



ONLINE NEWS
ASSOCIATION



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MURA BOARD TALKS ABOUT FUNDING, FUTURE PROJECTS



The Montrose Urban Renewal Authority (MURA) Board met on May 1. Colorado Outdoors Developer David Dragoo gave a PowerPoint presentation which included the 2024 Economic Impact of Colorado Outdoors for the City of Montrose — 90 room Fairfield Hotel, 79,000 square feet of commercial space constructed, 240 jobs added, and \$30M in new investment. Photo by Gail Marvel.

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE-For the May 1 meeting of the Montrose Urban Renewal Authority (MURA), Board President Allison Howe called the meeting to order, held the Pledge of Allegiance, and had roll call. Steve Bush, Judy Ann Files, and Doug Glaspell were absent; all other board members were present in person.

There were no changes to the agenda, no public comment, and the minutes to the Nov. 6, 2024 meeting were approved unanimously.

MURA ANNUAL BOARD OFFICER APPOINTMENTS

- President, Vice-President, Secretary.

Board President Allison Howe, Montrose Recreation District Board Representative to the MURA, is termed out of that board and will no longer be the MURA Special District Representative. The vacant seat will be filled in a future meeting.

J. David Reed was appointed President, Judy Ann Files Vice President, and the City Clerk/Deputy Clerk(s) will act as secretary.

Continued pg 20

BE A SOMEONE WHO MATTERS TO... SOMEONE WHO MATTERS

By Sieglinde "Siggie" Carpenter, a freelance writer who writes For the Love of the Story in support of local organizations

REGIONAL-Teaching a child to be caring and compassionate when most of their lives they've felt discord with no sense of direction is a challenge for any parent. Thankfully, in our community we have Partners of Montrose, Delta, and Ouray, a non-profit organization, dedicated to finding the perfect Mentor-Child-Match for every child (6-17 yrs) in need of more "something" to help them rebuild their self-esteem, improve their academic and social behavioral skills.

Mentors, Denise and Rex and Swanson of Montrose, have been trained and are supported by their case manager, Haley Heide. Rex smiled when he said, "We are ecstatic to be a part of the Partners mentors program; they couldn't have put us together with a better young man and his family." Now, four months into mentorship with Corey, Denise and Rex are forming a genuine relationship, setting boundaries and participating in the monthly activities planned by the Partners' staff, as well as planning their own



(L to R) Jackie Etchart, Alex, Corey, Rex & Denise Swanson and Haley Heide. Courtesy photo.

Continued pg 19

[Murder on Main Street:](#)
[By Historian Bob Cox!](#)

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

[San Juan Christian Home Educators](#)
[Graduating Class of 2025!](#)

[Red Hawks Sports](#)
[Roundup: By Cliff Dodge!](#)

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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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Published every Monday in Montrose, Colorado, the Montrose Mirror reaches a readership of more than 25,000 across the region. And around the world

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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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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

COLORADO PARKS & WILDLIFE COMMISSION TO MEET MAY 7-8

Special to the Mirror

DURANGO— Next week, the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission will convene for a hybrid meeting in Durango. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 8:30 a.m. on Wed., May 7, and recess at 4:10 p.m. The commission will reconvene at 8:30 a.m. on Thu., May 8, and adjourn at 3 p.m.

A [complete agenda](#) along with all materials for this meeting is available on CPW's website for public review. The meeting will be streamed live on [CPW's YouTube page](#).

The Parks and Wildlife Commission will open for consideration of the adoption of all limited license numbers for black bear, deer, elk, pronghorn and moose for all game management units in the state that have limited licenses for these species for the 2025 big game seasons.

The commission will also open for necessary changes to implement [SB 24-161](#), relating to denials, suspensions, or revocations of river outfitter license.

[Learn more about the Parks and Wildlife Commission on CPW's website](#)

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OPINION/EDITORIAL:LETTERS

MONTROSE VETERANS MEMORIAL KEEPS MOVING AHEAD!

Editor:

Montrose Veterans board of directors recently met with architect Phil Motley to finalize the Montrose Veterans Memorial pre-construction design.

During the month of May, we will meet with representatives from the City of Montrose and Montrose County to vote on the approval of the design. The cost of the project will be announced at that time. It is in the signed memorandum of agreement that all three parties must sign off before we can go forward with the memorial. One step closer to construction!

This also will be a time when we hope to learn when construction will begin.

Often the board of directors have discussed the importance of donations as we get closer and closer to construction, and this is one of those times. Specifically, we have a helicopter within sight, and it needs a pillar to hold it high. It is within our grasp to include this in the memorial site.

Gabe Welfelt, owner of San Juan Fabrication of Montrose has stepped up to build the pillar. We are making an effort to keep the work local. Gabe has offered to do-



Veterans of the American Legion Riders met Saturday, April 26 for annual motorcycle safety training at the former Russell Stover lot. Riders from Montrose and Delta attended three hours of training, led by Chris Worthington, Montrose. In the accompanying image the veterans are saying the Pledge of Allegiance before the training starts. This is what veterans do...whether at the new memorial site or elsewhere. Courtesy photo

nate some labor and is looking for donation of materials locally. All this helps immensely in this effort, and we are so grateful for all the support.

Our goal is to have donations ready for the panels, helicopter and bricks when the City and County are ready to begin construction.

We will be visiting with Montrose business owners in the next few weeks giving them an opportunity to be a part of this very important project. There will be a

Patriots section at the memorial site and any business owner—maybe not a veteran but wants to be part of the project—who donates \$500 or more will be offered the opportunity to have a tribute brick in that section.

Donations can be made at www.montrosevmc.us

Sincerely,

Les Williams

MVMC BOD President

boodawqlkw@gmail.com



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GAIL MARVEL

Montrose Author & Reporter

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





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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CITIZEN'S CLIMATE LOBBY TO MEET MAY 6

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Citizen's Climate Lobby monthly mtg Tuesday May 6th at 5 at Hispanics Affairs 504 N 1st Street Montrose Nonpartisan, environmental, All Welcome, 970-765-9095.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

PROTECT OUR SCHOOLS - SAY NO AND MEAN IT

Editor:

If Jesus were walking among us today, watching the tug-of-war over education funding and policy, he'd likely cut through the rhetoric and ask a simple question: Who's being served—and who's being left behind?

Charter schools, in theory, offer innovation and choice. But in practice, they often reflect deeper systemic inequalities. Many are publicly funded but privately managed, operating with less transparency than traditional public schools. That lack of oversight? Jesus might see it as a red flag—especially if it means money is flowing away from the public good and toward private interests or corporate profits. Politically, he'd challenge leaders on both sides: Are these schools truly uplifting the communities most in need? Or are they creating winners and losers in a system that should be built for all children? Are we investing in the public institutions that bind us together, or chipping away at them for the sake of market competition? Jesus wasn't partisan, but he was deeply political—he confronted power structures that exploited the vulnerable, and he stood up for the poor, the sick, the out-

cast. He'd probably say this isn't just about charter vs. public. It's about justice, equity, and whether we're building a society where every child—regardless of zip code—has access to a quality education. So politically? Jesus might not be anti-charter, but he'd definitely be pro-accountability, pro-equity, and radically pro-kid. Please think of your school years, your children, and their children. Are our underfunded schools struggling? Definitely. Do they do more good than harm? Definitely.

Talk to your friends. Talk to your neighbors. Talk to your family. Remind them what public education really means. It's not just about test scores or buildings - it's about opportunity. It's about fairness. It's about giving every child the chance to dream big and reach their potential. Then take one more step: Email your school board members. Call them. Show up to meetings. Let them know that you believe in strong well-funded public schools- and that you've got their backs when they do the right thing. Google: Independence Classical Academy in Elizabeth Colorado. On April 8, 2025 one of our own school members was in Elizabeth

while they hosted a Parent Night. The school is not opening for another year or ever.

While the Colorado League has praised Kim Gilmartin for her involvement in shaping Montrose Classical Academy, local community members might see her influence differently. As an outsider, her role appears to have been less collaboration and more about creating distractions with our elected school board members keeping them from their core responsibilities.

In a recent video, Miss Gilmartin herself notes that similar charter proposals were rejected by communities in Durango and Boulder — a clear signal that should not be ignored. I urge Montrose citizens to research carefully before endorsing a plan that could obligate taxpayers to fund a private agenda indefinitely.

Let's prioritize transparency, local input, and responsible stewardship of public funds. Because when we raise our voices together, we remind our leaders who they work for- and who they're working for: our kids. Let's fight for public education like our future depends on it- because it does.

Ellen Angeles, Montrose



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

BASIN CLINIC, INC. HONORED FOR OVERALL PERFORMANCE BY COLORADO RURAL HEALTH CENTER

Special to the Mirror

NATURITA, CO— Basin Clinic, Inc. announced today that the facility has been honored by the Colorado Rural Health Center (CRHC) as a Top 10 Rural Healthcare Facility for Overall Perfor-

mance in rural Colorado. Presented during The Colorado Rural Healthcare Conference, the award recognizes participation in CRHC programs and reflects a commitment to quality, innovation, and service to the community.

"The Basin Clinic team is striving every day to improve our quality and patient experiences. Our staff holds weekly meetings or trainings in an effort to make improvements and increase our quality measures with the goal of improving patient outcomes. The staff and board of directors are going through an extensive strategic planning process with our Mission *"To provide exceptional, compassionate healthcare"* as a guiding light. We are thankful to the Colorado Rural Health Center for their assistance and direction through technical assistance, programs such as the Healthy Clinic Assessment, and their advocacy in addressing Rural Health issues at the state and federal level." stated Executive Director, Christina Pierce.

The Top 10 Rural Healthcare Facility for Overall Performance Award recognizes 5 hospitals and 5 clinics for outstanding commitment to serving their communities. CRHC's data team considered clinic participation in quality improvement activities, excellence in innovation, and a commitment to the health of local communities.

"Local clinics are the lifeblood of rural healthcare delivery systems. Often in conjunction with their local hospital rural clinics dutifully serve their communities and visitors alike to keep everyone healthy and thriving," said CRHC CEO Michelle Mills. "We're thrilled to introduce this new awards program and recognize the outstanding overall performance of the state's top hospitals and clinics."

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Dear Editor,

It's been a while since the uproar over Donald Trump changing the name of the Gulf of Mexico to The Gulf of America. I for one was not in favor of it and still refer to that body of water as The Gulf of Mexico. I ask your readers to ponder this - the official name of Mexico is United Mexican States. What would Trump and his followers think if Mexico decided to start referring to itself as The United States? It probably would not go over too well and be viewed as insulting to our country and the almighty Donald Trump. But fair is fair. After all, what's in a name?

Dave Stockton, Montrose

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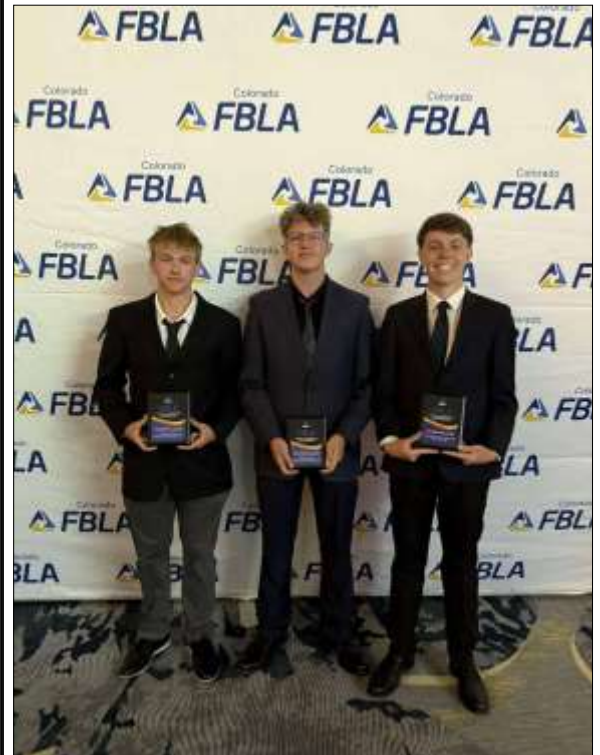
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OLATHE STUDENTS WILL HEAD TO FBLA NATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE JUNE 29 - JULY 2



Special to the Mirror

OLATHE-On March 23, 2025 Quentin Wood, Rylan Standish, and Brisen Lewis of Olathe Middle High School placed Third in the Computer Game and Simulation competition at the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) State Leadership Conference (SLC). They will be representing Montrose County School District at the FBLA National Leadership Conference (NLC) in Anaheim, CA this summer from June 29 to July 2. They competed against the top 47 teams across the state and are now going to compete against the top 99 teams across the nation. OMHS is very proud of their accomplishment and looks forward to seeing how well they represent OMHS and MCSD this summer. PICTURED - From left to right: Brisen Lewis, Rylan Standish, and Quentin Wood. RE-1J Schools Courtesy photo.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

PRESIDENTIAL ARTICLE II CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY IS UNDER ATTACK!

Editor:

The United States Constitution is a carefully crafted document designed to balance power among the branches of government while preserving their distinct roles. Article II, Section 1, unequivocally states: "The executive Power shall be vested in a President of the United States of America." This vesting of authority is not a suggestion but a foundational principle, deliberately chosen by the Framers to ensure a strong and unified executive capable of enforcing the nation's laws and protecting its interests. However, when Congress or the judiciary encroaches upon this authority through legislation or judicial rulings, it risks undermining the separation of powers, a cornerstone of our Constitutional Republic.

The issue arises when laws or judicial actions attempt to constrain the President's constitutional prerogatives in ways that exceed the bounds of legitimate checks and balances. For instance, Congress may enact statutes that delegate excessive authority to administrative agencies or courts within the Executive Branch, effectively diluting the President's ability to exercise the executive power vested by Article II. Such laws, if they infringe upon the core functions of the presidency, may be constitutionally suspect. The President, as the head of the Executive Branch, retains the authority to interpret and, in some cases, disregard such laws if they are deemed to violate the Constitution's clear text or structure. This principle finds support in historical precedent, such as President Lincoln's suspension of habeas corpus during the Civil War, which he justified as necessary to preserve the Union, despite legal challenges.

A related concern involves the role of ad-

ministrative courts, often referred to as *non-Article III courts*. These entities, such as those within federal agencies, are established under the authority of the Executive Branch (Article II) to handle specialized matters, like immigration or veterans' benefits. Unlike Article III courts, which are vested with the "judicial Power of the United States" and serve as a check on the other branches, administrative courts are subordinate to the President. They lack the constitutional authority to issue binding rulings that override the President's executive decisions. When these courts or their judges assert powers beyond their administrative scope, they risk overstepping their constitutional limits, creating tension within the Executive Branch itself.

Article III courts, established under the Constitution to ensure judicial independence, undeniably play a critical role in checking executive and legislative actions. However, judicial activism, where courts issue rulings that encroach upon the President's inherent powers can disrupt the delicate balance of separation of powers. For example, when courts intervene in matters of national security or foreign policy, areas traditionally reserved for the Executive, they may infringe upon the President's Article II authority. The Supreme Court has recognized this principle in cases like *Youngstown Sheet & Tube Co. v. Sawyer* (1952), which clarified that presidential power is at its zenith when rooted in constitutional or statutory authority, but it is not boundless.

This is not to suggest that the President operates above the law. The Constitution provides robust mechanisms for accountability, including congressional oversight, impeachment, and judicial review by Arti-

cle III courts. However, when laws or judicial rulings undermine the President's ability to execute the duties of the office, they threaten the very structure of our government. The Framers, wary of concentrated power, designed the Constitution to prevent any one branch from dominating the others. As Alexander Hamilton wrote in *The Federalist No. 70*, a vigorous executive is essential to "the protection of the community against foreign attacks" and "the steady administration of the laws." Encroachments on this authority risk weakening the Executive Branch and, by extension, the nation.

In today's climate, where judicial and legislative actions increasingly test the boundaries of constitutional authority, it is imperative to reaffirm the President's role as the steward of executive power. Congress and the courts must respect the limits of their own authority, just as the President must operate within the bounds of the Constitution. Only by honoring the separation of powers can we preserve the balance that has sustained our republic for over two centuries.

To address these challenges, policymakers should prioritize constitutional fidelity. Congress should avoid enacting laws that unduly constrain the President's authority, and courts should exercise restraint in matters of executive discretion. The American people, too, have a role to play by demanding that their elected officials and judges uphold the Constitution's plain meaning. By recommitting to these principles, we can ensure that the executive power remains vested where the Constitution places it: in the President of the United States.

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



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BE A SOMEONE WHO MATTERS...TO SOMEONE WHO MATTERS *From pg 1*



Courtesy photos by Sieglinde "Siggie" Carpenter.



It takes hard work and dedication of many skillful hands to shepherd a flock.

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I will remember that day when extending a loving hand and showing what it means to matter to someone, was all about caring and sharing.

It felt good to walk away that day with more than just children smiling and smelly; several adults were there because they are someone who cares enough to help mentor a child who needs to be reminded that they are someone who matters.

For more information about the mentorship program with Partners of Montrose, Delta, Ouray, call 970-249-1116 or go to their website www.partners-west.org

activities. Denise agreed with Rex that "Being paired up with Corey and his family is mutually rewarding. We're all winners!"

One recent activity was a visit to the **Etchart Sheep Ranch** in Montrose during sheep shearing and bottle-feeding lambs. Jackie Etchart, co-owner, graciously agreed to make time in their busy ranch schedule for Corey. Corey invited his older brother Alex and together with Denise, Rex and Haley, they gently cared for and lovingly bottle-feed lambs who had been separated from their mother. Every lamb leaned in to be touched in hopes of being fed and noticed. By teaching children to care for animals, we teach them to be empathetic and understanding, setting the

stage to help them develop caring and compassionate skills for healthy and genuine relationships. The Etchart Sheep Ranch in Montrose are members of the American Sheep Industry Association. They care and feed over 10,500 sheep including 73 bucks, 4,000 ewes, and anticipate close to 7,000 lambs this Spring. It takes hard work and dedication of many skillful hands to shepherd a flock that isn't always cooperative and can only say "Baaa". We paused a moment realizing that every sheep lives and gives their life for us!

Note: Sheep play an important role in our society. They provide us with many products other than lamb and wool; byprod-

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MURA BOARD TALKS ABOUT FUNDING, FUTURE PROJECTS From pg 1

Howe retained the gavel for this meeting. **TIF EXPENDITURE UPDATE** - City Engineer Scott Murphy.

Murphy handed out charts that were a Summary of MURA Expenditures to Date. All projects in the MURA have been completed. However, the MURA is obligated for two upcoming projects for horizontal site improvements: the Second Lamont Hotel (\$1.4M) and Project Greenline (\$1.3M).

At-Large Representative Jim Haugsness said, "Ove seven years we have accrued \$3.7M in interest, but nothing has been paid back?"

Murphy said, "Correct." Murphy explained the start date of the Promissory Notes issued by the City of Montrose to the MURA.

Haugness said, "So, about 17 years left... is that the point we talk about when to start repaying?"

Executive Director Bill Bell said, "[Previously] the consensus was we [the city] don't want to call those notes in yet, but keep those active. All the money goes back into new projects. D.A. Davidson presented a couple times. Right now, we can raise revenue. If a \$10M - \$20M project comes up, we would go back to D.A. Davidson for bonds. Then we would start to pay back."

Haugness said, "The goal is to finish out the URA with no debt."

Bell said, "The goal is to have it paid and to have a surplus."

Brad Hughes said, "Could we have a breakout [on the graph] for lodging and meals?"

City Business Development Anthony Russo cautioned against giving out information that might show the income of hotels but offered to give a confidential report to the board.

HAMPTON INN DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT - Jeff Lamont of Lamont Companies, Inc. and John Stueber of Summit Capital.

Russo introduced the agenda item. He said, "Last August we made the agreement for the [second] hotel. They want to bring back budget options. In August you approved \$1.4M."

Speaking on Zoom Lamont said, "We are excited to move forward. We'll have the

groundbreaking as soon as possible. Construction costs and available contractors in Montrose is a consideration."

Stueber said, "Mid-April we had the first full year of operation for the Fairfield [which reflects second hotel viability]."

Reed said, "Generally the contract is good. Where, under the agreement, does the infrastructure that we [MURA] do, commence?"

Russo said, "In the First Phase horizontal starts and it's completed before they start [vertical build]."

Bell said, "Paving is the last [thing] on the project."

Both Reed and Hughes questioned that the contract failed to specify that Lamont Companies must own the land before the contract could be signed. Reed said, "Just make sure it's not signed until they are the owners of the property."

Ed Ulibarri said, "Make sure if we are obligated, the other person is also obligated."

The board unanimously approved the agreement.

River Edge Project Update - David Dragoo.

Dragoo presented a short PowerPoint on MURA development that touted creating 240 new jobs. He said, "A ribbon cutting for Hot Works Fitness is scheduled for this spring. CoPacker is a company that businesses pay them to pack. They package the goods you send to them. Sage House Designs (interior designs) will have a ribbon cutting in June."

Bell said, "The City and the MURA provide incentives for partners, but these guys [Dragoo developers] fill the spaces. The city does not contract with others. They sell the Montrose community to others."

Russo said, "They [Dragoo developers] are major contributors on the tax side."

Dave Frank said, "At conferences around the State, the Montrose URA is kind of the gold standard." It was noted that having Montrose County Assessor Brad Hughes on the MURA Board is a huge component to the success of MURA.

Bell said, "There has been \$13 M of public funds invested so far. That's horizontal, not vertical."

Dragoo said, "The River Edge is an extension of the Flex Building. We'll get started on it later this year."

Asking for an update on the medical building skeleton Haugsness said, "The defunct medical building is not part of the URA. Are they making any headway?"

Russo said, "No, it is part of the MURA. There are deepening negotiations that I can't disclose at this time. People ask all the time about the derelict building."

Montrose County Representative Brad Hughes asked for an update on the previously proposed upscale garage living and storage units.

Dragoo said, "That would be Phase III and we're looking at interest in the project. Our job is to ask, does this have community interest? The project is on hold and not quite ready."

DISCUSSION RELATED TO ESTABLISHMENT OF ADDITIONAL MURA PROJECT AREAS - Executive Director William Bell.

Bell said, "We've not talked about this at our URA Board meetings. We are just brainstorming." The city has heard citizens' concerns about spending city funds to rehab private properties. Still, Bell proposed looking at the MURA structure to help fund the rehabbing of other historical buildings and blighted areas that are within the city boundary.

Mayfly Attorney Paul Benedetti spoke on Zoom and gave an overall view of the MURA. He said, "Urban Renewal is a tool. Multiple projects in areas can be of any size; they can be a city block. You already have the authority boundary, which is the City of Montrose. Urban Renewal is not Downtown Development. It's not subject to TABOR. Usually the project is a white-elephant area; an old building in terrible condition and a contaminated area."

Benedetti gave multiple scenarios, discussed revenue and revenue increases, and spoke to the need for a survey to document four of the 12 factors needed to make blighted property eligible. He said, "I would not add to the current MURA [footprint]. That would be a nightmare for the assessor. Establish a new Urban Renewal Area for each project [pocket areas]."

Bell said, "This is just preliminary if we

MURA BOARD TALKS ABOUT FUNDING, FUTURE PROJECTS *From Previous pg*

we take a look at it." As project examples, Bell mentioned the old Bullock Power Plant (asbestos removal) and the old Masonic Temple (bricks falling off the building onto the sidewalk). Hughes said, "I would want to know the project before making comments." ADJOURNMENT

Background: The Montrose Urban Renewal Authority (MURA) was formed in late 2016 by a resolution of the Montrose City Council. Generally speaking, the MU-

RA Board oversees the Colorado Outdoors Urban Renewal Area and administers the Tax Increment Financing (TIF), the funding mechanism to finance public infrastructure in the MURA. The property, which covers 158 acres along the river corridor between the Justice Center on the north and West Main on the South, is being developed by the Dragoo's Mayfly Outdoors. The Dragoo Developers are son David Dragoo and father Doug Dra-

goo. The 10-member MURA board is made up of Montrose City Council (five members), City Manager Bill Bell (Executive Director), Brad Hughes (Montrose County), Jim Haugsness (At-Large Representative), Steve Bush (Montrose School District) and Allison Howe (Special Districts Representative). The six-member city constituency holds the controlling interest and actions of the MURA Board.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

ROAD WORK UPDATE – MAG-CHLORIDE IN PROGRESS!

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Just a quick heads-up: our incredible Road & Bridge crew is out on the job, spreading magnesium chloride to help keep our roads safer and dust-free. They're prioritizing the mountain roads first, and as of today, they've completed 5 out of 116 areas scheduled for treatment.

Please slow down and stay alert when driving near active work zones — your caution helps protect the dedicated folks working hard to maintain our roads. A huge thank you to the Road & Bridge team — we see you, and we appreciate the amazing work you do for our community!



Photo Credit: Randy Streeter.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

THE 2025 REAPPRAISAL: MODEST VALUATION INCREASES FOR MOST PROPERTIES

Montrose County Assessor

MONTROSE-Under Colorado law, county assessors' offices throughout the state conduct a complete revaluation of all properties in their county every two years. The Colorado Legislature sets the appraisal date, the market sales data collection period, and the annual calendar for the assessment process. The assessor's office is solely responsible for establishing valuations, not taxes. To accomplish this, the assessor uses actual market sales transactions to build a mass appraisal valuation model which is then used to set the values on all properties within the county.

The previous revaluation was completed in 2023 and was based on a June 30, 2022 level of value. These valuations were established using market sales data from January 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 and were used for tax years 2023 and 2024 (payable in 2024 and 2025 respectively). As a result of the assessment calendar, property tax assessment valuations will always lag behind current market conditions. The current revaluations are based on a June 30, 2024 level of value. The new values have been established using market sales data from January 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 and will be used for tax years 2025 and 2026 (payable in 2026 and 2027 respectively). Sales transactions occurring after June 30, 2024 cannot be considered until the 2027 revaluation.

Due to the recent revaluation, real property classes saw the following changes:

- Most residential improved properties, including single-family residences, condominiums, and townhomes typically increased by about 4% to 7%. This upward trend in the residential market occurred throughout most of the County, including the Nucla/Naturita/Bedrock/Paradox area which experienced a measurably higher increase of about 10% to 15% for residential properties.

- Vacant land experienced an overall valuation increase of about 15% to 20%. These moderate increases in vacant land valuations were primarily due to the strong demand for new single-family home sites.
- The rate of change for commercial properties varied significantly based on the

location, property type, and the age of the property. However, most commercial properties experienced valuation escalations between 10% and 15% over the two-year period.

Irrigated farmland had a very modest increase in valuation for the 2025 reappraisal at about 3%. In an attempt to offset the tremendous valuation increases across the entire state for tax years 2023 and 2024, the Colorado Legislature provided an actual value exemption of \$55,000 per residential property and \$30,000 per improved commercial property for tax year 2023 and 2024. Both of these actual value adjustments were eliminated for tax year 2025. The result will be increased taxable actual valuations regardless of any market valuation changes.

The following is a general review of the new procedures for calculating residential property taxes within the State of Colorado. Five factors determine the level of taxes on a property: the market valuation, the school and non-school assessment rates, and the school and non-school mill levies.

- Market Value x School Assessment Rate = School Assessed Value x School Mill levy = School Taxes

Market Value x Non-School Assessment Rate = Non-School Assessed Value x Non-School Mill levy = Non-School Taxes
School Taxes + Non-School Taxes = Total Residential Property Taxes

With the 2020 repeal of the Gallagher Amendment to the State Constitution, assessment rates are now dictated by the Colorado Legislature for all 64 Colorado Counties. For tax year 2025, the Colorado Legislature has mandated split assessment rates for school districts and all non-school taxing entities for residential property. Currently, the assessment rate for all school districts are projected to be 7.05%, while all other non-school taxing entities are projected to use a 6.25% assessment rate.

All non-residential properties including; commercial, industrial, vacant land, and agricultural property are assessed by both schools and non-school taxing entities at 27% of market value for tax year 2025. After market values are established and

legislative assessment rates are applied, the last component used to calculate taxes are the mill levies. School mill levies are established by the local school districts. The school mill levy is applied to the school assessed value to generate the taxes owed to the school district. All the non-school taxing entities (including the county, fire, water, recreation, library, sanitation, cemetery, etc....) establish their own mill levies. A summation of these individual levies is applied to the non-school assessed value to determine the taxes owed to the non-school taxing entities. The summation of the school taxes and non-school entities taxes result in the overall property taxes owed for a property.

Ultimately, the assessor's goal is to equalize property values and ensure that the tax burden is distributed fairly and equitably among property owners within the statutory and constitutional guidelines of the State of Colorado.

After receiving your new Notice of Valuation in early May 2025, please review your change in value.

If you would like to review your property characteristics or research property records, please go to our online public records search at: <https://eagleweb.montrosecounty.net/eagleassessor/web/>. If you would like to view sales used to establish the 2025 valuations, please go to <https://www.montrosecounty.net/assessor>. If you disagree with the new valuation or classification, there are detailed procedures on the back of the Notice explaining how to appeal your valuation. If you wish to discuss your Notice of Valuation in-person with an appraiser, you will need to schedule an appointment. If you would prefer not to meet with an appraiser, completed appeal forms can be delivered in person to our office, mailed, faxed, or emailed on or before the June 9th, 2025 deadline.

If you have any additional questions, please call the Montrose County Assessor's Office at (970) 249-3753 or email us at assessor@montrosecounty.net. We are temporarily located at 949 North 2nd Street, while the historic Montrose County Courthouse is being renovated.



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MURDER ON MAIN STREET

By Bob Cox

MONTROSE-The Montrose Livestock Realty Company operated from a small frame building at 409 Main Street in Montrose. Owners and operators of the enterprise were Daniel Kelley and his two sons, Daniel Jr. and James. Their office was relatively small, but they did big business. One example of the size of their various transactions captured the headlines in the *Montrose Daily Press* on October 26, 1920:

MANY SHEEP CHANGE HANDS IN MONTROSE

The Montrose Livestock Realty Co. has made several sales of lambs lately, embracing about 2500 head. Kelley Bros. sold their lambs to Jack Shinn of Shinn Park.

There are many references in various newspapers regarding the business dealings of the company. The Kelleys had gained a reputation of brokering land deals, livestock sales and mortgage contracts, often acting as both agents and lenders to the agricultural community. Indications are that, for the most part people were satisfied with the service provided, but there was a very big exception.

As the facts unfolded and were reported in several newspapers in the area, a bizarre series of events took place leading up to November 1, 1920. The whole thing appears to have started two years before when Jasper J. Baker, better known as J. J. Baker, entered into a business deal with the Kelleys, whereby they agreed to broker the sale of some of Baker's sheep, and Baker was to be paid in installments. Baker claimed that he did not receive the proper disbursement of the money and demanded that the Kelleys not only make good on the payments, but also that they give him a mortgage on another bunch of sheep that he bought from his brother. The Kelleys refused to comply with those demands and did so on many occasions.

According to very descriptive reports provided by Sheriff J. H. Gill, Baker had a brief encounter with the Kelleys on the morning of November first. He again demanded the money and the mortgage and Kelleys again refused. Baker, according to an account in the *Montrose Daily Press*, was seen about town several times during the



The Montrose Livestock Realty once occupied a small building where a bizarre murder occurred in 1920. The property is now a pocket park owned by the City of Montrose. Photo by Bob Cox.

morning and early afternoon. Sheriff Gill reported that Baker went to the Briggs-Kurtz hardware store, where he looked at some guns and bought a knife. The clerk at that store told the sheriff that Baker came back later and looked at some revolvers, all of which were good quality and cost more than Baker wanted to spend. The clerk referred Baker to a secondhand store across the street, where Baker purchased an Ivers-Johnson .38 caliber, five shot revolver.

According to several newspaper accounts and the report of Sheriff Gill, Baker also bought some ammunition and loaded the revolver in the presence of the clerk at the secondhand store. He then proceeded to the Montrose Livestock Realty Co. at 409 Main Street, walked into the office and once again made demands that were not met. He and the three Kelleys then went into the back office, where they argued further. He produced the revolver, shot and killed James Kelley and wounded both Daniel and Daniel Jr. Jasper Baker was arrested within minutes and taken to the Montrose County Jail. Not long after his arrest, according to Sheriff Gill's report, Baker told him that he had done the

shootings and that his intention was to kill all three of the Kelleys and then kill himself.

Rumors of a so-called 'committee' forming to take justice into their own hands began to circulate immediately, causing Sheriff Gill to secretly put Baker into a waiting car behind the jail. Three deputies, George Price, L.F. Dorsey and H.C. Getty left town quietly and drove Baker to Grand Junction. Later that evening members of the committee confronted Gill and told him not to try to remove Baker from Montrose. According to the lengthy story in the *Montrose Daily Press*, Gill told the committee that Baker was in the jail and would remain there for the time being. He did not disclose that Baker was already in the Mesa County Jail in Grand Junction. During that trip to Grand Junction, Baker sealed his fate by restating his intentions.

Daniel and Daniel Jr. both survived. The wound suffered by Daniel Sr. required some serious surgery that was performed three days after his son was buried. He was not told of his son's death until several days later. The funeral for James Kelley was held on Sunday, November 7, 1920. It was described as being one of the largest

Continued next pg

MURDER ON MAIN STREET From previous pg

funerals ever held in the Montrose area. Kelley is buried in the Cedar Creek Cemetery.

Baker was returned to Montrose and was being represented by at least three lawyers from Grand Junction and his demands had not subsided. Though he was being held on murder charges, on November 24, 1920, he filed a motion with the district court that asked that Judge Black issue an order demanding that the Kelleys place in the bank any money they had received from the sale of sheep since the confrontation, along with other mortgages and chattels be held until further ac-

tions were taken.

Several other court hearings were held, including one on a change of venue motion, before, finally, on March 2, 1921, a preliminary hearing was held on the murder charges. Sheriff Dorsey, who had been elected just one day after the killings, brought Baker back from Grand Junction for the hearing. The trial was not held until July 1, 1921. Baker was found guilty but the whole issue was not over yet. Repeatedly, the district court was in session to hear motions made by the Baker attorneys. Baker was sentenced to death, but was successful in getting a stay of the exe-

cution, but that did not stop things either. On December 13, 1921 the stay was extended pending the receipt of other information.

In June of 1922, the case was referred to the Supreme Court. Finally, on July 3, 1922, after the Supreme Court upheld the stay of execution, Baker, who was being held in the Delta County Jail, was sentenced to life imprisonment in the state penitentiary.




According to the penitentiary records, Baker died in prison on November 14, 1938. The cause of death is listed as heart failure.

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

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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!



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

FINAL PHASE OF US 50 BRIDGE REPAIR WORK SET TO BEGIN MAY 12

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE AND GUNNISON COUNTIES — The last piece of repair work on the US Highway 50 Middle Bridge and US 50 Lake Fork Bridge, is set to begin May 12, as crews conduct paint operations on the new steel.

Last year, the Colorado Department of Transportation closed the US 50 Middle Bridge, located at Blue Mesa Reservoir between Gunnison and Montrose, to protect public safety after several steel weld cracks were observed during a special inspection.

Work to install steel plates beneath both bridges continued through much of 2024 and now, after a winter project shutdown, crews are returning to apply a final coat of paint to the newly repaired steel.

Painting work on the US 50 Middle Bridge is scheduled to start Monday, May 12, and when that bridge is completed, crews will shift focus to the US 50 Lake Fork Bridge.

"After the burden of last year's emergency closure, we're pleased to announce that this final phase of work will have only a minimal impact on people traveling US 50 between Montrose and Gunnison," said CDOT Regional Transportation Director Jason Smith. "This last phase of work will bring to a close what was an amazing demonstration of successful coordination between numerous government and contracted agencies in order to tackle and accomplish this significant feat."

This painting work is scheduled to be



The last piece of repair work on the US Highway 50 Middle Bridge and US 50 Lake Fork Bridge, is set to begin May 12. CDOT courtesy photo.

completed by the end of July.

Travel Impacts

Nighttime work hours 7 p.m. to 7 a.m.,

Sunday through Friday

Travel over each bridge will be reduced to a single lane

Flaggers will direct single-lane travel over each bridge

The speed limit will be reduced to 35 mph through the work zone

The US 50 Middle Bridge that crosses the Blue Mesa Reservoir about 20 miles west

of Gunnison will get a final coat of paint this year.

This work will bring to an end the emergency repair project that began April 18, 2024, when the revelation of several steel weld cracks prompted CDOT to close the bridge. For additional information about this project, contact the project team.

Project hotline: 970-648-4423

Project webpage: codot.gov/projects/us50bluemesa

Project email: us50bridge@gmail.com



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MAY 2025

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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

COLORADO STATE PATROL PAYS TRIBUTE TO FALLEN TROOPERS MAY 11 – 17

Special to the Mirror

GOLDEN—Each May, the Colorado State Patrol commemorates the [30 Patrol members](#) lost in the line of duty by installing a moving memorial. Seven cruisers, whose drivers remain on patrol and attend special events and ceremonies, are wrapped in a vehicle wrap to highlight the daily sacrifices made by those in the policing profession.

The Patrol selects this time of year for National Police Week, which occurs every May. In 1962, President Kennedy proclaimed May 15 as National Peace Officers Memorial Day and the calendar week in which May 15 falls as National Police Week. Established by a joint resolution of Congress in 1962, National Police Week pays special recognition to those law enforcement officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty for the safety and protection of others.

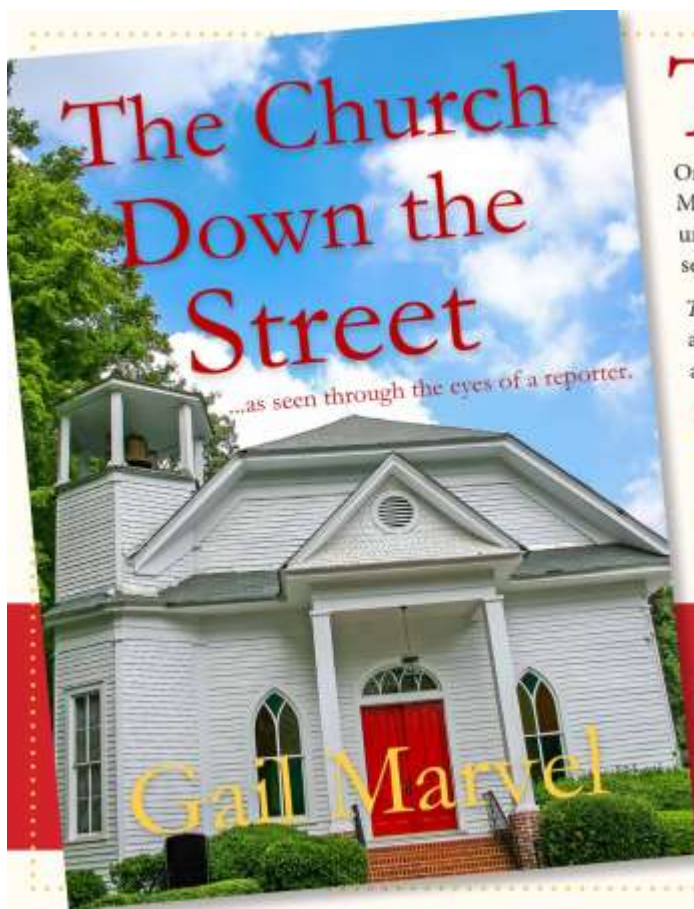
The month of May begins with the Colorado Law Enforcement Memorial (CLEM)

annual ceremony which the Colorado State Patrol hosts. The memorial in front of the Colorado State Patrol Training Academy is a permanent place for loved ones and policing professionals to gather. The names of three Colorado law enforcement officers who died in the line of duty in 2023 - 2024, along with the additional names of two historical Colorado line-of-duty deaths, will be formally added to the state's memorial. With the addition of these ten names, 362 officers' names are engraved on the Colorado Law Enforcement Memorial. The public is invited to attend the ceremony at 10 a.m. on Friday, May 2, at 15055 S. Golden Road, Golden, CO 80401. Later in May, law enforcement officers from around the country travel to Washington, D.C. for a week of events, including a Candlelight Vigil, a National Police K9 Memorial Service, and the honor of standing watch on memorial grounds. The Colorado State Patrol specialty wrap includes the name and date of each troop-



CSP courtesy photo.

er killed or who died in the line of duty. An image of a current Colorado State Patrol honor guard member saluting the fallen adorns the hood of the vehicle along with the Trooper's badge. Colorado State Patrol guard members provide dignified funeral honors for fallen officers and serve as ceremonial representatives for the department. They also attend community events, parades, graduations and award ceremonies to showcase the Patrol's values of Duty, Honor and Respect.



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](#) and [wingedpublications.com](#).

GAIL MARVEL
Montrose Author & Reporter




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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

WHEN DEMOCRATS ARE ELECTED, THEY IMMEDIATELY SET ASIDE THEIR MODERATE PERSONAS AND GO HOG WILD

Editor:

Years ago, the nation's socialist media was just biased, but over time they have become little more than pure propaganda outlets. I will only mention a couple of recent examples. Reuters just attempted to intentionally mislead the public into believing that President Trump's policies are leading to the layoff of 20,000 people at UPS. Anyone remotely familiar with that situation knows that is a total falsehood. The layoffs are occurring because Amazon greatly reduced (50%) its shipping volume with UPS – a situation that has been developing long before Trump's second term. Also, a new media campaign has begun, one designed to create the narrative that the media was duped into thinking Biden was lucid, but now that they found out, are doing a great job exposing the truth. Media is blatantly trying to re-write history to make the public think they weren't the key participant in the cover-up. (If the media is now suddenly interested in the truth, then why are they not exposing who was in charge when Biden couldn't competently carry out the duties of the office?)

I put the Montrose Press and the G.J. Sentinel in the same category – pure propaganda. A while back, I analyzed the political cartoons, guest columns, and editorials on their opinion pages. That analysis revealed an overwhelming bias in favor of anything on the left. Very seldom was anything remotely positive presented about Trump or conservatives. I discussed that analysis with the MDP publisher, the MDP owner at Wick Communications, and the GJS publisher. Although none of them challenged any of my numbers, no one admitted to any bias. Like most Montrose conservatives, I no longer subscribe to the MDP or bother sending them letters. I still send a monthly letter to the GJS to maybe irritate their liberal readership.

If you pay attention, you will notice that the propaganda media simultaneously

comes out with the same word or phrase to explain their latest narrative. This week the word is “CHAOS.” Here are just a few instances when “chaos” wasn't mentioned during Biden's presidency: An open border which flooded our cities with millions of unvetted illegals including terrorists and gangbangers. Record high inflation. Running up massive debt during a period of supposed good growth. The Afghanistan withdrawal. The Russia-Ukraine war. Having unelected bureaucrats run the government and auto-sign documents because Biden was in la-la land. Destroying domestic energy sources. Financing Iran as they developed their nuclear weapons program. Using the DOJ to go after parents who oppose pornography in their schools, Catholics, and peaceful pro-life supporters. Hamstringing Israel in their attempt to defend themselves against terrorists. Kamala attempting to answer the simplest of questions. Here is a short list of what “chaos” doesn't look like: Closing the borders and deporting violent criminal illegals. Bringing investments and manufacturing back. Getting control of a bloated and corrupt federal government and slowing the outright theft of taxpayer money. Getting the price of energy down. Having a president and VP who not only seek out the media, but are able to actually speak coherently. Military recruiting mysteriously, dramatically, increasing.

When Democrats are elected, they immediately set aside their moderate personas and go hog wild pushing their socialist agenda. They know that when they lose an election, much of what they put in place won't be completely rolled back by pushover RINO whimps. Over time, Democrats move the nation closer to their goal of one-party rule and their imagined “socialist utopia.” Now you know why the left hates Trump so much. Trump is changing all that. He knows drastic change is necessary and fully intends to succeed. Fortunately, the American electorate now

sees the media for what it is and pays little attention to their narratives. Voters are on to the media's time-tested tactic of repeating a lie until it is taken as the truth. The public is looking to new media sources for the truth, and Trump is also fully utilizing those new outlets.

In the past, the propaganda media was able to push blatant lies such as the “Russia collusion hoax” and “Biden is sharp as a tack,” but those days are long gone. The “Maryland Man hoax” was rightly ridiculed and fell flat. The attempt to cast Trump as the villain for announcing that the government would pursue students who have made no attempt to repay their student loans will also fail. It is unconscionable that millions of students who took out loans have not made payments since March 2020. Biden created that situation, in addition to buying votes by transferring \$400 billion of that debt to the rest of America struggling under their own financial hardships. Biden had only one answer to every problem: borrow and spend, and share the largesse with his supporters.

A more damaging and lasting legacy of Biden and the leftist education bureaucracy are those thousands of “students” who think it is OK to live the high life on the taxpayer dime for four to eight years with absolutely no intention of paying back their loans. That entitlement mentality is intentional, and exactly what Democrats need to maintain control. It is long past time for drastic change.

A chuckle: Trying hard to sound smart about illegal immigration and deportations, Dem House member Jasmine Crockett managed to ask the dumbest question imaginable: “This is insane. How would it feel if countries sent people to our country!?” This is the same face of the Democrat party that also just said Trump is trying to kill us by dropping aircraft from the sky. (I sure hope they let her keep talking.)

Ed Henrie, Montrose



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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

ARMY SOLDIER CHARGED WITH DISTRIBUTION OF COCAINE FOLLOWING DEA OPERATION AT ILLEGAL NIGHTCLUB

U.S. Attorney's Office, District of Colorado
DENVER – The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Colorado announces that Juan Gabriel Orona-Rodriguez, age 28, was charged by complaint with one count each of distribution and possession with intent to distribute cocaine and conspiracy to distribute cocaine.

According to the criminal complaint, Orona-Rodriguez, while serving as an active-duty U.S. Army soldier, unlawfully distributed controlled substances. During the week of April 21, 2025, Orona-Rodriguez sold cocaine to an undercover Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) agent. Additionally, when investigators obtained a search warrant for Orona-Rodriguez's phone, they found text messages between at least September 16, 2024, and April 9, 2025, which appear to

show him repeatedly purchasing cocaine and selling it to others.

Orona-Rodriguez appears to hold a leadership role in a business called Immortal Security LLC, which provides armed security at "nightclubs" – including an after-hours, unlawful nightclub called Warike – within Colorado Springs, Colorado. On numerous occasions, the Colorado Springs Police Department received 911 calls related to Warike citing a wide variety of alleged crimes, including weapons violations, assault, narcotics, and other violent crime.

Warike was the site of a federal search warrant that was executed and led by the DEA on April 27, 2025. Orona-Rodriguez was one of approximately 17 active-duty U.S. Army service members present at Warike during the execution of that search warrant.

The investigation is being conducted by the Denver Field Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and DEA's Colorado Springs Resident Office.

The prosecution is being handled by Assistant United States Attorney Michael Houlihan.

This case is part of Operation Take Back America, a nationwide initiative that marshals the full resources of the Department of Justice to repel the invasion of illegal immigration, achieve the total elimination of cartels and transnational criminal organizations (TCOs), and protect our communities from the perpetrators of violent crime.

The charges in the complaint are allegations and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

Case Number: 25-mj-00092-TPO

CHRIS SCHAEFER RETIRES AS CBI DIRECTOR

CBI News Release

LAKEWOOD-Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Director Chris Schaefer retires from the Colorado Bureau of Investigation today after a 30-year career in law enforcement.

Schaefer's entire career has been spent with the Colorado Department of Public Safety (CDPS), first joining the Colorado State Patrol in 1995, then to the CBI in 2004. Schaefer served in a number of leadership roles for the CBI during his 21 years at the bureau. Before he was selected as the 10th Director in CBI history in 2022, he served as the Deputy Director overseeing the CBI's Investigations section. Schaefer also served as Agent in Charge of the CBI's Support Services Section, coordinating the Biometrics Identification and Records Unit. He was first hired at CBI to be an Agent in the investigations section. He continues to serve as the President of the International Outlaw Motorcycles Gang Investigators Association.

"It was an absolute privilege to serve as the Director of an organization that was my home for most of my career," said Director Chris Schaefer. "It's bittersweet

to say goodbye to this chapter in my life, but I am so grateful for the relationships I made and I leave knowing the CBI will continue to do outstanding work helping provide for the safety of all Coloradans."

"I am honored to call Chris Schaefer not only a colleague, but also a friend," said Executive Director Stan Hilkey. "I have trusted his opinion as his integrity and commitment to doing the right thing are paramount to his career. Upon his retirement from law enforcement, we celebrate a remarkable career filled with outstanding accomplishments. Chris is a leader committed to enhancing the law enforcement profession, and he will be greatly missed."

Before he retired, Director Schaefer was able to keep a promise to the family of a young mom murdered in 2007. Jessica Bejarano was killed in front of her two small kids inside her Frederick home. Schaefer was the original case agent and vowed he would not retire until an arrest was made. That finally happened in March of 2025 when now Director Schaefer went along with the CBI Cold Case team to confront their suspect in Nebraska. One day after 72-year old Dar-

rell Burklund was booked with second degree murder, Schaefer was able to personally tell Bejarano's family he had been able to honor his long-time promise.

Building relationships was one of Schaefer's greatest strengths. His ability to work with members of the public safety community, especially in times of crisis, played a pivotal role in the success of the CBI. In addition, Schaefer was a proven leader committed to innovation, best practices in law enforcement and most important, providing Colorado law enforcement with the resources it needed. The CDPS launched a nationwide search to find the next leader of the CBI. In the meantime, Executive Director Hilkey has appointed Rebecca Spiess to serve as the CBI Interim Director during the transition. Spiess is the former CDPS Deputy Executive Director and a former Mesa County Undersheriff. The CBI was founded on July 1, 1967, to support and assist local, county and state criminal justice agencies. More than 300 CBI dedicated members strive to deliver excellence in criminal investigations, forensic/laboratory services, and comprehensive criminal justice data management for stakeholders.

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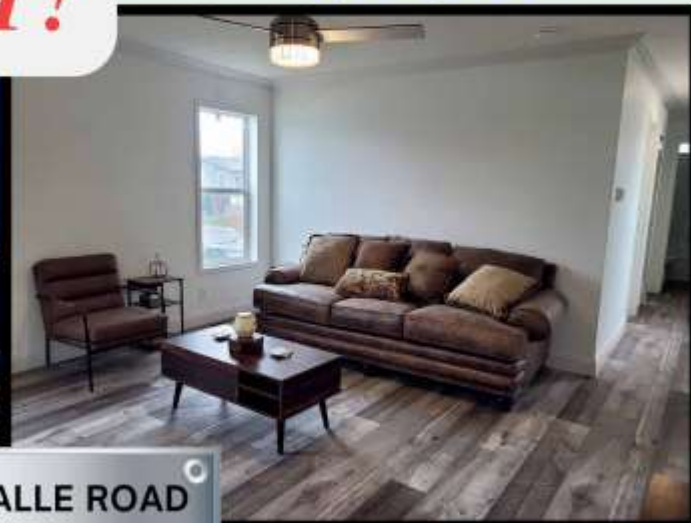
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE HIGH SCHOOL SPECIAL JUNIOR AWARDS

Award winners pictured at right: Teagan Kulbeth - Colorado School of Mines Engineering Award. Courtesy photo.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

HORIZONS CARE CENTER RECOGNIZED AMONG BEST NURSING HOMES BY U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT

Special to the Mirror

ECKERT — Horizons Care Center is proud to announce that its skilled nursing care center has been named one of the 2025 Best Nursing Homes by *U.S. News & World Report*. The community earned a high performing rating in short-term rehabilitation, a distinction that places Horizons Care Center in the top percentage of nursing facilities in Colorado and nationwide.

"This achievement reflects the dedication of our team to providing compassionate, high-quality care that helps individuals recover and regain their independence," said Ronda Jones, executive director at Horizons Care Center. "Our experienced team of licensed nurses, rehab experts and social service professionals are expertly trained in caring for older adults

and we are honored to stand among the top nursing rehabilitation centers in Colorado and the nation."

U.S. News awards the designation of Best Nursing Home only to those communities that satisfy their rigorous, data-driven standards. In 2025, ratings were determined by nurse staffing, patient outcomes and whether nursing home routines included steps known to be effective in avoiding harm and improving health.

To be recognized as one of the 2025 U.S. News Best Nursing Homes, a nursing home must have been "high performing" in short-term rehabilitation metrics. Out of the 14,832 nursing homes evaluated across the country, 2,836 (19%) met those criteria, of which 2,152 were high performing in short-term rehabilitation.

Horizons Care Center continues to be a

trusted resource for families in rural Western Colorado, not only through its compassionate care, but also through its collaborative approach.

"We really value the strong connections we've built with local hospitals and healthcare providers here in Delta County," Jones said. "Working closely together helps us make sure each resident gets the support they need for a smooth recovery and a confident step forward—whether that's heading home or moving on to the next level of care."

As part of the Volunteers of America National Services family of senior living communities, Horizons Care Center offers short-term rehabilitation both in-patient and out-patient and long-term skilled nursing care, all within a comfortable, welcoming environment.





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THE TALE OF THE TAPE: MHS SPORTS ROUNDUP



The Red Hawk girls on the attack. Photo by Cliff Dodge.

By Cliff Dodge

RED HAWKS GIRLS SOCCER:

MONTROSE RED HAWKS 7, G. J. CENTRAL WARRIORS 1

The Montrose girls soccer teams entered the final week of the spring season needing a couple of wins in their last two games to solidify their spot in the regional competition. Grand Junction Central and Crested Butte stood in their path but the Red Hawks cleared the debris and now await the regional playdowns and the state tournament.

The Red Hawks traveled to Grand Junction on Tuesday and demolished the Central Warriors 7-1. The Red Hawks left little doubt as they scored 6 goals in the first half of action to put this game on ice for the visitors. The Red Hawks added a 7th goal in the second half while their defense totally frustrated the Central offense.

Senior Ellie Duncan scored 4 goals for the Red Hawks while Senior Seri Wilson, Junior Mayce Oberg and Kynsleigh Maestas added single goals to the Red Hawks point total. Keeper Angelina Alcazar gave up one goal and made only two saves throughout the contest as the Red Hawks defense kept the Warriors in their own end for virtually all of the afternoon.

MONTROSE RED HAWKS 3, CRESTED BUTTE TITANS 1

The final regular season game of the year

saw the Red Hawks travel to Crested Butte and take a 3-1 victory on the Titans home pitch. The Red Hawks controlled the play in the first half of action and scored 2 goals prior to the halftime respite. The Red Hawks defense was stout and the Titans were unable to puncture the visitor's defense. The Red Hawks added a third goal in the second stanza while allowing the Titans to score their lone goal of the contest.

Scoring goals for the Red Hawks were Senior Ellie Duncan, Freshman Jordan Dew and Junior Riley Cohick. Junior Sadie Wareham added an assist. Goalkeeper Angelina Alcazar made 5 saves and gave up only a single goal to cement the victory.

The Red Hawks therefore ended their regular season with 8 wins, 5 losses and 2 ties. Their league record ended up with 4 wins, 4 losses and 2 ties. The waiting now begins to see where the Red Hawks will play in the regionals and against which team. The Red Hawks currently ran 22nd in the Max Preps bracket with the top 24 teams making the CHSAA playoffs.

Stay tuned.

MONTROSE RED HAWKS BASEBALL:

FRUITA-MONUMENT WILDCATS 13, RED HAWKS 3

The Montrose Red Hawks Baseball Team has fallen on difficult times this spring as the opposition outscored the Red Hawks

despite a valiant effort by the young Red Hawks to hold their season together. The Red Hawks seem to continually be out hit, out scored, and out pitched as this season comes to a close.

The Fruita-Monument Wildcats outscored the Red Hawks 13-3 and out hit the visitors pounding out 11 base knocks while giving up only 6 to the Red Hawks. The Red Hawks Ryan Pankey and Cohan Suter each had two hits. Jack Pankey and Joey Benitez each had a single base hit for the Red Hawks. Kaeden Clair and Brekin Hutto did the pitching for the Red Hawks.

DURANGO DEMONS 14, MONTROSE RED HAWKS 7

The Montrose Red Hawks hit the road on Friday and traveled to Durango for the first of two games last weekend. The Demons prevailed over the Red Hawks by the score of 14 to 7. The Red Hawks pushed across three runs in their first two at bats but the Demons hung a 3 spot in their half of the second inning and added 3 more in the bottom of the third. The middle innings were quiet until the Demons erupted for 7 runs in the bottom of the 6th inning frame putting the contest out of reach. The Red Hawks out hit the Demons 11-9.

DURANGO DEMONS 8, MONTROSE RED HAWKS 4

The second Demons-Red Hawks game of the weekend proved to be more of the

THE TALE OF THE TAPE: MHS SPORTS ROUNDUP From previous pg



A lacrosse huddle before taking the field. Photo by Cliff Dodge.



same as the homestanding Demons outscored the Red Hawks 8-4. The Demons pushed across 3 runs in the first three innings but the Red Hawks erupted for 4 runs in their half of the fourth inning to lead by a run. The game stayed tied at 4 through the top of the 7th inning when the Demons plated 4 runs in their half of the seventh inning to take the victory by an 8-4 tally.

Jayce England led all Red Hawk batters with 3 base hits including the Red Hawks only extra base knock, a ringing double. Joey Benitez, Isaiah Coley, Porter Smith, Ryan Balleck, Ryan Pankey and Cohan Sauter had the other base hits for the Red Hawks. Brekin Hutto was on the hill for the Red Hawks and threw the entire seven innings giving up 8 runs, 5 earned.

The Red Hawks season record fell to 4 wins and 17 losses. The league record fell to 0-8. One game remains in the regular season, a home game vs the Grand Junction Central Warriors next Friday. The first pitch is slated for 4PM

MONTROSE BOYS LACROSSE: MONTROSE RED HAWKS 16, EAGLE VALLEY DEVILS 5

The Lacrosse season for the Red Hawks is swiftly coming to the end and things have not gone as any of the coaches and players would have wished. Despite the lack

of success on the scoreboard the team has fought hard and has never given up.

The final couple of games is ample proof that there is no quit in this team. The Red Hawks man-handled the Eagle Valley devils by the score of 16 to 5 last Tuesday at the Columbine Middle School pitch. The Red Hawks left the starting game in a rush and never looked back as they scored 16 times while allowing only 5 goals against them. Junior Maverick Powers led all Red Hawks scorers with 5 goals and 3 assists. Senior Zach Motley chipped in with 3 goals and 3 assists. Senior Eli Sauers had a pair of goals and several teammates also added at least one goal for a total of 16 markers. The goaltending was shared by Patrick Alvarez (36 minutes) and Xavier Smith (12 minutes). Alvarez gave up 2 goals while stopping 5 shots. Smith was very busy in his 12 minutes as he allowed 3 goals and made 17 saves to help secure the win.

THE HOLY FAMILY TIGERS 13, MONTROSE RED HAWKS 8

The last regular season game of the boy's lacrosse schedule involved a road trip to the Front Range and a date with the highly ranked Holy Family Tigers. The Red Hawks played well against a highly ranked opponent and scored 8 times while being scored upon 13 times. The Red Hawks

ended their regular season with a record of 3 wins and 11 losses. Their league record was 1 win and 9 losses. With multiple players returning next season along with JV team members moving up to the varsity the future looks promising.

MONTROSE GIRLS LACROSSE: TELLURIDE MINERS 16, MONTROSE RED HAWKS 2

The outmanned Montrose Red Hawks girls lacrosse team fell victim to the Telluride Miners last Tuesday on the Miners home pitch by the score of 16 to 2. Senior Madison Coca and Junior Rachel Williams had goals for the Red Hawks. Junior Goal Keeper Abby Siegel had a very busy afternoon as she faced 34 shots on goal and managed 18 saves.

ASPEN SKIERS 22, MONTROSE RED HAWKS 3

The final regular season game was disappointing as the dominant Aspen Skiers ran roughshod over the overwhelmed Montrose Red Hawks by the score of 22 to 3. The Red Hawks Senior Maddison Coca scored two of the Red Hawks goals while Junior Kacy Stewart added the final Red Hawks tally. Junior Goalkeeper Abby Siegel faced 33 shots on goal and managed to save 11. The Red Hawk season record finished at 2 wins vs 12 losses. Their league record stood at 0-8.

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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

HISTORIC INSCRIPTIONS & THEIR ROLE IN ROCK ART: A CASE STUDY OF BUTCH CASSIDY & THE WILD BUNCH

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Montrose County Historical Society presents Dennis DeVore, discussing Historic Inscriptions & Their Role in Rock Art: A Case Study of Butch Cassidy & the Wild Bunch.

Inscriptions are often seen only as graffiti at rock art sites - and for good reason. The presentation will focus on the outlaw Butch Cassidy and his loose gang of

friends.

Dennis DeVore is a Colorado native who grew up on the eastern plains, but he and his wife Judi have lived in Grand Junction for the past 25 years. His first adventure in rock art was in 1982 while working in Craig, Colorado - a day trip that sparked a lifelong interest. He graduated from Colorado State University in 1976 with a BS in Economics, followed by a career in real

estate appraisal, retiring in 2004. He is a former board member of both URARA, and the Chipeta chapter of the Colorado Archaeological Society in Montrose.

The public is welcome to attend this free program.

Wednesday, May 7, 2025 Montrose County Events Center, 7:00 pm. Room 102 and 104 Light refreshments are provided.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DELTA BOCC HONORS NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH IN DELTA COUNTY

Special to the Mirror

DELTA—Last week, at the 4th Annual Fair to Build a Safer, Stronger Community for Our Children, the Delta County Commissioners proudly joined community members, service providers, county employees, and families in a powerful show of unity to read the official proclamation recognizing April as National Child Abuse Prevention Month in Delta County.

The proclamation emphasized the collective responsibility to create safe, nurturing environments where children can thrive. As part of this month-long national observance, Delta County joins communities across Colorado and the nation in planting pinwheels and wearing blue to raise awareness about the importance of preventing child abuse and neglect.

In a heartfelt message, the Commissioners highlighted the role of protective family factors—such as parental resilience, strong social connections, and community support—in preventing abuse and promoting healthy development in children. They called on residents to take action, stating:

"We all play a role in preventing child abuse and neglect... When we build up these connections, we promote the best development of children, strengthen families, and reduce the likelihood of child abuse and neglect."

The event also honored the tireless efforts of Delta County Human Services Child Welfare staff, whose work with families continues to help build a safer, stronger community.

Attendees had the opportunity to meet these dedicated professionals and learn more about community resources at various booths throughout the fair. They also enjoyed a free barbecue, snow cones, inflatable slides, games, free toys, and numerous giveaways. A big thank you goes out to our local stakeholders and community providers, whose contributions added valuable resources and enjoyment to the fair for all attendees.

In closing, the Commissioners urged everyone to be proactive, stating:

"Every child needs a hero — be one."

For more information on how to get involved or about local child abuse prevention efforts, please contact Delta County Human Services at 970-874-2030 or visit the [Child Welfare page](#) on the Delta County website.

LEGAL NOTICES: CHANGE OF NAME

☐ County Court ☐ District Court ☐ Denver Juvenile Court
Montrose County, Colorado
Court Address: 1200 N. Grand Ave., Box A, Montrose, CO 81401

In the Matter of the Petition of:
☒ Adult Cassandra Dara-Jean Sale
or
☐ Parent/Petitioner for Minor Child:
For a Change of Name to: Cassandra Dara-Jean McCauley
Divorce: E Courtroom: 1C

CASE NUMBER 25CA4

ORDER FOR PUBLICATION FOR CHANGE OF NAME

The Court, having read and considered the Petition for Change of Name of ☐ Minor Child or ☒ Adult finds:

- ☒ That the statements made in the Petition satisfy the statutory requirements.
- ☒ That the desired change of name is proper and not detrimental to the interests of any other person.
- ☒ That the Petitioner has submitted the documentation required in §15-15-101(1)(b), C.R.S. from the fingerprint, covered criminal history record check or has provided appropriate certified copies of any dispositions that would constitute a felony conviction in this state or any other state or under federal law.
- ☐ That the change of name is in the best interest of the minor child.
- ☐ Individuals over the age of fourteen (14), have submitted the documentation required in §15-15-101(1)(b), C.R.S. from the fingerprint-based criminal history record check or has provided appropriate certified copies of any dispositions that would constitute a felony if committed by an adult in this state or any other state or under federal law.

The Court orders the following publication for a change of name:

1. Name of Cassandra Dara-Jean Sale is requested to be changed to Cassandra Dara-Jean McCauley.
2. Pursuant to statute, public notice of this change of name shall be published three times in a legal newspaper published in this county. This publication is to be made within 21 days of the date of this Order.
3. Proper proof of publication shall be filed with the Court upon final publication to receive a Final Decree for a Change of Name.

Date: 4/15/25 KWR
Judge: GR/Agstiale

JCF 430 - 10/2015 - ORDER FOR PUBLICATION FOR CHANGE OF NAME
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☐ County Court ☐ District Court ☐ Denver Juvenile Court
Montrose County, Colorado
Court Address: 1200 N. Grand Ave., Box A, Montrose, CO 81401

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or
☐ Parent/Petitioner for Minor Child:
For a Change of Name to: Cassandra Dara-Jean McCauley
Divorce: E Courtroom: 1C

CASE NUMBER 25CA4

PUBLIC NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME

Public Notice is given on 4-15-25 (date) that a Petition for a Change of Name of a ☐ Minor Child or ☒ Adult has been filed with the Montrose County Court.

The Petition requests that the name of

Cassandra First Name Dara-Jean Middle Name Sale Last Name

be changed to

Cassandra First Name Dara-Jean Middle Name McCauley Last Name

[Signature]
Clerk of Court/Deputy Clerk

SEAL

NEWSPAPER: PLEASE PUBLISH THIS NOTICE THREE TIMES WITHIN TWENTY-ONE DAYS OF THE DATE OF THE ORDER.

JCF 427 - 10/11/17 - PUBLIC NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME

OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

MORE INSANITY FROM OUR STATE GOVERNMENT

With Adjournment Scheduled for May 7th, Final Action Awaits on Some Crazy Bills and Now Lawsuits are Flying Over Sanctuary City Policies

By David White

So, you're in the United States illegally and living in Colorado in particular and receiving all of the benefits afforded to a taxpaying American citizen in need of assistance (Medicaid or Medicare, Social Security benefits Food Stamps, etc.) only because you're "protected" under a municipal or state edict claiming that you have "sanctuary" status in spite of such edicts being a violation of Federal law and now the Feds want you gone. What is one to do?

Well, rather than high tail it back to where you came from, you plead with those advocating for allowing you to stay here to work with members of our State Legislature as well as our Governor and members of his cabinet to enact more laws that basically tell the Federal government to take a hike. And that's just what the Colorado legislature did in the 2019 & 2023 legislative cycles. Of course, what they've done is unconstitutional and has put millions of Federal dollars that come into Colorado into potential limbo. Their solution? Raise our taxes and fees to cover the shortfall. Thanks a lot!

In a broader crackdown on these "sanctuary" or "harboring" laws foisted on the rest of us living in Colorado by the Democrat lead State Legislature, the U.S. Department of Justice is suing the state of Colorado and the City of Denver for laws and statutes the federal government says are "sanctuary laws."

The federal government alleges in its lawsuit, filed in Colorado District Court on Friday, May 2, 2025, that the laws are designed to "interfere with and discriminate against the Federal Government's enforcement of federal immigration law." The lawsuit argues that federal immigration law preempts state law. Colorado has a law that prevents local law enforcement from enforcing federal immigration law, among other things, and it has been decried by many law enforcement advocates as well as Republican Congressman Gabe Evans, Congresswoman Lauren Boebert

and Congressman Jeff Crank.

The complaint also says that Colorado's laws "impede DHS's ability to readily obtain from local law enforcement the release date" of undocumented immigrants that DHS believes are removable from the U.S.

These are the bills that have given "sanctuary" status to the illegal population in Colorado:

House Bill 19-1124, "[Protect Colorado Residents From Federal Government Overreach](#)," according to the text, allows law enforcement to cooperate or assist federal immigration authorities in the execution of a federal warrant, but prohibits law enforcement from arresting or detaining individuals based solely on a civil immigration detainer.

O The measure also stops probation officers from giving someone's personal information to federal immigration authorities.

O The measure also ensures that individuals who are to be interviewed via telephone or video by a federal immigration authority are informed of their rights. House Bill 23-1100, "[Restrict Government Involvement in Immigration Detention](#)," prevents state or local government agency employees from entering into intergovernmental agreements allowing for law enforcement to rent bed space to ICE. The measure also terminated two such agreements in the state.

These laws have put a lot in jeopardy that we better figure out, as citizens of this state, if it's worth it all to harbor illegal aliens here at what is already an enormous cost to the taxpayers. For more information, see: [US Department of Justice sues Colorado, Denver for sanctuary laws | FOX31](#)

As if it wasn't bad enough that these laws have put Colorado at odds with the Federal government, along comes Senate Bill 25-276 which State Representative Elizabeth Velasco, from Glenwood Springs (Garfield County), one of the main sponsors of the bill, has been working on with her constit-

uents for more than two years to come up with legislation that addresses other issues to give more "teeth" to allowing illegal aliens to remain in Colorado. ([Protect Civil Rights Immigration Status | Colorado General Assembly](#))

Under current law, a person who does not have lawful immigration status, must submit an affidavit stating that they have either applied for lawful presence or will apply for lawful presence as soon as they are eligible when the person is applying for in-state student tuition classification; or an identification document pursuant to the "Colorado Road and Community Safety Act".

The bill repeals these affidavit requirements. It also creates minimum requirements for a public childcare center, public school, local education provider, public institution of higher education, or public health-care facility (hospitals, clinics, etc.), or publicly supported library concerning access to its facilities or property and creates a civil penalty for a violation of "certain requirements" according to the bill which passed the Colorado House of Representatives on a party line vote 42-21 this past weekend. It had already passed in the Colorado Senate and is now headed to the Governor for his signature.

Under current law, a jail custodian is generally required to release a defendant within 6 hours after the defendant has been granted a personal recognizance bond or is prepared to post bond. ***The bill prohibits the jail custodian from delaying a defendant's release for the purpose of an immigration enforcement operation.*** Someone held on a criminal charge can be bailed out and allowed to leave even though they're potentially violent or involved in gang activities the likes we've seen surrounding the criminal MS13 and Tren de Aragua gangs.

The bill prohibits a military force from another state from entering the state without the governor's permission, unless the military force from another state is

Continued next pg

MORE INSANITY FROM OUR STATE GOVERNMENT From previous pg

is acting on federal orders and acting as a part of the United States armed forces. The four primary sponsors of this bill and all who vote for it should be hauled upon on charges of treason. This is our Colorado Democratic Party at work folks. Anything and everything they can do to rip our laws apart seems to be what they're all about.

Former State Senator Kevin Lundberg offers some insight into other whacked out bills that have passed and are now law or in the works as the 2025 Legislative Session winds down ([LUNDBERG REPORT](#)). Some of these include:

[HB25-1244 Welcome, Reception, & Integration Grant Program](#) This is a sanctuary state program that already exists, but it is expanding it to anyone who has arrived in the last three years, rather than the last year, as it is now structured. It sounds like they know few illegal aliens are coming here now, so they want to create incentives for those already here to stay here. It also sounds like an open invitation to picking a fight with President Trump's number one effort. **Passed Senate on a Party Line Vote**

[SB25-130 Providing Emergency Medical Services](#) Here is a very deceptive bill. The title sounds ok, but the purpose is to essentially eliminate pro-life doctors and nurses from emergency rooms, while ostensibly sounding like it is protecting them. The bill says "sincerely held religious beliefs" are to be honored for health-care providers in emergency rooms (read, they don't have to participate in abortions). However, the facility will also have to have health-care providers available who are not pro-life. This means that if you have a problem with abortion, you will probably not be hired to work in an emergency room. I call this deceptive because you have to dig deep into the bill to figure out that it is, in fact, requiring that abortion services be provided in all hospitals and that is the real point to this bill. **Passed House on a Party Line Vote**
[SB25-205 Firearm Serial Number Check Request Procedure](#) At first blush this looks fairly benign as it says a firearms

dealer "may" request a serial number check on a gun suspected as being stolen. However, the only way a dealer can be sure is to get a check on every gun they deal with. Because one never knows... it will result in every gun being checked, with the resulting fees (and possible records?). This is one more tax on firearms and another way the government will be looking over your shoulder if you buy a gun. **Passed House**

[SB25-259 Eliminate Destroyed Property Tax Reimbursement Program](#) This is another bad result of the budget cuts. The bill eliminates the commonsense policy that if your house is destroyed your property taxes go away. Now the local governments will go back to charging full taxes for destroyed homes. **Signed by Governor**
[SB25-284 Youth Service Organization Engagement on School Campuses](#) This bill will force all school districts and charters to create a policy for outside organizations that includes accepting trans ideology. It will put a stop to most Christian organizations being able to participate and require all public schools to accept trans grooming organizations. **Passed the Senate on a Party Line Vote**

[HB25-1180 Prohibiting Pet Animal Sales in Public Spaces](#) This bill is probably trying to address a problem with "gray market" selling of pets but look under the covers and it also makes it a crime to tack up a poster in public advertising you have some kittens to give away! Really, do we not have enough laws already on the books that make a criminal of us all at one time or another? **Passed House and Senate**

Of course, there were some good bills introduced this session, but most were killed by the Democrat majority. Here's a sample of some of those:

[SB25-135 Colorado Government Efficiency Authority](#) Colorado's own D.O.G.E. commission! **Killed in committee on a Party Line Vote**

[SB25-156 Reducing Costs of State Regulation](#) Sets up a system to identify the costs of regulations and eliminates many budget busting regulations. **Killed in com-**

mittee on a Party Line Vote

[SB25-138 Permanent Reductions to State Income Tax](#) Any tax reductions are good ideas just about always. **Killed in committee on a Party Line Vote**

[SB25-057 Noncitizen Voter Registration Cancellation](#) This would be a good step forward in cleaning up our voter registration rolls. It directs several departments in the state government to forward on to the Secretary of State all evidence they collect of individuals who are not US citizens to cross check with current voter registration rolls. **Killed in first committee on a Party Line Vote**

[SB25-029 Ranch Property Tax Clarifications](#) This allows for smaller and specialized farming operations to be recognized as legitimate agricultural property. **Killed in first committee**

[HB25-1231 Protect Minors from Sexual or Pornographic Content](#) This bill would help cure the out-of-control school library policies that routinely buy pornographic books. **Killed in committee**

And so it went. As Colorado becomes more and more out of touch with the rest of the country and gives California, Oregon and Washington a run for the title of being the most liberal of all the 50 states, we will witness the catastrophic rise in the cost of living in a state burdened under a regulatory and politically ideological liberal philosophical bent that believes that government is the solution to all of our ills. Nothing could be further from the truth. You get the government you vote for, or, if you don't vote, the government you abdicate your vote for. That's the sad reality. And we see it every day.

Mr. White is an active citizen & community leader as well as a business owner, entrepreneur, former Colorado Springs City Councilor and Montrose City Councilor as well as Montrose Mayor. He was a two-term Montrose County Commissioner and has served on many boards and commissions during his career. He & his wife are the parents of six children and have 10 grandchildren & one great grandchild.



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COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

SHIELA LYNN UNREIN *June 23, 1952- April 26, 2025*

SHIELA LYNN UNREIN, beloved Wife, Mother, Grandmother and Friend to so many. Nicknamed "Shiela Shine" she was a force to be reckoned with. She was a one-of-a-kind human who gave the greatest love, compassion and generosity to all, regardless of their relationship to her. She will be most remembered for her kindness, infectious laugh and smile.

Shiela lived through her faith in God. Her family was her pride and joy. She never knew a stranger and welcomed everyone with open arms. Her legendary status in the Montrose community will forever be remembered.

She was born as a twin in Fort Worth, Texas in 1952 to Stella Jennings. Shiela was the sixth of eight children. Survived by her twin sister, Sharon Hutchings (Kevin), and older sister Oveida Burton.

Shiela was blessed enough to meet the love of her life, David Unrein, at the young age of 15, two and a half years later they

married. This year they would have celebrated 55 strong years together.

A mother with the purest love for her four children, Trena Unrein, Christie Unrein, Brian Unrein and Lacey (Whit) Hard. With the pride and joy of being the most caring grandmother to her six grandchildren, Ashley (Ben) Aliva, Katie (Dylan) Calkins, Taylor Foster, Bo Foster, Sterling Hard and Van Hard. Additionally, five great grandbabies Ella Avila, Asher Calkins, Chance Avila, Raelynn Avila, and Noah Calkins.

Shiela was preceded in death by Fanny Jennings, Stella Perham, Harry Perham, Candy Moore, Rena Ivie, Jimmy (Dubby) Jennings, Belinda Garcia, and Jerry Jacque who will never forget the love she brought to their lives.

In lieu of flowers and donations, the Unrein family asks that you take extra time to love, cherish and spend time with your loved ones and most importantly find



strength in your faith.

So, when tomorrow starts without me,
Don't think we're far apart, for every time
you think of me
I'm right here in your heart

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

ISSUE 520 May 5, 2025

ART & SOL

THE BAREFOOT LAUREATE: WENDY VIDELOCK



By Wendy Vidlock
Courtesy photo.

By Wendy Vidlock
PALISADE-Wild
Dark: Finding the
Night Sky in the
Age of Light

I remember vividly as a kid the first time I looked up at the night sky. My big brother had taken me out into the backyard and

simply instructed me to look up. The stars, dazzling, twinkling and filling my entire field of vision, (and my imagination) produced in me ten thousand goosebumps.

I was gobsmacked, bewitched and bedazzled.

Because of this I was thrilled when Torrey House Press asked me to review Craig Childs' newest book, *Wild Dark: Finding the Night Sky in the Age of Light*.

Childs, an NYT bestselling science and adventure writer, just happens to be a resident of Wright's Mesa here in Western Colorado. His newest book takes us on a journey into the diminishing darkness of our night skies.

I should start by saying this is not your mother's book about Dark Sky Initiatives, filled with directives for creating dark sky communities, though there is a necessary bit of that. Rather this is a book that provides the kind of inspiration needed for such actions, a book which explores our primal relationship to the cosmos, with our long history of gazing skyward in the

dark and finding there: mystery, wonder, meaning, and direction— not to mention unspeakable beauty.

Eighty percent of people on Earth can't see the Milky Way.

And because none of this even matters without the blood of connectivity coursing through our veins, this is also a story about friendship, journey, astroarchaeology, (yes, it's a thing) life and lifeforms.

With his signature gusto and an endless need for discovery, Childs turns scientific inquiry, world history and a poetic sensibility into a dazzlingly tragic image of ourselves— a people so in love with light we are killing the dark.

The opening paragraph reminds us that a little bit of disorientation is part of any meaningful journey: "The moon," Childs tells us, "has loosened from its socket and fallen to the ground." It dawns on the reader that we are quite literally starting on the 27th floor in a hotel room on the Vegas strip, where Childs has begun his foray into the dark—and where, at 4 am, sitting up in bed "a bucket of megawatts" washes his face from the light-addled city outside.

It should be said this is a book for readers who like to be surprised and delighted as much as elucidated.

Below, the world's largest globe-shaped building sits, "like a great hologram of the moon." The building, known as "Sphere," normally projects endlessly garish advertisements but at 4 am, Childs tell us, as it rotates on its axis from crescent to full and back again, this "visual blastoma" is a

remarkably accurate depiction of the moon.

Lest we become all too disgusted by ourselves and our light pollutive ways, Childs reminds us that humans, like most beings, exhibit *positive phototaxis*, the natural movement of an organism toward light. *Turn on a light and a fly will enter the room.*

"Everything from lizards to insects to plants to manta rays to plankton to humans are drawn to the light," he reminds us. "Birds wheel toward any city, spinning over spotlights and streetlamps as if the maps in their almond-sized brains can't stop saying, turn left, turn left, turn left."

This kind of imagistic writing that has me returning to Craig Childs' books again and again. These are campfire stories—infused with flesh and blood language sparking against the night.

The world is weird. Humans are weird. Life is a mystery, so let's revel in it, he seems to be saying. We can't know everything but let's experience what we can. I find this impulse in science writing (and storytelling), wildly refreshing.

The air smells like water—not like it did back at Pahranaagat, with its cottonwoods and greasewood, but like pure water, atmospheric moisture. Tonight, it will rain.

Although this is a book about the night sky, *Wild Dark* never lets us forget we are earthlings— and in particular, mammals, constantly processing physical sensation. Especially acute is Childs' olfactory perceptions. One day the air "smells like cold herbarium," another like "a freshly minted

Continued next pg

THE BAREFOOT LAUREATE: WENDY VIDELOCK From previous pg

coin." Old cow dung smells like "burning grass," fallen leaves like "rotting citrus." The firewood as it burns smells "sour," while lake smoke smells like "smoldering mushrooms." A hot can of beer, on opening, smells like "the underside of a hay pile."

Language-loving poets, wilderness adventurers, anthropologists, astronomers, geologists, ecologists, and nature lovers of all kinds are drawn to Craig Childs' books like...well, moths. We know we won't just get cold science, but a particular kind of living, breathing science. We won't just be given story but compelling story—complete with perspective, humor, wisdom, physical sensation.

Readers are once again given the kind of genre-bending book that doesn't follow the rules, goes off trail, zooms in on the microscopic, pans out to the universal, tumbles down science-y rabbit holes—and yet is entirely cohesive.

Light is hungry and has to be told to stop. Reflecting on the big fake moon on the Las Vegas strip he tells us, "If you'd presented this projection sphere to early Homo sapiens we would have gathered below it hooting and hollering, throwing rocks and sticks."

This kind of perspective on our lust for light helps soften the blow when later in the book we're given the details of just how disastrous our love of light (or fear of the dark) has been on the inhabitants of

earth, including ourselves.

There's a word for feeling the loss of the night sky: noctalgia. It means night-grief. You would feel noctalgic if you'd seen what was here before, if you got out from under artificial skyglow and realized how much beauty is struck from the record.

With a life-long interest in astronomy under his belt, and equipped with a handheld device (SQM) which measures ambient light from the night sky, Childs travels from the shallows of Las Vegas to the depths of Great Basin National Park, known for its dark skies. The idea is to go from a Bortle 9 to a Bortle 1, (a "fourteen-carat night") reading on the scale. Accordingly, the book is divided into chapters beginning with Bortle 9 and ending with a Bortle 1.

To travel this distance by car would take a mere few hours, which would defeat the purpose of measuring gradual darkness, so Childs and his traveling companion ride bicycles from the Strip to their off-road destination, a journey of about eight days. This is what Childs calls "ground-truthing" or "squaring numbers from the SQM against what satellite maps are saying." He tells us the two don't match up—"in fact, they actively diverge."

I throw back a wet tent flap and slouch into dawn.

As Emily Dickinson tells us, a book is a frigate. In this case the book is a bicycle and the journey is not necessarily line-

ar. It will take us from a modern Las Vegas back in time to the Nuwu or Southern Paiute people, the Uto-Aztecan people to the Desert Archaic Cultures to the people of the Pleistocene to a contemporary homeless guy on an old wrecked highway to the dried out shell of a desert tortoise—all of whom have lived under the same night skies.

....you look up and there it is, a birthright.

It's a journey well worth taking and one brimming with hope. One of the researchers Childs interviews tells him, "Unlike so many environmental dilemmas we face... the problem of artificial light is a relatively simple fix. It is a pollution that vanishes with the flip of a switch."

Flipping the switch on the human leaning toward *astrophobia* is altogether a different thing.

Towards the end of the book, Childs tells of his own Norwood community, where a small band of locals led the way into Dark Skies. It's heartening to hear that folks of all persuasions and political realities agreed wholeheartedly on Dark Sky Initiatives there. At the heart of this rich but surprisingly little book is a way forward, a reminder of our shared humanity, the pleasure of the well-turned phrase—and a mirror as big as the moon.

Wendy Vidlock of Palisade, Colorado is an award winning poet and visual artist. She serves as poet laureate of Western Colorado. For more visit: [Wendy Vidlock](https://www.wendyvidlock.com)



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HISTORIC MONTROSE: LOCAL FAMILY SHARES MEMORIES



Anita Jiron sent these Lucero Family photos. Above, seated in front of the WCTU Fountain at the historic Montrose County Courthouse.



Above, Anita's mom Genevieve Lucero in front of the Montrose Courthouse Fountain on the east side of Courthouse, 1930s.



Left to right, Unknown, Anita's aunt Rose Lucero (waving), her mom, Genevieve Lucero (standing), Unknown boys.

CARTOON BY TIM JONES

WEEKLY CARTOON

SOUR GRAPES

by Tim Jones



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970-417-4340

Trattoria de Sofia
970-249-0433

Rib City
970-249-7427



Stone House
970-240-8899

Sidelines Sports Bar
970-765-0129

Amelias Hacienda Restaurante
970-249-1881

Delta: Pour Ernie's
970-546-0074



Alpen Confections
970-648-0609

Crash Burger
970-249-0825

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

Tacos & Beer
970-964-4448

Tacos & Beer on Main
970-964-4999

Pahgre's
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Horsefly Brewing
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Jimmer's BBQ,
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970-252-1227

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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



COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

STREET CORNER SYMPHONY TO PERFORM AT EGYPTIAN THEATER

Special to the Mirror

DELTA-The Delta Montrose Community Concert Association presents the a cappella music of Street Corner Symphony on **Friday, May 16, 2025 at 7 PM at the Egyptian Theater, 452 Main Street in Delta, CO.** Doors open at 6 PM.

Street Corner Symphony is a Nashville-based male a cappella ensemble that was a runner-up on NBC's Sing Off in 2010. Street Corner Symphony moves seamlessly between most styles of music, feeling at home in all of them. Not many concerts can be equally enjoyed by both young and old, but the vast repertoire covering a wide range from gospel to rock and pop brings generations together for this vibrant performance.

Since their success on The Sing-Off, Street Corner Symphony has made their mark on the music world, recording albums, providing clinics for schools, giving benefits for cancer, performing across the country and around the world, and even working with major artists including Ben Folds, Alison Krauss, and Take 6's Claude McKnight.

Please note that this is a change of venue. Drinks will also be available for purchase. Also, if you purchase a 2025-2026 season ticket for next year tonight, this concert is free of charge.

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

2024 CANTOR PRIZE WINNER BENNY MANIBOG AND ECO-POET ELLERY AKERS FEATURED MAY 6

Special to the Mirror

TELLURIDE-The Telluride Institute's Talking Gourds poetry program hosts Denver-based Cantor-winner Benny Manibog and environmental poet Ellery Akers from Northern California for our monthly first Tuesday Bardic Trails Zoom reading on May 6 at 7 p.m. MST.

"Great to have our Cantor Prize winner reading this year," said Art Goodtimes, Talking Gourds director.

"And it turns out Ellery and I share a lot of similar experiences, including our poetry years at San Francisco State in the Seventies."

Benny Manibog (he/him) is an urban planner and writer based in Denver, Colorado. He is the winner of the 2024 Cantor Poetry Prize selected by Juan Morales.

You can find him online on his Substack, The Welcome Bug, at bmanbug.substack.com.

An award-winning poet and visual artist, Ellery Akers writes and teaches private poetry classes on the northern coast of California. She is the author of four poetry books, most recently, A Door into the Wild: Poetry and Art, which won the 2024 Blue Light Book Award and a 2024 North American Book Award. Her previous collection, Swerve: Environmentalism, Femi-

nism, and Resistance, won BookAuthority's Award for Best Environmentalism Books of All Time.

Information on Akers' writing is on her websites, elleryakers.com and elleryaker-sartist.com.

For those who like prompts, this month's will be "Swerving."

Virtual attendees are encouraged to bring a story or poem to share each month after the featured reader, their own work or someone else's.

The Telluride Institute's Talking Gourds Poetry Program hosts the free Bardic Trails virtual zoom series on the first Tuesday of each month. The Wilkinson Public Library continues as our collaboration partner and fiscal agent, with town support from Commission for Community Assistance, Arts & Special Events.

No longer needing to register with the library, participants are encouraged to visit <https://www.tellurideinstitute.org/western-slope-calendar> to get the zoom link each month, if they aren't already on our mailing list. Thanks to the Cantor Family, the Guttman Family Foundation, CCAASE and our Fischer and Cantor contest participants for supporting our program and projects.

Bardic Trails is a project of the Telluride

Institute's Talking Gourds Poetry Program in collaboration with the Wilkinson Public Library. For more information, visit the Telluride Institute website.

Other Talking Gourds projects include the Stories & Poems Norwood live reading series in collaboration with the Lone Cone Library on the third Wednesday of every month, the Stories & Poems Naturita in collaboration with the Naturita Community Library on the third Sunday of every month, the national Fischer Poetry Prize contest and the state/national Cantor Poetry Prize contest [which opened in April], the Western Slope Poet Laureate award in collaboration with Grand Junction's Center of the Arts (given every two years), the San Miguel County Poet Laureate collaboration (given every two years), the annual Karen Chamberlain lifetime achievement award given in collaboration with the Mountain Words Festival of Crested Butte, and the MycoLicious MycoLuscious MycoLogical Poetry Show in conjunction with the annual Telluride Mushroom Festival.



Benny Manibog.
Courtesy photo.

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CONGRATULATIONS TO THE SJCHE CLASS OF 2025



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Peyton Bryce Copeland



Kaleb Samuel Ferguson



Sarah Anne Greenfield



Nathaniel Brian Gregg



Lilly Dawn Gray



Braden Josiah Krabill



Elisabeth Michelle Lee



Olivia Faith Renfrow



Levi Bransen Schulz



Rebecca Lynn Taylor

**San Juan Christian Home Educators
(SJCHE) recognize the Class of 2025**

Continued next pg

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE SJCHE CLASS OF 2025



Meagan Walker



Mykal Woodden

2025 GRADUATES-
Henry Matthew Clagett
Peyton Bryce Copeland
Kaleb Samuel Ferguson
Lilly Dawn Gray
Sarah Anne Greenfield
Nathaniel Brian Gregg
Braden Josiah Krabill
Elisabeth Michelle Lee
Olivia Faith Renfrow
Levi Bransen Schulz
Rebecca Lynn Taylor
Meagan Walker
Mykal Woodden

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

ORIGIN STORIES: THE ROOTS OF OUR ART

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The Montrose Center for Arts (MCA) is expanding on an earlier announced theme (Main Street Meets Tortilla Flats) for the main gallery May exhibit. The new theme is "Origin Stories: The Roots of Our Art."

Show organizer and artist Susan Jesuroga says, "As artists, we are all influenced by our own life experiences, but also by the lives of those who came before us. Although the countries, cultures and native languages might differ, today we can see the common threads of hope, opportunity, joy, heartache and hardship woven through our family stories."

To kick off the event, the public is invited to meet the artists on May 8 from 4 – 8 p.m. during the newly established 2nd

Thursday Montrose Art Crawl event. Grab

food and drink while you enjoy talks from the artists. Come explore the celebration of bold colors, diverse cultures and artistic styles expressed through the art of this curated show. Read about our artists' ancestors and imagine how their stories live on in art today.

"We encourage visitors to take a moment to add their own origin story to our community collage. Pick up a marker to write or doodle your story ... or bring copies of mementos of your family and ancestors to add to our canvas and help represent the richness of our collective Montrose roots," says Jesuroga.

Origin Stories runs through the end of May and can also be viewed during business hours, Tuesday through Saturday, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

About Montrose Center for Arts

MCA is a non-profit organization totally served by volunteers. It depends upon support from membership, contributions, sponsorships, grant funding and the local community. To support the MCA and local artists on the Western Slope, become an MCA member. Membership advantages include invitations to member-only special events, regular events and classes; unique show opportunities; notifications through the newsletter on all upcoming activities; and the ability to provide feedback on the direction of arts on the Western Slope. Stop by the MCA and sign up in person.

(970) 787-9428

205 E Main St
 Montrose, CO 81401

info@mc4arts.com

montrosecenterforarts.com

Hours: Tues-Sat 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

MAGIC CIRCLE PLAYERS GO INTO THE WOODS MAY 9—JUNE 1

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE—*Once upon a time...* A magical fairy tale world comes to life at Magic Circle Players this month. Ready to be whisked away to a land of witches, castles, princes, and magic beans?

"Into the Woods" is a musical with stunning music and clever lyrics by Stephen Sondheim and a book by James Lapine. It intertwines the plots of several classic fairy tales, exploring the consequences of the characters' wishes and quests. The Narrator (John Lange) introduces the story and tells all the tales. The central narrative follows a Baker (Jonathan Heath) and his Wife (Molly Neuman) who wish to have a child but are cursed by a Witch (Spencer Crosby). To break the spell, they must journey into the woods and retrieve magical items tied to other fairy tale characters. They meet Cinderella (Rachel Blankmeyer), Jack (Cole Patterson), Little Red Riding Hood (Hannah Wieder), and Rapunzel (Sarah Crawford).

The cast also includes Keele Carver as Milky White, the cow, Riley Wolf Little (yes, that is his real name!) as the Big Bad Wolf, Joni Summers as Jack's Mother, and the two handsome princes played by Kenny Easton and Dalyn Pearson. Cinderella's Stepmother (Michelle Terry) and her step-sisters, Florinda (Eliana Masters) and Lucinda (Michaela Bishop) are properly obsessed with appearances. And Cinderella's preoccupied Father, played by Steve

Warner, is the epitome of cluelessness.

The first act ends with all characters seemingly getting what they want—happy endings abound. However, the second act delves into the fallout of those wishes, revealing the darker, more complicated realities that follow. Giants descend, relationships fray, and characters face grief, loss, and moral ambiguity. We are introduced to the secret identity of The Mysterious Man played by George Crosby and find out that the curses and the fall out may just have been his fault after all. Through it all, the musical examines themes like responsibility, parenthood, desire, and the complexity of human nature.

"What I love most about this musical," actor Jonathan Heath explained, "is that it takes familiar but two-dimensional fairy tale characters and makes them complex, three-dimensional human beings. Cinderella isn't just good, sweet, and kind, she's passive aggressive back at her stepsisters that treat her like a servant. And Little Red Riding Hood develops 'street smarts' after her encounter with the Wolf. All the characters have these interesting layers and depth, and their stories are told through clever, memorable songs and hilarious, fast-paced scenes."

"Into the Woods" is known for its witty, emotionally rich lyrics and sophisticated music. It balances humor and heartache, fantasy and realism, ultimately delivering



Two handsome princes played by Kenny Easton and Dalyn Pearson. Courtesy photo.

the message that "no one is alone," and that actions have lasting consequences—even in fairy tales.

Get your tickets for this Tony Award winning classic musical at magiccircleplayers.com or by calling the box office at 970-249-7828. Showtimes are Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. starting May 9, including three Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. on May 10, May 25, and June 1. This is a must-see event with a stellar cast of Magic Circle Players! Co-Directed by Allyson Crosby and Kenny Easton.



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MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY

ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

Office Hours: By appointment.

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

 don@allsaintsmontrose.org)

Worship Service Times: Sundays 9AM,

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

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

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

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

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Olathe, Co 81425

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

Pastor Gabe Skillo

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Sunday 6 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Study/Prayer 7 p.m.

CELEBRATION CHURCH

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

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

Office Hours: By appointment

Phone: (970) 497-4925

Email: celebrationmontrose@gmail.com

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

Worship Service Times: 9am and 10:45am

Senior Pastor:

Pastor Brandon Mathis

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

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

Demographics: Multi-generational

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

Student (middle & high school) at 9am.

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

CHRIST'S CHURCH OF THE VALLEY

Name of Church: Christ's Church of the
 Valley

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

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

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

Contact information:

Phone: 970-249-0530

Email: CCVMontroseCO10@gmail.com

Website: ccvmontrose.org

Name of current Senior Pastor: Ken Law-
 rence

Worship service times: 10:30 a.m.

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

in our Lord Jesus Christ to the glory of
 God.

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

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

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Denomination: Christ Lutheran Montrose

Affiliation: Lutheran Church Missouri Syn-
 od

Address: 1980 N. Townsend Ave., Mont-
 rose, CO 81401

Contact: 970-633-0226

Website: www.montroselutheran.org

Email: montroselutheran@gmail.com

Pastor: Tim Onnen

Worship: Sundays at 9 AM

Sunday School and Adult Bible Class at
 10:15 AM; Women's Bible Study Fridays at
 9 AM. At Christ Lutheran Montrose you will

find friendly people gathered in a welcom-
 ing environment being comforted and en-
 couraged by the forgiveness and love of
 Jesus, and sharing that with one another.

We are a small congregation of seniors
 and middle-aged, sprinkled with young
 children and teenagers.

COMMUNITY SPIRIT CHURCH

United Church of Christ (UCC)

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

Office hours: Call or text for appointment

Phone: 970-765-7070

Email: spirit@communityspiritucc.org

Website: communityspiritucc.org

Current Pastor: Rev. Wendy Kidd

Worship service: Sundays at 11am

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

where everyone can live freely and au-
 thentically.

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

COVENANT HEBRAIC FELLOWSHIP

Denomination affiliation. No affiliation

Address Office hours N/A

Contact: 720-951-9941,
office@ccfmontrose.net,
www.ccfmontrose.net

Name of current Senior Pastor. Led by
 elders

Worship service times. Noon on Satur-
 days. Children's Church will be offered as
 needed.

Covenant is a Hebraic roots community

that studies the Torah as well as the rest of
 Scripture. We learn about the Hebrew
 roots of the language and believe that the
 Lord's feasts are for today. We are pre-
 dominantly made up of older folks, but
 have some young blood, too.

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY From previous pg

FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

Denomination: Church of the Nazarene

Address: 705 South 12th Street

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9 am-Noon and by Appointment

Contact Information: Office Phone 970 249-9213, mncfirst@gmail.com, www.montrosenazarenechurch.org

Pastor: Buddy Cook

Services Sunday: Worship 10 AM, Adult Bible Study 11:30 AM Worship includes age-appropriate children's ministry during adult worship.

Wednesday: Prayer Boot Camp - 7 PM

Mission Statement: *Montrose First Church of the Nazarene exists to make Christlike*

disciples in Montrose Colorado and around the world.

Demographics: Our church consists of older and younger people. We have younger families with children and young teens and older adults as well. We also support the work of Calvary Ranch Colorado and its addiction recovery ministry.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MONTROSE

Affiliation: Presbyterian

Address: 1840 E Niagara Rd. Montrose CO. 81401 **Office Hours:** M-Thu 9AM - 12PM

Contact: 970-249-4732, info@fpcmontrose.com, www.fpcmontrose.com

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jesse G. Mabanglo

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

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

HILLCREST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Denomination affiliation: United Church of Christ

Address: 611 South Hillcrest Drive, Montrose, CO 81401

Office hours: By appointment

Contact information:

Phone number: (970) 249-9047

Email address: office@montroseucc.org

Website: montroseucc.org

Current Pastor: Rev. Wendy Kidd

Worship service times: Sunday, 10 a.m.

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

on life's journey.

Church demographics: HCUCC welcomes all ages to worship with us. (predominately family, youth, seniors, singles)

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

MONTROSE MISSION OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH

Affiliation: Orthodox

Meets: 2057 S. Townsend, Montrose, CO

81401 and Cimarron Creek Clubhouse.

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

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

MONTROSE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Denomination Affiliation: United Methodist

Address: 19 S. Park Avenue Montrose CO. 81401

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

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

montroseumc.org

Current Senior Pastor: Rev. Kevin Young

Worship service times:

8:30 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual

9:45 a.m. Christian Education & Fellowship

11 a.m. Sanctuary

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

Christ. Our church family welcomes people from various cultural and faith backgrounds: single, married, remarried, with or without children, from diapers to 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](mailto:summitchurchmontrose@gmail.com)
 website:

www.summitchurchmontrose.org
 Senior Pastor: Interim Pastor
 Worship service times: Sunday Worship is at 9 a.m. followed by a time of fellowship and snacks. Beginning Feb. 23 we will have a family Bible study, "Lord, Teach Me to Pray," following fellowship from 10:45-11:30 a.m.

All family members are welcome. During the Sunday sermon we offer teaching for children ages birth to kindergarten, in a kid-friendly room called Base Camp. We have communion on the first Sunday of each month and meet following services for a potluck brunch. Please visit <https://www.summitchurchmontrose.org/events>

VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH OF MONTROSE

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

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

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

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

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

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



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The Satisfied Woman

WHAT IS BEAUTY? WHY YOUR BRAIN IS DRAWN TO IT AND HOW IT HEALS BODY, MIND AND SOUL

Why is it that a sunset can bring us peace? That a painting or sculpture can move us to tears? That magnificent architecture can leave us awestruck? Why does music soothe the soul, evoke sorrow, or make us dance with joy? What is it about beauty?



By Gia Pirelli.
Courtesy photo.

I'm not talking about shallow trends and toxic Hollywood influences. I'm talking about real, timeless beauty—something universal, something that resonates deep within us. It's a beauty that human beings everywhere recognize and appreciate, one that quite literally influences our brains and our very being.

Beauty is notoriously difficult to define, and yet it is broadly understood. Scientists, philosophers, artists, and musicians have all tried to capture its essence, but it remains elusive, seductive, and mysterious. It simply is.

Science tells us that when we encounter beauty, the brain's reward center lights up—specifically the orbitofrontal cortex (OFC), the medial OFC and the ventral striatum. Our brains register beauty in milliseconds, long before we're even consciously aware of it. The OFC, sometimes called the "beauty center" is wired to recognize beauty. But why?

Studies using brain scans show that experiencing art and beauty activate these neural regions while simultaneously calming the nervous system. The body relaxes; the mind is soothed. Beauty, it seems, doesn't just delight us -- it heals us.

Some theories link our sense of beauty to mathematical patterns like the Fibonacci sequence, also known as the golden ratio and divine proportion. Whatever you choose to call it, the pattern repeats itself endlessly in nature, from seashells and

flowers to human anatomy and the structure of galaxies. It's everywhere—and it's no coincidence that we find it in some of the greatest works of art, especially those of the Renaissance. Take Leonardo Da Vinci's famous Vitruvian Man, named after the Roman architect Vitruvius, whose treatise "De Architectura" inspired the drawing. Da Vinci believed the human body was a microcosm of the universe, its proportions reflecting cosmic harmony through the golden ratio. Is that harmony what appeals to us? A subconscious sense of connection to something greater than ourselves? The golden ratio also appears in the music of Mozart, Beethoven, and Bach -- whether intentionally or intuitively remains a mystery. Even distant stars flicker in patterns that mirror the same ratio.

As humans, we're drawn to symmetry, patterns, and order—sometimes consciously, often subconsciously. That's not to say there isn't beauty in chaos; but even chaos follows patterns, as chaos theory suggests. Perhaps it's this hidden structure, this glimpse of the divine—or simply a comfort to our restless minds—that speaks to us so profoundly.

But beauty isn't always found in patterns and order. We can be deeply moved by works of art that stir something within us—not because they're symmetrical or mathematically perfect, but because they touch upon our beliefs, values, or shared human struggles. La Pietà, by Michelangelo, which is housed in Saint Peter's Basilica in Vatican City, represents the "sixth sorrow" of the Virgin Mary. It is one of the most powerful depictions of grief, loss, and compassion I've ever seen. You don't have to be Catholic to feel the emotion rolling off this sculpture. A piece of stone can somehow capture the devastation of a mother holding the lifeless body of her son; but it's also a powerful representation of mercy, forgiveness, and compassion, greater than most human beings are even capable of. All of that, brought forth by human hands from a chunk of marble.

A vivid sunset might captivate us not for its geometric harmony, or pleasing color combination, but the way it reflects the vastness of the universe, reminding us of our smallness, our mortality, and the fragile, fleeting gift of life itself. Beauty in this way, also speaks to meaning, emotion, and connection.

And it's not just humans. Animals too, seem to have an innate appreciation for aesthetics. Some monkeys prefer symmetrical faces. Birds perform elaborate songs and dances to attract mates. The peacock's stunning tail—impractical and cumbersome for flight, and serving no purpose beyond impressing the female—shows that beauty, in some sense, is worth a little inconvenience or even discomfort.

Even beyond aesthetics, animals can respond to art and music. While their appreciation might not mirror ours exactly, it's unfair to assume their experience is less meaningful simply because we define the terms. Some dogs have favorite colors, shapes, images, and even music. I've seen a dog on Instagram that can actually paint landscapes. My own dog, Tank, loves watching Blue Planet, and falls asleep within minutes to soothing music. Some elephants can play piano. We know animals process pleasure, reward, and social value -- so it's not such a stretch to believe they, too, can be moved by beauty.

We seek beauty everywhere. We crave it. Whether it's in nature and the stars, in art and poetry, or even the things we wear and eat; beauty is something we treasure, intentionally pursue, and long to surround ourselves with.

In fact, beauty is not just a luxury -- it's essential to our well-being. In a world filled with stress, noise, distraction, and uncertainty, deliberately seeking out beauty can be an act of healing both individually and collectively. By connecting with and sharing beauty, we nourish the mind, body, and soul, and create space for hope, peace, and restoration in our lives and in our communities.

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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

May 6-Citizen's Climate Lobby monthly mtg Tuesday May 6th at 5 at Hispanics Affairs 504 N 1st Street Montrose Nonpartisan, environmental, All Welcome, 970-765-9095.

May 7-The Montrose County Historical Society presents Dennis DeVore, discussing Historic Inscriptions & Their Role in Rock Art: A Case Study of Butch Cassidy & the Wild Bunch. The public is welcome to attend this free program on Wednesday, May 7, 2025 at the Montrose County Events Center, 7 pm. Room 102 and 104 Light refreshments are provided.

May 8-CMU Montrose Campus Lecture Series presents: *Strengthening Our Community's Capacity to Solve Regional Water Resource Challenges* with CMU's Hutchins Water Center's Director Freddy Witarsa, Thursday, May 8, 2025 from 6-7:30 p.m. Cascade Hall, Montrose Campus Cascade Ave. & S. 3rd St. Free and open to the public.

May 10-It's the National Science Foundation's 75th Anniversary! Join us for a STEM Day Celebration at the Montrose Regional Library on May 10, 2025 from 11:30am to 1pm with fun, interactive activities for all ages about water in the Four Corners Region! Activities to make, activities to take!! Free to the public. All ages invited.

May 13--On Tuesday, May 13. SW CO Trafficking Task Force Meeting. Cedar Creek Church, 222 S. Townsend, 6-8 p.m. Come find out about the various kinds of trafficking that are going on in our own area, what to look for, and how you can help keep our community safe. The Beyond Trafficking team from Texas will be presenting.

May 18-Montrose High School Class of 2025 Graduation Ceremony will be Sunday, May 18, 2025 @ 3:30, Montrose Football Stadium.

May 18-Olathe High School Class of 2025 Graduation Ceremony will be Sunday, May 18 at 12:30 at Wilson Field.

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

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