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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE COUNTY CORONER'S OFFICE INFORMATION RELEASE

*Rick Fellabaum, Chief Medical Investigator
Montrose County Coroner's Office*

MONTROSE-On Friday, Aug. 13, in the early evening a 62-year-old female was involved in a motor vehicle accident in the 12000 block of 6450 Road. She was transported to Montrose Memorial Hospital and shortly after succumbed to her injuries. She was later identified as Graciela Vargas of Montrose, Colo. The case is currently under investigation by the Colorado State Patrol and the Montrose County Coroner's Office of Medical Investigation. The cause and manner of death are pending the results of an autopsy.



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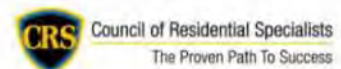
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IN THE AREA: 8.23.21-REGIONAL ROUNDUP

Durango

The Durango City Council voted 4-1 in favor to move forward with helping the city purchase the Best Western Inn and Suites to convert to affordable housing.

Glenwood Springs

Hanging Lake trail is closed indefinitely due to a mudslide that destroyed the hiking trail to it.

Grand Junction

On Thursday the Horizon Sunrise Rotary Club will launch The Grand Valley Ale Trail which is a \$20 app that unlocks buy one, get one free deals on beer and whiskey at 13 area businesses. The app also allows the user to select one of four charities to receive their portion of the proceeds. The coupons are valid for 12 months from the date of activation. For more information, visit donortrail.com/gvat





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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DELTA SHERIFF'S OFFICE DEPUTIES PRESENTED WITH SHERIFF'S COMMENDATION



Special to the Mirror

DELTA-Delta County Sheriff Mark Taylor and Undersheriff Quinn Archibeque presented patrol Deputies Eric Romisch and Devan Ruble each with Sheriff's Commendations at the Aug. 17, 2021 Delta County Board of County Commissioners Meeting. Deputies Romisch and Ruble were recognized for showing self-control, situational awareness and courage in the way they responded to and handled a call of a suicidal man having a mental health crisis in July 2021. Congratulations Deputies and thank you! Photo courtesy of DCSO.

SEE SOMETHING - SAY SOMETHING



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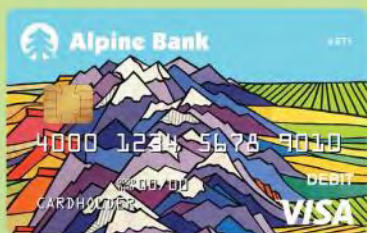


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REP. MARC CATLIN, TRI COUNTY WATER MANAGER MIKE BERRY JOIN MONTROSE CITY COUNCIL FOR WATER RESOURCES OUTLOOK *from previous pg*

SPECIAL EVENTS ALCOHOL PERMIT FOR DINNER ON MAIN STREET

City Clerk Lisa DelPiccolo presented a request for a Special Events Alcohol Permit for a Dinner on Main Street. The request will be placed on the Consent Agenda for the regular meeting of Sept. 7.

Background-A memo from DelPiccolo to Council states, "Black Canyon Boys and Girls Club has applied for a Special Events Permit to sell and serve alcohol during the Dinner on Main Street event on Saturday, Sept. 25, 2021. As part of this event, Main

Street will be closed from Townsend to Cascade Avenue. According to the Municipal Code and Regulations Manual, City Council approval is required for Special Events Permits in conjunction with a street closure.

GENERAL COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Mayor Pro Tem Dave Frank said, "...One of the hallmarks really of a good, efficient, well-run, system is not just the fact that it runs well, but cheerful comradery between the employees...I just wanted to say on the public record that I really like

the fact that we can laugh and joke and have fun at work sessions and not just be working. Thank you."

"I see no reason for us to give up our smiles and our humor when we step up on the dais," Reed said.

Glaspell said that Council's tent at the Montrose Farmers Market was "fairly successful."

"We had right around 20 individuals who came and spoke with us. Some were more humorous than others, but I think overall it was a good meeting," Glaspell said.



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COUNCIL MISSED POINT OF OP/ED-AND THEY ARE GOVERNMENT, NOT FAMILY ***From previous pg***

times. You must let people go, employees understand their jobs are almost never forever jobs, you need to set performance standards and hold people to them, you need to be goal driven, and you need to inspire employees not be their buddy. Let's be honest, these are not things that 'families' do, heck most families are at least a bit dysfunctional.

An expert on branding and business issues, Denise Lee Yohn has said, "Today's business environment requires agility, flexibility, and creativity. You don't want family ties that bind. You need to unleash the potential of people's performance." This is true in government as well.

All that being said, I want to make it very clear, I do not dislike the City Council or city employees.

There are a lot of good, hard-working people employed by the city that do fan-

tastic work every day. If you follow what I write you know I just did a piece on the coming improvements to some of the mobile home parks in the city. I got to sit down with the Assistant City Manager Ann Morgenthaler and talk to her about it, and I am thrilled with the work she has done to bring these improvements to town. We talked beyond the mobile home parks, about improving the city and the public view of city government, and she truly cares and wants to make things better.

I have talked a lot to the City Engineer Scott Murphy on different projects the city has going on, explaining the how and why to me to help let the people know.

City Clerk Lisa DelPiccolo has always been helpful in guiding me to documents or the right people to ask.

These and others are exceptional humans and city employees.

That there are maybe a handful of people

in local government that do not like me, honestly doesn't bother me.

I understand people in 'power' want only positive coverage, but sometimes their words and actions must be put out there for a public that is too busy putting food on their tables to sit around through endless meetings to know what is going on.

If Councilors do not like that, well perhaps they should consider not doing or saying things that they don't want reported.

So now you have my response to their letter.

When I saw it, I was honestly embarrassed for them, that they would spend the time (and thus money) to put out something so off base, and so fraught with the straw man fallacy.

But feel free to read my op-ed in last week's edition, their response, and now mine, and make up your own mind, we are still allowed to do that, for now.



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Montrose Center for the Arts



OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

THANKS TO BIDEN, THE TALIBAN NOW HAS OUR WEAPONS AND CAN SHARE WITH THEIR RUSSIAN AND CHINESE FRIENDS

Letter to the Editor:

We have now seen the effects of a mentally challenged man whose only purpose was to do the opposite of anything than his predecessor did. Joe Biden is the worst President we have had and has proven so in less than seven months. He is way worse than Obama or Carter have ever been, unless Obama is still calling the shots. He has made decisions contrary to his military leaders and thousands of Americans and others from around the world are at the will of the Taliban who have rarely restrained themselves from violence.

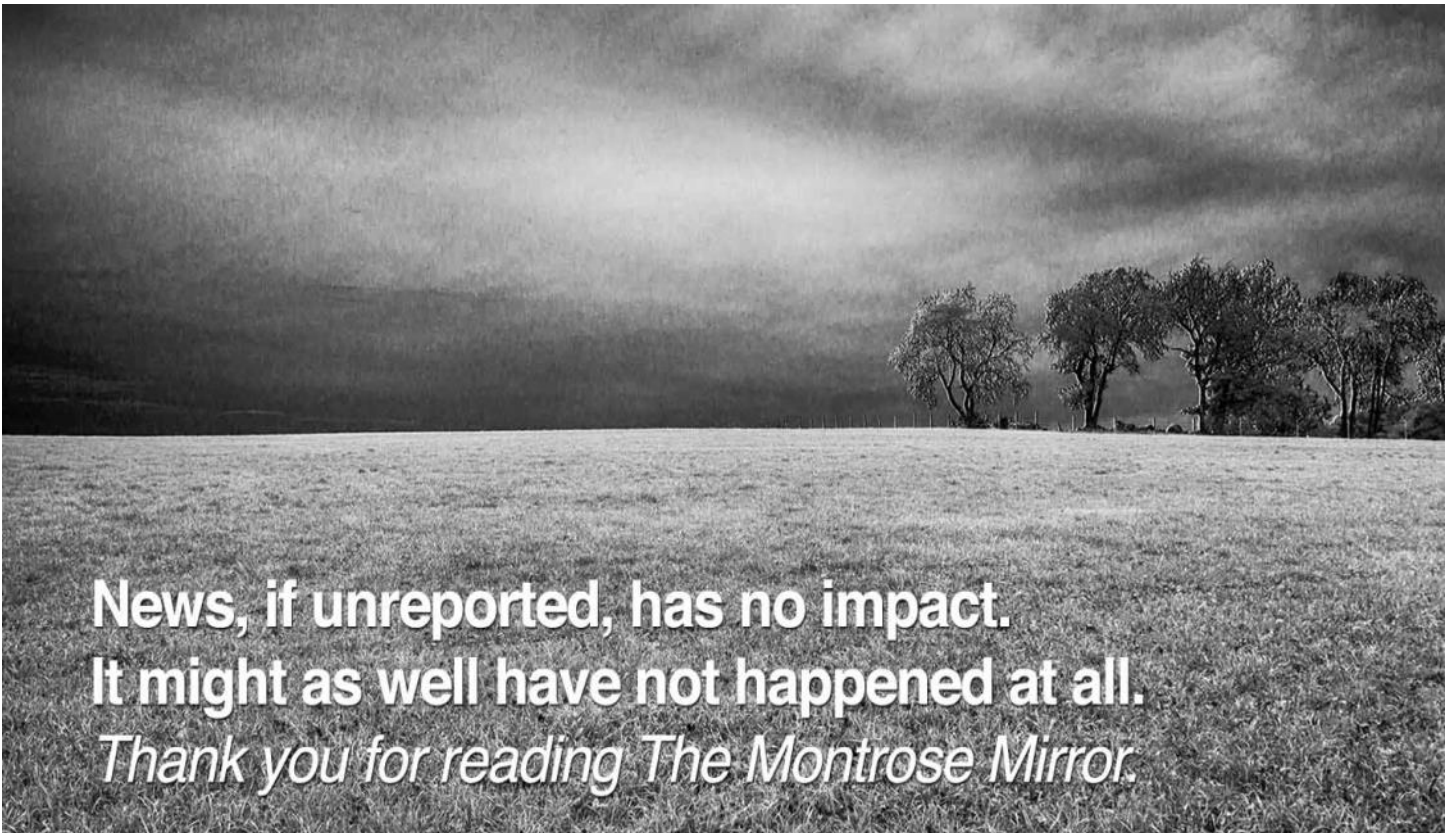
The Taliban now has our weapons and can share with their Russian and Chinese friends. This is a disaster that may last for eternity. Biden left from his vacation only long enough to make a speech, take no questions and return to his vacation at Camp David. He blames many but says the buck stops with him. What a phony. When he finally returns to Washington, DC he has a speech about Covid with not a word about the disaster he has created in Afghanistan.

This was to be expected when when Bob Gates (who was in the Obama Administration with Joe Biden) said that Biden has been on the wrong side nearly every foreign policy issue for 40 years. He was against taking out Osama bin Laden, but claims it as one of his triumphs. The US had a small force left in Afghanistan and no deaths in a year and a half. Is Biden going to pull troops out of Korea, Japan and Germany next?

It's not bad enough that inflation and the national debt are out of control, with the Progressive wish list only starting. That Biden who has fought American oil and gas is asking OPEC to produce more. That he stopped the Keystone pipeline that would safely bring oil from Canada but pulled sanctions on the Russian Nord Stream 2 pipeline to Germany and Europe. The southern border is being overrun with unknown people crossing the border with a near 20% Covid infection rate and over 200,000 illegals a month. Not a thing is being done to the mobs of millions that ransacked and burned our cities in the 2020 riots.

The only thing scarier is that the line of progression to the Presidency includes worse people than Biden. God help us all. What is one positive action in his seven months in office?

Ed Moreland, Montrose



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

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS from previous pg

THOSE WHO CHERISH OUR HOMELAND MUST TAKE A VERY, VERY FIRM STAND NOW

announced the first Muslim American nominated to be the US ambassador-at-large for International Religious Freedom. How will that work out for Christians?

Those who cherish our homeland must take a very, very firm stand now. Afghanistan must be the final and unshakable line in the sand. Take your final stand at every ballot box opportunity until all socialist Democrats are out of power and we have rid our land of their evil intent.

This is the time to remember 2nd Timothy 1:7, "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and love and a sound mind." America and the world could certainly benefit right now from the power and love of a sound mind!

Jerry Bartholome, Montrose

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COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

RUTHELLEN GORDON

Feb. 14, 1925-July 30, 2021



Heaven has welcomed a special angel. Ruthellen Gordon passed away peacefully in her home, July 30th, 2021, surrounded by her loving family and her caregiver Liz.

Ruthellen was born to Frank & Della Green Feb. 14th, 1925, in Greeley, CO. When she was four years old, she and her mother moved to Montrose where her mother met Roy Bever who became her beloved stepfather. In 1942 she graduated from Montrose High School where she had many friends and activities, in-

cluding being one of the first MHS Cheerleaders. After graduation she attended Secretary School in Craig, CO, then moved to Denver to pursue her career as an Executive Secretary. While in Denver, she met the love of her life, Donald Gordon. They were married August 3rd, 1948. Soon after, they moved to Don's hometown of Columbia Falls, MT where their first daughter Nancy was born. They returned to Montrose in 1950 to plant their roots and their second daughter, Jeanne, blessed their happy home. Besides enjoying being a wife and mother, Ruthellen continued her professional career working first at the Montrose County Abstract, then as a loan officer at Pioneer/Columbia Savings & Loan where she spent the rest of her career. She paved the way for many other professional women. As her and Don began to think of their retirement years, they built a family cabin in Big Cimmarron. They enjoyed many years making memories with family and friends at the cabin. While in retirement, Ruthie stepped into a new role of being a grandma. Her grandchildren were her pride and joy and watching them grow up and spend time with them kept her young at heart. Ruthie was a very vibrant and happy lady who was full of passion and laughter. She al-

ways had a tune in her heart and a pep in her step.

Ruthellen was preceded in death by her parents, her stepfather, her loving husband of 63 years, her daughter Nancy, and her great granddaughter Lily Day. She is survived by daughter Jeanne (Jim) Bridges, Montrose CO., son-in-law Rich Jakino, Montrose, CO., Grandchildren Jeff (Liz) Cooper, Colorado Springs, CO., Candi (Tony) Amaya, Montrose, CO., Laurie (James) Scott, Bellevue, WA., Jackie (Dusty) Day, Montrose, CO., Tony Jakino, Montrose, CO., Angie O'Neill, Montrose, CO., Great Grandchildren Ashley Cooper, Kahmal (Ashlee) Amaya, Jamie Cooper, Tyra Amaya, Chuy Amaya, Jared Scott, Dietrich Kurtzhals, MaKenna Maestas, Madelyn Day, Dexter Day, Jack Scott, Brookie Maestas, Katie Jakino, Delilah Day, Kara Jakino and Great-Great Granddaughter Kwinn Amaya. Her family is grateful she was able to pass away in her home of 60 years, as that was her wish. Memorial Service will be held at The Crippin Funeral Home Chapel, August 28th, 2021, at 11 am.

The family requests those who wish to express sympathy to consider making a donation to Hope West Hospice, 725 S. 8th St., Montrose, Co in Ruthellen Gordon's name.

Now more than ever...

Thank you for reading

THE MONTROSE MIRROR

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

GARY C. WENANDE

February 24, 1939- August 5, 2021

Gary was born on February 24, 1939, in Mitchell, South Dakota to John P. and Ann Wenande. He graduated from the University of South Dakota and proudly served in the United States Army and the Minnesota National Guard. He had a successful career as a CPA in public and private accounting in the Minneapolis, Minnesota area. He retired after twenty years with Klein Bancorporation, Inc. in Chaska, Minnesota.

Gary is survived by his loving wife of sixty years, Virginia Wenande, his four children Bradley Scott Wenande (wife Laurie) of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Jeff Wenande (wife Angie) of Bloomington, Minnesota, Jennifer Everett of Kansas City, Missouri, and Angie Weber (husband Eric) of Ridgway, Colorado, and his brother John Wenande of Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

He will be greatly missed by his eight grandchildren Kelsie, Katie, Brandon, Benjamin, Brianna, Brook, Ian and Reese.

Besides spending time with his family and friends, Gary enjoyed fishing, hunting, skiing, golfing, and boating. He enjoyed the warm sunshine of their home in Arizona during the winter months. Gary C. Wenande died peacefully on August 5, 2021, at Colorow Hospice Nursing Facility in Olathe, Colorado. He was surrounded by his wife and children. Gary was 82 years old.

Gary touched so many lives with his infectious smile and loved telling "Ole and Lena" jokes. Funeral Mass was at St. Daniels Catholic Church in Ouray, Colorado with a Christian burial at Cedar Hills Cemetery Ridgway, Colorado. Funeral arrangements made by Crippin Funeral Home. The Family would like to thank the staff at Colorow Hospice Facility for their wonderful care and compassion.



HEATHER CHRISTINE WASHINGTON

June 18, 1967- August 17, 2021

HEATHER CHRISTINE WASHINGTON of Montrose passed away on Tuesday, August 17, 2021 at the Hope West Hospice facility in Grand Junction.

Friends and family visited often and she had her loving husband by her side. Heather died peacefully surrounded by the thoughts and prayers of so many that loved her.

She was born in Denver on June 18, 1967 to David and Carole Grove of Granby. Her childhood was spent with her family and she graduated from Middle Park High School with Panther pride.

In 1995, Heather married Paul Washington and in 1997 had a son, Zackery Paul. They lived in Tacoma Washington for many years amongst family and friends and then moved to Montrose in 1998.

Heather enjoyed crocheting and learning new patterns. She was always creating beautiful blankets, rugs, pillows, decorations and kitchen scrubbers for anyone and everyone. One year she crocheted little tea cups as Christmas presents. Hallmark movies and cooking shows held a special place for Heather especially if family and friends would watch with her. She was a very generous and forgiving soul. Heather never held a grudge.

She is preceded in death by her mother, Carole and two brothers, Daniel Milton and David Forrest. She is survived by her husband, Paul; son, Zackery Paul; father, David Grove; two sisters, Shani (Joe) and Kari as well as three nieces (Grace, Lucy and Savannah) and two nephews (Cashten and Daniel).

Heather will be missed by so many that loved her.

Crippin Funeral Home is assisting Heathers family. A memorial service is being planned.

ISSUE 330 Aug. 23

ART & SOL

ALPEN CONFECTIONS – ARTISANAL CHOCOLATE IN MONTROSE



Alpen Confections now has Dino packs for kids. Photo by Paul Arbogast.

By Paul Arbogast, Mirror Publisher

MONTROSE-If you are a fan of artisanal chocolate, you are in luck. I visited Alpen Confections (8 S. Grand Ave.) and spoke to owners Mike Shafer and Lin McKay. Alpen opened its doors in Montrose just prior to Valentine's Day this year.

Originally starting in North Carolina, life events lead to Shafer and McKay landing in Montrose and after a bit of time, getting back to the work they love. Both Mike and Lin are trained confectioners



All confections are hand made with all natural ingredients. Photo by Paul Arbogast.

(traditional French) and pastry chefs, having attended Callebaut Chocolate Academy in both Montreal and Chicago.

While chocolate is not a local crop, these culinary artisans try to incorporate as many locally-sourced ingredients in their confections as possible.

Some examples are ganache made with a coffee blend from Cimarron Coffee Roasters, Montanya Rum from Crested Butte, as well as locally-produced honey. They also have a Truffle that uses Storm King Bourbon Whiskey.

There is no fancy machinery or assembly line here, all of the confections are hand made with all natural ingredients, no preservatives, no artificial flavorings, or ex-

tracts. Most of the chocolate they use is single origin, meaning it comes from only one plantation in the world. While the coloring gives a hint to the flavor, the shapes are inspired by the shapes in nature around us.

They have just started little packs for kids, their Dino Nest. The dinosaurs are Satilla milk chocolate with dark chocolate crisp pearls, and the Dino eggs are filled with pop rocks.

Admittedly I do not have the most sophisticated pallet, but I tried a few of their offerings, and they are simply amazing. I have been in Europe and tasted some of the world's best confections, and Mike and Lin have hit that level with their work.

While starting out with chocolates, Alpen Confections hopes to expand into more offerings with their confections as well as pastries. I look forward to seeing what they offer down the road, and highly recommend visiting them and experiencing their delicious art.

You can follow them on FB @alpenconfections, contact them via phone @ 970-648-0609 or visit their website @ <https://alpenconfections.com/>.

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

FPC VOLUNTEERS TAKE SEWING LESSONS TO CHINLE, ARIZONA



Sewing lessons at Chinle Community Church. FPC Courtesy photos.

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE – FPC (First Presbyterian Church) serves Chinle, a Navajo reservation in Chinle, Ariz. again. This time to help teach them sewing lessons so that they may make their own clothes.

After the Grace Fellowship Community Church in Chinle had been closed for 13 months, their doors finally opened in May. FPC members were able to travel to

Chinle in June bringing supplies to sew with them.

"It was a wonderful reunion and Sandy Longmore went with me," said FPC member Sue Sharman.

They made big grocery bags using a design that Melody Maskus of Friendship Quilters had created, as well as a bowl for thread, pins, etc.

In July Sharman was able to travel to

Chinle again, this time for three days of sewing with kids.

"We only had five students because of last minute planning. No matter, we enjoyed every minute of it," said Sharman. The kids made pillowcases, did some hand sewing and made the bowl that had been made with the adults the month before.

Sharman hopes these to be just a few of many trips in 2021, with her next trip planned for Aug. 30-31. In 2020 Sharman and her husband Don made eight trips to Chinle. She said they enjoy helping the Chinle nation in many ways, two of which include sewing and food deliveries. Often, they make day trips and travel 540 miles a day. "I am so looking forward to it," said Sharman.

FPC loves helping serve the Chinle nation and hopes to do so for many years to come. They have many opportunities if you would like to serve within a mission, for more information please call 970-249-4732.



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Kappa Iota Chapter

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to make a positive difference.*

DEACON SPEAKIN' WITH DWIGHT HARP From previous pg

they capture the underlying core principles of justice and how God would judge a situation.

M.O. Evans defines *equity* as “the spirit of the law behind the letter, justice is the application of the spirit of equity.”

Biblical *equity* doesn't necessarily entail *equality* of outcome but places greater emphasis on equal and equitable treatment.

The judgment, equity, equality thing continues along an amorphous trail.

Equity is linked to the law. How do Christians deal with equality/equity or lawful

outcomes? Once again, it isn't binary.

If we judge our fellow humans, we judge our fellow equals, for we are all made in God's image (Gen 1:26-27). At the same time, we can't know the details and circumstances of other people's lives, and their heart. (1 Corinthians 2:11). (We sometimes don't know our own hearts! (Jeremiah 17:9)).

I would never want to judge for a living. I am imperfect and finite. My judging/ prejudices are imperfect. Instead of equity and equality working perfectly together as it does with God, I struggle between the

two trying to find balance.

We approximate His standards thru diligence, study and prayer. God still calls us to pursue justice on earth thru both biblical equity and equality (Genesis 9:6; Proverbs 2: 9, 20:10).

God's word is very clear in telling us that all men are created equal and every single person is a child of God, receiving the full inheritance of heaven.

We look to the *Bible* to learn how to love and serve everyone equally no matter their age, color, ethnicity, gender, or nationality.

CHANGES COME TO RE-1J SCHOOLS AS STUDENTS RETURN



As students across the Montrose County RE-1J School District return to the classroom (and in the case of some, the parking lot, below) the District's new outdoor learning center (at left) is taking shape on land beside the District Offices, and will soon provide a fresh alternative for teachers and students. Another change will be made to the longtime MHS mascot, the Montrose Indians, in accordance with a recently passed Colorado State law that forbids the use of Native American mascots in schools.



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READER PHOTO SPOTLIGHT: DEB REIMANN



Along with the joy of our mountain views is the delight at finding a beautiful and quiet bloom like this daisy, photo by Deb Reimann.



The US Basin of Red Mountain, photo by Deb Reimann. Deb Said, "Such beauty on this high mountain top view reminded me of John Muir's words: 'You are not in the mountains...the mountains are in you.'"

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Xeriscape for Montrose, Colorado

By Ginny Price, Retired CSU Colorado Master Gardener/Small Acreage Assistant

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