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the Montrose Mirror

Fresh news for busy people!

Issue No. 457 Nov. 29 2021

CITY OF MONTROSE ATTORNEY STEPHEN ALCORN EXITS AFTER MID-CYCLE REVIEW



Former Montrose City Attorney Stephen Alcorn.

Mirror staff report

MONTROSE-Following a mid-cycle performance review on Nov. 15, the City of Montrose announced Nov. 23 that Attorney Stephen Alcorn, who joined the City in 2013 and publicly referred to council and top staff as a “family” during his tenure, will leave his position effective Dec. 17.

A City news release states, “The city attorney, city manager, and municipal court judge are the only administrative employees hired by, and who report directly to, the City Council. Provisions related to Council’s oversight of the city attorney are described in the Montrose City Charter, Article VII, Sections 2 & 3, and (are) therein assigned to ‘advise the Council and City Officials in matters relating to their official powers and duties, and perform such other duties as Council may prescribe by ordinance or resolution. “A nationwide recruiting effort for a new city attorney will begin next month.”

Mayor Doug Glaspell said in the news release, “We sincerely appreciate Stephen’s

Continued pg 9

SELF-ADVOCACY, RESEARCH, SKEPTICISM ADVISABLE WHEN IT COMES TO ADULT GUARDIANSHIPS OR CONSERVATORSHIPS

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-When the *Montrose Mirror* spoke to a local resident about an adult guardianship gone wrong back in 2016, legal guardianships for adults rarely made nationwide headlines. Since that time, adult guardianships have increasingly been in the spotlight thanks to the pop star Britney Spears, whose guardianship, which had established her father as her conservator, was put in place in 2008 but recently revoked by a judge at Ms. Spear’s request amidst allegations of financial malfeasance and abuse.

Despite increasing media attention, most people consider adult guardianships only after a situation arises in which a guardian or conservator is needed. Rules vary from state to state in the U.S. Because of this, the Colorado Bar Association website includes informational articles about adult conservators and guardians, written by Attorney M. Carl Glatstein. The articles state that In Colorado, the court can appoint a guardian for either a minor or an adult who is deemed incapacitated. A conservator is appointed to manage finances and property, unless there are limited assets and the ward does not have a conservator.

According to Glatstein, “An incapacitated adult is defined in the Colorado Probate



Former Montrose resident Ivan Markovic as a child, with his parents Gojko and Slavka. The family came to the U.S. in 1969 and became naturalized U.S. citizens in 1974. *Markovic family photo.*

Continued pg 24

in this issue

Kate Burke visits with Montrose artists Cheri Isgreen, Bill Wilson!

B. Switzer photos from the Basement Boutique!

Letters to the Editor! Regional News Briefs!

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TRES RIOS FIELD OFFICE RELEASES TRAVEL ROUTE INVENTORY FOR PUBLIC REVIEW

Special to the Mirror

REGIONAL-The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Colorado Tres Rios Field Office is seeking the public's input in reviewing its road and trail inventory in Dolores, San Miguel, and Montrose counties. The BLM and its partners initially completed a comprehensive inventory of routes within the field office boundaries, covering about a half-million acres that was shared with the public in 2017. BLM is now asking the public to review an updated inventory to identify routes that may have been missed, which will provide the framework for a proposed Transportation and Access Plan (TAP).

Comments can be submitted through Dec. 15, 2021. The proposed TAP will be available for public comment during the environmental analysis process anticipated to begin early next year.

To participate in the public review and comment on the routes, the BLM developed a web-based interactive map illustrating each inventoried route. The public can provide feedback via email (include "TCCM" in the subject line) to blm_co_trfo_comments@blm.gov; or mailing feedback to BLM Tres Rios Field Office, 29211 Highway 184, Dolores, CO 81323. To review the interactive map, visit <https://blm-egis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=3611a485e5f9408d888fba48c7b97fc3#>.

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DMEA/ELEVATE INTERNAL OPERATIONAL AND NETWORK SYSTEMS STILL DOWN



DMEA Photo by Gail Marvel.

Mirror staff report

REGIONAL-Following a targeted breach of internal operational and network systems in early November, neither Delta-Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) nor sister company Elevate Internet have taken the impacted systems back online. Physical office locations remain closed as well due to COVID concerns, with a tentative re-opening date set for Nov. 29. A news release issued by DMEA on Nov. 15 states, "... We are currently working with a team of forensic experts to fully understand the extent and implications of this incident... DMEA's electric grid and Elevate's fiber network are not affected, and we continue to deliver reliable electricity and internet services.

"While these types of situations have become all-too-common nationwide, we recognize the significance of this event and have quickly taken the appropriate

steps to address it. Our comprehensive assessment is ongoing and may span several weeks."

While members may access company drop boxes for payment purposes, current billing statements are not accessible as of this update. The disconnection process and any late fees have been temporarily suspended due to the outage.

Report power outages by calling (877) 687-3632. Elevate technical support is also available 24/7 by calling (844) 386-8744 or by emailing support@elevateinternet.com.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

POMONA STUDENTS THANKFUL FOR GIFT OF NEW STUFFED ANIMALS



Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Thank you to Chapter Q of the GWRRA, the Black Canyon Wings, for their generous donation of new stuffed animals to the pediatric patients at Montrose Regional Health. Representatives from Pomona Elementary surprised the Montrose Regional Health caregivers with thank you notes from local elementary students. Some of their sentiments included, "Thank you for helping me be born," and "Thank you for helping me sleep." Courtesy photo.

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- Farmers Market, Commercial Retail, and Restaurant-direct veggie supplies
- Farmers Market options this year grown in the field. The general public may shop at our Farmers Market starting this fall, Tues.–Sat.
- We have a small variety of seedlings for sale, however due to construction delays it will be next year before we will have large inventory of vegetable plants available for retail or sales of 4-pack seedlings and mature vegetable plants for sale to the home gardener.
- There is a large variety of direct sown veggies in our massive garden.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

DEMS DELIVER PLUS 19 REPUBLICANS

Editor:

On November 15th President Biden signed the historic bipartisan Infrastructure Bill into law .

These are the benefits that Colorado will receive from this bill. Coloradans are blessed to have 4 Democrats in the US House of Representatives who voted in

favor of the Infrastructure Bill, Crow, Neguse, DeGette, and Perlmutter.

- 3.7 (Billion) dollars to improve highways and 225 (million) dollars for bridge replacement and repairs over five years.
- 916 (Million) dollars over five years to improve public transportation options across the state.

• A minimum of 100 (Million) dollars to help provide broadband coverage across Colorado, including providing access to the at least 85,000 Coloradans who currently lack it.

• 1,282,000 (or 22% of) Coloradans will also be eligible for the Affordability Connectivity Benefit, which will help low-income families afford internet access.

• 688 (Million) dollars over five years to improve water infrastructure across the state and ensure that clean, safe drinking water is a right in all communities.

• 35 (Million) dollars over five years to protect against wildfires.

• 57 (Million) dollars over five years to support the expansion of an EV charging network in the state. We in Colorado will also have the opportunity to apply for the 2.5 (Billion) dollars in grant funding dedicated to EV charging in the bill.

• 16 (Million) dollars to protect against cyberattacks.

• 432 (Million) dollars over five years to improve Colorado airports.

Colorado US House Republicans Congressmen Buck and Lamborn need to explain to their constituents why they would vote 'Yes' on a \$2 trillion tax giveaway for billionaires, but adamantly oppose supporting the hard-working families in their districts. Meanwhile, when Congresswoman Boebert isn't being Cruel and Bigoted screaming on the House floor and making an embarrassment of herself, she should explain why she opposes cutting taxes for working families.

Kevin Kuns

Montrose County Democratic Party, Chair

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CITY OF MONTROSE ATTORNEY EXITS From pg 1

service over the past eight years to the Montrose community and the City of Montrose and we wish him well.”

Municipal law is somewhat unique, and the city will now seek an attorney who is strong in that area, Glaspell told the *Mirror*. Also of importance will be knowledge of Colorado laws pertaining to water and to land use, Glaspell said. “It will be a process.”

Alcorn raised eyebrows during a March 2 liquor license hearing for the city-owned Rusty Putter Restaurant at its Black Canyon Golf Course. “...It’s like questioning your own family members,” Alcorn said, as he conducted the public hearing.

Alcorn also sidelined as a photographer, with his work featured in a development brochure for the [Colorado Outdoors project](#) and others.

Despite the effective resignation date of Dec. 17, the office of the City Attorney and Alcorn himself appear to have now been removed from the City’s [main web site](#).

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DURANGO AREA SEASONAL WILDLIFE CLOSURES BEGIN DECEMBER

Special to the Mirror

DURANGO— Annual winter closures go into effect on December 1 for wildlife winter range on public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW), and the City of Durango.

These closures remain in place through April 15 to protect wintering mule deer and elk that move down from higher elevations to weather harsh winter conditions. The agencies coordinate to identify key wildlife areas for protection while continuing to offer areas open for winter recreation.

“The public’s cooperation helps ensure that these critical areas remain available for wildlife that are under increased stress during winter months,” said Connie Clementson, BLM Tres Rios Field Manager.

CPW data on deer and elk movements throughout the year indicates that closing areas to human activity is necessary to protect critical foraging habitat and enable the animals to conserve energy for winter survival. The following area trails are closed to public use annually from December 1 through April 15, with possible extension to April 30 if conditions warrant:

Grandview Ridge

Big Canyon and Sale Barn trailheads (access located east of U.S. Highway 160) South Rim Trail, portions of Sidewinder and Cowboy trails on BLM accessed from Carbon Junction Trail or Crites Connect Grandview BLM trails (access from Three Springs)

Animas City Mountain - BLM lands above the lower loops (approximately 1.5 miles above the 32nd Street trailhead).

Twin Buttes Area - All upper trails as

marked.

Bodo State Wildlife Area - Exception: Smelter Mountain Trail is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; dogs are prohibited. Small game hunting is allowed in the area south of La Plata County Road 210. The Perins Peak area east of County Road, 208 and

west of Hogsback will be closed through July 31.

Perins Peak is open only to pedestrian traffic for the remainder of the year, and the northernmost trails on Animas City will also be closed through July 31 to protect nesting peregrine falcons.

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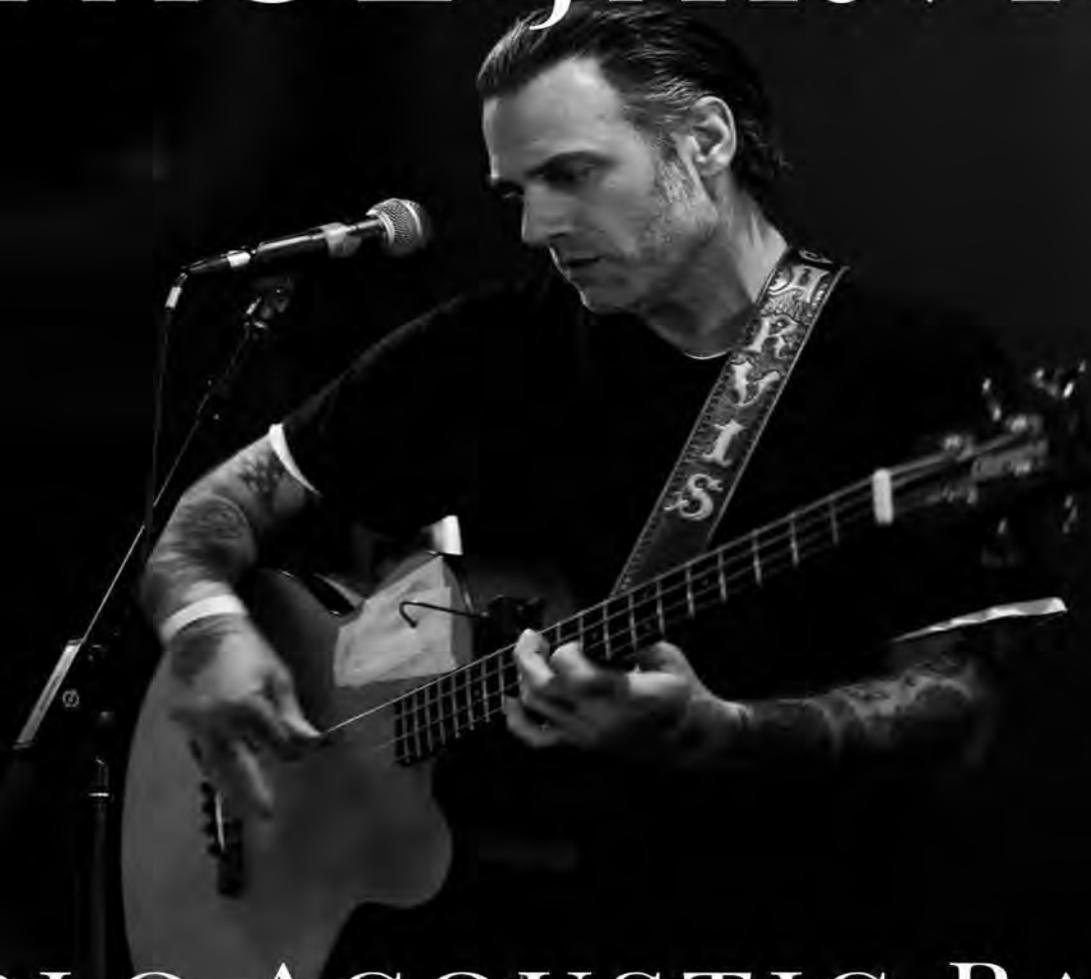


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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DRILLING OPERATIONS SET FOR LOCATIONS ON TWO HIGHWAYS

Special to the Mirror

SOUTHWEST COLORADO — The Colorado Department of Transportation will perform core and soil drilling operations next week at two highway locations in southwest Colorado. The drilling is required to test soil and rock composition at future highway improvement project sites. Drilling activity will occur, weather permitting. **CO Highway 112** — Monday & Tuesday (Nov. 29 & 30), 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Drilling will take place at various locations on CO 112 from Del Norte, at the intersection of US 160 (MP 0) northeast to Center and the intersection of US 285 (MP 13).

US Highway 550 — Tuesday - Friday (Nov. 30 - Dec. 3), 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Drilling will take place on US 550 near the Billy Creek State Wildlife Area, approximately 10 miles north of Ridgway and 10 miles south of Montrose, (between MPs 113-116).

Traffic Impacts

On the days of drilling activity, motorists will encounter full stops, lane shifts and one-lane alternating traffic guided by flagging personnel. Travelers can expect up to 15 minute delays and should allow themselves extra travel time. A speed reduction of 40 MPH will be in place and drivers should slow down and use extreme caution when approaching and driving through the work zone. Drivers are urged to be aware of work crews and heavy equipment.

Know Before You Go

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Road conditions and travel information:

www.COtrip.org

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travel/scheduled-lane-closures.html

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

SAN JUAN HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS

Special to the Mirror
 MONTROSE-The San Juan Healthcare Foundation (SJHF) proudly announces five scholarships were awarded for 2021. Eric Yergenson, Jamie Marsh, and Veronica Van Arsdale are pursuing Bachelor of Science degrees in Nursing at Colorado Mesa University. Bailey Beard is a Premed student at Colorado Christian University. The Foundation also sponsors a scholarship in honor of Jean Balderston, RN who served on the Foundation for many

years and was a strong supporter of nursing. This scholarship was combined with a SJHF scholarship and awarded to Adrianna Gomez. Adrianna's goal is to earn a Bachelor of Science in Nursing at CMU.

The San Juan Healthcare Foundation is a non-profit entity that was created in 1982 to support healthcare services in our region.

The Foundation helps obtain and upgrade healthcare facilities, education, and equipment. The San Juan Healthcare Founda-

tion encourages interested students to apply for a scholarship in 2022.

The scholarship is open to any student who has been accepted and is participating in a health-related program. Preference will be given to applicants from the Montrose area intending to return to this area to offer their healthcare talents to the residents of Montrose and the surrounding communities.

For more information go to www.sanjuanhf.org.

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UNITED STATES NEWS BRIEFS

SEVEN TRIBES SIGN PRESERVATION AGREEMENTS WITH THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Special to the Mirror

WASHINGTON – Seven new Tribal Historic Preservation agreements were completed and signed with Tribes in seven states in 2021. The NPS welcomes the following new Tribal Historic Preservation partners:

- Cowlitz Indian Tribe, Washington
- Ysleta del Sur Pueblo, Texas
- Southern Ute Indian Tribe of the Southern Ute Reservation, Colorado
- Resighini Rancheria, California
- Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation, Utah
- Santo Domingo Pueblo, New Mexico

-Moapa Band of Paiute Indians of the Moapa River Indian Reservation, Nevada

“The National Park Service takes our responsibilities to Tribes seriously,” said NPS Deputy Director Shawn Bengé. “I know that developing a tribal historic preservation plan takes a lot of work and coordination and I am pleased to welcome the new Tribal Historic Preservation Offices into the federal preservation community.”

The NPS has the responsibility under the National Historic Preservation Act to administer the Tribal Historic Preservation Program. The program assists Indian tribes



THPO Staff of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe. (left to right) Xavier Watts, NAGPRA Technician; Cassandra Atencio, Deputy THPO; Garrett W. Briggs, THPO. Courtesy of Lindsay Box, Tribal Council Communications Specialist.

in strengthening their historic preservation programs managed through Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPO) on tribal lands. Once signed, THPO agreements transfer certain historic preservation responsibilities to Tribes that would otherwise be the responsibility of the state. The NPS Tribal Historic Preservation Program works with each tribal applicant while they develop their program plan, which may take a year or more. The program also consults with the appropriate State Historic Preservation Office and other tribal and federal preservation partners during the process before accepting the final plan and developing the THPO agreement. There are currently 207 Tribes with signed THPO agreements nationwide. With 574 federally recognized tribes, continued engagement with Tribes supports many potential new THPO programs. For more information about the Tribal Historic Preservation Program, visit the program website: nps.gov/thpoprogram. www.nps.gov

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

HELICOPTER OPERATIONS, TRAFFIC HOLDS SCHEDULED FOR I-70 IN GLENWOOD CANYON NOV. 30 - DEC. 2

GLENWOOD CANYON — The Colorado Department of Transportation will oversee necessary helicopter and rockfall removal operations along Interstate 70 in Glenwood Canyon on Tuesday, Nov. 30, Wednesday, Dec. 1 and Thursday, Dec. 2.

Work will begin next week and will not take place during the Thanksgiving holiday weekend. The safety-critical operation is required to remove rocks and other material from rockfall fencing above and next to I-70. The material is from summer 2021 debris flows in the canyon. During the project, crews will also repair fencing and other rockfall prevention barriers damaged by the flows, including eight existing rockfall fences on the north slope in Glenwood Canyon. Work commencing next week is contingent on the weather forecast. When the helicopter is airborne, traffic stops on I-70 will be required for eastbound and westbound traffic. These holds are expected to last 20-30 minutes, depending on the work taking place, before traffic is released. The hours of operation will be 10 a.m.-3 p.m. and crews will be monitoring traffic impacts. Midwest Rockfall, Inc. is the contractor on the rock fence repairs.

The work is the next step as CDOT continues to prepare I-70, the recreation path and other infrastructure in the canyon for potential debris flows and rockfall activity in spring 2022. The series of summer 2021 flows caused significant damage. Although crews have worked almost continuously since June to repair damage and remove material, there remains enough material in the canyon that spring flows and rockfall could cause more damage to the roadway and recreation path. In December, work to remove more material from the Colorado River next to I-70 will expand. That work will require lane closures. Other repairs in the canyon Crews are getting close to completing permanent emergency repairs on I-70 at Mile Point 123.5/Blue Gulch. Crews have completed necessary repairs to westbound lanes at that location and have fully reopened westbound traffic to two lanes. Eastbound lanes will remain in a one-lane configuration due to continued repairs on the concrete box culvert underneath the roadway at that location.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

IF YOU CENSOR MY OPINION, IS IT STILL MY OPINION OR HAS IT BECOME YOURS?

Editor:

As defined, an opinion is 1) a belief or judgement based on grounds of insufficient to produce complete certainty 2) a personal view attitude or appraisal 3) formal expression of professional judgement, etc.

In short, relating to the Montrose Daily Press 'fact check' policy, how does someone fact check something which does not even pretend to be fact? And yet, it seems, that is just what the MDP is trying to do to submitted opinions according to Mr. Tubbs? In the first three definitions of an 'opinion' does anyone see a reference to 'fact'.

Newspapers are supposed to report factually the news, are they not? Yet we see repeated instances in both print and electronic media where a reporter's editor, publisher and/or owner of a paper shows his politics to all who read the piece.

Then there are the editorials. Probably a whole page, the 'editorial page', voicing the stance(s)--political, moral and/or even omitting information to promote their own or their politico's agenda. Do these articles not include opinions by these writers? Of course they do. Not in all cases in recent history is the MDP clean of such .

MDP has the NABUR project. It seems to be an effort to get opinion writers to self-censor their opinions in order to get them published. Does not an opinion subjected to 're-writing' by a committee become the opinion of the committee? If you censor my opinion, is it still my opinion or has it become yours? Censorship by the fourth estate is an absolutely filthy word to any Constitution loving American. Now there is something to be concerned about! I see nothing wrong with discussing my unaltered opinion, BELOW ;my signature. Comments by the editor may be in order (if the opinion is that un-factual) but how does that someone determine the fact of something that does not even pretend to be fact? (see definition above).

So, after this discussion, which purports to be fact based on definition, we might well come to a conclusion based on those

facts. The MDP effort to rewrite opinions of its contributors falls nothing short of censorship. Pravda would be proud. YOU might just write your opinion and sign a phony name. Then just remove the opin-

ion section of the MDP and put the Anderson/Tubbs 'trio' to work fact checking the HOROSCOPES. Makes about as much sense.

Bill Bennett, Montrose

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

RECLAIMING A LOST SENSE OF COMMUNITY

by Robert C. Koehler for *PeaceVoice*

CHICAGO—The first time it happened was bad enough.

“It” amounted to this: It was Wednesday afternoon, I had finished my column early and walked out to my car, parked in the alley behind my house. I was on my way to an art show — very excited. I got in the car — hmmm, why is it so cold in here? — began backing out, what’s that? It looked like there was something on my rear window. I got out, walked around back. Oh my God! My rear window has been smashed in! What I saw was a fragment of broken glass dangling in a corner.

Was this a robbery? I had two umbrellas in the back seat; they were still there. Nothing had been taken. Apparently it was plain old idiotic vandalism. I almost drove down to the art show anyway, but soon enough realized I needed to get this fixed, so I swung back, drove over to my car-repair place. “What year is your car?” I almost couldn’t remember. Oh yeah, 2009, Toyota Corolla. They ordered a rear window, which arrived a day later. And the window was installed. Problem solved, life goes on.

My life was in quasi-normal mode for about a week. Yeah, I felt violated, but this was hardly the first time. Shit happens. I couldn’t avoid thinking about it from time to time, feeling a burst of outrage. What good does that do? The best thing — the only thing — to do is get back to work: read, dig for truth, write. And occasionally I’d walk out back, where I was still parking the car, and check on things. I’ve lived in this Chicago neighborhood for forty-plus years. I’d never felt the need to be so concerned. But everything was fine.

And then on Saturday morning, ten days after incident #1, I was planning to go grocery shopping. Oh my God . . .

No-o-o-o-o!

The brand-new rear window, in place for barely a week, was smashed in again. Crowbar? Baseball bat? This was different.

This time I felt lost beyond lost, washed ashore in unknown territory. My community, my world — which I take so much for granted — is no longer safe? No longer livable?

This time it felt, not random but . . . personal. Who? Why?

I reported it to the police. They gave me a case number. The 911 operator asked me if I’d been feuding with any of my neighbors. No way! The neighbors I know, many for decades, are wonderful people. The ones I don’t know, I simply don’t know. But . . . as I say, something

felt personal about this, even though that made no sense. I felt “chosen” — the winner of Shirley Jackson’s *lottery*.

Then I called one of my neighbors, explained what had just happened, asked her if she’d had any problems out in the alley.

Our brief conversation — we spoke for maybe ten minutes — was stunning. I felt an inner bubble of tears. Tears of joy! She was so caring and concerned, so sympathetic, I felt something awaken in me, though I wasn’t sure what. It felt like something long forgotten.

Slowly I started to remember. This is community! And I thought about how little I had valued it, especially in recent years, as I grew ever more reclusive; indeed, since the onset of the pandemic, I’d started thinking of myself as Bob the Hermit: widower, bachelor, loner. I lived where I lived, but where I lived stopped seeming relevant to my life. I’d begun taking my community for granted as much as I took my car for granted.

Now, suddenly, I realized how valuable and crucial — how much a part of me — my sense of community is. It doesn’t matter that I live in a big city. Community is personal. We’re in it together. Your safety is my safety.

The next day I read about the Christmas parade in Waukesha . . .

“It was supposed to be a celebratory

night in Waukesha, Wis.,” the *New York Times* informed us. “Dance groups and high school bands and politicians were marching along Main Street in the Milwaukee suburb’s Christmas parade, which was returning from a pandemic hiatus.

“Then, just before 4:40 p.m., the driver of a red SUV stormed past barricades and barreled through the crowd, striking dozens.”

Six people were killed. Forty or more injured. What?

It’s not as though my bashed-in window compares with this. But I couldn’t help but feel a kindred connection: This was a community-shattering moment. A Christmas parade! Unity, innocence, vulnerability. Then, out of nowhere, a shadow roars its engine, crashing wildly — simply because it can — into the vulnerable heart of the community. I absorbed the news unprotected by a sense of abstraction. The world will never be the same . . . not for those who live there.

I’m still aswim in a sense of lostness. What is safety? I may be less certain of this than I’ve ever been. The answer isn’t more brick walls, more armaments, the disappearance of trust. It’s impossible to live without trust.

But I’m parking my car on the street right now, not behind the house. Is it safe anywhere? My sense of distrust is an open wound, which I feel right now as I write. I’ll call my neighbor.

Robert Koehler (koehlercw@gmail.com), syndicated by PeaceVoice, is a Chicago award-winning journalist and editor. He is the author of Courage Grows Strong at the Wound.



Robert C. Koehler.
Courtesy photo.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

TOP OF THE PINES DESIGNATED AN INTERNATIONAL DARK SKY PARK



TOPs star filled sky at night, photo credit Val Szwarc

Special to the Mirror

OURAY COUNTY-The International Dark-Sky Association (IDA) has named Top of the Pines (TOP) as the newest addition to the International Dark Sky Places (IDSP) Program.

As such, TOP becomes the 6th IDA-certified Dark Sky Park in southwestern Colorado and the 10th in the State. TOP joins Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park, Mesa Verde National Park, Curecanti National Recreation Area, Slumgullion Center, and Hovenweep National Monument as other IDA-certified Dark Sky Parks in southwestern Colorado. TOP is also near the DA-certified Dark Sky Communities of Ridgway and Norwood.

"Top of the Pines has demonstrated their exceptional dedication and commitment to celebrating and preserving dark skies and serves as a role model to other parks and entities in this region," stated Ashley Wilson, IDA's Director of Conservation.

TOP is a 175-acre Recreation Area at an elevation of 8,650 feet in Ouray County above the Towns of Ridgway and Ouray in

southwestern Colorado. This wilderness jewel owned by Ouray County but operated and managed by the non-profit Top of the Pines, Inc. offers local communities and visitors a remarkable place to learn, recreate, and celebrate, while also providing an inspiring gathering place for everyone interested in exploring the beauty of San Juan Mountains by day or the truly pristine star filled dark skies at night. TOP's dark sky is documented to be

among the darkest in Colorado as evidenced by its sky brightness measurement program.

TOP's Dark Sky Park designation comes after approximately two years of efforts that culminated with an application submittal to IDA in August 2021. The application was prepared by the Top of the Pines, Inc. Board of Directors under the leadership of Board member Val Szwarc with additional significant contributions by the Board of County Commissioners of Ouray County, and local organizations including the Dark Sky Committee of the Ridgway Ouray Community Council, Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce, and local dark sky advocates. IDA's Dark Sky Park application process is rigorous and requires applicants to demonstrate an exceptional dark sky resource, initiate robust dark sky preservation activities, and provide public outreach and support for dark sky protection.

"We are excited and honored that IDA has elected to welcome Top of the Pines into the IDA Dark Sky Places Program," said TOP Board President Brad Wallis. "It's a

significant accomplishment and TOP's Dark-Sky friendly policies will help protect and preserve its incredible star filled sky. I'd like to thank the County BOCC and the other TOP board members that made this possible."

The International Dark Sky Places Program was founded in 2001 as a non-regulatory and voluntary program to encourage communities, parks, and protected areas around the world to preserve and protect dark sites through effective lighting policies, environmentally responsible outdoor lighting, and public education. When used indiscriminately, artificial light can disrupt ecosystems, impact human health, waste money and energy, contribute to climate change, and block our view and connection to the universe.

Top of the Pines now joins more than 185 Places that have demonstrated robust community support for dark sky advocacy and strive to protect the night from light pollution. Learn more by visiting www.darksky.org/conservation/idsp.

About the International Dark-Sky Association:

The mission of IDA is to preserve and protect the nighttime environment and our heritage of dark skies through environmentally responsible outdoor lighting.

Learn more at darksky.org

For more information about Dark Sky Places in Ouray County please visit <https://ridgwaycolorado.com/things-to-do/outdoor-adventure/dark-skies>.

For more info about Top of the Pines and its Dark Sky designation, visit www.topofthepines.org, email info@topofthepines.org, or please call 970-316-3703.

SELF-ADVOCACY, RESEARCH, SKEPTICISM ADVISABLE WHEN IT COMES TO ADULT GUARDIANSHIPS OR CONSERVATORSHIPS From pg 1

Code as an adult 'who is unable to effectively receive or evaluate information or both or make or communicate decisions to such an extent that the individual lacks the ability to satisfy essential requirements for physical health, safety, or self-care, even with appropriate and reasonably available technological assistance.'"

Unlike the resolution reached in Spears' case, Glatstein writes, "A permanent guardianship most frequently terminates upon the death of the ward."

In the case of one Montrose family, a guardianship imposed by the local courts proved beneficial only to the guardians—and bizarrely, was extended to protect the remains of a parent from his son—"protected" remains that ended up being sold to a body broker.

. In 2016, the Mirror spoke with a computer professional named Ivan M who had moved to the United States from the former Yugoslavia as a child along with his parents. Ivan and his mother and father became naturalized citizens of the United States in 1974. Prior to our interview, Ivan had been caring for his elderly parents at home in Montrose with the help of paid in-home care providers. However, having only a medical power of attorney, the loving son lost control over the situation after his father suffered an aneurism and his mother's dementia worsened.

Out of concern, Ivan placed his parents in a local care home where he thought their medical needs would be better met while he worked. Instead, a care management provider called CM care aggressively sued for guardianship. Language barriers, a lack of cultural awareness, and a disturbing lack of compassion resulted in a situation where a loving son was separated from his parents. In the end, even letters of support from the parents' doctors on behalf of Ivan were thrown out of court by Judge Mary Deganhart, whose protection order against Ivan was so strict that it specifically forbade Ivan from obtaining his father's remains when his father passed away in 2016. The court seized the funds remaining in family accounts as well as the parents' home, and placed Ivan's parents in a

guardianship arrangement under the control of CM Care, despite an affidavit from the new guardian acknowledging that Ivan did not pose a physical threat to his parents.

Ivan never saw his father or mother again despite searching desperately, although after paying a fee, he eventually received some remains from the now defunct Sunset Mesa Funeral Home that were presented as those of his father, Gojko M, who had died in 2016. Ivan later returned to Ohio, where he and his parents had lived before moving to Montrose.

The Cleveland Plaindealer reported in 2018 that the FBI had found that Gojko's remains had likely been sold to a body broker, and the cremains the grieving son had received were likely to be false.

In a state notorious for a lack of oversight, the story of the M family's Colorado experience is an extreme example of why it pays to be wary of relinquishing legal and financial rights to another.

In Montrose County, adult guardianships are handled by referral. Once someone is referred as in need of a guardian, the County will find an agency to provide the service unless there is a family member or loved one who is capable and willing to serve, said Jennifer Sherwood, Montrose County human services director. When there is no other option, a guardian may serve in a volunteer capacity.

Sherwood advises being proactive and taking the time to find out what resources are available locally for those who become incapacitated—before those resources are actually needed. Seek legal advice from a qualified attorney, rather than attempting to figure everything out on your own.

In addition to Montrose County, local resources for at-risk adults include the Region 10 League for Economic Assistance & Planning, which provides federal funding for services through the Older Ameri-



Slavka and Gojko M were the beloved parents of naturalized US citizen Ivan M, whose medical power of attorney was not sufficient to prevent his parents, their assets, and even their remains from being seized by a local guardianship business—and eventually sold to a body broker, according to the FBI.

cans Act; Hilltop Community Resources, which offers a variety of adult services, and the Tri-County Health Network, Sherwood said.

"At some point in time you may not be able to do everything for yourself," Sherwood said. "Do your research up front. It's good to be aware of what's out there, and how it can benefit you to be your own advocate."

Local churches are also very supportive, Sherwood said.

"Each of us is different; seek out and find information that pertains to you, and do plenty of research before you jump in."

A dose of skepticism can be very healthy when it comes to adult guardianships and conservatorships.

Be aware that paid conservators charge for their services by the hour, Sherwood said, and that even those who offer services at no cost are getting something in return.

"Some people have full faith and trust, and don't realize what they are giving away by assigning away this power to someone," Sherwood said.

"It's heartbreaking to know that there are people who would take advantage of a situation just because there is an easy target.

Still, "There are people out there who would take advantage of somebody who is at risk."

COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

SUPREME COURT APPROVES THE FINAL LEGISLATIVE PLAN

Special to the Mirror

DENVER — The Colorado Supreme Court approved the [final state house](https://www.courts.state.co.us/userfiles/file/Court_Probation/Supreme_Court/Opinions/2021/21SA305.pdf) and [state senate plans](https://www.courts.state.co.us/userfiles/file/Court_Probation/Supreme_Court/Opinions/2021/21SA305.pdf). The decision can be viewed at https://www.courts.state.co.us/userfiles/file/Court_Probation/Supreme_Court/Opinions/2021/21SA305.pdf. According to the Colorado Constitution, the plans will be filed with the Secretary of State no later than Dec. 29, 2021.

“Coloradans voted for Amendment Y and Z and the commissioners and staff delivered.” said Jessika Shipley, staff director of the Colorado Independent Redistricting Commission. “These maps reflect how the state is growing and evolving, and the variety of voices we heard from communities over the last year.”

Now that the congressional and legislative maps are adopted by the Court, the 2021 Colorado Independent Redistricting Commissions have fulfilled their duties to the people of Colorado.

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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

HOLIDAY SEASON BEGINS WITH DUI ENFORCEMENT

Special to the Mirror

STATEWIDE — As Coloradans celebrate Thanksgiving to start the holiday season, CDOT, the Colorado State Patrol and local law enforcement agencies are gearing up for The Heat Is On Thanksgiving Week DUI

enforcement period from Nov. 24 – 28. Increased DUI patrols will be on duty statewide over the holiday weekend to remove impaired drivers from our roads. Since 2010, there have been more than 250,000 drivers in Colorado who have

been arrested for DUI. While alcohol continues to be involved in most instances of impaired driving, cases involving other drugs are also rising.

“Your Colorado State troopers and local law officers will be sacrificing time with their families to eliminate the threat that impaired drivers present to motorists on our roadways,” said Col. Matthew C. Packard, Chief of the Colorado State Patrol. “History has shown us that the Wednesday before Thanksgiving through the holiday weekend is an extremely popular time for people to gather and excessively drink. Don't ruin your holiday or anyone else's, plan for a sober ride.”

During last year's Thanksgiving Week enforcement period from Nov. 20-30, 104 law enforcement agencies arrested 354 impaired drivers. Local law enforcement agency plans and arrest results across the state can be found at <https://www.codot.gov/safety/traffic-safety-reporting-portal>.

Last year one motorist died in a crash involving an impaired driver during the 2020 Thanksgiving holiday weekend.

“Even one life taken by an impaired driver is one too many,” said CDOT's Office of Transportation Safety Director Darrell Lingk. “With so many alternative transportation options, there's no excuse to drive after consuming an impairing substance. If you plan on drinking or consuming marijuana, don't drive. It is that simple.”

A DUI conviction after fines, legal fees and increased insurance, can cost a person over \$13,000. Many people are repeat DUI offenders. The five counties with the highest number of people with two or more DUI convictions in 2020 are:

- El Paso (764)
- Larimer (466)
- Jefferson (454)
- Adams (409)
- Arapahoe (391)

Over Halloween Weekend, 155 drivers were arrested for a DUI during heightened enforcement. The final enforcement period of the year is The Holiday Parties DUI enforcement period from Dec. 15-29.

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DineOutMontrose.com

MIRROR IMAGES: BASEMENT BOUTIQUE



A Montrose tradition and a great place to discover artisan craft items and holiday treats, the 46th Annual Basement Boutique Craft Show took place over the weekend at the Montrose Pavilion. Photos by B. Switzer.



COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

SHAUNA LORI KIBEL

August 27, 1959-Nov. 18, 2021

SHAUNA LORI KIBEL was a caring wife, mother, grandmother, sister and friend. She left this world suddenly Nov. 18, 2021.

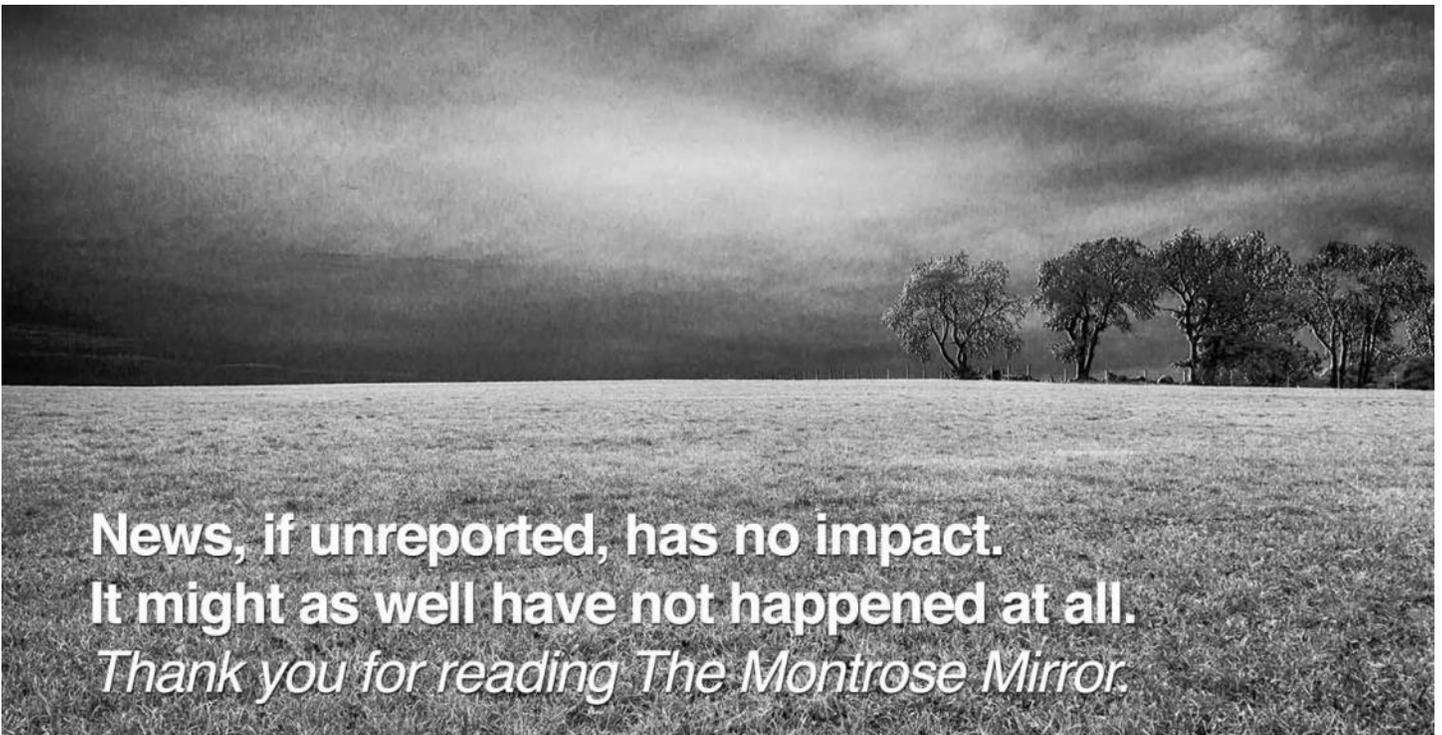
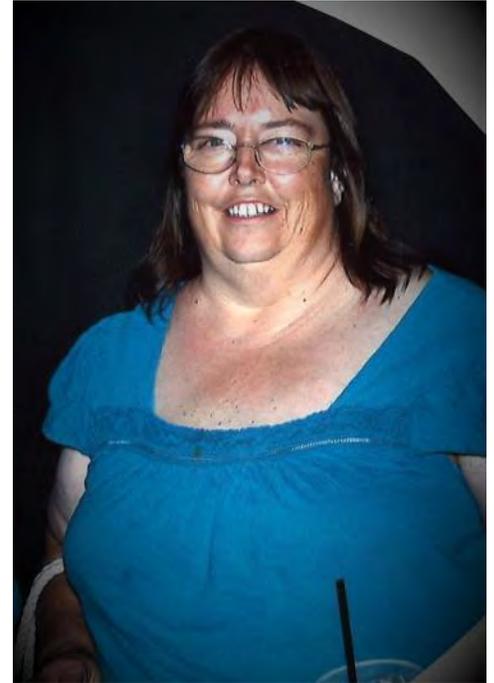
Her interests included family, knitting, crafts, and cooking. She devoted much of her time and energy as a caregiver and spending time with her grandchildren. Shauna loved being around people and making people laugh.

Shauna was born in Montrose Colorado on August 27, 1959 to Shirley and Eric Bopray. Throughout her childhood she traveled around the world with her parents.

She attended Tokay High School in Stockton California. She continued her education at Delta VoTech to become a CNA.

Shauna married Kenneth Kibel on May 6, 1978 in Montrose CO. She is survived by her son Kelly Kibel and daughter Tina Kibel of Montrose CO, grandchildren Justin and Kamryn Kibel, and her two brothers Steven Bopray of Montana and Johnny Bopray of Kingman, AZ.

She was preceded in death by her mother and father Shirley and Eric Bopray. A celebration of life will be at a later date. Crippin Funeral Home is assisting her family.



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

COVID-19 Testing Sites in Montrose County



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updated 11/8/21

ART & SOL

CHERI ISGREEN, A WORLD OF CREATIVITY



Cheri Isgreen holding mixed media sculpture, *SeaHorse*. Image ©K.Burke

By Kathryn R. Burke

REGIONAL-Cheri Isgreen. Have you been following her work? A lot of us have and we're in a constant state of wonder. Her work is phenomenal, ever-evolving. There are no limits to Cheri's creativity.

Take horses—it's a common theme for Cheri. Which is not surprising, since she's loved these animals since she was a child. Her fascination with how horses move, the way their bodies work and communicate through motion, has never been more apparent than in her current work: mixed media paintings and sculptures that incorporate a variety of mediums and found objects.



***Aspen Sonata*, mixed media painting by Cheri Isgreen. Courtesy photo.**

SeaHorse, the sculpture Cheri is holding, is a mixed media piece fashioned from ceramic, forsythia (wood) for the legs, pearls, shells, coral, bejeweled flipflops, and a leather thong. The finish is hand-rubbed, mineral pigments. "I enjoy designing and assembling each element that will reveal the horse's personality and gen-

der," Cheri says. "SeaHorse has a sculpted shell for her tail."

Mixed media paintings of equines in motion also dominate her current work. *Moment of Suspension* combines watercolor, gouache, and mineral pigments. This horse fairly leaps from the painting. The color and gesture radiate joy. You can feel it as

CHERI ISGREEN, A WORLD OF CREATIVITY

From previous pg



Moment of Suspension, mixed media sculpture by Cheri Isgreen. Courtesy photo.



Position Four. Mixed media sculpture by Cheri Isgreen. Courtesy photo.

(Iridescent) pigments, and collage from sheet music dated December 1925. Motion can also be fluid, as in Cheri’s new sculpture, *Position Four*. Look at this ballerina! Her hands, her feet, the tilt of the spoon that forms her head, the little tutu. Doesn’t that just reinforce the concept that there are no limits to Cheri’s creativity?

The ballerina is constructed of ceramic, wire, silver, and silk. The base is fir (wood) with acrylic, metallic and interference pigments. “Horses aren’t the only dancers,” she says. “I wanted to explore the dynamic nature of the human form. I am a great admirer of all forms of dance.”

Both a commissioned artist and a galley artist, Cheri shows her work throughout southwest Colorado.

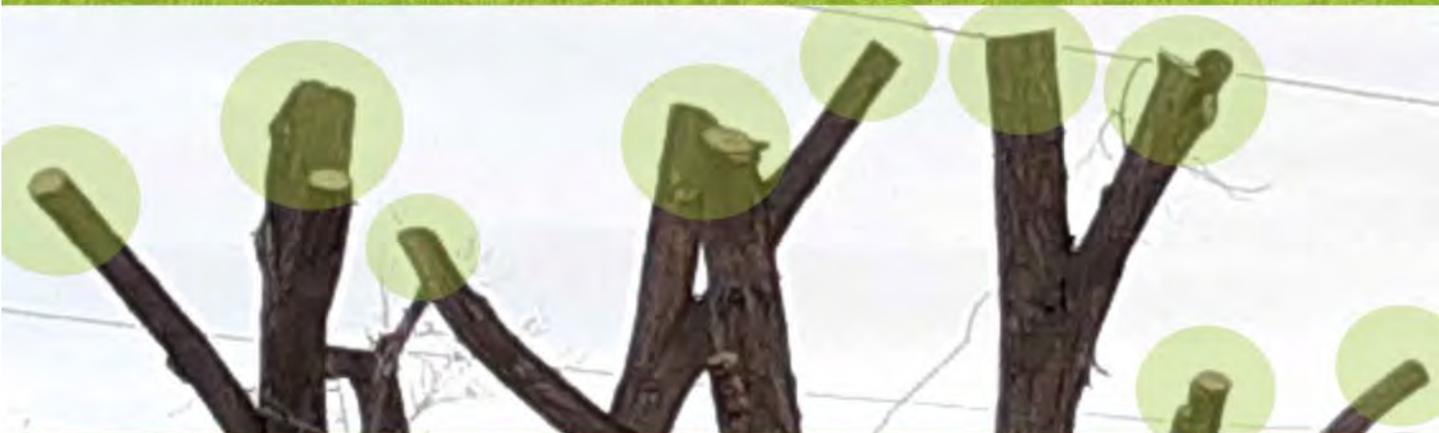
Among her favorite venues are Redstone Gallery, Gunnison Art Center, and the 610 in Ridgway. And in Montrose at the Montrose Center for the Arts, where her Solo Show runs the month of December. Story, mc4arts.com/events

See more of Cheri’s work on her website, cheriisgreen.com

as well as see it. This is a happy horse, jumping for joy, and watching her—yes, you are watching, not just looking; this is not a “flat” depiction, but a very three-dimensional experience—you are jumping for joy along with her. “In the moment of suspension, the horse is released from gravity and appears to fly,” Cheri explains. Watching Cheri’s joyful horse, it feels like

we can fly, too! Not all of Cheri’s work is of horses. Sometimes it’s human. Sometimes it’s landscape. But whatever her subject, the treatment almost always conveys motion. It could be static flow, like in an abstract or representational painting such as *Aspen Sonata*. The underpainting is oil, then layered with acrylic, gelato, ink, interference

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UNITED STATES NEWS BRIEFS

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE AWARDS A RECORD \$4.6 MILLION TO PRESERVE WILLIAMSBURG BATTLEFIELD IN VIRGINIA



The Battlefield of Williamsburg, Va., by Robert Knox Sneden. Courtesy the Library of Congress

Special to Art & Sol

WASHINGTON - The National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program (NPS ABPP) awarded a \$4.6 million Battlefield Land Acquisition Grant to protect 250.84 acres of the [Williamsburg Battlefield in York County, Virginia](#). The wooded property witnessed several centuries of occupation and struggle, including fierce fighting during the Civil War's 1862 Peninsula Campaign. Archeological investigations have revealed key details of this battle and promises to expand and enrich our understanding of the people—enslaved and free—who toiled on this land.

"This grant represents the largest single grant in the American Battlefield Protection Program's history and underscores the value of historic properties and

green spaces outside federal lands. The preservation of this battlefield is the result of nearly a decade of organizing and planning at the local, state and national levels and exemplifies what we can achieve when we work across boundaries," said NPS Deputy Director Shawn Bengé.

The land is rich with potential and holds many important stories. On the morning of May 5, 1862, an enslaved person approached Union commanders at Williamsburg with some vital intelligence. Confederate troops had hastily abandoned nearby redoubts after a skirmish the previous day, leaving their forces open to attack. Union Gen. Winfield Hancock moved to occupy the redoubts, anchoring his artillery on a nearby farm. Facing a well defended opponent, Confederate reinforcements under Gen. Jubal Early advanced on

the farm. The subsequent fighting resulted in the annihilation of Early's 5th North Carolina Infantry. A Union soldier described the carnage as a horrible sight, recording that "Our men were busy all day in burying the dead and taking care of the wounded rebels." In the battle's aftermath, Union forces used the Custis barn and stable as a field hospital and buried the dead where they fell.

Archeologists have located key sites of the battlefield as well as evidence of the Custis farmstead and an earlier plantation on the property that will be acquired and protected with grant funds. Future research will reveal more about the people and actions that took place on these lands, especially those of African descent who were enslaved at a network of five York County plantations. Virginia's Departments of Conservation and Recreation and Historic Resources, in partnership with the American Battlefield Trust, will use this grant to protect this special place and share its varied stories for generations to come.

NPS ABPP's Battlefield Land Acquisition Grants empower preservation partners nationwide to acquire and preserve threatened battlefields on American soil. In addition, the program administers three other grants: Preservation Planning, Battlefield Interpretation and Battlefield Restoration Grants. This financial assistance generates community-driven stewardship of historic resources at the state, tribal and local levels.

Battlefield Land Acquisition Grants are available on a rolling basis. To learn more about how to apply, [head to NPS ABPP's website](#).

For questions about NPS ABPP's grants, contact the program at e-mail us. www.nps.gov



FRESH, LOCALLY PRODUCED NEWS
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THE MIRROR,

COULD YOU ASK FOR IT TO GET ANY BETTER?

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY

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 Information: 970-249-4732, [\[form@fpcmontrose.com\]\(mailto:form@fpcmontrose.com\), \[www.fpcmontrose.com\]\(http://www.fpcmontrose.com\)
In Transition-Currently: Howard Davidson
 Merle Bierma
Worship Service times: 9:30AM, Student Worship at 6PM](mailto:in-</p>
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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

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, montroseumc.org
Current Senior Pastor: Rev. Lisa Petty
Worship service times: 9:30 a.m. Casual Contemporary Worship & 11:15 a.m. Traditional Worship
 10:30 - Social/Devotional Time
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 and without children, from diapers to dentures. Wherever you are on your spiritual journey we invite you to come and discover hope, joy, peace and 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.

SPIRITUAL AWARENESS CENTER

Denomination affiliation: Independent Interfaith
Address: Meeting 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. Catharine Gates, Associate Minister. Spiritual counseling available.
Worship service times: Unity Service at 11 a.m., Adult Discussion at 9:30 a.m., Quiet Meditation at 10:30 a.m.

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, including the Great Community Giveaway and Wellness Fair.

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY From previous pg

SUMMIT CHURCH OF MONTROSE:

Denomination affiliation:

Southern Baptist

Address: 10977 60.75 Rd. Montrose, CO 81403

Office hours: Varies

Contact information:

phone number: 970-275-7026

email: summitchurchmontrose@gmail.com

website: www.summitchurchmontrose.org

Name of current Senior Pastor: John De-Sario

Worship service times: 9 AM for Sunday Worship, Monday Night Bible Study 6:30-8pm Summit Church Montrose preaches the Word of God, reaches the lost with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and equips Christians to serve the Lord. Summit Church is a group of diverse people, (widows, retired couples, families with adult children, fami-

lies with young and school aged children, and recent high school and college graduates). Our services are in English, but many in our congregation also speak Spanish, as we partner with Verdad Y Vida (a Spanish congregation meeting in the same building).

We have a children's area we call "Base Camp" for children ages birth to Kindergarten during the Sunday Service.

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 in-

formation to the Montrose Mirror:

Name of church

Denomination affiliation

Address Office hours

Contact information (phone number, email address, website)

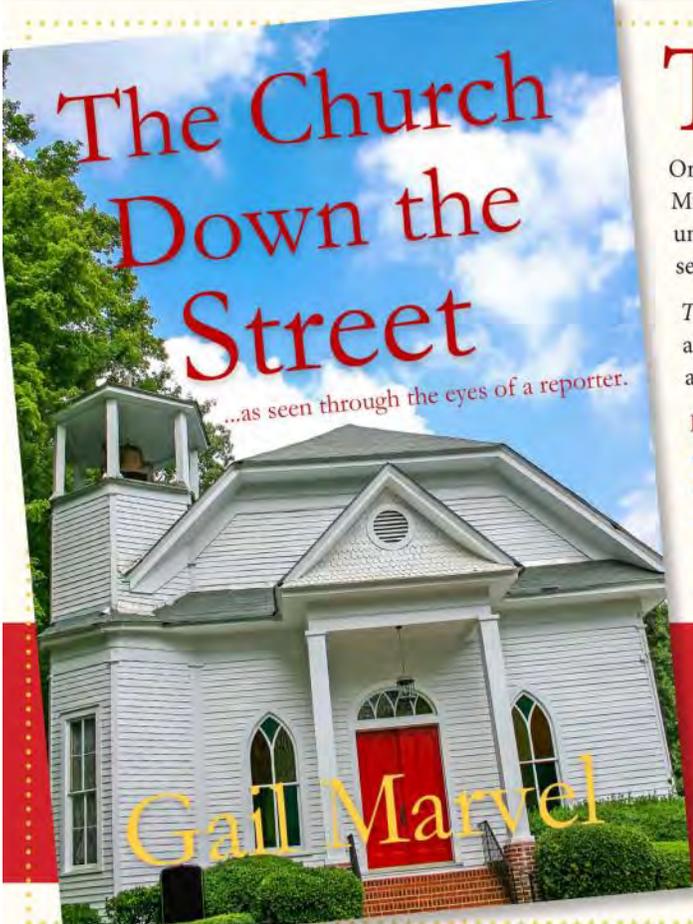
Name of current Senior Pastor

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?



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

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

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

Readers will:

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

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

GAIL MARVEL
Montrose Author & Reporter



THREE Shows Open at MONTROSE CENTER FOR THE ARTS



Friday, December 3rd, 5-7 pm
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CHERI ISGREEN

SOLO SHOW

watercolor, mixed media paintings, sculpture

MAIN GALLERY

NEW WORKS & SELECTED PRIZE WINNERS



49 Years of Ceramics Bill Wilson & Apprentices

Levi Casias, Julie Sirote, Pam Zook
Derek Redding, Mariah Weigel

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Montrose Visual Arts Guild

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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

SLATE GRAY GALLERY PRESENTS TELLURIDE UNVEILED BY RYAN BONNEAU *Fire Fest Silent Auction: Dec. 2-5*

Special to Art & Sol

TELLURIDE-Titled after Bonneau's newest book, the exhibition features a photographic journey through the San Juan Mountains of Southwest Colorado. The long-term Telluride local captures the essence of outdoor adventure, nature, and travel photography. Bonneau's photographs contain incredible dimensionality, unsurpassable detail, and brilliant luminosity. It is his eye for capturing stunning landscapes of Telluride that often leave people speechless. Take a peak behind the veil – see Telluride (and beyond) through Bonneau's lens. Three Ryan Bonneau originals are to be auctioned. Winners announced Dec. 5 at 5pm, all proceeds go to Rocky Mountain Arts. Opening Reception: Dec. 2, 5pm-8p Book signing with Ryan Bonneau. Free wine & beverages. Art Walk & Book Launch Party: Dec. 16, 5pm-8pm Celebrate Ryan Bonneau's



Ryan Bonneau photo courtesy Telluride Fire Festival.

newest book, Telluride Unveiled. Free wine and beverages.

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BILL WILSON IS PASSING IT ON



Bill Wilson & Apprentices



Passing it On. Credit Kathryn R. Burke.

By Kathryn R. Burke

REGIONAL-Bill Wilson made the decision to become a potter nearly 50 years ago. His mission—as true today as it was then—is to make beautiful works that are financially accessible to people at all income levels. He has definitely met his mission. Today, Wilson’s pottery and ceramic art is widely known, highly regarded, and can be found in many homes around the region, from palatial mansions to modest

bungalows. (I bought my first piece over 20 years ago, when I lived in a tiny apartment. Today, I have more room, which is fortunate, because my collection is growing.)

As he built his career, and made beautiful art, Wilson was not alone. “Over the nearly 50 years that I have been a ceramic artist,” he said, “I’ve been fortunate to have more than 40 apprentices. They wedged clay, mixed glazes, helped to load

the kiln, and cleaned the studio. In exchange, I shared materials, kiln firings, and my personal knowledge of the process and aesthetics.”

That’s quite a testimonial. And it goes both ways. “As we worked together,” Wilson explained, “I learned—and continue to learn—from each of my apprentices... about living and about our craft.” Both Wilson and his students find the studio is a place of grounding, centering, and healing. Sharing their creative process extends well beyond the studio as they infuse their communities with arts and culture.

In 2003, Wilson and two of his apprentices, Levi Casias and Noel Bailey, were attending the National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts (NCECA) in San Diego. Casias suggested having a show featuring Wilson’s apprentices. Sixteen years later, that show, *Passing It On*, was born. Now showing at the Montrose Center for the Arts (following a month-long exhibit at the Grand Junction Art Center), *Passing it On* features the work of Wilson along with Levi Casias, Julie Sirote, Pam Zook, Derek Redding, and Mariah Weigel. It’s an amazing display, a tribute to Wilson’s dedication to the ceramic arts and his passing it on to those with whom he works and shares his, life, his art and his creativity. *Passing it On* will be at the Montrose Center for the Arts throughout the month of December. The opening reception is Friday, Dec. 3, from 5-7 pm. (I guarantee you won’t leave empty handed. My ‘sold’ sticker is already on one more piece for my collection.)

SEE SOMETHING - SAY SOMETHING



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ANONYMOUS CALL

**MONTROSE REGIONAL
CRIME STOPPERS**

ACCESSIBLE OUTDOOR ADVENTURES FOR KIDS



Courtesy photo [passionatepeople.invacare.eu.com](https://www.passionatepeople.invacare.eu.com).

By Abram Herman, Friends of Youth and Nature

REGIONAL-It's not easy growing up in a world that isn't always designed with your needs in mind. The challenges of everyday life can be considerable for kids with disabilities, and they also have to learn how to operate in a world that can be inaccessible while at the same time learning all of the other standard kid things that are part of becoming an adult. Time spent outdoors can bolster mental and physical health, build resiliency, provide educational opportunities, and contribute to a kid's overall wellbeing, but finding ways to spend time in nature can be a challenge for those with limited mobility.

If your kid has trouble with balance and proprioception, or if they use crutches, a wheelchair, or another mobility aid to get around, there are a lot of opportunities to still get outside in safe and accessible ways here on the Western Slope.

We have a number of excellent parks in and around Montrose, Delta and Grand Junction. The Fish Tale trail in Ridgway State Park provides wheelchair accessible fishing access on the shores of Ridgway Reservoir. Fishing is a wonderful and fun outdoor activity to share with your kids, and provides hours of entertainment as well as a direct connection to nature when you do catch a fish. See our [previous arti-](#)

[cle](#) on fishing with kids for more details on equipment, fishing licenses, and other things you need to know if you're planning to take your kids fishing. Ridgway State Park also has wheelchair-accessible campsites and picnic areas if you want to make a longer weekend trip.

You have to love the Uncompahgre River Walk in Montrose. What a highlight of our community thanks to the efforts and planning of the Montrose Recreation Department. There are two paved designated access points to the river trail that are van-accessible with striped access aisles. A good map and description can be found on [All Trails](#). One of the access points is the West Main Trailhead, just beyond the W. Main Street (State Route 90) bridge over the Uncompahgre River. The path heads north for approximately 1.5 miles and ends just beyond the Colorado Outdoors development. To the south, the trail crosses the river twice as it runs through Cerise Park, Baldrige Park, and Ute Park. For most of the route, the trail remains on -corridor and passes behind the Ute Indian Museum where the surface changes from concrete to gravel shortly after. The trail provides spectacular vistas of the San Juan Mountains to the south, the Uncompahgre Plateau to the west, Grand Mesa to the north, and the Cimarron Ridge and rim of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison

to the east. You may spot a bald eagle or two fishing the river during the winter!

Confluence Park in Delta provides 7 miles of trails along the Gunnison and Uncompahgre Rivers through the riparian cottonwood galleries. Approximately 4 miles of the trails are four feet wide, on grade and constructed with smoother surfacing that doesn't get muddy. There is an ADA accessible fishing peninsula to entice your child to try a little fishing; and it's a great place to spy snow geese and other winter waterfowl on the lake.

Don't forget about our incredible National Parks. While some of them have truly accessible trails that allow people with limited mobility to experience the parks, there are always beautiful views to be had at the various lookouts and visitors centers. Our own Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park here in Colorado is not accessible as far as the interior goes, but most folks go just to look at it anyway—it's a pretty incredible view! There are a number of accessible viewpoints where you can get the full experience including the Visitors Center, Pulpit Rock, Chasm View, Sunset View, Tomichi Point, and just driving along the canyon looking out the car window.

Venturing a little farther afield, to the top of Colorado National Monument, the National Park Service has not only a nice paved path around the Saddlehorn Campground that provides a pretty outdoor setting and beautiful views, but they also have the wheelchair-accessible Alcove Nature Trail. This is a dirt trail, but it's wide and level to allow access for people with limited mobility. *Note: As of November 2021 the park rangers said the trail has experienced some damage from runoff during recent rain events, so it may not be as accessible as usual right now. They do plan to fix it, but could not provide an estimated timeframe.*

Arches National Park out in Utah has a number of stunning scenic areas along the loop road that will provide quite a view, and they also have a fair amount of trails and facilities that are wheelchair accessible (a detailed list can be found on the NPS website, and park staff can always guide you in the right direction once

Continued next pg

ACCESSIBLE OUTDOOR ADVENTURES FOR KIDS From previous pg

you're there).

National Parks are fee-based, so you do have to pay to get in. However, be aware of the Interagency Access Pass; this pass is honored nationwide at all Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, and US Fish & Wildlife Service sites and is **free** to those with a medical determination and documentation of blindness or permanent disability. This pass grants access for the pass holder and any accompanying passengers in a private (non-commercial) vehicle, as well as significant discounts on camping and other amenities.

There are some great opportunities to spend time outdoors, without the need to navigate sometimes treacherous terrain found on many hiking trails in Grand Junction area. Canyon View Park and Lincoln Park both have nice, long paved trails, as does Long Family Memorial Park in the Fruitvale area.

And don't forget about the wonderful Riverfront Trail we're so lucky to have here, it's a great and accessible way to cover a lot of ground on a comfortable trail right by the beautiful Colorado River. Take a detour onto Watson Island, a popular place to play disc golf, and you can meander around several pathways while spending time outside.

A little farther west, in the James M. Robb Colorado River State Park, is Connected Lakes. This is a beautiful area with paved trails that meander around several inviting lakes, which is an excellent place for anyone to walk and is wonderfully accessible for wheelchair users. Since it's in a state park the visit does require paying for a state parks pass; if that's a limiting factor, Colorado Parks & Wildlife has the Centennial Program to provide parks passes at very low rates for income eligible Colorado residents (more information is on their

website at cpw.state.co.us/centennialprogram).

If you're looking for something a bit more rugged than the paved trails mentioned so far, there is a dirt trail out at the Lunch Loops area that's been specifically designed for handcycles called "Short & Cranky" which is more accessible than your typical Tabeguache-area trail. It is still a mountain bike trail, though, so don't expect perfectly smooth sailing—but that's part of the fun! If you don't have access to a handcycle, it also makes a good hiking trail that's a bit more mellow and less steep than other trails at Lunch Loops.

Even farther west, the Fruita Paleo Area provides a short (under a mile) sandy but level trail with over 20 interpretive signs describing the area's geology, fossils that have been found there, and the dinosaurs that once inhabited the area. The trail isn't perfectly even and may not be entirely accessible for wheelchairs, but it does provide a short, easy hike with some very interesting natural finds for those with limited mobility.

While not on the Western Slope exactly, our neighbors to the east in Aspen have a few options that could be a new venture and worth the drive!

You may have heard of the iconic Maroon Bells, a breathtaking pair of peaks that have been the muse of many a photographer and painter. Below their towering, majestic forms lies Maroon Lake, which is worth a trip of its own just to see the incredible views. The upper part of the trail is paved and entirely wheelchair accessible; the lower section is gravel and fairly level, and may be suitable for wheelchair access as well with some assistance.

Also near Aspen are the Braille and Discovery Trails. They start from one parking area, but are two separate trails. The

Braille Trail was designed specifically to be used by people with visual impairments, with a rope along the trail to serve as a tactile guide and interpretive signs for both sighted individuals and braille readers that teach about plants and animals in the area. The Braille Trail is not wheelchair accessible. Its partner, the Discovery Trail, is a short loop (around a quarter mile) with a packed sand/rock surface providing accessibility to wheelchair users. It also has several wheelchair accessible picnic areas along the route, so be sure to pack a good lunch to enjoy!

It's important for anyone to have access to and spend time on our public lands and in the outdoors, and even more so for kids with disabilities who are facing some unique challenges as they grow up in a world that isn't always easily accessible to them. Whether you're visiting a local city park or one of our 63 incredible National Parks, take the time to get your whole family outdoors to experience our awe-inspiring natural world. Everyone is happier when they spend time outside!

Looking for ideas on getting kids with disabilities outside?

Check out: *Fabulous Wheelchair Activities for Kids* (passionatepeople.invacare.eu.com), *Plant a Seed and See What Grows* (seewhatgrows.org) and *Outdoor Activities for Kids with Special Needs* (<https://www.cerebralpalsy.org/blog/outdoor-activities-for-children-with-special-needs>) *Friends of Youth and Nature (FOYAN)* is a nonprofit organization that promotes opportunities for youth and families to go outside, experience outdoor activities and explore nature. For outdoor safety tips, trail game ideas, hiking trails, and other ways to get young people involved in the outdoors, visit the FOYAN website at www.friendsofyouthandnature.org



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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

DELTA HEALTH VOLUNTEER CHAPLAINS HONOR HEALTHCARE HEROES DURING SECOND ANNUAL ST. LUKE'S CHAPLAIN SERVICE AWARDS



Kevin Fischer receives Healing Hands award from Delta Health Volunteer Chaplains. Courtesy photo.



Diane Dockter, Clinic Manager for Delta Health West Elk Hotchkiss receives nomination form for St. Luke's Chaplain Service. Courtesy photo.



Kevin Fischer and Diane Dockter with their Healing Hands awards. Courtesy photo.

West Elk Hotchkiss Clinic who wrote about her commitment to the clinic and making changes to help with the flow to better serve the community. "Diane has been a positive role [model] for all of us," wrote the clinic staff. "Her door is always open. Patient care and team building have been a priority. When your clerical and clinical staff are working together it builds strength for each individual and the group as a whole. Doing this increases the quality of care patients receive and increases patient satisfaction."

Special to the Mirror

DELTA-The Delta Health Volunteer Chaplains held their second annual Delta Health Chaplain's St. Luke's Chaplain Service Recognition Awards on November 7 to honor and recognize healthcare workers who go above and beyond showing compassion to patients, families and employees.

The Delta Health Chaplains St. Luke's Chaplain Service Recognition Awards are inspired by St. Luke, regarded as the author of the methodically detailed Biblical books of Luke and Acts and presumably educated as a physician. St. Luke is celebrated as the pinnacle of the Christian healing ministry.

The award honors caregivers, nurses, physicians and hospital staff who go above and beyond in their care and in their work of healing the mind, body and spirit. The seven nominees this year were: Melissa Palmer, Shane Clausen, Manuel Delgado, Peter Brown, Dr. Matthew Lebsack, Kevin Fischer and Diane Dockter. The Delta Health Volunteer Chaplains recognize these nominees who:

Go over and above showing compassion to patients, families, and employees

Any staff who promotes a healing environment and process Meets patients and staff where are at Uses their faith and calling as a service to others

Of the seven nominees, the Chaplains selected two winners to receive the Healing Hands statue/award: Diane Dockter and Kevin Fischer. Fischer was nominated by Julie Huffman, Chief Legal Officer for Delta Health. Dockter was nominated by her staff at the West Elk Hotchkiss Clinic. "Kevin is one of the most committed people I have ever had the privilege to work with," wrote Huffman in her nomination form for Kevin Fischer. "Kevin recently agreed to manage not only the Cardio-Pulmonary Department but also the Radiology Department. He is a natural leader who leads with strength but also with gentle humility."

In Huffman's letter, she talks of an encounter she had with Fischer where he talked about how his faith influences his calling to serve others. "I try never to lose sight of the fact that the patients are why we are here. The first thing I do every morning is I reestablish my commitment to my 'service heart'."

Dockter was nominated by her staff at the

During the ceremony, Matt Heyn, Delta Health President and Chief Executive Officer, also presented the volunteer Chaplains with rock Cairns; a symbol of their work as guides to the patients at Delta Health.

"For centuries, Cairns have guided travelers along their journey; marking trails and bringing peace of mind to travelers," said Heyn. "These perplexing rock piles may seem like a piece of visual art, yet their purpose is more complex. They represent guidance and reassurance – which is what our volunteer Chaplains provide our patients, family members and employees."

Patients often come to Delta Health with heavy hearts and are weighted with concerns and worries well beyond the illness or injuries the staff is caring for. Heyn said that the chaplains have become a guide, helping patients to find peace through spiritual connection."

The second annual St. Luke's Chaplain Service Awards were a great reminder of the compassionate, quality care that the volunteer chaplains continue to provide. It was also a way to honor the staff of Delta Health for their work in providing remarkable care in a healing environment.

To learn more about the volunteer chaplains at Delta Health, visit deltahealth-co.org or call 970.874.7681.

SAVE THE DATE! LOCAL EVENTS CALENDAR

ONGOING-

FREETHINKERS meet 1st Sunday of the month at 1pm. more info at 970-708-8333.

NEWCOMERS AND NEIGHBORS welcomes adults who are new to Montrose or have been here awhile, who would enjoy learning more about the area and participate in social activities. [2021-22 meeting info](#). We will hold our first monthly meeting on Wednesday September 8 in our [new location](#). All other meetings will be on the 1st Wednesday of each month (October, November, and January – May). 10am-11:30am in the downstairs meeting hall of Cedar Creek Church, 222 S. Townsend and S. 3rd. enter through the side door on S. 3rd St. Hope to meet you there! Contact Patti 951-544-6289 if you have questions.

THE MONTROSE GENEALOGY CENTER at 700 E. Main St. is now open Wednesday and Thursday afternoons, 1-4 p.m. or call for an appointment: 970-240-1755. Free help and resources for your family history research.”

(The center is sponsored by the non-profit organization, Fore-Kin Trails Genealogical Society.)

NAMI FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP will be held the 3rd Wednesday of each month at the PIC Place 5:30-7pm. Please call Kathy at 520-282-9060 for more information.

MONTROSE FARMERS' MARKET -Saturdays from 9 am-1 pm.. **Location:** Montrose Centennial Plaza . 81401 **Cost:** Free to attend.

COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY-Registration now open for Sept 2021 - Apr 2022 **COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY**, an international nondenominational Bible study. Studying Revelation Sep 2021-Jan 2022 and Christian Living (1,2,3 John, Jude & Philemon) Feb-Apr 2022. In person for women and children of all ages on Wednesday mornings 9-11. Virtual/Zoom for women Thursday evenings 6-7:15. Contact 720-635-0091 to register or for more information. Or come to our first meeting Wed., Sep. 8, at the First Presbyterian Church, 1840 E. Niagara St., Montrose, at 9AM.

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 Hampton Inn conference room at Noon.

MONTHLY

Dec.3-His and Hers. Unique art exhibit at the Wright Opera House in Ouray combines the talents of Noble and Natalie Heller of Ridgway. A Wisconsin native, Noble was introduced to the southwest through family camping trips. His work in construction and design honed his artistic skills and his love of racing has also influenced his paintings. Natalie is the author of the award-winning photography book, "Southwest Colorado." Her work has been published in various magazines including "Cowboys and Indians." An opening reception will be held at the Wright Opera House, 427 Main in Ouray, on Friday, Dec. 3rd from 4-6:30pm. His and Hers will run from Dec. 1-Jan. 12, 2022.

Dec. 4-1st Annual Vamoose Gear Powersports Accessories Motorcycle Toy Run, to Benefit Haven Foster. The Toy Run takes place Dec.4, from 9 to 10:30am riders check-in at Vamoose Gear (1912 S. Townsend Ave) to enter door prize drawing. At 10:30am kickstands up. From 10:30 to 11am, enjoy a scenic ride around town to Haven Foster Shoppe to drop off toys. From 11am to 1pm, join the After Run Party at Horsefly Brewing Company; food and beverages will be available for purchase. For more information call Vamoose Gear, 970-765-8950.

Dec. 4-Montrose Parade of Lights.

Dec. 4-Delta Parade of Lights scheduled for 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 4.

Dec. 10-Jeanine Rene, A Night of Americana music. Healthy Rhythm Gallery, 252 East Main Street. Doors open 6:50pm, show at 7pm. All seats \$15. For more information call 525-270-6284.

Dec. 13-Citizens' Climate Lobby monthly meeting Dec. 13, Monday 5:30 Montrose Library meeting rm. Nonpartisan national environmental group. Recent Al Gore Ted Talk, All welcome 970-765-9095 info.



**The Mirror:
many views,
one newspaper.**

Contact the Montrose Mirror:
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At right, Carma Kennedy, an owner of the Looney Bean Coffee Shop, taking the art of customer service to a higher level every day. Mirror photo. At left, wild turkeys alive and running free after Thanksgiving. Photos by B. Switzer.



EVERY HERO'S JOURNEY
REQUIRES CROSSING A
THRESHOLD. READY TO
MAKE THAT BOLD MOVE
BUT NEED A GUIDING
HAND? I'VE BEEN
THERE, AND I CAN
HELP.

LAUREN HALL RUDDELL, PHD

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