Kerri - 970-209-5170

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SNOW CAPPED CIDER AND WINE BAR *From pg 1*

alcohol to the frontier. That's why he was so popular. That's why he was welcome in every cabin in Ohio. He was the American Dionysus." Or perhaps he was really the equivalent of the local food and drug safety department.

Although Johnny never made it this far west, he would have been pleased to note that his legacy lives on in Delta County. In snow-capped Cedaredge lies an establishment that Johnny would have been tempted to make a second home. The descendants of early Delta pioneers planted acre after acre of cider apples.

Kari Williams, who is married to fourth-generation Orchardist Ty Williams, developed a passion for cider making. This passion is inspiring in its intensity, dedication, and creativity. It was Ty's great-great-grandfather, Pap Williams, who first established an orchard on the slopes of Grand Mesa. Now, three of Kari and Ty's four kids work full-time at the state's largest fruit growing and packing (and fermenting) company. At 6,130 feet, it's at a significantly higher elevation compared to America's largest apple regions like Washington's Yakima Valley and New York's Hudson Valley. The fifth generation of Williams is now hard at work managing the 109-year-old apple and pear business. And it's a big job, with 600 acres farmed in Delta County, and many more in other locales.

A couple of weeks ago I had the privilege of meeting this charming cider gal at their first offering of their new **Meet The Maker** series of culinary events. Wines were on tap for the night and being paired with cuisine from local master chef Kate Woodward. Vintner Patric Matysiewski from Sauvage Spectrum Winery in Palisade was on hand and on tap. Creole specialties were paired with complementary wines from that delightful winery, such as Jam-balaya Creole Shrimp with Lemon and Garlic Aioli accompanied by 2023 Gran Vin Bordeaux blend wine. The two together made the tastebuds do a Zydeco two-step. All of the makers at this gig were personally delightful as was the food and drink.

Being a reporter on all things ag and climate change-related, I quizzed Kari on the challenges of pomology in these weird weather times. Pomology has nothing to do with fortune telling and everything to do with successful fruit growing. And chal-

lenges there have been.

A few years ago, early winter frost that hit while sap was still in the trees caused the loss of many valuable trees.

Kari recalls that "Since the October 2020 freeze, which caused a 25 percent loss of trees across multiple locations, we have successfully replanted all affected trees. This event, which saw temperatures drop to nearly zero

while the sap was still present, was a once-in-a-century occurrence. Fortunately, we have not experienced any further tree loss in the years since."

That was the kind of loss to weather weirdness you don't really hear much about these days. Climate change usually connotes excessive heat events. But to my surprise, Kari assured me that a warming climate at that elevation was actually a good thing. With excellent water rights due to the vintage of the claims, drought is not the disaster I thought it might be. It's nice to know that for some local businesses, these changes are not all doom and gloom. New and old apple varieties seem to be adapting to changing seasonal norms. In fact, "In terms of bloom timing, we've noticed a slight delay compared to 20 years ago. However, spring frosts have been milder over the past three years, providing better natural protection than in previous seasons," she noted.

Kari definitely has her personal favorite apple types, such as the Dabinett. Legend has it that this variety dates from the early 1900s, when it was found by William Dabinett growing as a wilding (a natural seedling) in a hedge in Somerset, England. But of course she has a special place in her heart for one of the family cultivars, named "Harrison" after one of her sons. The 'Harry's' have had three very good years and produce the Harrison cider that is on tap. I sampled it and am pleased to report it is light, refreshing, and would pair well with a summer picnic of fresh fruit, camembert cheese, and crusty French bread. Kari stated, "Our Harrisons, the American Colonial cider apples, performed exceptionally well. We had a great



A very inviting venue! By invitation or otherwise. Photo by LHR

crop and even released a canned version of our highly awarded Harrison Reserve."

And I noticed that not just the Harrison Reserve received awards. The taproom walls are generously clad in medals and awards from all over the country. It's not unusual for this cider maker to walk away with best in class at any competition.

Yet there are challenges, just not the ones I had anticipated. Rather than climatic, they are market-oriented.

"Fruit farmers are facing declining market prices, leading to lower returns on crop investments. At the same time, the cost of production has never been higher, making it increasingly expensive to grow a successful crop. When combined with environmental and weather challenges, these factors significantly reduce potential profits, making fruit farming a higher-risk investment in a market where prices continue to trend downward."

I did a little digging and found that her concerns are shared by apple growers around the nation. Sounds odd in these times of grocery inflation, but it turns out to be quite true.

Still, at this point this pioneer family has no plans to throw in the towel, or the crate, on their enterprise. As a destination for a day trip to Grand Mesa, a thirsty traveler can make a stop at Snow Capped Cider and Wine Bar at 105 Grand Mesa Drive, Cedaredge. More information can be had at their website at <https://snowcappedcider.com/taproom/>.

Visitors to Sauvage Spectrum in Palisade desiring a wine tasting can find info on them at <https://sauvagespectrum.com/>. Chef Kate Woodward can be contacted for catering at katediamond44@gmail.com.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE COUNTY REAFFIRMS STATUS AS SECOND AMENDMENT SANCTUARY AND OPPOSES COLORADO SENATE BILL 25-003

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— The Board of County Commissioners of Montrose County, Colorado unanimously adopted a resolution at the Wednesday April 2, 2025 BOCC meeting reaffirming the county's status as a Second Amendment Sanctuary and formally opposing Colorado Senate Bill 25-003 (SB25-003).

This resolution expresses the county's strong commitment to protecting the constitutional rights of its citizens, particularly the right to bear arms, as enshrined in the Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and Article II, Section 13 of the Colorado Constitution.

The resolution comes in response to CO SB25-003, which proposes new permitting, training, and regulatory requirements for the possession and purchase of certain semi-automatic firearms. The Board of County Commissioners expressed concerns that these measures would infringe upon the rights of law-abiding gun owners in Montrose County, particularly in rural areas where firearms

are an important part of daily life for personal protection and recreational use.

Montrose County, which has previously declared itself a Second Amendment Sanctuary County, remains steadfast in its opposition to any legislation that the Board believes constitutes an overreach of state authority and imposes undue burdens on its residents' constitutional rights.

"The Second Amendment is a fundamental right that all Americans are entitled to, and we will not stand by while that right is undermined," said Sean Pond, Vice-Chair of the Board of County Commissioners.

"This resolution reaffirms our commitment to defending the Constitution and ensuring that Montrose County remains a place where our citizens' rights are respected and protected."

"Montrose County is dedicated to ensuring the safety and security of its residents, but that cannot come at the cost of our fundamental rights," said Chair of the Board of County Commissioners Scott Mijares.

"We will continue to advocate for the

preservation of the Second Amendment and ensure that our citizens' rights are not infringed upon."

While the resolution reaffirms Montrose County's commitment to public safety and responsible firearm ownership, the Board believes that any changes to firearm regulations should respect the rights of individuals and not place unnecessary restrictions on law-abiding citizens.

"In Montrose County, firearms are an integral part of life, whether for self-defense, hunting, or recreational purposes," stated Commissioner Sue Hansen.

"It's vital that we stand up for the rights of our citizens, especially in rural areas. This resolution sends a clear message that we do not support unnecessary restrictions on our Second Amendment rights."

Montrose County is committed to ensuring that its residents' constitutional rights remain protected, and the Board of County Commissioners will continue to advocate for the preservation of these rights.

For more information about Montrose County, visit www.montrosecounty.net



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

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GAIL MARVEL

Montrose Author & Reporter

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANT AWARDS TO LOCAL NON-PROFITS TOTAL \$65,000

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Twenty-eight local nonprofits from the 2024 Community Impact Grant cycle were awarded between \$500 and \$5,000 in grants from Montrose Community Foundation and the City of Montrose, for a total of \$65,000.

MCF appreciates the diversity of the nonprofits in our community and strives to reach as many different types of nonprofits as possible.

MCF was the recipient of many applications and were able to issue grants to new nonprofits that were qualified. A reception was held for all 2024 grant recipients in February 2025.

Montrose Community Foundation awards the Community Impact Grants once per year with a contribution from the City of Montrose, and the generosity of donors.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

SMPA 2025 BOARD CANDIDATES DECLARED

Special to the Mirror

RIDGWAY-In 2025, the San Miguel Power Association (SMPA) Board seats up for election are District #5, covering part of San Miguel County, including Mountain

Village and Ophir, and District #7, covering parts of Hinsdale, Montrose, Ouray, San Juan and San Miguel Counties including Ouray and Silverton.

The date by which potential candidates

were to have submitted 15 verified member signatures nominating them for candidacy, was April 3rd. By that date, only the incumbent director in District #5, Rube Felicelli, had turned in a completed packet with enough verified signatures. In District #7, only one candidate, Jake Kurzweil, had turned in a completed packet with enough verified signatures.

In both Districts, the sole candidates will be deemed elected per SMPA Bylaws. No ballots will be sent to voters in 2025. Per requirement of SMPA Bylaws, the nomination signatures of all candidates are available to view on the association website at www.smpa.com/content/elections. Any questions concerning the 2025 SMPA Board Elections may be emailed to alex@smpa.com.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DELTA COMMUNITY SUPPORTS EFFORTS FOR A DOWNTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT

Special to the Mirror

DELTA-Downtown Delta Partnership (DDP) Historic Preservation Committee was successful in generating funds in support of a formal application for a Downtown Historic District. There are great benefits for building owners. Historic preservation increases property values. Studies have consistently shown that properties in historic districts have higher property values than surrounding neighborhoods. DDP Historic Preservation Committee has visited business owners to provide them with helpful information...The committee has identified more than 90 contributing buildings in the proposed Historic District.

The DDP Historic Preservation Committee is working closely with History Colorado. The Preservation Committee's application for a Downtown Delta Historic District has been approved to move onto the NPS for review and approval for the National Register of Historic Places. The DDP Preservation Committee has secured matching funds from the Delta County Historical Society and twenty local businesses towards a History Colorado Grant for a Historic Resource Survey of all of the contributing/historic buildings required for the application for the National Register of Historic Places.

DDP Historic Preservation Committee is responsible for submitting the survey to History Colorado for consideration for designation of a Downtown Delta Historic District. Committee Chair, Wilma Erven, committee members, Judy Weiszbrod, Ron Hays, James Wetzel, Hartland Clubb, Dr. Tom Gore and Elizabeth Thompson.

For more information...ddp81416@gmail.com or downtowndeltapartnership.org.



The poster features a blue sky background with white clouds and green grass at the bottom. In the center is the Montrose County Colorado seal, which depicts a mountain, a river, and a cornucopia. To the right of the seal is a red starburst graphic containing the text: "Measles Vaccinations 10am - 2pm No Cost While Supplies Last". Below the seal, the text "YOU'RE INVITED!" is written in large, bold, dark blue letters. Underneath that, the event details are listed in bold, dark blue text: "Montrose County Public Health Open House", "Wednesday, April 16", "10am - 4pm", "Montrose Recreation Center Field House", and "25 Colorado Avenue, Montrose".

YOU'RE INVITED!

Montrose County Public Health Open House
Wednesday, April 16
10am - 4pm
Montrose Recreation Center Field House
25 Colorado Avenue, Montrose

Measles Vaccinations
10am - 2pm
No Cost
While Supplies Last

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

COMMISSIONER MIJARES MOVING TO BRING BACK CREDIBILITY TO BOCC

Editor:

After 8 years of literal unsound policies, Commissioner Mijares has committed to bringing back sound and lawful governance to the BOCC with the support of Commissioner Pond. Even while Commissioner Sue Hansen attempted to throw shade at Commissioner Mijares for demonstrating fiscal prudence by offering a resolution to hire outside legal counsel to review the county's potential liabilities concerning pausing the new north Campus construction. This came after the previous BOCC ignored recommendations to choose between preserving the Historic Courthouse or building the new North Campus due to financial constraints. Instead, they authorized both, despite the county lacking the funds to complete both projects, a fiscally irresponsible move by the previous BOCC. (Too bad Montrose Citizens D.O.G.E. wasn't around when the previous board approved that—it would have been front and center.)

Authorizing both projects was like someone saying, "Well, honey, we can only afford to renovate our old house or build a new one," and then replying, "Oh hell, let's do both, get our folks to cosign for it, and let the kids and grandkids pay the bill—then leave it to the bank to sort it out!" It's simply not prudent, particularly given our current declining tax revenues. Yet tax-and-spend Commissioner Hansen and the previous board under her leadership deemed it imperative—not just a nice-to-have, which we, the taxpayers cannot afford—but in her mind and the mind of her willing accomplice in the "Press", Dennis Anderson, it is "damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead"!

Then there's the issue of Director of Public Health Ahmed, now officially the Interim Director of Public Health. Why? Be-

cause the proper legal process for hiring was not followed.

But contrary to the opinion of the Publisher of the *Montrose Press*, Mr. Anderson, it was far more than just a "clerical error," it was a massive legal blunder covered up by both Commissioner Hansen and our County Attorney. I bear no ill will toward Mr. Ahmed—he's a personable man and highly credentialed for the position. I spoke with him at length previously and enjoyed our conversation. This isn't a personal issue or anything to do with Mr. Ahmed himself; it's about how we reached this point.

Colorado Revised Statute 25-1-508 can be viewed in its entirety [here](#). But it reads in relevant part:

"In addition to all other powers and duties conferred and imposed upon a county board of health or a district board of health by the provisions of this subpart 3, a county board of health or a district board of health shall have and exercise the following specific powers and duties:

- (a) To develop and promote the public policies needed to secure the conditions necessary for a healthy community;
- (b) To approve the local public health plan completed by the county or district agency, and to submit the local plan to the state board for review;
- (c) *Intentionally left blank.*

(I) To select a public health director to serve at the pleasure of the county or district board...

Please forgive me; the older I get, the more my eyes fail me. However, NO-WHERE in C.R.S. 25-1-508 does it say that the Board of Health can defer or delegate the selection process or duty to the County Manager or staff, which, was not done anyway. It specifically states that the Board of Health has the responsibility and

duty **"To select a public health director to serve at the pleasure of the county or district board."** That means Commissioner Mijares is not on some power trip, nor is he some bigoted racist. Rather, he is simply a principled individual wanting to follow the LAW, as ALL elected officials should do! Unlike our County Attorney, who advised our County Manager and Commissioner Hansen to ignore the statute and the law (great counsel, NOT), Commissioner Mijares is not willing to sweep it under the rug! Thank God for integrity!

The Board did not interview the candidates; they never made the selection as required by the statute. So when Commissioner Hansen said, "This is highly unusual," yes, Sue, it is... and for someone who has been put on a pedestal for the past seven years as a Commissioner who knows what they're doing, you should have known better—especially after the disingenuous presentation you and the County Manager put on for the citizens at the March 3, 2025, meeting concerning the hiring of Mr. Ahmed.

Montrose deserves straightforward, ethical leadership that follows proper protocols and procedures out in the open for the public to see. It might be messy at times, but it will be honest, and it will be real.

I've been attending BOCC meetings consistently for the past few months and can appreciate the open dialogue with the community that has been a mainstay. It stands in stark contrast to the City Council, where nobody is truly heard. At least at the BOCC meetings, one can have meaningful dialogue with the commissioners—thanks to Chair Mijares. Yes, sometimes it's messy, but it's meaningful and it's real!

Michael J Badagliacco, "MJB"
Citizen-Montrose, CO

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE WOMEN'S GIVING CLUB SET FOR APRIL 24

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The 2nd quarterly meeting of the Women's Giving Club will be held on THURSDAY, April 24 at 5:30pm at the Bridges Golf and Country Club. All women are welcome!! Please come to meet new friends while supporting local non-profits. for more information contact Phoebe at 970-209-9598 or givingclubofmontrose@gmail.com

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OPEN: MONDAY-SATURDAY, 8AM-5PM**

RE-1J ENROLLMENT DECREASED BY 163 STUDENTS SINCE LAST YEAR *From pg 1*

was announced in the [Personnel Report](#) contained in the meeting packet, presented the Student Spotlight as well as awards and donations.

Presenting information on graduation ceremonies and dates were Faith Evans of Black Canyon High School; Ava Silverberg and Jack Beshoar of Montrose High School; Israel Chi and Kathrynne Combs of Olathe High School; and Zaina Bowen of Peak Academy.

Altrusa Apple Awards were awarded to Montrose High School Librarian Lori Roberts; Olathe Middle High School Science Teacher Tracee Reinier; and Olathe High School Art Teacher Stephen Motley.

Delta Sheds donated a chicken coop kit worth \$1,075 for the Future Builder's Skilled Trades Expo, and Oak Grove Elementary School received a \$500 donation from the Bank of Colorado to help support student field trips at the end of the year.

BOARD ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATES

District F Director Jody Hovde gave an update on the Facilities Committee. District C Director Alice Murphy updated the Board of Education on the District Accountability Committee which met on March 18. There will be a new survey on Montrose High School, after the plan for a new high school facility was rejected by voters. A charter school application was received on the 1st, Murphy said, and it is a 90-day process. She gave a brief update on what is happening at each district school.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Carrie Stephenson presented the one-year anniversary report for the District's Teaching and Learning Academy (TLA), reading the mission statement and reviewing the staffing model and progress so far. A team of students is led by a team of adults, she said. The model has drawn attention both statewide and nationally, Stephenson said. Present were students, teachers, and school principals who have taken part in the program's first year. All comments were positive; teachers emphasized that the presence of other adults and the ability to lend one another a hand made a major difference day-to-day.

A fifth-grade student from Johnson Elementary School said that he liked being able to meet more people, and that students learn in groups that allow them to

work at their own pace.

Another student said he likes being able to move around more. "There are lots of different teachers to teach you lots of different things; it's just kind of better."

Johnson Elementary will not offer traditional classrooms next year but will incorporate the Teaching and Learning Academy model throughout the school.

COMMUNITY INPUT

Leah Vandersluis spoke. "...I wanted to address the issue of the use of technology in our classrooms. Today students are on computers and cell phones...for hours every day and research shows that this is not healthy. Most of us believe reading is reading regardless if it's on a screen or in a book, but that is not the case..."

Citing recent studies and an *Epoch Times* article, Vandersluis said that the number of print books in a home strongly predicts academic achievement, but the number of e-books shows no similar correlation.

"Another issue is the hypnotic effect of screens...technology is here, but we should not ditch books," she said.

"...Please consider having our students using books more..."

OLD BUSINESS: REVISED BOARD POLICIES

The meeting agenda states, "Title IX has gone through several changes in the past year. Prior to August 2024, districts were following Title IX regulations of 2020, however, the Biden administration released updates to the regulations that took effect in August 2024, requiring districts to adopt new policy. On January 9, 2025, a federal judge ruled that the Biden administration's 2024 Title IX regulations exceeded the scope of Title IX and were therefore unconstitutional, which resulted in the regulations being vacated."

The Board of Education voted to address all of the revised policies in one vote, approving the revisions.

CONSENT AGENDA

With no items pulled for further discussion, Consent agenda items, including [Personnel Report](#), were approved as presented.

CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICATION TIMELINE

With a new application received for the MCA Charter school, the Board spent time discussing the process and the timeline for approval. The District Accountability Committee (DAC) will review the application

on May 5. On May 6, the board will hold a special meeting to accept or deny that the application is complete. The special meeting for the MCA school board interview will be May 20, having received the Colorado Association of Charter School Authorizers (CACSA) review. The special meeting for the MCA board and for public comment will be on May 27. The Board meeting for final resolution to accept or deny the application will take place on June 24. The current rubric, used in the previous application process, will be maintained, with the changes discussed earlier in the meeting, Fishing said.

The Board will attempt to involve an external reviewer from CACSA as before. Brian Belario and Trisha Bush will be invited to participate in the DAC's review, which will provide the Board of Education with strengths, weaknesses, and questions, as representatives of Vista Charter School. The process for establishing and creating interview questions will be as before and may include questions from the DAC. The process for establishing questions for public comment will be as before. Board President Sarah Fishing listed the steps for the timeline in a Motion, which was approved by the Board of Education with all directors present voting to approve.

ENROLLMENT REPORT

April's [enrollment](#) is 5,937 students, which is 34 fewer than last month, and 163 students fewer than last year, Finance Director Emily Imus said. "I did a little bit of analysis," she said, "On just comparing by grade level based from last year, and the biggest pocket is...between Pre-K, K, and First Grade, it's a reduction of 105 students compared to last year, so that's the biggest pocket in those earlier grades, with the lower birth rates that we've seen from the Demographer as well...there was 33 lower in 7th grade which may have been a smaller class moving up, and in the 10th, 11th and 12th grades is a net reduction of 19 students..."

District F Director Jody Hovde said, "I think we're going to continue to see this, our kindergarten I'm hearing, is not enrolling real quickly..."

"Correct. Nor is Preschool," Superintendent Carrie Stephenson said.

With no further business the Board voted to adjourn.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

OUR YOUTH BENEFIT FROM THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS



Ice Fishing. FOYAN Courtesy photo.

By Abram Herman,

Friends of Youth and Nature

REGIONAL-Friends of Youth and Nature (FOYAN) believes that working together with other organizations means a greater ability to impact more youth in a focused and positive way. This and having loads of fun together spills over into amazing experiences for our local youth. If you were on the Grand Mesa on Monday February 17th at Ward or County Line ski trails, you were able to see our partnerships in action.

Over 110 youth from our Together for Resilient Youth (TRY) coalition played together in freshly fallen snow under bluebird skies while sledding, catching fish, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and making colorful snow art. Appetites fueled by these activities at 10,000 feet in elevation were quelled with scrumptious chili dogs and frothy hot chocolate.

Thanks to expert outdoorspeople from Colorado Parks and Wildlife, the Nature Connection, Colorado Canyons Association, Grand Mesa Nordic Council, US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Mesa County Youth Services, Colorado Mountain Club, the San Juan Mountain Association, and many locally talented volunteers, participating youth couldn't have had more fun!

Outings like this take hours of planning and teamwork, and that's what Friends of Youth and Nature excels at on a daily basis. The behind the scenes planning of



Snow painting. FOYAN Courtesy photo.

scheduling events, organizing activities, providing gear, recruiting quality mentors to teach outdoor skills, working with providers and volunteers on gathering and transporting youth, ordering and preparing food for all, and so much more all takes time and careful planning. We feel strongly that if we provide the means for a fun filled exciting day for youth in the outdoors, they will not only want to continue to get outside but are emotionally bonded to each other and to nature in a way that nurtures these future stewards of our world.

We have many more outings scheduled for our local youth in 2025, and this is where you can help! Our TRY outings and scholarships for youth outdoor programs are funded through your generous donations.

We are having our second annual "Bring on the Summer Outdoor Festival" on May 24th at Montrose Riverbottom Park. This is a gift to YOU, as well as a fundraising event. We use sponsorships to fund necessary costs at the event such as porta potties, licenses, fees, prizes, and a stage for the emcee and events at the festival. There will be 20-30 youth activity booths,

as well as partner organization sign-ups for summer programming for your children. Did I say contests with prizes? We will have food trucks, music, and friendly competitions such as a ducky race, pie eating contest, face painting, bubble making, as well as basketball, corn hole, skateboarding, and disc golf competitions. Summer fun for all ages!

If you would like to be a sponsor to help raise more funds to connect our local youth to healthy outdoor programs, volunteer or organize a youth activity, please visit our website (below) for more information or to donate online.

Thank you for all your support and save the date for our Bring on the Summer Outdoor Festival on May 24th, 2025 at Riverbottom Park in Montrose! We hope to see you there.

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

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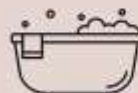
3 Bedroom



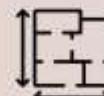
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

TROOPERS ADVISE TO DROP THE DISTRACTIONS

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO – Whether it's your teen's first car or the families' shared vehicle, most people can agree the cost of a crash, even fender benders, can cause significant hardship.

Last year, Colorado State Troopers investigated over 3,000 property damage crashes where the at-fault driver was between 16 and 21 years old. Of these same property damage crashes, the top causal factor was driving distracted (541 crashes).

"The likelihood of a car crash increases significantly at the younger and older extremes of age," explained Col. Matthew C.

Packard, chief of the Colorado State Patrol. "Our teen drivers are gaining experience and may overestimate their competency of skills or the validity of certain laws, including the graduated driver's license laws."

- If your teen or new driver does get into a crash, do they know what to do?
 - Get involved and educate your young driver about their responsibilities.
- If the other driver leaves, never chase them. Instead, try to get the license plate number and description of the vehicle and report it to the police.
- In a crash, don't panic—call the police.

No matter who is at fault, wait at the scene and file a report.

- Remain with your vehicle. The safest place is to stay inside your car with your seat belt on and hazard lights on.
- Don't move the vehicles involved in the crash.
- Be prepared to provide a driver's license, registration and proof of insurance with law enforcement.
- Exchange name, address, phone number and insurance information of the other driver. Take photos of your vehicle's damage and the other vehicle if safe.
- Work with your family (policy holder) to start the claims process.



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Ladies and Gentlemen, lend us your ears!

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Take yourself down to Montrose City Hall and ask for your refund! You are entitled to it, but they do not advertise it!

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Did you know?

Basecamp Apartments - recipients of nearly **\$1.6 MILLION in taxpayer funds**, sold before construction completed.

Where did it go? Where did THEY go?

Our City Manager says, "it was supposed to be a loss leader"... **Wait! WHAT?? WHY? Check the tape!**

Basecamp discussion Begins at: **29:46**
With the specific statement at **35:10**

Did you know?

Mayor Reed, when asked on March 10th, in the Montrose Mirror as well as a March 14th post on the [Montrose DOGE Facebook Page](#) and again in the Mirror and directly at the [City Council meeting](#) March 31 and Facebook March 30, 2025 to agree to a sit down to publicly refute the allegations made by Mr. David White of serious issues within the Montrose City Government. *To date, there has still been no response!*

Montrose Citizens D.O.G.E. is a non-partisan community watchdog group reporting on things that raise eyebrows in the City and County of Montrose, CO's government fiscal expenditures and other questionable actions, holding our public officials accountable to We the People. Join our efforts...

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MONTROSE RED HAWKS SPORTS ROUNDUP: *By Cliff Dodge*

RED HAWKS BASEBALL:

GRAND JUNCTION TIGERS 13, MONTROSE RED HAWKS 0

The Montrose Red Hawks traveled to Grand Junction on Tuesday afternoon and ran into a Tiger team that was more than ready to administer a beat down to anyone who showed up. The Tigers outscored and outplayed the Red Hawks to the tune of 13 – 0.

The Tigers pushed across 3 runs in the bottom of the first inning and were never headed. The home-standing Tigers duplicated the offensive outburst in the second inning as they scored 3 more to take a commanding 6-0 lead at the end of two innings. The Tigers then scored 7 times in the bottom of the 4th inning to salt the game away and invoke the 10-run rule as the game was called after 5 innings.

The Tigers scored their 13 runs on a dozen base hits which included 3 triples to highlight their offensive attack. The Red Hawks were held to 2 singles, one each by Joey Benitez and Porter Smith. The Red Hawks worked three bases on balls and stranded seven runners on the base paths.

Jack Pankey pitched the first four innings giving up 9 runs, 6 earned while walking five and striking out three batters. Cohan Sauter pitched the final inning giving up 4 runs on 3 base hits.

GRAND JUNCTION TIGERS 22, MONTROSE RED HAWKS 1

Things went from bad to worst when the Grand Junction Tigers again welcomed the Montrose Red Hawks on Friday. The Red Hawks were unable to slow down the Tigers' offensive juggernaut and were unable to crank up their own offense which led to a 22-1 Tiger victory.

The Red Hawks' Porter Smith scored the Red Hawks' lone run in the top of the first inning. The 1-0 lead would not hold up for long as the Tigers plated 5 runs in their half of the first inning. The Tigers then scored in every inning of a 5 inning 10 run rule shortened contest. The Tigers scored 5, 3, 3 and 6 runs to make the final score 22-1. The Red Hawks could muster only 3 base hits while the Tigers pounded out 17 base hits including 4 doubles and a booming home run. The Red Hawks used six pitchers in

the contest

The Red Hawks' overall record fell to 3 wins and 10 losses with the double beating at the hands of the Tigers. The Red Hawks' league record sank to 0 wins and 3 losses. The Red Hawks' next scheduled game will be on Tuesday, April 22 when the team travels to Palisade to take on the Bulldogs. First-pitch is set for 4 p.m.

CO-ED TRACK & FIELD:

PHIL WERTMAN INVITATIONAL (FRUITA-MONUMENT)

The Montrose Red Hawks Co-ed Track and Field team joined a large field of participants in the Phil Wertman Invitational hosted by the Wildcats of Fruita-Monument in Grand Junction on Friday, April 11 and were well represented in the final standings. The boys' team finished in 5th place, while the girls' team ended up in 7th position.

The Durango Demons boys and girls teams took home the respective trophies while Fruita-Monument and Grand Junction placed second and third in the boys division. The runner up in the girls' division was the Grand Junction Tigers.

Here are some of the finishers for the Red Hawks Co-ed team.

Girls 100-meter dash: 6th – Emarie Simpson

8th – Marley

Long

Girls 200-meter dash: 5th - Emarie Simpson

7th – Marley

Long

Girls 400-meter dash: 5th – Isabella Johnson

Girls 800-meter run: 4th - Georgia Ficco

Girls 4x100 relay: 1st – Simpson, Righter, Alvord, Long

Girls 4x800 relay 7th – Waschbusch, Mower, Witte, Jones

Girls high jump: 7th – MaKenna Cline

Girls long jump: 2nd – Audrey Righter

Girls Triple Jump: 7th – Hope Stephens

Boys 100-meter dash: 8th – Deklan Woodden

Boys 200-meter dash: 3rd – Cutter Travers

Boys 400-meter dash: 3rd – Cutter Travers

Boys 200-meter relay: 6th – Miller, Mock, Roberts, Clamp

Boys 4x400-meter relay: 2nd – Chavez, Graff, Travers, Woodden

Boys 4x800-meter relay: 3rd – Graff, Veatch, Tobler, Chavez

Boys Shot Put: 5th – Easton Jessup

MONTROSE GIRLS SOCCER:

DURANGO DEMONS 5, MONTROSE RED HAWKS 1

The Montrose Red Hawks soccer team lost a home conference match on Tuesday, April 8th to the Durango Demons by the score of 5-1. The opening half of action was played even-steven as the Red Hawks scored once and the Demons tied the score and set the stage for a second half of action that did not favor the home team.

The Red Hawks defense was unable to keep up with the Demons in the second half as the visitors scored 4 times while holding the Red Hawks offense off the scoreboard.

The Red Hawks freshman Avery Berry scored the lone goal on an assist from senior Ellie Duncan. Junior Anika Harris and Angelina Alcazar shared the goaltending duties for the Red Hawks. Alcazar played 60 minutes giving up 3 goals while making 5 saves. Harris chipped in with 20 minutes of playing time giving up 2 goals and making 3 saves.

MONTROSE RED HAWKS 0, PALISADE BULLDOGS 0

The Montrose Red Hawks played host to the Palisade Bulldogs last Thursday at the Columbine pitch and the two teams fought to a 0-0 tie after 80 minutes of action. The defenses ruled the roost in this contest as both teams struggled to get their offenses untracked. The Red Hawks allowed a total of 4 shots on goal which sophomore Angelina Alcazar stopped.

The Red Hawks currently stand at 4 wins and 5 losses along with 2 ties. The league action to date has the Red Hawks with 1 victory 4 losses and 2 ties. The season is winding down and the Red Hawks have 4

MONTROSE RED HAWKS SPORTS ROUNDUP From previous pg



Red Hawks defend their goal. Photo by Cliff Dodge.

matches left on their league schedule. Their next action will be on April 22nd with a road trip to Grand Junction to take on the Tigers.

The Red Hawks played the Tigers at the end of March and defeated them 3-0. The kick off is set for 5:20 p.m.

MONTROSE BOYS LACROSSE:

CRESTED BUTTE TITANS 6, MONTROSE RED HAWKS 3

The Montrose Red Hawks boys LaCrosse team hit the road on Thursday and traveled to Crested Butte for a match with the Titans.

And a match it was as the Titans outscored the Red Hawks 6 to 3 to even the season series with the Titans. The Red Hawks prevailed over the Titans in late March by a score of 7-6.

The Titans jumped out to an early advantage leading 4-1 at the end of the first period. The second stanza was scoreless and saw the Titans maintain their 3-goal advantage into the second half. The sec-

ond half was a very even game as both teams scored a goal in the third and fourth periods to give the Titans their final score of 6-3. Senior Zack Motley scored a goal and also had an assist. Other Red Hawk goals were scored by Freshman Nixon Shumway and Junior Elijah Womack. The Red Hawks managed to put 13 shots on the Crested Butte goal while the Titans peppered the Red Hawks next with 25 shots, 19 of which Goal Tender Patrick Alvarez stopped. The Red Hawks season record fell to 2 wins and 6 losses overall, while their league mark stands at 1 win and 5 losses.

MONTROSE GIRLS LACROSSE; **GRAND JUNCTION TIGERS 11, MONTROSE RED HAWKS 1**

The Montrose Red Hawks Girls Lacrosse team journeyed north to Grand Junction on Tuesday, April 8 and did battle with the Grand Junction Tigers. The Red Hawks were no match for the experienced Tigers and were outscored 11 to 1. The Red

Hawks' lone goal was scored by Senior Alexandra Sauer. The Red Hawks managed to put 8 shots on goal while the Tigers assaulted Goal Tender Junior Abby Siegel with 35 shots. Siegel managed to stop 27.

CONIFER LOBOS 16, MONTROSE RED HAWKS 2

The road is a difficult place to play and even more difficult place to win a game. The Conifer Lobos proved the point in spades as they ran roughshod over the Red Hawks by the score of 16-2. Offensive highlights were difficult to come by in the contest. Senior Alexandra Sauer scored both Red Hawks goals as the visitors managed to put 8 shots on the Conifer net. On the other hand, the Conifer Lobos pounded the Red Hawks net with 32 shots, 16 of which Abby Siegel stopped.

The Red Hawks season record fell to 2 wins and 7 losses with the loss to the Lobos.


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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

KARAOKE AT MAGIC CIRCLE THEATRE APRIL 25

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Join us for a fun night of friends, laughter, and Karaoke on April 25! Snacks and drinks will be available for sale for your enjoyment. Only \$5 entry. Come sing with us, and show us what you got! Family friendly. We hope to see you there! Magic Circle Theatre, 420 S 12th St Montrose magiccircleplayers.com. 970-249-7838.



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MATILDA THE MUSICAL AUDITIONS

Matilda the Musical Auditions:

Youth Auditions (Ages 7-13) Saturday, April 26th, 2025 @ 5pm
and/or Sunday, April 27th, 2025 @ 1pm

Youth (14+) & Adult Auditions Sunday, April 27th, 2025 @ 5pm

Magic Circle Theatre, 420 S 12th St. Montrose. 970-249-7838

Magic Circle is bringing Matilda the Musical to the stage November 2025. We are so excited to feature young actors in this production! We highly encourage parents to audition or volunteer for stage crew. Directed by Bethany Ward & Wendy Bodwell. The full audition packet is available at <https://magiccircleplayers.com/auditions/>

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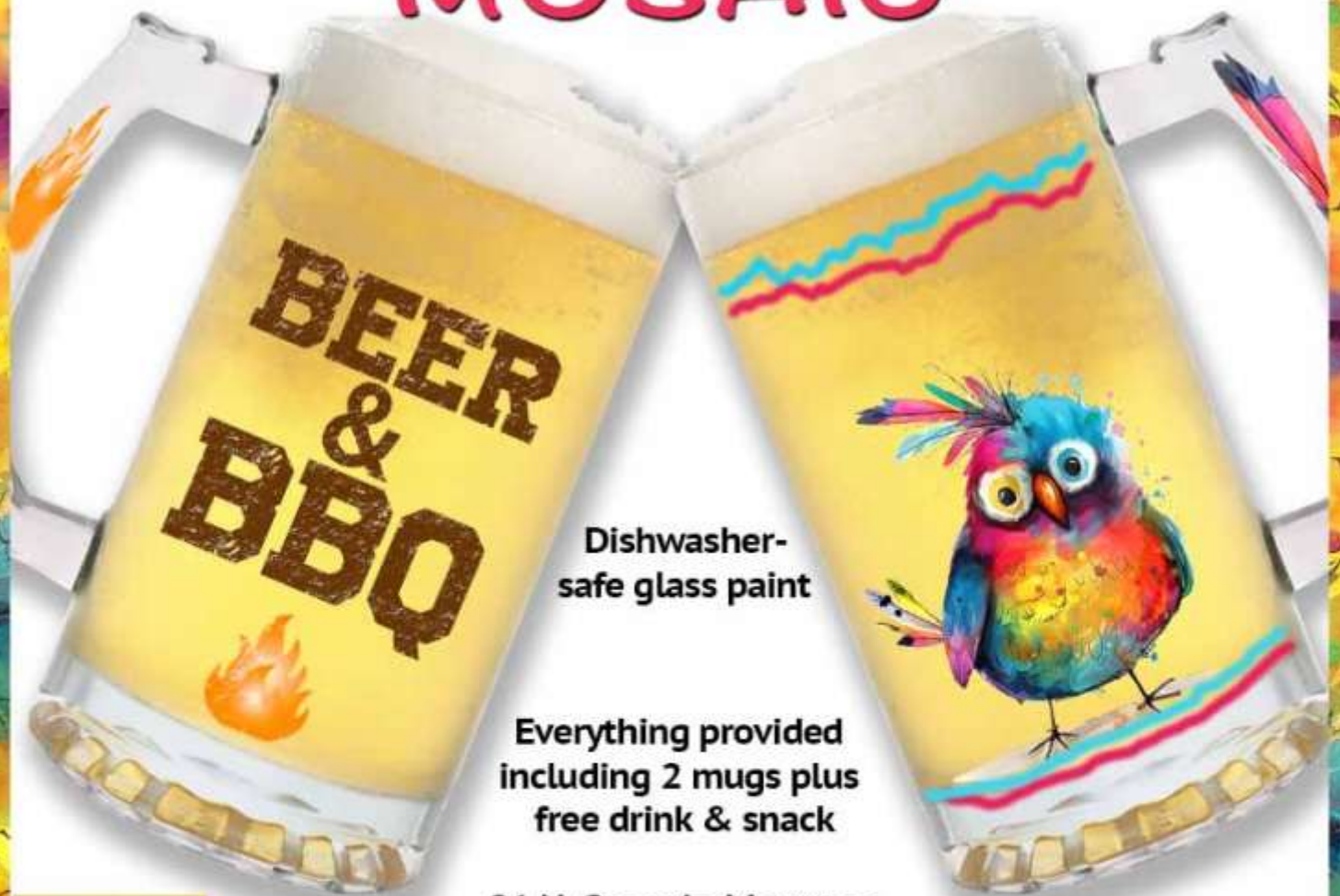
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH HOSTS COMMUNITY EVENT TO SHOWCASE SERVICES AND RESOURCES

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE– Montrose County Public Health invites the community to come learn about the valuable services and resources available to residents at an informative event on Wednesday, April 16, 2025. The event will be held at the Montrose Recreation Field House, located at 25 Colorado Avenue, from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

Public Health staff will be on hand to answer all your questions and provide information on the various programs and services offered to the community, including:

- Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) Program – Learn about the support available for women, infants, and children in need of nutrition assistance.

- Immunization Resources – Get the latest information on immunization schedules, resources, and communicable disease prevention.

- Vital Records – Obtain birth and death certificates from the Vital Records office.

- Environmental Health – Discover pro-

grams that protect the health of our community through environmental services.

- West Nile Virus Prevention – Free dunks will be available for preventing mosquito-borne diseases.

- Fun for Kids – There will be free swag and toys for children to enjoy.

Additionally, a free MMR (Measles, Mumps, and Rubella) vaccination clinic will be available from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM, while supplies last. This is a great opportunity to protect yourself and your family from these preventable diseases at no cost.

“This event is a wonderful opportunity for our community to connect with the services that Montrose County Public Health offers,” said Mirza Ahmed, Interim Director of Montrose County Public Health.

“We are especially excited to offer a free MMR vaccination clinic to help protect our community from Measles. We encourage everyone to take advantage of this valuable resource, along with the other services we’ll have available on-site.”

In addition, the Montrose County Human Services team will also be on hand throughout the event to distribute helpful information and resources to the public. This is a great chance to learn more about the services available through the Human Services department.

This event provides an excellent opportunity to connect with Public Health professionals, ask questions, and gain valuable health-related information for you and your family.

Mark your calendars for this educational and fun-filled event! We look forward to seeing you there!

Event Details:

Date: Wednesday, April 16, 2025

Time: 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

MMR Vaccination Clinic Time: 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Location: Montrose Recreation Field House, 25 Colorado Avenue, Montrose, CO For more information, please contact Montrose County Public Health at (970) 252-5011.



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**MONTROSE REGIONAL
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see something, say something

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

APRIL 18 IS WORLD AMATEUR RADIO DAY

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Amateur radio operators around the world will celebrate April 18, 2025, as World Amateur Radio Day commemorating the founding of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) on that day in 1925. The IARU has been instrumental in preserving for amateur radio use portions of the shortwave radio spectrum that governments around the world, particularly the United States Navy, coveted because of their ability to provide long distance radio communication.

Today 3 million radio amateurs, frequently called Hams, around the world use these radio frequencies providing emergency communication, promoting international good will, and furthering the art and science of radio communication all

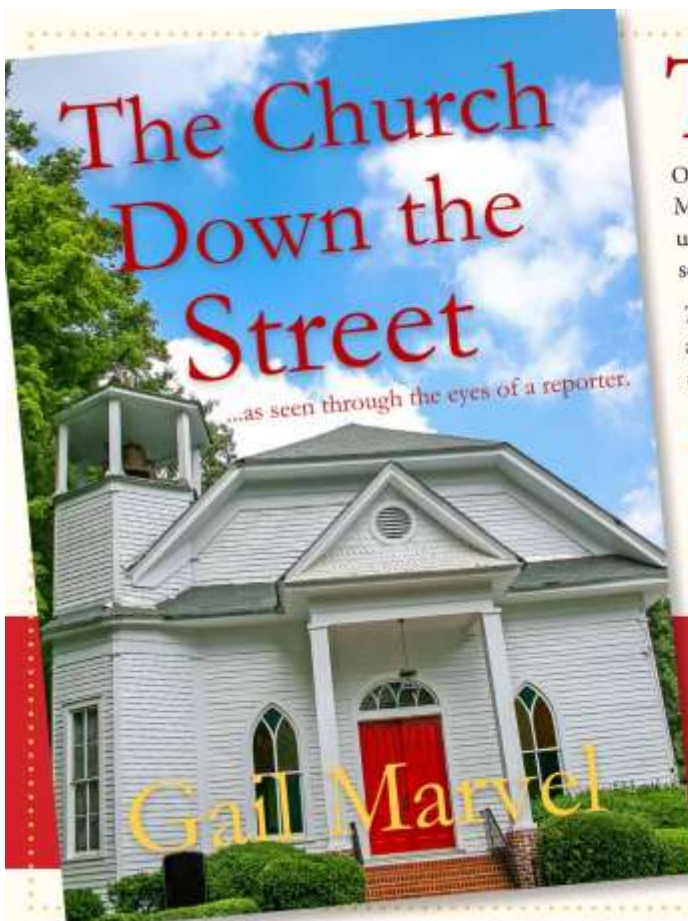
while enjoying the exciting hobby of amateur radio. The IARU continues to champion ham radio in support of its 160 national member organizations by representing hams at the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) which oversees telecommunications on a worldwide basis.

In the United States the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) represents the interest of US hams to the IARU. Locally the Montrose Amateur Radio Club is an ARRL affiliate and meets on the third Friday of every month. The April meeting coincides with World Amateur Radio Day and will be April 18 at 6:30 PM at the Delta Public Library off Meeker Street, Delta.

Kathy Joslin, MARC President, invites visitors to attend this meeting. According

to Joslin "The meeting will be an opportunity to meet our members and learn about the wonderfully hobby of ham radio. Our meeting starts with a 30-minute informational program that is followed by our business meeting, light refreshments and socialization. Everyone is invited to attend."

MARC engages in numerous activities during the year, supporting the Imogene Pass Run and The Hard Rock 100 ultra marathon among others. The club offers training and testing for those who want to obtain a ham license as well as sponsoring activities such as Field Day, Museum Ships Weekend, and Parks on the Air. "Come to our meeting and learn all about it," said Joslin. For more information contact MARC through Lew French in Montrose at 970-417-6142.



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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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

AN OPEN LETTER TO PRESIDENT DONALD J. TRUMP AND UNITED STATES ATTORNEY GENERAL PAM BONDI

We, the sovereign People of Colorado, implore your immediate intervention. We demand that you exercise your authority to charge and arrest every member of the Colorado state legislature who have voted to violate the United States Constitution and its 2nd Amendment by passing Colorado's SB25-003, including State Senators, Representatives and Governor Jared Polis, under **18 U.S.C. § 241 and § 242**. These officials have willfully conspired to strip us of our sacred, constitutionally guaranteed right to keep and bear arms, as enshrined in the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution. Their passage of SB25-003, deceitfully branded as an "assault weapons ban," is a blatant assault on our liberties—a conspiracy against rights as defined by **18 U.S.C. § 241** and a deliberate deprivation of rights under color of law as proscribed by **18 U.S.C. § 242**. We will not stand idly by as our freedoms are trampled under the guise of legislative overreach.

The United States Supreme Court, in *Ex parte Milligan*, **71 U.S. 2 (1866)**, issued an unassailable decree: "*Neither the legislature nor any executive or judicial officer may disregard the provisions of the Constitution in case of emergency.*" This ruling stands as a bulwark against tyranny, affirming that no crisis—real or manufactured—can justify the suspension of our God-given rights. Yet, the Colorado legislature and Governor Polis have defied this precedent, enacting a law that mocks the Second Amendment and wages war on the very Constitution they swore to uphold. By their actions, they have violated their oaths of office and forfeited their legitimacy. **Any official—be it governor, legislator, or even the President—who dares to suspend our rights to freely travel, peacefully assemble, earn a living, worship without hindrance, or bear arms in our defense makes themselves an enemy of the People.** Their edicts are null and void, and we, the People, are entitled to disregard them with impunity.

Deprivation of Rights Under Color of Law 18 U.S.C. § 242 is unequivocal: it is a federal crime for any person acting under color of law to willfully deprive another of rights secured by the Constitution or laws of the United States. This statute encom-

passes not only acts within an official's lawful authority but also those committed while masquerading as legitimate governance. The Colorado legislature and Governor Polis fall squarely within its scope. Their passage and enforcement of **SB25-003** transcend mere policy disagreement—they constitute a calculated assault on our constitutional liberties, executed under the pretense of public safety. As stated in *Hertado v. California*, **110 U.S. 516**, "*The state cannot diminish rights of the people.*" Yet, this is precisely what they have done.

This law requires no proof of animus—only the willful act of deprivation itself. The perpetrators include legislators and executives who cloak their tyranny in the garb of officialdom. The penalties are severe: imprisonment ranging from one year to life, or even death, should their actions result in bodily harm, death, or egregious violations such as kidnapping or attempted murder (Title 18, U.S.C., Section 242). We assert that the harm inflicted here is no less real—a grievous wound to the body politic, threatening the foundation of our Republic. The Supreme Court has affirmed this principle repeatedly: "*Where rights as secured by the Constitution are involved, there can be no rule making or legislation which will abrogate them*" (*Miranda v. Arizona*, **384 U.S. 436**); "*The claim and exercise of a Constitutional right cannot be converted into a crime*" (*Miller v. United States*, **230 F. 486, 489**).

Conspiracy Against Rights

The passage of SB25-003 was no solitary act of hubris—it was a collective betrayal. **18 U.S.C. § 241** renders it a crime for two or more persons to conspire to injure, oppress, threaten, or intimidate any individual in the free exercise of their constitutional rights. The Colorado legislature's vote to enact this law fulfills every element of this offense. **Each legislator who raised their hand in favor**, each official who affixed their signature, conspired knowingly to dismantle our Second Amendment protections. Unlike other conspiracy statutes, **§ 241 requires no overt act beyond the agreement itself**—their vote was the crime, their intent the dagger aimed at our liberties.

The punishment matches the severity: up to ten years' imprisonment, or life—or even death—if their actions yield catastrophic consequences (Title 18, U.S.C., Section 241). We contend that the erosion of our right to self-defense is itself a catastrophe, a slow bleed that imperils the survival of a free people. As the Court declared in *Shuttlesworth v. City of Birmingham*, **373 U.S. 262**, "*If the State converts a right into a privilege, the citizen can ignore the license and fee and engage in the right with impunity.*" Similarly, *Murdock v. Pennsylvania*, **319 U.S. 105**, holds: "*No State shall convert a liberty into a privilege, license it, and charge a fee therefore.*"

The Weight of Precedent

The judiciary has long upheld these truths. "*There can be no sanction or penalty imposed upon one because of this exercise of constitutional rights*" (*Sherer v. Cullen*, **481 F. 946**). "*Those things which are considered as inalienable rights which all citizens possess cannot be licensed since those acts are not held to be a privilege*" (*City of Chicago v. Collins*, **51 N.E. 907, 910**). The Colorado legislature's actions fly in the face of these rulings, transforming a right into a crime—a violation so egregious that "*statutes that violate the plain and obvious principles of common right and common reason are null and void*" (*Bennett v. Boggs*, **1 Baldw. 60**). Moreover, "*the assertion of federal rights, when plainly and reasonably made, is not to be defeated under the name of local practice*" (*Davis v. Wechsler*, **263 U.S. 22, 24**).

All such "laws" passed under color of law are void, and we, the People, are under no obligation to obey them. We call upon you—President Trump, Attorney General Bondi, and Attorney General Weiser—to uphold your oaths and enforce the law. Charge and arrest those responsible for this treasonous act. The Second Amendment is not negotiable; our rights are not subject to the whims of petty tyrants. We stand ready to defend our Republic, armed with the Constitution and the unyielding resolve of a free people.

Signed,

Michael J Badagliacco, "MJB"
Citizen-Montrose, CO

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

ALL OF THE WINNING!

Editor:

A huge drop in the stock market following the nonsensical "Trade War of the World" started by Trump against every country in the world EXCEPT Russia; meant to restart manufacturing in the USA, but without any tangible plan to do so. Meanwhile, Trump plays golf every day. Most economists have predicted that the on again/off again tariffs, instead of a viable strategy for negotiation, are a recipe for worldwide recession ... if not worse. At very least, we can expect supercharged inflation; and likely even stagflation. No rational businessman will invest in new factories in a country with an erratic leader who changes the economic landscape for business based on his own daily whims; they'll just take their investments elsewhere. More ominously, this erratic behavior is forcing economic experts worldwide to question the Dollar as the world's reserve currency. For them, our stability and wealth has long made the Dollar the safest place to invest/hold their funds. Many will start to consider the Yuan, or the Euro, as a replacement; with even more devastating consequences for investments in our economy.

Almost all of the countries of the world have long sent their best and brightest young people to U.S. colleges, but with Trump harassing these colleges, and arresting foreign students, they are starting to find universities elsewhere to send their sons, daughters, and money.

Threats and insults to Canada, damaging our close knit economic and cultural cooperation, our warm friendship, and threatening the existence of thousands of businesses large and small on both sides of the border; and the inevitable job losses that will result. Insults to Greenland and Denmark, two of our closest allies since the end of WWII. Undermining our role, and cooperation, with NATO, an alliance that defeated the USSR, and our closest friends on the world's stage. Replacing it in favor of collaboration with the USSR's successor dictatorship, our greatest enemy, and Trump's "friend," Vladimir Putin. Throwing a lifesaving rope to Putin, while using the other end of the same rope to strangle Ukraine.

Consistent promises by Party of Trump (POT) spokesmen to end, or privatize, Social Security (a "Ponzi Scheme" in the words of Musk), and to get rid of Medicare and Medicaid entirely. Cuts to the IRS, and every social service agency, including HHS, school lunch programs for the poor, etc. Eliminating the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, which protected us against credit card, bank fraud, etc. Destroying all federal support for public schools. All of the money "saved" on the backs of the majority of us will end up in the pockets of Trump and his billionaire buddies; further worsening the already obscene wealth gap; and throwing working families into economic despair.

Meanwhile, politicians from the POT bow down to their dear leader in a display of cowardice only seen in dictatorships. Cabinet meetings in the Trump Administration are abject shows of fawning; with each secretary outdoing the others in how low they can bow to "Mentally Ill Duce". One bright spot for the Western Slope: Representative Jeff Hurd just co-sponsored a bill to require Congress to authorize implementation of tariffs (which is already spelled out in the Constitution). Lawmakers opposed are defying constitutional separation of powers.

Ignoring court rulings because "We know the law better than the judges do". As I write this, we are about to find whether Trump will defy yesterday's unanimous ruling by SCOTUS to return an innocent father from a notoriously brutal Salvadoran prison, the one which boasts that no one ever leaves it. If he ignores the court, and Congress refuses to act; then we are a nation of one man rule, i.e., the Dictatorship of the United States of America; and with this, the SCOTUS will have become a useless appendage of our failed democracy.

A deadly, highly contagious measles outbreak in Texas among a non-vaccinated community resulting in the deaths of 3 children, and now spreading to at least 22 other states. Twenty four years after measles was effectively eradicated by the MMR vaccine, Trump's HHS secretary calls "cod liver oil" a viable alternative treatment.

How is all of this "winning" helping the working class of America? How is all of this the degrading and erratic behavior that Trump models every day affecting our young people? How are the unqualified fools he has appointed to important government posts helping our country heal our divisions, so we can move to a prosperous future?

All of these cuts, changes, and outrages against decency and common sense are out in the open for all to see ... but get no mention by those who write letters here blaming all of the problems of humanity on the Democrats, citing arguments from discredited sources, including, most prominently, Russia itself. I'm looking forward to these writer's explanations of how the Democrats are to blame for the tariffs, the economic downturn, rising inflation, measles outbreak, the trade world war and its damage; the ending of cooperation with NATO, the continued rape of Ukraine, the coming breakdowns in Social Security, Medicare, the IRS, our justice system, etc ... because that's what Trump apologists do. After all, it's Trumpism, the 21st Century's version of Fascism, that poured the gas into gaslighting.

This massive campaign of delusion long fueled by ex KGB agent Putin, and his allies in the right wing of the USA who gleefully spread his propaganda, has brought our country to the point of civil war. My Republican parents, if they were still alive, would be disgusted at how their party has devolved into one that would support Trumpism. Who can save us from further division, and the decay of decency, morality, safety, security, and prosperity? Is it the man who precipitated the slide, Donald Trump, a man who has *never* done anything to help any other human being than himself? Once again, I find myself asking: "How long will his followers continue to believe his daily avalanche of lies?". The answer, I'm afraid, is "Until the consequences of their vote personally shows up and bites them in the ass!" ... and that, dear reader, will be very soon indeed.

*David Congour
Montrose, Colorado*

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

DOGE EXPOSING THE RATS THAT HAVE PLAYED AMERICAN TAXPAYERS FOR FOOLS FOR DECADES

Editor:

Wow. Democrat opposition to the Trump administration initiatives is something else. We are seeing an epidemic of street terrorism, including vandalism of Teslas, attacks on Tesla owners, fire-bombing dealerships, and destroying charging stations. The left used to worship Musk and Tesla. A key point to keep in mind whenever you see Democrats protesting is this: No one on the left can outline an alternative pathway to Trump's remedies for America's critical problems. Sen. Cory Booker damned Trump on the floor of the Senate for 25 hours in a filibuster to nowhere, but couldn't offer a single word about how his party is going to better address crushing trade deficits, budget deficits, proxy wars, or anything else. In lieu of serious counter-proposals, the left promotes attacking their neighbors and blatantly lies about anything Trump related. Chuck Schumer, who has been in the Senate for 26 years, said that Trump's efforts to pull our country out of a serious national debt crisis "is a crazy idea" and "makes no sense." In those 26 years the Democrat party under his leadership took a budget surplus of \$126 billion and turned it into a \$36 trillion deficit. (That's 36,000 billion.)

Last weekend we saw angry liberal protesters around the country, shouting and carrying signs. At least they weren't burning Teslas. Some of the signs in the local Montrose protest read "Hands Off," which seemed to be a common theme nationwide. The "Hands Off" people claim that Trump and Musk are attempting an illegal "power grab," but are also "gutting services" – totally missing the contradiction. How is Trump amassing power by cutting the size of government, revealing and eliminating fraud, and deregulating the economy? Waste, fraud, over-regulation, and politicized law enforcement are all tools of autocrats. Those same people claim Trump is slashing Medicaid, Social Security, and more. Really? Trump has made it clear that Social Security is off the table. DOGE (and Inspector Generals before them) have revealed Medicaid wastes billions of dollars every year on fraudulent claims and ineligible beneficiaries. Is allowing this fraud to continue what the protestors mean by "hands off"? Our government is running annual deficits of more than \$1 trillion, on top of a \$36 trillion federal debt. If Democrat protestors really believed in "hands off," would they not de-

mand that our government release this debt grip from future generations? These protests are just another reminder that Democrats have nothing to offer beyond fear-mongering, projection, and lies.

The volunteers at DOGE are exposing the rats that have played the American taxpayers for fools for decades. Billions of dollars of "foreign aid" went to NGOs that were little more than left-wing slush funds. That money disappeared down a rabbit hole. How about \$10 billion in rent for empty office buildings? Or employees at taxpayer funded United States Institute for Peace deleting all their financial data in a feeble attempt to cover their crimes? Nothing they did was remotely related to promoting "peace." The data bases recovered by DOGE showed shocking theft of public money to pay for employee luxuries. Why are Democrat politicians not sharing in our collective outrage and doing everything possible to assist Trump in stopping the theft? Why are they instead reacting as if Musk is the scoundrel? Is it because they knew it was happening and don't want us to know they did nothing to stop the fraud? Is it because they think extreme corruption is normal in the federal government and are OK with it? Or, more obviously, they are in on it and they still want to retire as multimillionaires on their \$174,000 salaries? Ripping off taxpayers is big business in Washington, and everyone in the swamp gets their cut. Their only "solution" to the fraud and theft of taxpayer money is to feed the beast with more taxpayer money. Knowing that, they will continue their campaign of distraction, projection, and lies. "Look! Trump wants to be a dictator!" "Musk is a Nazi!" "They just want to give more tax breaks to billionaires!" "Stop the madness. DOGE stands for Dangerously Overinflated Grandiose Egos!" Democrats will continue to prioritize sensationalism over substance, and the complete news blackout of what Trump has already accomplished in just ten weeks will continue. Trump's current term continues his focus on securing borders, revitalizing the economy, renegotiating trade deals, and getting us out of proxy wars – policies that delivered success during his first term. Trump's (and America's) successes will continue to elude Democrats. He has already forced over 70 nations that impose unfair tariffs and trade practices on us to come to the negotiating table, while keeping pressure on our most

dishonest trade nemesis: China. Inflation is down to its lowest level in four years. Employment rates among native-born Americans have surged. Crude oil prices are dropping, which brings down prices on everything. And yes, egg prices are dropping. Trump has already brought over \$7 trillion in new private investments into the U.S. The administration continues to reveal massive government fraud, and is doing everything to eliminate that fraud going forward. Almost overnight, America's southern border is now magically secure. We are now talking about ways to end the Ukraine war rather than boasting "as long as it takes" to feed an endless proxy war. The Houthis are being abandoned by the Iranians, who, in a matter of weeks, no longer seem to be the shot callers in the middle east. The wishes of over 80% of the American people are being reflected in Trump's efforts to stop biological males from destroying decades of work to achieve parity in women's sports.

Democrats must acknowledge the good Trump has already done in just two months. Or, if they think the border should still be open, or the war should be accelerated into WWII, or our campuses are just fine attacking Jewish students, or women just need to get over losing to transgendered men, then they need to just say so. If they believe that huge trade and budget deficits and unsustainable national debt are no big deal, then they should argue just that. If they think Trump is addressing these long-neglected crises in a wrong way, then they must present better alternative plans. Democrats are mostly responsible for getting us into this mess, but have no alternative agenda and no clue about solutions. Therefore, no one is listening to them. People just laugh when Democrats like Jasmine Crockett come up with ridiculous statements like Biden is still "sharp as a tack," or telling voters to "connect the dots" and blame increased food costs on deportations. When Democrats make speeches advocating for tariffs, but then claim the sky is falling when Trump actually implements them, they deserve to be laughed at.

One quick chuckle. What if the tariff negotiation with Ireland and Great Britain are slowed because Ireland insists they return Rosie O'Donnell to the U.S. and Great Britain insists they return Ellen DeGeneres and her wife Portia before negotiations commence? *Ed Henrie, Montrose*



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

THERE IS GREAT UNITY IN THE MONTROSE REPUBLICAN PARTY, AND WE ARE EXCITED FOR THE FUTURE OF THE COUNTY WE ALL CALL HOME

Editor:

Is involvement in politics courageous or crazy?

I have often been asked if I am crazy for getting into politics, and the more I get into it, the more I understand the question. In 2020, when the world got turned upside down, I began to watch more closely what was happening in the political world. What I saw was so disturbing that it made me get involved. I began to see that people with good moral values were so busy trying to live their lives and keep their families together and prospering, that they did not have time or interest in getting involved in politics.

The result? The people who were in the majority of the seats of power were there because they had an agenda. That agenda, by and large, does not align with the beliefs and priorities of the country as a whole, let alone Montrose County. Yet, those people continue to get reelected because conservative, hard-working Americans don't have or take the time to get involved. Not that they are apathetic, they just don't see themselves as having the power to make changes. That was me for many years. I was passionate about the injustices that were happening, and I wanted things to change, but like most people, I was waiting for someone else to get in and do the hard work it takes to make the conservative voices heard. For me, the last straw was the closing of schools, small businesses and churches, while leaving big chain stores and bars open. Enough was enough! So I put myself out there and jumped into the deep end.

And I do mean the deep end!

I am a third generation Montrose County resident, and my husband and I have raised our kids here. For years, I have watched the County leadership pile more and more regulations on the citizens until they are drowning in regulations and fees to do every small thing. Building a house with our own money, on our own property, has thousands of dollars worth of fees and permits piled onto the already outrageous cost of building materials. The red tape and permissions needed to exercise our Constitutional rights have gotten out of control. Businesses are taxed every year on the desks, chairs, computers, machinery, tools, and most other things that they use to make their businesses run! Thousands of dollars per small business every year to use the things they bought and paid sales tax on. This "Personal Property Tax" is another annual burden placed on our small businesses. Ultimately, that tax flows through to consumers. All of this government overreach and exorbitant taxation to fund their pet projects and out of control spending on things that go against our values, does nothing to help the citizens of this nation, state, or county. Obviously we need taxes to take care of our infrastructure and safety services, but the waste is out of control. No longer can our kids and grandkids afford to make a life here. This is a disgrace and people with common sense have to take a stand!

I am writing this letter in response to the weekly attacks by the few loud voices that

like to have their opinions heard over and over, even if they are incorrect and slanderous. To set the record straight, the members of the Montrose County Republican Executive Committee are not corrupt, nor are we here to promote our own agendas. Each one of us goes against our desires to stay out of the ugliness of politics because we believe the people of Montrose County and their freedoms are worth fighting for. Our kids and grandkids futures are worth fighting for! We believe that it is not about a political party, but a set of conservative values that have to be fought for to be maintained.

There will always be Ray Langston's and Dennis Anderson's out there that like to divide and make headlines with their criticisms, but that cannot, and will not stop us from standing up for what is right.

We are willing to be slandered on social media and in the papers weekly by people like them because there are more important things to fight for.

There are many people in Montrose County currently working together, across party lines, to get involved and make changes to better the lives of Montrose County residents. Please consider the source of the criticism, and do research before believing the lies put out there about good people trying to do the right thing. Despite what is being spread by a disgruntled few, there is great unity in the Montrose Republican Party and we are excited for the future of the county we all call home!

Sincerely,
Tammy Jolley



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE REGIONAL HEALTH PROMOTES COURTNEY CRYER TO THE POSITION OF CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER



**Montrose Regional Health
Chief Operating Officer
Courtney Cryer. Courtesy
photo.**

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— Montrose Regional Health has promoted Courtney Cryer, previously the Vice President of Clinic Operations, to the position of Chief Operating Officer.

Courtney will play a critical role in the leadership team at Montrose Regional Health, overseeing day-to-day operations to ensure effective and efficient strategies to assist in achieving the organization's goals. "Montrose Regional Health has a wonderful leadership team that I am proud to be a part of," said Cryer. "I look forward to the opportunity to serve this community and work with the organization to continue to provide quality, patient-centered care."

"We are excited to welcome Courtney into this position and are confident she will excel," said Jeff Mengershausen, CEO of Montrose Regional Health. "She has been with MRH for many years, and her dedication, tenacity and talent for leadership make her the ideal choice for the role of Chief Operating Officer."

Courtney Cryer, *MSN, MBA*, has been a member of Montrose Regional Health since 2011. Since that time, she has brought her expertise to various positions—transitioning from Nurse Manager to Nurse Director, then to Service Line Director, and most recently serving as VP of Clinic Operations. Courtney completed her Bachelor of Science in 2011 and later pursued her Master of Science in Nursing and Master of Business Administration from Grand Canyon University in 2020.

In Courtney's free time, she enjoys family time with her husband Jon Cryer and their children, whether it is at her children's sporting events, 4-wheeling, or boating at Lake Powell.



REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

1ST ANNUAL PITCH COMPETITION CROWNS LOCAL ENTREPRENEURS IN DELTA COUNTY

Special to the Mirror

DELTA — The Delta Library Innovation Workspace hosted its 1st Annual Pitch Competition on Saturday, April 5, celebrating the innovation, vision, and drive of six emerging Delta County entrepreneurs. Contestants presented their business ideas to a panel of esteemed local judges for a chance to win a grand prize package valued at over \$8,500. This event was sponsored by Region 10 Business Resources.

After a morning of bold pitches, an exciting new winery from Hotchkiss founded by Bryce and Anastasia Suderman took 1st place, earning the top prize to help launch and grow their business. 2nd place went to The KBH Center, presented by Dr. Ray and Jean Kadkhodaian, while 3rd place was awarded to Layne Bocco with Out West Bookkeeping. The audience also had their say—naming Elizabeth Fogle of Exotic Mama, an exotic pet education advocate, as the "Audience Choice" winner.

"Thank you DIW! The business bootcamp program provided valuable guidance in defining our business identity and strategy. The pitch competition gave us the opportunity to show how our winery will fit into our vibrant community. We want to thank all the judges, advisors, and sponsors for their support in launching our new business. We look forward to working with the amazing team at DIW over the next few years in the incubator program and we can't wait to share our unique winery with the western slope!" shared winners Anastasia and Bryce Suderman.

Judges for the event included:

Leigh Anne Suppes — Board & Basket
Charlie Mason — Delta Builders Co., Columbine Mall & True Vu Drive In
Casey Dukeman — City of Delta
Amanda Norris — Heirlooms for Hospice
Mark Condon — Vino di Marco & Grand Mesa Business Guild

"It was an amazing experience for the judges, participants, and audience. I was impressed by how well all of the pitches were thought out, prepared, and delivered, which showed great organization and enthusiasm. I believe the business connections and acquaintances made will

form lasting partnerships within the Delta Business Community," said Casey Duke-man from the City of Delta.

Grand Prize Package Sponsors:

Delta Innovation Workspace extends its deepest gratitude to the organizations that contributed to the prize package, including: Flat Top Accounting Solutions, Riverwood Resort on the Gunnison, KKCO 11 News, Ziggi's Coffee, Outgrow Your Garage, Delta Area Chamber of Commerce, North Fork Valley Chamber of Commerce, Grand Mesa Business Guild, Heirlooms for Hospice, Technical College

of the Rockies, Tabbi Kinion, and the City of Delta Recreation Department.

Special thanks also go to Michelle Taylor of Resonant Wellness and Christin Crosby of West CO Village for their presentations! Also to the DLIW staff Kara Riddle and Cassie Fortman.

You can find The Delta Library Innovation Workspace at 124 E 6th Street; the Innovation Workspace entrance is on the East side on Meeker Street. Please get in touch with the Delta Library Innovation Workspace for more information: online at www.deltainnovationworkspace.org,



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

WHITEWASH OR HOG WASH?

Editor:

David White's article in the Mirror April 7th, 2025, shows he is as incompetent with his writing as he was with his tenure as a county commissioner. His statement attributed to me as to my illegal access of Scott Mijares voting the democrat ballot in the 2020 primary shows his total lack of knowledge as to our voting system here in Colorado and the law. In Colorado thanks to the unaffiliated voters being able to participate in the primaries they receive both a democrat ballot and a republican ballot, but they can only vote one nor can they split their votes for some democrat candidates on one ballot and some republican candidates on the other. The ballots have tracking numbers on them to make sure that only one ballot is returned. And because of these tracking numbers any politician who registered as unaffiliated and voted in a primary can have that information accessed by a CORA request. Now the information will only show which ballot was voted not which candidates were voted for.

So, the incompetent David White and the incompetent Montrose GOP have egg on their face on this one for not knowing how the system works. David White also opened himself up to litigation by publicly accusing me of breaking the law. Accessing public information through a CORA request is not illegal. However, our two

incompetent county commissioners Pond and Mijares would like to make it illegal to access such information. Because they are not about transparency, Mijares has proven to me on numerous occasions that he is dishonest and deceitful. And now Pond is proving he cannot be trusted either. Only crooked politicians want to shy away from public scrutiny. Politicians that have nothing to hide have no problem with transparency and public scrutiny. The Montrose Republican central committee added some more slander in the mirror about me. I am a white born again Christian republican who loves his family, freedom and the second amendment. So, I am used to being persecuted by people who do not want to be held accountable. If all their accusations are provable, they could take me to court. But they should first consult Scott Riba and ask him what happens when you make false accusations and must face me in court. You will get schooled by the judge and my attorney about why it is a bad idea to make false accusations. The court room is not a central committee meeting where you can change the rules to suit your accusations. In a court room you will follow the law and the rules of evidence. Some of the slanderous statements they made about me seems to indicate that I do not respect women. They need to be reminded it was Scott Riba and the rest of the central com-

mittee that kicked the republican women out of the central committee. But they did suggest that the republican women could serve food at the Lincoln Reagan dinner. The republican women declined that subservient offer. The meeting where they said I shouted down a woman speaker. Well, they got the facts backwards on that one. I let the lady speak uninterrupted. And then I started to speak, and she tried to shout me down. I said I did not interrupt you and its rude for you to interrupt me. She replied that I am not going to listen to this, so I said there's the door. And she left.

The only curse word I use was directed at two gutter snipes (Ken Konkell and Wally Smith). Who was being disruptive and making snide comments while Kerri Catlin and I were speaking. I told them to shut the F up.

The majority of the central committee meetings are videoed so ask them to provide that video if you want proof of who said what. I bet you money they will respond with we cannot find that file. And I have plenty of evidence to prove every accusation I have made about the central committee. When I speak to people that I know I cannot trust my phone is in my shirt pocket with the camera exposed and set to record. Just in case, I need evidence as to what was said.

Ray Langston, Montrose

249 8500 *ANONYMOUS*

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**MONTROSE REGIONAL
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see something, say something

Holy Week Services

April 14-18, 7- 7:30 AM



Monday – St. Stephen’s Anglican Church
2504 Sunnyside Rd.

Tuesday– Seventh Day Adventist Church
1551 Valley Rd. (behind Wells Fargo)

Wednesday– 1st Church of the Nazarene
705 S. 12th St.

Thursday– Montrose Christian Church
2351 Sunnyside Rd

Friday– Celebration Church
2900 Sunnyside Rd.

Services will be 30 minutes, followed by a continental breakfast.

An offering will be received for ministries of the AMC.

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

CHARLES FREEMAN BOTTOMLY-BURCH

March 8, 1969 - March 27, 2025

CHARLES F. BOTTOMLY-BURCH ("CHARLEY") passed away peacefully on March 27, 2025, in Colorado Springs, Colorado, as a result of a March 20, 2025, accident.

Charley was born in Charlottesville, Virginia, on March 8, 1969. He is survived by his wife, Angela Bottomly-Burch of Colorado Springs, Colorado, his stepfather Bill Bottomly, and his sister Mielle Rose Bottomly, both of Montrose, Colorado. Charley's Mother, Ciel Bottomly, passed away in November of 2024. Charley worked in the food service industry in Colorado Springs and was furthering his education. He was talented, artistic, and truly loved people and doing things for them. Charley will be dearly missed by his family and friends.

His enormous love for his wife Angela, and a love of all people everywhere, a vivid imagination, and a gigantic sense of humor would partially describe Charley. Some have said of Charley that "He never met a stranger". Others will remember him as being "A character with a lot of character!"

Charley spent his younger years in Roanoke and Vinton, Virginia. Charley and his mother and sister migrated to Denver, Colorado in June, 1977, where they began a new journey. While in Denver he made many friends, enjoyed school, soccer, cub scouts, fishing, and of course, socializing.

Charley lived in Denver until December of 1979, when the family moved to Montrose, Colorado.

He attended Northside Elementary School, Centennial Middle School, and Montrose High School locally. He participated in Montrose HS's first varsity soccer team, and was a keen striker, and he played snare drums in the school bands. Charley attended Grand River Academy (GRA) in Austinburg, Ohio, for his junior and senior high school years where he continued playing soccer, and graduating in 1988. During his first month at GRA he was selected as the academic and athletic student of the month.

He attended Colorado State University, and recently obtained his Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from Walden University, achieving a 4.0 GPA.

He was nearly finished with his Master's Degree in Political Science from Johns Hopkins University. Charley wanted very much to do what he could to make the world a better place through public discourse and cooperation, rather than by divisiveness.

Charley managed and owned Cowboy Caio, a little café on North Townsend that was located at the bypass intersection for about a year, and loved greeting and meeting customers. Before and after owning his own restaurant, Charley worked in many businesses in Montrose and else-



where, and his charisma and personality kept his customers coming back and following him wherever he worked.

In Montrose he met Angela Brentlinger, who was born in Stockton, California, and they were married on October 12, 2013, on his parent's deck overlooking Montrose. The day was beautiful, warm and colorful, and they were surrounded by close friends and family.

He and Angela moved to Colorado Springs in 2016 to pursue further opportunities. Charley began his online education and Angela went back to school at Intellicollege in Colorado Springs, graduated with honors, and earned her degree as a Certified Medical Technician, and was quickly offered a position at Peak Gastroenterology.

A celebration of Charley's life will be scheduled and announced in the future.

Thank you for reading

THE MONTROSE MIRROR

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

SHIRLEY ANN COOK

February 21, 1948 — April 2, 2025



SHIRLEY ANN COOK, of Montrose passed away April 2, 2025 at St. Mary's Hospital in Grand Junction. Shirley was born in Lafayette, Indiana on February 21, 1948 to Lucie and Raymond Smith. Shirley is survived by her husband of 53 years Ray Cook; her son Brian Cook of Montrose; her sister Elke Quinn and her husband Kevin of Savannah, GA; her sister-in-law Jill Cook of Columbus, OH; her sister-in-law Marjorie Carter and her husband Preston of Palo Alto, CA; and her brother-in-law John Cook of Studio City, CA. Shirley was preceded in death by her parents and her sister Linda.

Shirley's father was in the military, and she attended many schools in the United States and Europe having graduated from high school in Munich, Germany in 1966. Shirley and Ray Cook were married in Honolulu, HI in 1971, and moved to Montrose in 1977. Shirley loved to travel and always enjoyed spending time with family and friends, she was always a shining light in the room, and everyone loved her. Shirley will always be in our thoughts and prayers and will always have a special place in our hearts.

JERRY LAWRENCE AUSTIN

May 11, 1949 — April 2, 2025

JERRY LAWRENCE AUSTIN of Montrose, CO passed away on April 2, 2025, at Montrose Regional Hospital surrounded by his daughter and son-in-law after a short battle with cancer and pneumonia. Jerry was born May 11, 1949, in Norwood, CO to Lawrence Jess Austin and Develva May Austin (Patterson). Jerry married the love of his life, Joann Mercy Atencio, and had three children: Frankie (Myriam) Saucedo, Stephanie (Marcos) Parra and Diamond Austin.

Jerry loved hunting, fishing, being in the mountains, welding, and ranching. Jerry's best times in life were being with his kids and grandchildren.

Jerry was preceded in death by his wife JoAnn Mercy Atencio, dad Lawrence Austin, mom Develva Austin, two sisters; Mary Mae Austin and Neda Louise Austin, and three brothers; Melvin Earl Austin, Leonard James Austin, and Jessie James Austin.

He is survived by his three children; Frankie (Myriam) Saucedo with five children of Durango, CO, Stephanie (Marcos) Parra with three children of Montrose, CO and Diamond Austin with three children of Moundsville, West Virginia, his brother Clarence (Sandy) Austin, two sisters; Eulah (Sam) Hawks and Lila (Roy) Olson, and numerous nieces, nephews and loved ones.



COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

COVE RYAN BRENNECKE

June 17, 2013 — March 30, 2025



COVE RYAN BRENNECKE graduated from earth into the arms of our Savior on March 30th, 2025. Forever 11 he will be.

Cove was born June 17th, 2013, to Shiloh and Dirk Brennecke in Montrose, CO. This was the best day of their lives!

The family moved to Grand Junction not long after Cove was born, where they re-

sided for many years.

Cove attended a Christian school, where Cove's relationship to God developed and forever sustained.

Recently, the family moved back home to Montrose to settle in and grow their family. Cove had wanted to be a big brother for so long. God blessed us in 2024 with his baby sister.

At the age of 4 - Cove was diagnosed with Neuroblastoma and fought this fight for seven years. With gaining remission several times, the disease was persistent. Our Warrior, Cove got tired... He fought so hard, for so long. But this is not how he wanted to be remembered. This is how we want to remember him:

His smile lit up a room, his laugh was pure and full of life. His spirit brought the most bright light to those that knew him. Cove was full of life, love and the Holy Spirit. He taught his parents to love the Lord and brought those who don't know our Father, to Him. Those in faith, became deeper.

Cove served one of the most influential testimonies to life in his 11 years. We

know he is safe, pure, healed and whole in the arms of our Savior.

Cove loved to fish with his Dad and many times managed to catch the biggest one. He loved camping, hunting, boating, video games and bringing people together. "Can we have people over for a party?" He would ask his parents almost every weekend. Cove was a SUCH vibe, and his light will carry on.

Cove is survived by his Mom (Shiloh Brennecke (Donley) and Dad (Dirk Brennecke). His baby sister (Maybelle Brennecke), Mimi (Joy Donley) and Grandma and Grandpa (Merri and Heinie Brennecke). Aunt Amy and Uncle Johnny Engel and his cousins (Bailey and Braidon Engel). Aunt Jessica and Uncle Andrew Brennecke and cousins (Cannon, Lane and Ivy Brennecke).

His uncle Ryan Brennecke.

Cove was greeted in Heaven by his uncle Ryan Anders, and Great grandparents.

If people want to donate to a cause, Tyler Robinson Foundation or Alex's Lemonade stand are foundations that supported Cove.

Now more than ever...

Thank you for reading

THE MONTROSE MIRROR

ISSUE 517 April 14, 2025

ART & SOL

THE BAREFOOT LAUREATE: STICKS AND STONES CAN BREAK MY BONES BUT WORDS ...

It is said the more names you have for a loved one, the more affection you have for them. I suppose this is why those nicknames and pet names, (from sweetheart to pumpkin to bub-

ba to buddy to babe) are called *terms of endearment*.

A toast then,
to the love of my life,
to the salt of my earth,
to my Cap'n Crunch,
to my two-for-lunch,
to my fox at dusk,
to my hunka hunka
honey bunch.

I have given our tawny little cat a string of names that to me, floats across the air like a song but to others might sound like a cackling coven of witches. Asha Seleenka Sosostri Sophia Maria Gatita Bonita Mia is her name. I only know she comes when I call.

Like a cat,
poetry enters the room
and just like that
I must concur:
I have nothing
better to do.
May she long lay



West Slope Poet Laureate
Wendy Videlock

in my lap and purr.

These days I tend to call many of my beloved friends and family *honey*, or *sweetie* or when I'm feeling ironic, *dah ling*. I'm old enough that nobody seems to mind. I think it's kind of a rite of passage for women who make it past a certain age—and I have to say these pet names roll easily off my tongue. I had a grandmother for whom we were all *honey* and an aunt who was generous with the word *sweetheart*.

Lots of men these days call their male friends, *brother*. I notice my friends of Indigenous heritage, whatever the gender, often use *cousin* as a term of endearment for friends they meet along the way.

I have a few acquaintances who call me *Girlfriend*, or *Girl*. They say it with a little snap of the finger. I can't seem to take that one on. I might be past the expiration date on that one. But I do like referring to my closest girlfriends as *sister*, or *sister on the path*.

A dear friend and mentor from Salida used to call me *Little Buffalo*. We all called her *Ma James*.

It always seemed to me you emerged from a haze, hid yourself in a thousand ways, revealed yourself in the turn of a phrase, those eyes of yours blue as rain and strangely ablaze. Ah, Montana, oh Ma James. Brutally true, American

made.

Justice and mercy your daily clay.

It seemed to me you befriended me one foot in the mud, one eyebrow raised, rooted in humor and earthly complaint. Ah Montana, oh Ma James, the back roads and mountain passes and dragons you slayed!

I'm not surprised you've left this place in much the same way— emerging from a smoky haze, one foot in the grave, one glass of wine raised, brutally missed, aquarius made, planted in joy and earthly praise. With a shawl across your shoulders, you've stepped out of this maze, struck by beauty, married to truth, and hardly phased. Just another bright star in the night, ablaze. Oh Montana, Ah Ma James.

A friend of a friend always called me *Boss*. After a while I realized he called lots of people that. He was an extremely tall guy and I figured it was his way of leveling the playing field. But then I met another guy (also from South Dakota), who also called people *Boss*, and I figured it was a regional influence.

Here in Western Colorado, I notice ranchers often call their young kids *cowboy* or *cowgirl*. A neighbor with an orchard calls her daughter *Peaches*.

STICKS AND STONES CAN BREAK MY BONES BUT WORDS ...From previous pg

My father used to call me *dear*, but only when he was extremely annoyed with me. That's one of the ways terms of endearment or pet names can be used to establish a hierarchy or put someone in their place. In the workplace, your boss calling you sweetheart is thankfully, a thing of the past. I should quantify that: ideally it's a thing of the past.

Terms of endearment and nicknames can be delightful — and can be tricky.

A grizzly old bear of a friend who lived outside Ridgway once taught me an invaluable lesson about language. He was my elder and had lived a very colorful life and he had a brilliant sense of humor — and an abiding love of language. I wrote a poem about him in which I refer to him as *My Moses* and *Big Jack*. He very much approved:

My Moses

*Big Jack and his walking stick
live on the ridge. Kokopelli's
orphan kids dance for him,
bobcat urine's in the weeds,
the shotgun barrel's up his sleeve,*

*a Persian coin is on the wind.
The Chinese Mountains smell the moon
and arch their backs. I tell him, Jack,
sometimes I wish I was living in
canvas France, the old west,
a picture book, the Sea
of Tranquility, or even in
the den near the hot spring.
He says, kid, to hell with
phantom limbs; spring is a verb,
a wish is a wash, a walking stick
is a gottdam wing.*

After knowing him for many years and feeling as familial as familial can be, I began to call Big Jack, *Jackie*. He bristled.

He tended toward bristling and I tended to like poking the bear, so I continued. And he continued to bristle.

I finally told him that my calling him *Jackie* was just another form of affection. He replied: I don't like the diminutive, he said, it makes me feel diminished, like a little kid. This was an aging man, and immediately I understood.

A diminutive is when we call a Bob, *Bobbie*, or Melissa, *Missy*, or Dan, *Danny*.

Besides, Big Jack continued, you didn't ask.

Well then, I said, correcting my posture, Jack, *dah ling*, would you mind terribly if I called you *Jackie*? I'd be honored, he replied. And so he was *My Jackie* until the day he died.

Wendy Videlock of Palisade currently 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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970-249-2460

El Jimador
970-249-8990

Busy Corner White Kitchen
970-323-6215

Delta: CB's Tavern
970-399-3570



OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

SENATE BILL 25-003- PASSES AND SETS COLORADO UP FOR A CONSTITUTIONAL BATTLE

Editor:

On April 10, 2025 Governor Jared Polis of Colorado signed Senate bill 25-003 into law. This new law taking effect in August of 2026 is considered to be the most restrictive gun legislation in America. Colorado legislators who introduced and supported this bill say it is about safety. Second Amendment advocates say; this is not about safety rather an erosion of our Constitutional rights.

Under the new law, it will be illegal to purchase, sell or make weapons that are carried by most law enforcement officers and street criminals. It will require two background checks and 12 hours of training for those who do not already have a hunting license. (If you have a hunting license 4 hours) Once completed, the Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) will have to certify the training.

Critics say that this could very well be a

modern day Fort Sumpter launching a fight over the Constitutional Right to Bear Arms between an already divided nation. Never before in our 249-year history have law abiding citizens had to apply for and pay for the rights guaranteed by our Constitution. Rights that hundreds of thousands of people fought and died for to defend and protect.

Colorado Sheriffs are opposed to the bill saying that it will impose a huge cost to their budgets for law abiding citizens while criminals will simply ignore the law. <https://krdo.com/news/2025/04/11/southern-colorado-sheriffs-share-strong-words-in-response-to-new-gun-control-bill/>

On March 26, 2025 The Montrose Board of County Commissioners unanimously passed a Resolution opposing SB 25-003 and urging the Governor to veto the bill. It was adopted, approved, and transmitted

to Governor Polis, President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the Colorado House of Representatives.

https://legistarweb-production.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/attachment/pdf/3227720/RESOLUTION_-_HB_25-003.pdf

Unfortunately, Governor Polis ignored our pleas along with the pleas of many other Colorado Commissioners and Sheriffs.

On April 16th, 2025 the Montrose Board of County Commissioners will be considering and possibly approving a "Request for Intervention" from the President of the United States, Donald J. Trump. We will be asking him to direct his administration to protect the Constitutional Rights of Colorado citizens and by extension the rights of citizens in all 50 states.

Scott Mijares

Montrose County Commissioner, District 1

*Be Surprised
Be Transformed*

You are invited to
First Pres Montrose
for Easter

At 9:30 AM
1840 E Niagara Rd.



NEW RESOLUTION (X) HOME



Hidden Lake

\$140,000

5% Down/25 Year Term



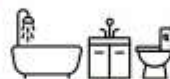
PROPERTY FEATURES



3 Bedroom



2 Bathroom



Deluxe Master Bath



1140 SF



Designed for
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***ONLY \$1,985.00
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(\$1,218.00 mortgage plus
\$767.00 lot rent)

CONTACT DETAILS

📞 970-615-9412

✉️ julie@thehiddenlakecommunity.com

🌐 www.thehiddenlakecommunity.com

WAC. Estimated payment, rates and terms may vary based on credit history. Not all applicants will qualify. Subject to lender terms & conditions. Actual term, rate, APR, and loan amount may vary.



MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY

ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

Office Hours: By appointment.

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

 don@allsaintsmontrose.org)

Worship Service Times: Sundays 9AM,

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

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

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

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

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH

Independent Baptist
 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 den-tures.

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
 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?

Help Our Community Stop Child Abuse, Call 1-844-CO-4-KIDS

Family

MOVIE EVENT

April 18th

at The Fox Theatre
27 S Cascade Ave • Montrose, CO



**Minecraft 3:40pm
and King of Kings 4pm**

• Featuring the Family Films:
"Minecraft" and "King of Kings"

• Complimentary movie,
pop & popcorn



APRIL IS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

Help Our Community Stop Child Abuse

Call 1-844-CO-4-KIDS



CASA
Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN
CASA OF THE
7TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT



Serving our future today

KIN CONNECT
child placement agency



COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

NEXT WOMEN'S GIVING CLUB WILL BE HELD THURSDAY, APRIL 24

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The next Women's Giving Club will be held on THURSDAY, April 24, 5:30 pm at the newly remodeled Bridges Golf and Country Club. No special invitation is needed to attend. Our premise is simple. Each attendee brings \$100 to the meeting to pledge towards the night's total donation pot which is later donated to a local non profit organization with no strings attached. Nominations put in "the hat" are randomly drawn and each respective nominator gives an enthusiastic endorsement, possibly with help from friends. Votes are tallied at the end of the meeting. The winning non profit is awarded the proceeds from that night which averages 12K. It's simple, fast, and fun.

Guests are always welcome and the \$100 fee is waived. This is a wonderful opportunity to hear about local non-profits while meeting new friends. If you are new to our community this is a don't miss event. Contact Phoebe 970-209-9598 or givingclubof-montrose@gmail.com for more information.

Remington's Restaurant will be open and reservations highly recommended.



HOLY WEEK EVENTS

<p>APRIL 13 8:30 & 11</p> <p><u>Palm Sunday Worship*</u></p>	<p>APRIL 18 7:00 PM</p> <p><u>Good Friday Service*</u></p>
<p>APRIL 13 9-11 AM</p> <p><u>Palm Sunday Brunch Fundraiser & Holy Week Prayer Stations</u></p>	<p>APRIL 18 - 20</p> <p><u>Easter Bible Vigil</u></p>
<p>APRIL 17 7:00 PM</p> <p><u>Maundy Thursday Service*</u></p>	<p>APRIL 20 8:30 & 11</p> <p><u>Easter Worship*</u></p>
<p>APRIL 20 9:45</p> <p><u>Easter Around the World & Easter Egg Hunt</u></p>	



Montrose United
Methodist Church

19 S. Park Ave, Montrose 81401

***NURSERY CARE AVAILABLE
FOR 6 MONTHS - 6 YEARS OLD**

The Satisfied Woman

BURNOUT, THE SILENT STEALER OF ENERGY, SLEEP, AND FOCUS

If you're running on fumes, you're not alone. Burnout is a real thing. It's not just an excuse to avoid work or responsibility. In fact, it's often the consequence of too much work and responsibility. But what is burnout? How do we get it, and how do we avoid it? And if we get it, how do we get rid of it?



*By Gia Pirelli.
Courtesy photo.*

Burnout is a state of overwhelm, fatigue, and mental or physical exhaustion resulting from prolonged and consistent stress in your life. Work life, home life, caregiving, medical issues, or relationship issues tend to be the catalyst. Basically, any on-going situation causing tension, friction, fear, worry, anxiety, depression, and a slipping grasp on your basic ability to give a sh*t.

Striving for goals that remain out of reach, seemingly endless tasks with little or no support, taking on more than you can comfortably handle, all of this leads to a reduced sense of personal accomplishment and a general indifference toward the things that used to matter. You become weary, withdrawn, and worried. The mind never shuts down; sleep be-

comes elusive and detachment creeps in. Goals and interests diminish in the face of all the noise, and productivity eventually grinds to a halt. Your "get up and go" just got up and went.

The danger of burnout is not only the reduced ability to engage in your own life, but the toxic effects it has on your body, your mind, and your soul. Living in a constant state of fight-or-flight leads to a host of physical health problems like Adrenal Fatigue, weight gain, dietary challenges, digestive issues, headaches, potential substance abuse, heart disease, high cholesterol, type 2 diabetes, and sleep disruption. It weakens the immune system, increasing susceptibility to infection and disease. Indifference leads to hopelessness and a lack of faith in whatever you choose to believe in. When the center of your life becomes a sucking black hole, all kinds of things line up as solutions to stuff that hole.

So, what do you do?

Start by creating boundaries, both at work and at home, then stick to them. Work-life balance is essential to maintaining equilibrium and avoiding stress-induced burnout. Take your vacation days, you're not a peasant in feudal England. Don't say yes when you mean no. Don't take on more than you're comfortable with. If your boundary is "no more than you can handle" then that's a very wide margin, skirting the edge of burnout. Stop well before the cliff. Minimize multitasking and try to pull back and just focus

on one thing at a time. Then, whatever you do, you will do well and with more care and less chaos. Nurture your personal relationships; don't just let them shrivel and die. Those relationships are essential to your well-being. Adopt better self-care habits—like sufficient sleep, healthy diet, gentle exercise, meditation/prayer/silence. Engage in hobbies and interests, not just your kid's soccer game or your husband's 4-wheeling club. Whatever you like to do, do that. If you don't make time for you, no one else will.

Try discussing your overwhelm and stress with family, friends, or a therapist. If helping a loved one with burnout, then try getting them to open up about it—either to you or to a therapist. Creating awareness and a sense of openness around it is a strong first step to recovering and breaking the cycle. Seek support and be support. Adulting is hard and sometimes it's overwhelming. And that's ok. Just don't choose to live in that state of overwhelm. Choose peace over chaos and cultivate serenity rather than stress. Put on your own oxygen mask before helping others. Life is a gift. Every day above ground is a blessing. If you're living in a constant state of misery, fear and stress, it's time to take a look and maybe take a break.

Gia Pirelli is a successful businesswoman, entrepreneur, and jewelry designer. Read more about her here: <https://giovannadesigns.myshopify.com/pages/about-me>



Open House
Saturday, April 26th

16612 S Townsend Ave.
Montrose, CO 81401
(970) 249-6109



GIVEAWAYS EVERY HALF HOUR
FREE HOT DOGS, CHIPS & DRINK
STORE SPECIALS

COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

USDA RELEASES FOUR DISASTER DESIGNATIONS THAT AFFECT COLORADO PRODUCERS

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO-This Secretarial natural disaster designation allows the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) to extend much-needed emergency credit to producers recovering from natural disasters through [emergency loans](#). Emergency loans can be used to meet various recovery needs including the replacement of essential items such as equipment or livestock, reorganization of a farming operation, or to refinance certain debts. FSA will review the loans based on the extent of losses, security available, and repayment ability.

According to the [U.S. Drought Monitor](#), these counties suffered from a drought intensity value during the growing season of 1) D2 Drought-Severe for eight or more consecutive weeks or 2) D3 Drought-Extreme or D4 Drought-Exceptional.

More Resources

On [farmers.gov](#), the [Disaster Assistance Discovery Tool](#), [Disaster Assistance-at-a-Glance fact sheet](#), and [Loan Assistance Tool](#) can help you determine program or loan options. To file a Notice of Loss or to ask questions about available programs, contact your local [USDA Service Center](#).



HARNESS THE HEALING POWER OF NATURE

Find out how with this
informative and entertaining
book that will change your
brain, your body, and your
spirit.



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How To Give Your Landscape A

Live better in 2025

Sick and tired of
feeling sick and
tired? The
answer is right
outside your
door!

[Click here](#) to find
the book on
Amazon

Contact Author and Speaker:

🌐 laurenhallruddell.com
✉ agescapesnow@gmail.com

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



GREENWOODS IN RIDGWAY: WAY WORTH THE TRIP



By Carole Ann McKelvey

RIDGWAY -- Wow. I've driven by this restaurant several times in the past, thinking, I have to review that! Boy, am I glad I finally did.

Greenwoods has been an established eating hole in Ridgway for quite a while and is run by chef and owner Bob Greenwood.

It's known for its combo of Rocky Mountain cuisine with a slight southern influence. The other night my son, Ian, and I gave it a try.

Sorry I waited so long. Great atmosphere and staff and the food – wowie!

I ordered a fried chicken sandwich with pickled cabbage slaw. No big deal, right? Best chicken sandwich I've ever eaten, like in my life! Crispy, crunchy and delicious with sweet honey cider sauce. Came with crispy thin cut fries. I washed it down with a house Paloma, sour and delicious.

Ian went for the house smashburger, which he pronounced delicious as well. He ordered a side of glazed carrots which turned out to be huge and well worth it; we shared. Full sized glazed carrots with garlic infused sauce. He stuck with a coke per usual and we were both very full and happy when we left Greenwoods.

The place has its own smoker out back and features Wagyu beef dishes with a continental flair. Full bar and dessert menu.

Greenwoods is open from 8 a.m. to 9

p.m., breakfast, lunch and dinner.

I'm giving you a sample of the lunch/dinner menu. This is serious stuff:

Small Plates, from \$5-17.00:

Cup of Soup, Seasonal Vegetable Soup, currently Butternut Squash; Potato Dimpplings, pesto, roasted red onion, Reggiano; Roasted Seasonal Vegetables, Roasted tomato, red onion, fennel and sweet potato; Today's Soup, Winter Squash Bisque.

Entrees, from \$10-28.00:

12 Chicken Wings or just get 6, Crispy Fried Chicken Wings. Served with celery, carrots and sauces on the side; Biscuit Pot Pie, often it tastes like Chicken, but occasionally it may be something else like beef or mushroom;

Fried Chicken Sandwich. Chicken thigh, honey cider sauce, pickled red cabbage, ranch, potato bun. Served with fries, Collard Green Melt, Greens, white American cheese, coleslaw, sauce, on Texas toast. Served with Fries;

Fried Catfish, Catfish, Heirloom Grits, Collard Greens, Hot Sauce; Fried Chicken Bowl. chicken thigh, mashed potatoes, gravy, carrots and black-eyed peas; Greenwood's Crispy SmashBurger, Smashed beef patty, potato bun, American cheese, caramelized onions, shredded lettuce, pickles and sauce. Served with Fries; Pot Roast, Braised pot roast, mashed potatoes, braising vegetables au jus; Pulled Pork Grilled Cheese, Cider Cola braised pulled pork, sauteed onions,

American cheese, Carolina Gold sauce, Texas toast. Served with Fries; Pulled Pork Tacos, Braised pork, coleslaw, hot sauce on corn tortillas; Veggie Bowl, Mashed potatoes, black eyed peas, collard greens and carrots; Veggie Tacos, Corn Tortillas, sweet potato, black beans, cauliflower, Pico de Gallo, goat feta and crema; Western Slope Salad, Organic greens, goat feta, candied hazelnuts, purple Fremont beans, local apple, mustard vinaigrette; Wagyu Steak Sandwich, Wagyu steak served on bread; Meatloaf.

Steaks, from \$110-300.00:

16 oz Dry Aged Wagyu NY, served with crispy potatoes, roasted vegetables and house steak sauce; 32oz Dry Aged Tomahawk, Served with crispy potatoes, roasted vegetables and house steak sauce.

Sides, from \$8-3.00:

Coleslaw, Collard Greens, Cornbread with Honey Butter, French Fries, Honey Glazed Carrots, Mashed Potatoes, One Biscuit, One cornbread roll, Side of Grits, GF, VT; Mac & Cheese; Side salad with Organic greens, goat feta, candied hazelnuts, purple Fremont beans, local apple, mustard vinaigrette; Black Eyed Peas.

Look on-line for Greenwood's breakfast menu and desserts and drinks.

Call (970) 316-0594; Greenwoods is located at 160 Palomino Trail, Ridgway, CO 81432. From Montrose, go to Ridgway, turn left at the first light and take an immediate right onto Palomino Trail.



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Paint Garden Rocks at Endless Pastabilities

Wednesday, April 23. 5:30-7:30 pm



We've got all sizes of rocks, or bring your own
Paints & decals provided plus a free drink and a snack
Decorate your garden or outdoor living space



With Kate Burke, 1544 Oxbow Drive, Montrose

\$45/pp • \$80/couple

<https://kathrynrburke.com/product/042325pasta/>



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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

April 16-Montrose County Public Health invites the community to come learn about the valuable services and resources available to residents at an informative event on Wednesday, April 16, 2025. The event will be held at the Montrose Recreation Field House, located at 25 Colorado Avenue, from 10 AM to 4 PM. MMR Vaccination Clinic Time: 10 AM – 2 PM

April 16-Have you ever wondered how the non-elite Maya lived? Please join us to learn about 20 years of research by Dr Hyde - Distinguished Lecturer of Archaeology at Western Colorado University. April 16 at 7pm at the United Methodist Church 19 S Park Avenue Montrose. Chipeta Archaeology Society Free.

April 18-Montrose Republican Women Luncheon & Program-Friday, April 18 at Noon @ Hampton Inn Montrose. Brown bag lunch Montrose will discuss county operations and plans in the works. Montrose CASA Executive Director Carlton Mason will discuss the mission of CASA, projects and other youth and family advocacy services for the 7th Judicial District. Bring a friend! Call Kerri - 970-209-5170 Bring a friend! Call Kerri - 970-209-5170.

April 24-The 2nd quarterly meeting of the Women's Giving Club will be held on THURSDAY, April 24 at 5:30pm at the Bridges Golf and Country Club. All women are welcome!! Please come to meet new friends while supporting local non-profits. for more information contact Phoebe at 970-209-9598 or givingclubofmontrose@gmail.com

April 25-Join us for a fun night of friends, laughter, and Karaoke on April 25! Snacks and drinks will be available for sale for your enjoyment. Only \$5 entry. Come sing with us, and show us what you got! Family friendly. We hope to see you there! Magic Circle Theatre, 420 S 12th St Montrose magiccircleplayers.com. 970-249-7838.

Sept. 13-14-The highly anticipated Tribute to Aviation, Montrose Regional Airport's signature event, is officially scheduled for Sept. 13-14, 2025. As one of the largest static aircraft displays in the western United States, Tribute to Aviation will showcase both military and civilian aircraft. For more information, please contact Vendla Stockdale at vstockdale@montrosecounty.net or 970-964-2479 or visit www.tributetoaviation.com



The San Juans serve as a backdrop for a big barn being built off of West Oak Grove. Photo by B. Switzer.

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