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# the Montrose Mirror

Fresh news for busy people!

Issue No. 458 Dec. 6 2021

## SOLAR INSTALLATION ALONG HWY 50 NEARS COMPLETION



*Solar panels are being installed as far as the eye can see at this facility along US Hwy 50 near the Delta County line. Photo by Carole McKelvey.*

By Carole Ann McKelvey,  
Montrose Mirror correspondent  
MONTROSE -- Drive between Montrose and Delta on US Highway 50, and you cannot miss the construction near the Delta County line, where 54 acres of land are being sculpted into a solar energy facility. Those passing by the installation have witnessed a service road being built over an arroyo, connecting and resurfacing the land so that metal solar pillars can be pounded into the ground to eventually receive solar panels. The site has employed a battalion of construction workers operating large trucks and machines.

To learn more, the *Montrose Mirror* contacted Montrose County Planning & Development Director Steve White.

White said the project being **Continued pg 36**

## DMEA SIDESTEPS RANSOMWARE QUESTION FROM CO-OP MEMBER AS INTERNAL NETWORK OUTAGE CONTINUES

By Gail Marvel  
MONTROSE-Background: A Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) press release dated Nov. 15 said, "DMEA recently discovered a targeted effort to access data on its internal network systems. We are currently working with a team of forensic experts to fully understand the extent and implications of this incident."

The severity of the data breach, which occurred on Nov. 7, is still not fully known and the investigation continues. However, during the Nov. 30 regular board meeting, the report from Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Alyssa Roberts gave a more alarming sense of the damage done to the internal network system when she referred to the situation, "We are a victim of a malicious cyber security attack..."

### Regular Meeting:

The Nov. 30 Delta Montrose

**Continued pg 38**



*The 2022 budget for Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) was approved during the October 26, 2021 regular meeting and funding for cyber security was significantly increased. CEO Alyssa Roberts (fourth from the left) said, "There is \$97,300 for cyber security." Photo by Gail Marvel.*

in this  
issue

**Montrose Parade of Lights**  
photos by Paul Arbogast!

**K9 Raico and William**  
**Hammon's Story!**

**Lauren Hall Ruddell:**  
**Your Brain on nature!**

**Historian Bob Cox:**  
**All I want for Christmas!**



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### COUNTY ANNOUNCES NEW FAIR BOARD MEMBERS

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE— Following a change to the restructuring of the Montrose County Fair Board, the board of county commissioners voted in a new fair board in a special meeting. The restructuring and revision of the fair board's operating procedures occurred on Nov. 17 and a new board was seated in just over two weeks. These changes came to fruition in an effort to improve the functionality of the Montrose County Fair Board.

"In a field of 17 applicants, we had to make some tough choices to narrow it down to nine board members," said Commissioner Sue Hansen. "I am grateful to the individuals who applied to help serve their community and I am also impressed with the quality of applicants."

"The level of experience we have on this board with both new additions and a few seasoned members is top notch," said Commissioner Keith Caddy. "These members will help ensure the agricultural and livestock heritage of the Montrose County Fair and Rodeo, as well as help promote agriculture countywide." The new board members are: Chris Cohick, Kim Wilson, Justin Gleason, Matt Box, Kelsey Klock, Tammy Stroup, Cody Brown, Raymie Suppes, and Chad Dunlap. The first regularly scheduled meeting of the fair board will occur on Dec. 21 in the Pioneer Room of Friendship Hall at 7pm and the public is welcome to attend. For more information on the Montrose County Fair and Rodeo, please visit [montrosecountyfairandrodeo.com](http://montrosecountyfairandrodeo.com).

## THE MONTROSE MIRROR

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# FISHERING NAMED PRESIDENT AS RE-1J BOARD OF EDUCATION ANNOUNCES BOARD ELECTION RESULTS, NAMES NEW OFFICERS

## Mirror staff report

MONTROSE-In a brief special meeting on Nov. 30, the Montrose County School District RE-1J Board of Education announced final election results (later confirmed via the recount) and welcomed new and newly-re-elected directors to the board, including District A Director Jeff Bachmann, District C Director Alice Murphy, District E Director Sarah Fishing, District F Director Eric Kelley, and District G Director Stephen Bush,

The Board of Education named Fishing as the new Board President, Bachman as Vice President, Kelley as Secretary, and Busch as Treasurer.

Longtime Board President Gayle Johnson officially stepped down and was recognized for her service. "It has been a long eight years," Johnson said, adding, "Congratulations Madame President!"



Outgoing RE-1J Board Of Education President Gayle Johnson swore in new and newly re-elected directors at the special meeting of Tuesday, Nov. 30.



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## FEATURED LISTING



63169 Percheron Court

This lovely custom built home with recent improvements at every turn. Get cozy in the library/den with beautifully stained custom bookcase and storage. Archways surround the formal dining room now used as an office with beautiful hardwood flooring. Vaulted ceilings crown the spacious living room, and kitchen. Custom cabinetry and granite counter tops show off an efficiently designed kitchen with pantry.

The split floor plan with three bedrooms, one on-suite and two that share a full bath are on one end of the house, and the stunning owner's suite is on the other. Columns show off the spa-like bathroom with double sinks, trayed ceiling, mirror with hidden tv, and double sided fireplace for viewing from the relaxing bath or the bedroom. Downstairs is perfect for large gatherings and entertaining. There is a wet-bar, large theater room, a workout room or make it an additional sleeping area, and STORAGE everywhere. A separate door is off the large family room. The 3 car garage is complete with 220 and 230 in the single bay. Fresh paint throughout the home and garage, new carpet, new LVT flooring and new Geo-Thermal heating system with a 10 year warranty, new appliances, and on the outside freshly painted stucco is accented with timber trimmed window sills. There is a beautiful pond in back yard with pump. \$1,250,000 MLS#788949



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## Montrose Market Report November 2021

November 1-30 2021 Data source is CREN MLS

**Residential**      **88 Active Listings, 104 Under Contract**  
**73 Sold, \$424,669 Average Price**

**Land**      **148 Active Listings, 48 Under Contract,**  
**17 Sold, \$194,821 Average Price**

**2020 Residential**      **90 Active Listings, 116 Under Contract**  
**75 Sold, \$359,340 Average Price**



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## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

# URGE THE PUC TO REPRESENT YOUR COMMITMENT TO SOLAR ENERGY

Dear Editor:

Access to renewable energy is vital to our state's climate and economy. In 2019, in a bi-partisan vote, our state legislature passed the Community Solar Gardens Modernization Act, with one hangnail: Who will receive the savings from using solar Renewable Energy Credits (RECs), those who have paid subscriptions into the solar garden programs, or the utility companies? Currently, the utilities hold a monopoly on the receipts of these credits. The legislature left the decision with the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) commissioners, citizens from across the state who represent the people.

Community Solar Gardens give renters or homeowners the option to join renewable energy programs and immediately access energy by buying subscriptions in solar gardens. The PUC should honor the investment made by the subscribers. Giving them a portion of the savings earned from their investment is only fair.

Legislators trusted the PUC to come up with a compromise that would equitably serve both parties. In 2019, the PUC drew up draft rules allowing subscribers to choose whether or not they want to keep the RECs earned by their subscriptions.

But this year, the PUC proposes to beg the question until 2022 at the earliest. The postponement favors the utility companies and has the appearance of trying to undermine the continued growth of solar gardens.

Join me in pressuring the PUC to immediately allow subscribers to determine whether they want to keep their credits or sell them back to the utility companies.

This decision harms no one; it does put choice back in the hands of Colorado consumers.

Urge the PUC to represent your commitment to solar energy. Community solar is an economic driver. By expediting this decision, up to 100,000 homes could benefit from solar energy, while contributing to the economic stability of the state.

*Ann-Marie Fleming, Montrose*



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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## US 160 MAINTENANCE ALERT

*Special to the Mirror*

**ARCHULETA COUNTY** — The Colorado Department of Transportation will clean culverts next week on US Highway 160, approximately 10 miles west of Pagosa Springs near mile point 131. Brief periodic closures are required to allow crews to move heavy equipment across the highway at the work site and travelers should allow for extra travel time. The week-long maintenance operations will take place Monday through Friday (Dec. 6-10), from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

### Traffic Impacts

Drivers will encounter full stops. Flagging personnel will guide traffic through the work zone. Up to 15 minute delays are anticipated. 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. Motorists are urged to be aware of crews and heavy equipment.



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## **REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS**

### **SMPA PROPOSES BYLAW CHANGES CONCERNING DIRECTOR ELECTIONS**

*Special to the Mirror*

NUCLA-The Board of Directors of San Miguel Power Association Inc. will be hearing public comment on proposed Bylaw changes during the Member Comment portion of their Regular Meeting to be held at 9:00AM on January 25, 2021 at the Nucla office, 170 W. 10th Ave., Nucla, Colorado. The Board will be conducting a final vote on the proposed changes at the same Meeting.

The proposed Bylaw amendments (i) clarify joint memberships and voting of joint memberships, (ii) clarify voting by entity memberships, (iii) expand the definition of a member quorum, (iv) make changes to Director qualifications and election procedures, and (v) allow for electronic voting in Director elections.

Members may request a copy of the red-lined changes from the Ridgway office, 970-626-5549, or the Nucla office, 970-864-7311 and the redlined changes are posted on SMPA's website (<https://www.smpa.com/content/bylaws>).

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# COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

## COLORADO SECRETARY OF STATE CERTIFIES 2021 COORDINATED ELECTION

*Special to the Mirror*

DENVER— Colorado Secretary of State Jena Griswold announced last week the certification of the 2021 Coordinated Election.

"Colorado's 2021 Coordinated Election again proves that our state's election system is the nation's gold standard," said Secretary Griswold. "Once again I'm proud that we conducted a seamless election and that over 1.5 million Coloradans made their voices heard. Thank you to the Secretary of State's Election Division and to county clerks across the state for another job well done."

Bipartisan county audit boards successfully completed the statewide Risk-Limiting Audit (RLA), thus confirming the election outcomes with a high degree of statistical confidence. Bipartisan canvass boards then convened in each county and reconciled the number of ballots counted with the numbers of ballots cast. Each county's canvass board then signed off on the final results of the Coordinated Election and submitted them to the Secretary of State's office. There are still a small number of recounts in county and municipal races, which are not conducted by the Secretary of State's office. Updated totals and official results will be available at the end of the recount process.

For unofficial 2021 Coordinated Election results, please visit [www.ColoradoSOS.gov](http://www.ColoradoSOS.gov).

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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### COLORADOCAST, NEW SHORT-TERM ECONOMIC FORECAST FROM COLORADO FUTURES CENTER; FIRST REPORT OUT DEC. 7

*Special to the Mirror*

DENVER – ColoradoCast is a new quarterly forecast designed to fill a gap in the suite of forecasts produced in Colorado. With a

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Henry Sobanet, senior vice chancellor and CFO, CSU System

Phyllis Resnick, executive director and lead economist, Colorado Futures Center

About Colorado Futures Center:

Colorado Futures Center is a 501(c)3 organization dedicated to informing about economic, fiscal and public policy issues impacting community economic health and quality of life in Colorado and beyond. Learn more about Colorado Futures Center at [https://](https://www.coloradofuturescsu.org/)

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About ColoradoCast:

ColoradoCast is a short-term (approximately 6 months ahead) economic forecast for the Colorado economy developed by the Colorado Futures Center. It is designed to forecast a well-known contemporaneous measure of statewide economic activity, the Coincident Economic Activity Index for Colorado, developed by the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia. The Coincident Economic Activity Index includes four indicators: nonfarm payroll employment, the unemployment rate, average hours worked in manufacturing and wages and salaries. The trend for the index is set to match the trend for gross state product.

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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT WELCOMES NEW FIELD MANAGER TO THE UNCOMPAHGRE FIELD OFFICE

#### *Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) welcomes Suzanne Copping as the new Uncompahgre Field Manager in Montrose, Colo. Suzanne will be responsible for guiding resource decisions on nearly 900,000 acres of public land in BLM Colorado's Southwest District, including the Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area, a portion of the Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area, and four river systems—the Gunnison, San Miguel, Dolores, and Uncompahgre. "The lands that make up the Uncompahgre Field Office radiate a natural beauty that is unparalleled in the United States," said acting District Manager Elizabeth Dawson. "Suzanne will do a spectacular job leading the Uncompahgre Field Office and faithfully serve our stakeholders, partners and community."

Suzanne started her federal career in 2001 as a program manager with the National Park Service's National Heritage Areas program in Washington, facilitating landscape-scale heritage and working-landscape conservation and stewardship. She came to the BLM to broaden her perspective on federal public land management and to experience the challenges and opportunities of managing for multiple-use.

Suzanne served as the Associate District Manager for the Rocky Mountain District in Cañon City, Colorado from 2017 to 2021. She has served as acting Field Manager for Gunnison Field Office, acting Field Manager for Uncompahgre Field Office, and acting District Manager for Rocky Mountain District.

"I'm excited for the opportunity to lead and guide this talented and dedicated staff as we navigate through all manner of challenges," said Field Manager Suzanne Copping. "It's an honor to protect and manage the remarkable resources within the Uncompahgre Field Office for our communities and visitors to enjoy."

She comes to the Western Slope with her

husband Kevin, who has listened to, coached, and supported her as they took to the West in 2017. Proficient in BLM law, policy, and regulation, with strong prob-

lem-solving and relationship-building skills, Suzanne will engage directly with local partners and constituents to carry out BLM's important mission.

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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### COTTONWOOD HOLLOW PRESCRIBED BURN PLANNED

#### *Special to the Mirror*

DELTA— Fire Management Officials from the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests' Ouray Ranger District plan to conduct the Dillard Mesa unit of the Cottonwood Hollow prescribed burn, Monday, Dec. 6, depending upon weather and appropriate ground and vegetation conditions.

The project area is located 27 miles west of Montrose and will burn approximately 750 acres of Gambel Oak and Ponderosa Pine. Only a single day of ignition is planned with monitoring through the next several days pending forecasted precipitation for next week.

The purpose for the prescribed burn is to improve vegetation regeneration, wildlife habitat, reduce hazardous vegetation (fuels) buildup and to promote a wildfire resilient landscape.

Safety of firefighters and the public are the most important factors considered when planning a prescribed burn.

Fire Management Officers and Fuels Specialists spend countless hours developing detailed prescribed fire plans that detail specific weather, fuel conditions and staffing and safety requirements. Ignitions will occur using ground and aerial techniques. Ignitions only occur if conditions are conducive to a safe, effective operation and within appropriate smoke dispersal parameters set by the State of Colorado.

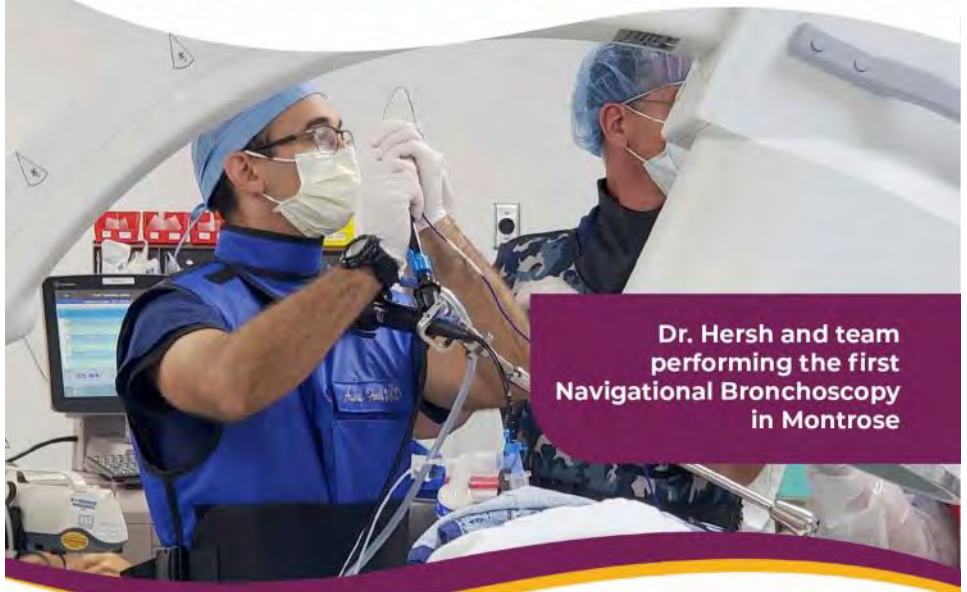
The prescribed burns will be accomplished using joint-agency fire resources, mitigation measures and protocols that are in place to reduce the risk and transmission of COVID-19. Air quality will be closely monitored to mitigate smoke related impacts to communities. Smoke may be visible in the Delta, Olathe and Montrose areas.

For information on prescribed burns, pile burns, wildfires and fire restrictions on National Forest System lands and other areas, call the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests Fire Information line at (970) 874-6602, visit the GMUG Forest website: [www.fs.usda.gov/](http://www.fs.usda.gov/)

gmug, GMUG Fire Information: <https://www.facebook.com/GMUGFireInfo/> or Twitter: [https://twitter.com/GMUG\\_NF](https://twitter.com/GMUG_NF). For more information on how prescribed

burning and pile burning smoke may affect your health, please visit: <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/wood-smoke-and-health>.

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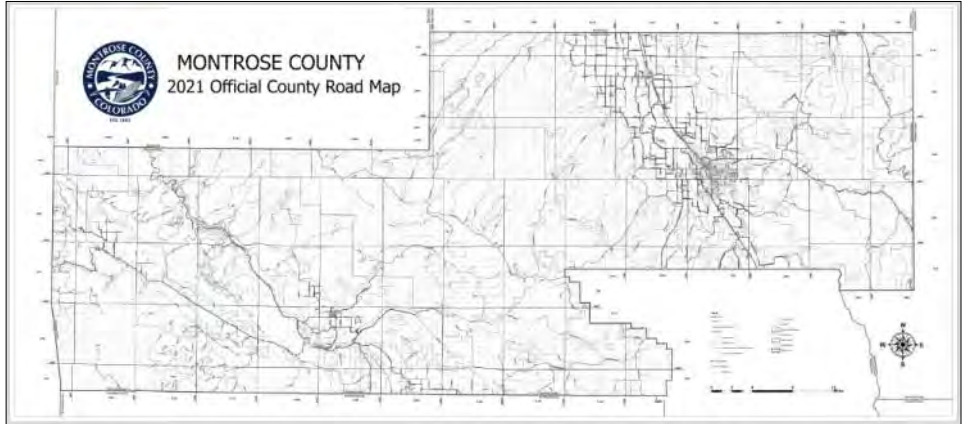




## BOCC APPROVES 2021 COUNTY ROAD MAP, CONTINUES PUBLIC HEARING ON DRAFT OF NEW ZONING REGULATIONS



*The Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) met on Thursday, Dec. 2.*



*The 2021 Montrose County Road Map. Courtesy image.*

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-In a regular but rescheduled meeting, the Montrose County Board of Commissioners (BOCC) convened at 1pm on Thursday, Dec. 2. All commissioners were present.

BOCC Chair Sue Hansen welcomed everyone and opened the meeting.

Pastor Karl Leuthauser of Grace Community Church delivered the invocation, citing *Mathew 1:23*, and adding, "The point of Christmas, I believe, is God being with us...that's what the point of life is." Leuthauser asked God to be with those gathered in the meeting room. "...We ask for your love and the blessing of your presence to be with them..."

County Attorney Marti Whitmore led all in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

There were no comments heard from the public on non-agenda items.

### **COUNTY MANAGER**

County Manager Jon Waschbusch had no changes to the meeting agenda.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Consent Agenda items were unanimously approved, with Resolution No. 51-2021 assigned to Item Three, Resolution 52-2021 assigned to Item Six, Resolution No. 53-2021 assigned to Item Eight, and Resolution No. 54-2021 assigned to Item Nine.

### **GENERAL BUSINESS & ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS**

Public Works Director Keith Laube pre-

sented for consideration and approval Resolution No. 55-2021, regarding the adoption of the official 2021 County Road Map. The map was previously discussed at the meeting of Nov. 17. A sentence was added in response to citizen feedback, "...notice will include written notification to adjacent property owners if there is a change in the status of a road from private to public."

Commissioners voted unanimously to adopt the Official 2021 County Road Map.

### **PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT**

Hansen opened a public hearing. Planning & Development Director Steve White introduced the draft of new zoning regulations. Following numerous reviews and a public meeting on Oct. 28, the County Planning Commission has forwarded findings of fact and recommended approval.

Planner Tallmadge Richmond reviewed major changes in detail for commissioners. The changes are largely formatting and modernization of the code, he said.

Hemp processing is allowed as a use-by-right only in the Industrial District.

Commissioner Roger Rash said that after reading the entire 161-page document, he found it to be easily read and easy to follow. "...I like the updated graphics, I think that brings us into more modern times...it's good to see that not only are we updating the road map we are up-

dating our documents as well."

Rash thanked planning staff and the planning commission for their hours of work, as did BOCC Vice Chair Keith Caddy.

Said Hansen, "...I don't want to be the skunk in the punchbowl here, but it's a big document...I really would like to take a look at it..." She asked that the approval be continued to allow more time for review; commissioners agreed and voted to continue the public hearing and approval of the new zoning regulations until the next regular BOCC meeting of Dec. 15.

In other Planning & Development business, the BOCC voted to approve the Fox Hill Minor Subdivision proposal to divide a 22.87 acre lot into three lots at 66324 Landfill Road; the Millard Minor Subdivision proposal to divide a 18.9 acre lot into two lots at 63555 Spring Creek Road; the West Canaan Partners Large Tract Exemption proposal to divide two lots from a 75.090 acre parcel at Parcel 399320100004; an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the City and County of Montrose; and the Storm King Mountain Ranch Special Use Six Month Review. Commissioners asked Planning & Development Director Steve White to reach out to Ouray County to update them on the six-month review.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



# NINE MEMBERS APPOINTED TO RESTRUCTURED FAIR BOARD

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-The Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) met for a special meeting on Friday, Dec. 3. All three commissioners were present; Fairgrounds Manager Stoney Field was present as well and led in saying the Pledge of Allegiance. There were no public comments, no changes to the agenda, and no consent agenda items.

With recent bylaw changes to the County Fair Board, commissioners had dissolved the existing board. The purpose of the special meeting was to appoint new members.

Field said that there had been 17 applicants, which is unprecedented. "I truly appreciate all of your efforts."

"...The fair is really important to Montrose County," BOCC Chair Sue Hansen said, "and it is impressive that we've had so many people, considering that we had a bylaw change that was potentially sort of upsetting to a number of people...."

She commended those who applied and encouraged those who were not selected to be involved on committees and in other capacities. "We need a lot of help at the fair, everybody knows that."

"I'm just glad we got it done," Vice Chair Keith Caddy said. "Those changes needed to be done for a lot of years, and I think we've done the right thing. The response we've had from the public definitely says that we've done the right thing."

Nine applicants were appointed to one, two, and three-year terms so as to stagger the initial terms of the restructured board.

Appointed to one-year terms were Chris Cohick, Kim Wilson, and Justin Gleason.

Appointed to two-year terms were Matt Box, Kelsey Clock, and Tammy Stroup.

Appointed to three-year terms were Cody Brown, Chad Dunlap, and Raimey Suppes.

"I truly feel like this is going to be a very strong board," Field said. "...I think your candidates are super strong."

Those who were not selected were truly ready to help and make themselves available, he said. "They all had some great vision...in reality I think that this is by far one of the best situations that I've been in since being a liaison with the County Fair Board."

Some of the new applicants served on the previous board, which allows for institutional memory and knowledge of how to put on the fair, Hansen said. "As you know it's a huge endeavor and it takes a lot of people to make it successful...the commissioners are behind you 100-percent, behind the board 100-percent, and



will help in any way we can...I'm looking forward to next year's fair," Hansen said,

and asked for a motion to adjourn the special meeting, which was approved.






Fairgrounds Manager Stoney Field Addressed the BOCC at the special meeting of Dec. 3 (screenshot).

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## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

### RACISM AND DISCRIMINATION IS ALIVE AND WELL WITH AMERICA

#### *Letter to the Editor:*

It is sad that racism and discrimination is alive and well with America. Racism can happen with any race, not only whites. Discrimination can occur with any nationality or even within nationalities or just social bias within groups.

The latest case is with Kyle Rittenhouse with the mainstream media and the left trying to tie racism to Mr. Rittenhouse, a white 17-year-old white man at the time of the shootings. If you were to hear mainstream media reports and their attempts to make Mr. Rittenhouse a white supremacist, you would think the people killed and wounded were minorities. Far from the truth. All three persons killed or wounded were white and most (if not all, with criminal backgrounds.)

This entire episode began when Jacob Blake, a black man that was wanted by police for third degree sexual assault, trespassing and disorderly conduct in a domestic violence case with the mother of his child or children, ignored attempts at

detention by police.

Blake was no choir boy. He had sexually assaulted the mother of his child about twice per year. Not a reason to be wounded and paralyzed, but that is the price to be paid when you do not comply with police orders and police feel their lives are threatened. At the time of the shooting, Mr. Blake was trespassing and breaking into a vehicle he had no right to be in. Media tries to portray the criminals as victims and not the criminals they truly are.

Until a situation reported to police is investigated, police have the right (and obligation) to detain parties that may be involved to deescalate a potential criminal situation. Jacob Blake was not within his rights to resist detention from officers.

Black Lives Matters activists started protests after the police officer was determined to have acted within department procedures and was determined to have acted properly. The protests eventually became riots with looting and large scale

property damage including fires.

Mr. Rittenhouse went to protect private property and provide first aid if needed. During the protests, Mr. Rittenhouse became involved in a scuffle. The wounded party admitted on the witness stand in the trial that he pointed a gun at Mr. Rittenhouse.

The trial determined that Mr. Rittenhouse acted in self defense and was not guilty. After the trial, he admitted if things could be done over he would not have gone to the protests.

After going through the trial (being improperly charged in the first place) and disruption to his life, socialists at Arizona State University (ASU) want Mr. Rittenhouse to be excluded from being able to get an education at that university. Due to the socialists discriminatory rhetoric, they are attempting to take the rights of a free man away from him.

Who are the racists and who are being discriminatory?

*Ed Moreland, Montrose*

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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## KATIE ALBIA LEADS DELTA BRANCH FOR ALPINE BANK

*Special to the Mirror*

DELTA— Alpine Bank has promoted Katie Albia to serve as manager of Alpine Bank Delta. Katie started with the organization

in 2018, at the Dillon location, as a teller. Her parents opened her first youth savings account in 2000 when the bank opened in Summit County, so she's fond of saying

that in addition to working for Alpine Bank, she's also been a lifelong customer.

Katie transferred from Dillon to Alpine Bank Delta in 2019. In recognition of her talent and dedication to Alpine Bank, she was promoted to banking officer in 2021. As her predecessor Barbara Wolfe retires at the end of 2021, Katie will move into Barbara's management role and run the Delta branch.



**Alpine Bank has promoted Katie Albia to serve as manager of Alpine Bank Delta. Courtesy photo.**



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"Katie's hard work, attention to detail and her can-do, positive attitude are extremely valuable to our organization," says Mike Burns, Alpine Bank regional president. "That, plus her commitment to the people, businesses and nonprofits of Delta County make her the ideal leader." Katie is a Colorado native, born and raised in Silverthorne. After Katie's parents and grandparents both relocated to the Western Slope, Katie and her husband quickly followed. "Family is important, and we fell in love with the West Slope of Colorado," said Katie "When I started working at Alpine Bank, I felt like I was home. I take so much pride in working for an organization that gives back to individual communities - communities that make Colorado such a great place to live and work. I am honored to take on this role and look forward to great opportunities and partnerships in Delta County."



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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### CALAMITY HILLS PRESCRIBED BURN PLANNED

#### *Special to the Mirror*

GRAND JUNCTION— Fire Management Officials from the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests' Grand Valley Ranger District plan to conduct the Calamity Hills prescribed burn, Sunday, Dec. 5, depending upon weather and appropriate ground and vegetation conditions.

The project area is located 8 miles northeast of Gateway and will burn approximately 1500 acres of overgrown and decaying vegetation. Only a single day of ignition is planned with monitoring through the next several days pending forecasted precipitation for next week. The purpose for the prescribed burn is to improve vegetation regeneration, wildlife habitat, reduce hazardous vegetation (fuels) buildup and to promote a wildfire resiliency landscape.

Safety of firefighters and the public are the most important factors considered when planning a prescribed burn. Fire Management Officers and Fuels Specialists spend countless hours developing detailed prescribed fire plans that detail specific weather, fuel conditions and staffing and safety requirements. Ignitions will occur using ground and aerial techniques. Ignitions only occur if conditions are conducive to a safe, effective operation and within appropriate smoke dispersal parameters set by the State of Colorado.

The prescribed burns will be accomplished using joint-agency fire resources, mitigation measures and protocols that are in place to reduce the risk and transmission of COVID-19. Air quality will be closely monitored to mitigate smoke related impacts to communities. Smoke may be visible in the Naturita, Nucla and Gateway areas.

For information on prescribed burns, pile burns, wildfires and fire restrictions on National Forest System lands and other areas, call the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests Fire Information line at (970) 874-6602, visit the

GMUG Forest website: [www.fs.usda.gov/gmug](http://www.fs.usda.gov/gmug), GMUG Fire Information: <https://>

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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### DMEA FILLS BOARD OF DIRECTOR VACANCIES

#### Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-At their regularly scheduled November meeting, the DMEA Board of Directors appointed Jacob Gray and Kevin Williams to fill the vacant district 3 and 5 board seats. They were selected from more than 15 member candidates who submitted interest in the two open positions.

"On behalf of DMEA's Board of Directors, I'd like to thank all of our applicants. It was a talented pool and a tough decision. We are excited for what Jacob and Kevin will bring to our membership," said DMEA Board President Kyle Martinez.

District 3 – Jacob Gray

Gray has served on several boards, including his current roles on the Rocky Mountain Farmer's Union and the Delta County Planning Commission. Throughout his tenure on these boards, Gray has learned the importance of engaging the communities he serves. In addition to his board service, Gray owns two small agricultural ventures, Diamond G Poultry and Gray Acres.

District 5 – Kevin Williams

Williams is a 1985 graduate of the University of Idaho with a Master's Degree in Forest Resources. In 2019, Williams retired as a full-time employee after 35 years with the Western Organization of Resource Councils (WORC) where he served in vari-

ous roles, including Community Organizer and Executive Director for Western Colorado Alliance, as well as the Regional Organizer for WORC. Williams and Gray will join DMEA's nine-member board to help govern the cooperative on the members' behalf. As a board member, he will represent the needs and interests of DMEA's 30,000+ membership. DMEA's Board of Directors meets monthly to review the financial state of the cooperative, discuss policies, evaluate new opportunities, and address issues the co-op may be facing.

More information about DMEA's Board of Directors appointees can be found online at [www.dmea.com/board-directors](http://www.dmea.com/board-directors).



## COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

### HIGHWAY 92 BRIDGE WEST OF AUSTIN TO BE REPLACED

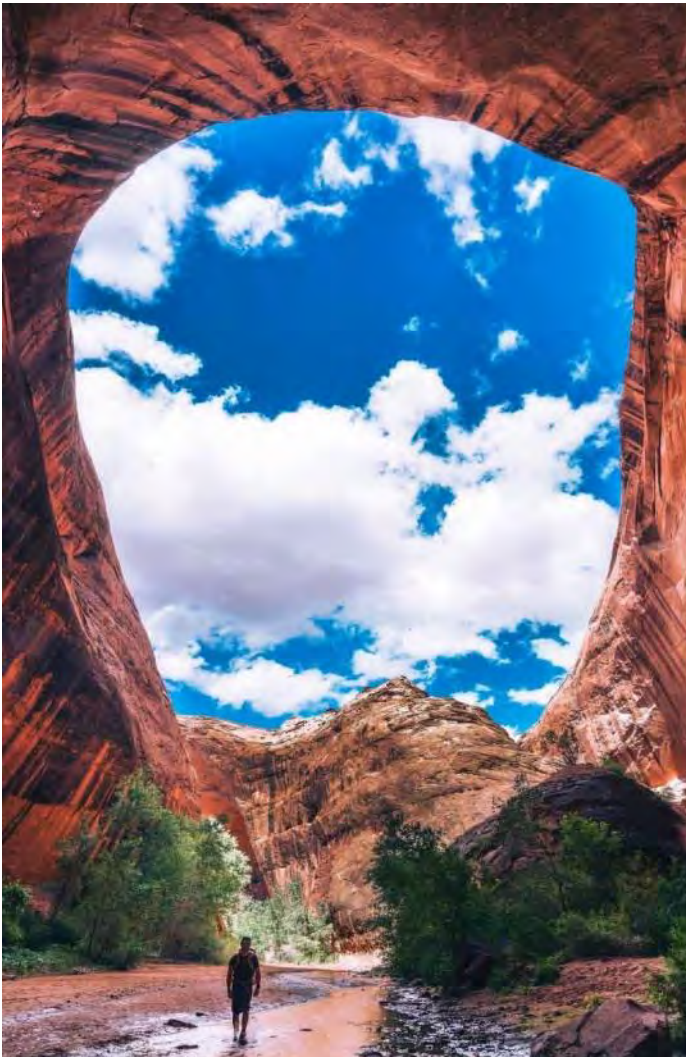


#### *Special to the Mirror*

AUSTIN-The Colorado Department of Transportation and contractor Ralph L. Wadsworth Construction Co. have begun work on the project to replace the Highway 92 bridge crossing the Gunnison River, located between the turn off to Highway 65 and Austin.

Construction of a two-lane detour and a temporary bridge placed just south of the existing structure will allow motorists to continue using Highway 92 during the work.

The project also includes resurfacing east and west of the bridge, which will get underway for two to three months during the 2022 summer.



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# OPINION/EDITORIAL LETTERS

## DEMOCRATS WANT YOU TO IGNORE REALITY

*Editor:*

The Biden administration is in dire straits and they know it. Voters are unable to name anything positive this administration has accomplished, so Dems are absolutely scraping the bottom of the barrel to put a positive spin on their failures. A prime example is Kevin Kuns' November 29<sup>th</sup> Montrose Mirror letter touting all the great free stuff Colorado is supposedly getting in the Democrat's new "Infrastructure" Bill, and slamming those evil Republicans for not "supporting the hard-working families" and opposing "cutting taxes for working families."

Ignore the fact that the entire "Build Back Better" agenda, which includes the Infrastructure Bill, has resulted in the worst inflation in three decades. Biden somehow thinks that spending multi-trillions of dollars, dramatically increasing taxes, and increasing the national debt is somehow beneficial to working class Americans. (Didn't work for Zimbabwe or Venezuela.) Inflation doesn't impact the Bidens or the billionaire who lent them his \$30 million estate in Nantucket last week. It affects the single mom trying to make ends meet. Biden didn't care about that when he destroyed our own oil production and a few months later attempted to blame soaring gas prices on OPEC refusing to increase their production.

Per Biden, his next spending boondoggle,

which will provide the IRS with an additional \$80 billion and 80,000 new IRS agents, will only target those lazy cheating billionaires. Since there are only 630 Americans in the billionaire club, that is 127 new IRS agents per billionaire. In fact, most of that money would be directed at doubling the number of annual audits of small businesses. His plan is to conduct 1.2 million more audits per year, and about half of those audits would target households making less than \$75,000 per year. The IRS will actually target – not the millionaires or those making six figures – but those who cannot afford lawyers to argue their cases.

Democrats want you to be overjoyed when they provide \$2.5 billion dollars of your tax money for charging stations for affluent liberals who can afford electric cars. They hope voters' focus will be diverted to all that cool "free" stuff (that your children will have to pay for with the 25% increase in the national debt). They want you to be distracted from all the real issues affecting this country – problems they have created and they have no solutions for.

Don't think about the fact that chaos is running supreme in Democrat-run California, where mobs of thieves swarm stores and steal as much as they can carry, while the police look the other way because liberal District Attorneys won't back them

up. Or other Dem-run cities with soaring crime rates due to their demonizing the police.

Don't think about the fact that the mission to rescue Americans and allies abandoned by Biden in Afghanistan is still underway, but by private individuals and not our government. Don't think about the tribalism of our education system, with Critical Race Theory teaching kids to hate our democracy. Don't think about Biden family corruption, with Hunter Biden facilitating China acquiring a near-monopoly of cobalt – the resource needed to build batteries for electric cars. Don't think about the fact that the media did not fall for the Russian collusion hoax, but were an integral part of it, or that our once-trusted FBI was also deeply involved. Don't think about our now non-existent southern border and the impact of that invasion on working-class Americans. Or Biden banning travel from nine countries due to concerns about the virus, but continuing to move tens of thousands of illegal unvaccinated immigrants to cities across this nation in the middle of the night.

Democrats want you to ignore reality and accept the absurdity that they care about hard-working families. "Don't think." "Just accept all this "free" stuff and get back on the plantation."

*Chanda Ouimet, Montrose*





## OPINION/EDITORIAL LETTERS

# CONSIDER ELIMINATING THE COUNTY'S REGRESSIVE SALES TAX ON GROCERIES

To Montrose Mirror readers:

Below is a copy of an email I sent to our BOCC on 11-4-21. encouraging them to consider eliminating the county's regressive sales tax on groceries [ food for home consumption], in this budget cycle. To date I've received a response from one Commissioner, who indicated a willingness to consider my suggestion.

A SPECIAL NOTE TO THE SELF APPOINTED FACT CHECKERS [CENSORS] ON N. TOWNSEND: All information included in my BOCC letter came from the County website or the Finance Dept.

If you buy your groceries anywhere in Montrose County, and agree that a sales tax on groceries is an oppressive tax, contact your Commissioners and share your feelings on the subject. Unless they hear from a broad spectrum of the Montrose County population, that tax is sure to stay in place.

CONTACTS: Sue Hansen- [shansen@montrosecounty.net](mailto:shansen@montrosecounty.net) 970-209-0239  
 Keith Caddy- [kcarry@montrosecounty.net](mailto:kcarry@montrosecounty.net) 970-209-2501  
 Roger Rash- [rrash@montrosecounty.net](mailto:rrash@montrosecounty.net) 720-732-2745

Government entities are generally loath to eliminate revenue. One reason may be, "We just can't afford to lose that revenue". The logical response is; "Adjust your expenditures accordingly like all businesses do!" Another reason may be, "We would lose revenue from out of area visitors". So what! What is more important-the people who are full time residents or visitors who come and leave?. So, take a moment from your busy schedule and call or email your Commissioners and encourage them to eliminate this tax. And, encourage family and friends to do likewise.

DEE LAIRD, Montrose

Good morning Sue, Roger, and Keith,

I'm in the process of developing an issue of great concern to me, as well as many others, that I intend to bring public before the end of the month, and wanted to appraise you of it and solicit your feedback and hopefully support before doing so.

You all are certainly aware of our deteriorating economic stability with inflation on fast track due to Biden policies. Gas and energy costs have risen substantially and will continue to do so, affecting every citizen. The cost of all goods and services have continued to rise with ripple effects in the economy. And, the serious breakdown in our national supply line will exacerbate that inflation. The ultimate cost of bad political decisions falls squarely at the feet of the taxpayer, with no end in sight.

The County's proposed 2022 budget shows property taxes increasing \$2.1 million. Current sales taxes are up 16.5% [ not sure of the dollar amount] , but the budget projects that number to increase by \$ 766 K. Collections from the PSST and R&B tax are already up \$2.5 million from the previous year. Astoundingly, since inception, those two taxes have generated over \$134 million in revenue for the County. All

of this on top of what I understand to be a projected year end surplus of \$54 million.

Pre Covid I had done some research on some Montrose demographics and found that: Sharing Ministries serves 5300 families monthly, 49% of the students in our School District received free food or got reduced assistance, and the County of Montrose assisted 2500 families monthly with food.

Additionally I found the poverty rate in the County at 13.2%, per capita income was at a low \$ 28,078, and 24.1% of our population was on or eligible for Social Security. The combination of an economy in decline, rising inflation, not soon to be checked, and rising taxes bodes ill for all Montrose citizens.

In my 65+ years of adulthood, I can recall far few too times when our elected officials actually took a stance that would economically benefit EVERY citizen, but I think that opportunity could be before you in this budget cycle. The most regressive and harmful tax that affects basic subsistence is the "grocery" tax on food for home consumption. When Colorado set up the sales tax system, the state wisely chose not to tax such items. Many cities

and some counties do however, to the detriment of their citizens, especially in such times as we now face, At my request, Cindy Dunlap of your Finance Dept. indicated to me that for fiscal 2020 Montrose County collected just shy of \$756,000 in sales tax revenue on groceries

Your operating projected revenue for 2022 less capital revenue is \$ 67 million. The revenue realized from grocery taxation in fiscal 2020 is minuscule compared to all revenues projected, not to mention a heavy surplus. In my opinion, taxing groceries for home consumption, is on principle, morally wrong for taxing basic subsistence items.

Considering our current economy and rapidly increasing inflation, in addition to your projected tax increases, I respectfully ask you to immediately give full consideration to eliminating that oppressive grocery tax. Montrose County residents, faced with across the board rising costs and reduced disposable income will surely appreciate a vital tax reduction. I look forward to your response at your earliest convenience after digesting my proposal. Best to all!

Dee



## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### DELTA HEALTH LABORATORY ACCREDITED BY COLLEGE OF AMERICAN PATHOLOGISTS

*Special to  
the Mirror*

DELTA-The Accreditation Committee of the College of American Pathologists (CAP) has

awarded accreditation to the Delta Health Laboratory in Delta, Colorado-

based on results of a recent on-site inspection as part of the CAP's Accreditation Programs.

The facility's director, Kenneth Shaffer, Delta Health Laboratory Medical Director, was advised of this national recognition and congratulated for the excellence of the services being provided. Delta Health Laboratory is one of more than 8,000 CAP-accredited facilities worldwide. "Passing a College of American Pathology inspection demonstrates the quality of medical care provided by the Delta Hospital Laboratory," said Shaffer. "Seven inspectors spent eight hours reviewing everything pertaining to running a laboratory. Every department in the lab is inspected. They check our procedures, reagents, analyzers, qualification and competency of the staff, quality control, computer systems, environment, safety, point of care testing and that are thermometers, glassware and pipettes are all calibrated. All the inspectors manage and work in medical laboratories around the country." The U.S. federal government recognizes the CAP Laboratory Accreditation Program, begun in the early 1960s, as being equal to or more stringent than the government's own inspection program. During the CAP accreditation process, designed to ensure the highest standard of care for all laboratory patients, inspectors examine the laboratory's records and quality control of procedures for the preceding two years. CAP inspectors also examine laboratory staff qualifications, equipment, facilities, safety program and record, and overall management. Shaffer emphasized how proud he is of the Delta Health Laboratory personnel that helped maintain the highest standards while often being understaffed and overworked during the COVID-19 crisis. To learn more about the Laboratory Department at Delta Health, visit [deltahealthco.org/laboratory/](http://deltahealthco.org/laboratory/) or call 970.874.2261.



**The Accreditation Committee of the College of American Pathologists (CAP) has awarded accreditation to the Delta Health Laboratory . Courtesy photo.**

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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### CASA INVITES THE COMMUNITY TO 1ST PLACE ON PALMER ST. IN DELTA OPEN HOUSE

*Special to the Mirror*

DELTA - CASA of the 7th Judicial District invites the Delta community to attend the 1st Place on Palmer St. Open House, as the organization celebrates providing Delta County with six units of supportive housing for young adults at risk for homelessness. The event is scheduled for Dec. 14, 2021, from 2pm to 6pm, at 1026 Palmer Street.

Thanks to the combined efforts of Altrusa International of Delta, the City of Delta, local businesses hosting "First Apartment" showers, donations from private individuals and local merchants, and the generosity of many local residents, 1st Place will be ready to accept the home's first tenants on Dec. 20, 2021.

All six units as well as the 1,200 square feet of shared space have been fully fur-

nished, providing a first home for qualified residents. In addition, the location will serve as a welcoming environment for walk-in youth looking to access CASA's array of supportive services, including access to counseling and assistance in obtaining employment.

Since breaking ground in March of this year on the \$675,000 project, CASA has made a concerted effort to do business with local contractors and businesses whenever pos-



**CASA's 1st Place on Palmer St., scheduled to open its doors on Dec. 20, 2021, will provide permanence for youth emancipating from foster care. Courtesy photo.**

sible, and estimates that more than \$200,000 of the construction and furnishing costs have stayed in the Delta community.

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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## GIVE US JOY, COMFORT AND PEACE

*Editor:*

I am angry at the Democrats. They need to quit their in-house bickering. They hold the Presidency. The Senate. The House. They need to work cohesively and get the job done. The time for talking is over.

The Democrats cannot stand back and allow the Republicans to keep saying. "It is too soon," and "our thoughts and prayers are with you." Columbine. Sandy Hook (ten years ago next December - 20 elementary school kids dead). Parkland. And now Michigan. One cannot list all the school shootings that have taken place.

Shame on the NRA who went on the offensive after the Columbine shooting in 1999. The hunting and gun safety organization became instead a mouthpiece for 2nd Amendment "rights" and filling their coffers with money from donations.

Shame on the Supreme Court whose in-

terpretation of our Constitution in recent years has broadened the scope of what our Founding Fathers meant when they penned the 2nd Amendment. They were afraid of a "standing army" and wanted an armed militia. They never envisioned how their simple statement at the time would be so different in the 21st Century.

Shame on Kentucky Congressman Thomas Massie for posting a Christmas photo, just days after the Michigan shooting, of his family all holding semi-automatic rifles and posting, "Merry Christmas! p.s. Santa, please bring ammo."

Shame on Lauren Boebert who tweeted, "That's my kind of Christmas card!"

Shame on the El Paso County Sheriff's Office in Colorado Springs posting a photo of a Santa Claus with the caption, "guess who came in to receive his Concealed Handgun Permit today?"

Shame on the parents who are more concerned on banning books or that history not teach "the good, the bad, the ugly," rather than making sure that children are really safe from school violence.

The list of shaming can go on and on.

The Republicans won't do it, protect our children from gun violence. Like a Michigan state representative stated, "They need to step aside". The Democrats must unite and fill in some of the loopholes in firearm legislation. Background checks for all sales. Requirements to safely store firearms. A nationwide Red Flag law if individual states won't enact legislation.

I do not want to hear of another school shooting. I know that sounds naive. It is December and the Christmas season. Surprise me Democrats and Republicans.

Give us joy, comfort and peace.

*Jon Sering, Montrose*

## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-Since 1964, it has been an annual tradition to ring bells for the Salvation Army Red Kettles, as a Community Service Project. On Dec 4, three Scouts, Alex Burrows, RJ Avila, and Eli Howe, and Leader, Paul Gifford, of Troop 478 came to volunteer. The troop also was represented in the Parade of Lights; not pictured is Spencer Leggett, who carried the American Flag, along with fire-truck belonging to wildland firefighter, Lawrence Sanderson. sponsoring organization. On Dec 18th, Troop 491 plans to be ringing bells at Murdoch's.



*Troop 478 came to volunteer, above. Courtesy photo.*





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**Progressive  
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*Jackpots will be Awarded to 1<sup>st</sup> player  
that reaches BINGO*

**Doors  
Open at  
4:30 PM  
Games  
Start at  
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## OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

# RAICO AND WILLIAM HAMMON'S STORY



*Raico at home, above, and on the water.  
Photos courtesy of William Hammon. There  
is a petition on Facebook, #BringRaicoHome.*



*By William Hammon*

DELTA—My name is William Hammon and this is a story about a man and his canine counterpart. This story involves hardship, love, loyalty, and what it means to be family. To start this story, I have to begin by telling you about how I got here. After high school, I joined the United States Army as an Airborne Infantryman. While serving in the United States Armed Forces, I had the opportunity to train and work with Military Working Dogs. I started this journey in 2011 where I attended a 16-week course at Vohne Liche Kennels. From there, I went to Arizona where I trained and certified with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms before deploying to Afghanistan.

While deployed in Afghanistan, my job consisted of being an asset for several different combat units. My job was to utilize my Tactical Explosive Detector Dog to conduct patrols with infantry units. Sounds pretty cool right? Well, it was actually very stressful. This job meant I had to be out in front of the patrols making sure there were no Improvised Explosive Devices anywhere along the route. In basic terms, I was looking for bombs that were hidden in the environment. Regardless of how stressful or dangerous it was, I was still proud to do it.

In February of 2015, I lost my father when

a medical procedure he needed failed and he passed away from the complications. Approximately a year later, I lost my mother to other outstanding health issues. To say the least, it was a very dark time in my life. While fighting my depression I was working as a police officer. I had just suffered significant losses in my life and needed to find a way to give myself purpose. I remember thinking about all of the crazy things I went through in Afghanistan and wondered how I kept myself together through all of it. That's when it dawned on me. It was my bond with my dog and the services we provided to my fellow soldiers. It was the bond and purpose we shared while providing those services that kept me moving forward.

You see, everyone talks about the services working dogs provide such as tracking, detection work, and even patrol stuff but nobody ever talks about the emotional support or bond that they share with their handlers. I remember a specific mission when we were attacked and one of the Afghan Nationals stepped on a bomb I had marked. It ended with a boom and it drained everyone involved with the mission. That night at our stronghold, every-

one was quiet, depressed, and exhausted. I decided to take my dog around to visit everyone just to socialize and try and boost the morale of the team. I remember later that night, one of the squad leaders came over to me and thanked me for doing that with my dog. I didn't fully understand what he was thanking me for until I looked around and saw that everyone's mindset was in a much better place. This impacted the way I thought about working dogs and made me learn to appreciate them at a whole new level.

That's when I started researching what it would take to get back into the working dog world. After doing my homework and gathering my research, I approached the Chief of Police to introduce the idea to him. The Chief was completely against the idea because he had a bad experience at one time in his career with other K9 Programs. The Chief's answer was, "No." Since the funds were not available or in the budget, the program was a long shot. I continued to do my research and gather information and look for ways to fund the program at minimal cost to the city. After I completed a grant for the program and utilizing resources through a seizure fund,

*Continued next pg*



## RAICO AND WILLIAM HAMMON'S STORY From previous pg

my chief told me to represent the idea to him. One thing led to another and I got the chance to present the idea to the city council. The City council was ecstatic that the program wouldn't cost the citizens anything so I was able to get the program up and running. I traveled to a Kennel and that's where I met my K9 partner Raico.

When I met Raico, I had this familiar feeling come over me. It was the feeling of solace and respect. I hadn't felt it in such a long time that I almost didn't recognize it. As time went on and I worked with Raico, that feeling grew into much more than just respect. It became feelings of loyalty and grace when we were working together. For the first time since I lost my parents, I felt like myself again. I returned home with Raico and everyone was always asking me how to pronounce his name and what it meant. Raico means you are a deep thinker and drawn to the mysteries of life. I found it very fitting for him because I found his level of curiosity above average, to say the least.

I was able to secure a donation for food from Tractor Supply and as far as gear I needed went, I just improvised when I needed to due to funding issues. The money was always a struggle when it came to getting what I needed. I had some close friends offer to donate money to the program but I requested that they just purchase the equipment I needed for Raico and that's how I got by. As time went on Raico and I became a dynamic duo receiving numerous awards for our service together. Among the awards, Raico and I received as a team was the Top Patrol Deployment of 2020. This was awarded to us by the Colorado Police Canine Association for our efforts in a river deployment to apprehend a fugitive with an escape warrant. I would like to take a second and thank Geraldine Earthman for teaching me everything I know about deploying a canine in water. It was because of her coaching, Raico and I were successful that day. We couldn't have done it without her.

In the summer of 2019, Tractor Supply advised us that they would no longer donate food or toys due to "Funding". I was so worried about it becoming an issue, I approached my first-line supervisor about

it and never heard anything about it again. I started buying Raico's food with my own money. I had two other dogs at home so I just added it to their food bill. I was doing what I loved and money wasn't my priority the health of my best friend was. I was more worried about the city discontinuing the program because it cost too much. I was so proud of what I was doing I used my own money and ordered blue line wristbands that said Team Raico on them. After that, Team Raico became our team's name.

In April 2021, I was able to convince the Chief of Police that we should host the K9 Challenge in the city. He agreed and with a lot of help from the department and community members, we made it happen. A couple of weeks before the challenge, the department had a COVID-19 outbreak, and Raico and I had to sit the challenge out. Raico and I both were upset that we didn't get to compete. The department actually participated and ordered all kinds of cool swag for the challenge and then boom, COVID. The department continued to show support by selling the swag and telling me the money was going back into the K9 fund; however, I was never allowed to know who, how much or what the money in the K9 fund was going to. When I asked, I was told the money went to overtime for training.

In the fall of 2021, I went through what I refer to as a transitioning period with my job. I ended up separating from my employment with the department. Prior to all of this at the beginning of putting the program together, I had a verbal agreement with the chief that if I completed three years with the program, Raico would be released to me due to the amount of time we were together and my contributions to make the K9 program possible for the department. Needless to say, when I separated from the department, that end of the deal was not upheld. The day Raico was taken from my care was horrific for me and my family. As I walked Raico out front, he began lashing out at the two city officials who came to get him. Raico could feel the tension in the air and knew that I was upset. Raico was only doing what he was supposed to do and that was pro-

tecting me. I took a minute and calmed Raico down because I feared that he would lash out and hurt someone because of the situation. When I loaded Raico up for them, I asked if they had a leash or collar. They did not, they didn't because I had paid for all of Raico's collars, leashes, and numerous other amounts of equipment out of my own pocket. I had to lend the city officials my collar and leash just so they had something to walk Raico with. I remember loading Raico up and telling him I was going to fight for him and to behave until I got him back.

I contacted the city officials and offered to buy Raico at full price from the city and was told no. I even put together a proposal and found another prospected canine, with the help of my canine resources to replace Raico and provide continued training for a new K9 officer. The projected value of that proposal was between \$15,000 and \$18,000. The city manager rejected that proposal as well. I reached out to third-party experts from around the country and they were able to provide letters on their expert opinions. One of the experts by the name of Robert Eden has over 40 years in the business and has published three books on how to start, supervise, and manage K9 teams and programs. Robert Eden still provides K9 tracking systems all over the world and teaches in seminars. He attempted to provide an unbiased opinion through email and even called city hall and was never responded to.

Robert along with other experts provided letters for me to give the city officials in hopes it would help them understand the financial burden and liability of trying to repurpose Raico. I received in my response from the city that, "Raico is our K9 Program" so they wanted to put the money into it now. First of all, there is a lot more to a K9 Program than just the animal. The dog is the face of the program I agree, but there is much more to it than just the public relations side of things. To explain, the bond between the handler and the dog is very important to be successful because it's a team effort. Then you have to factor in the fact that the dog is not just equipment or property you put



## RAICO AND WILLIAM HAMMON'S STORY From previous pg

away for the day when your shift is over.

The handler needs to care for the dog, feed the dog, pick up poop, and even bathe the dog. These are the basics, yes, but I learned a long time ago you get what you put into it which is why I made Raico family and not just my partner. Raico and I were complimented on our efforts everywhere we went and even dog teams from the Eastern Slope commended our partnership. Then you have to factor in all of the training logs, reports, callouts, and overtime. So when the letter I received stated, "Raico is our K9 Program" it was clear to me that the fundamentals of a program were not fully understood.

Due to the type of responses I was receiving from the city, I contacted a lawyer and began collecting documentation for my case. I can't elaborate on that at this time because it is ongoing. During all of this, my family was there for me and I struggled every day. My other two dogs at home were even affected because they lost a sibling. They stopped eating and Raico's brother started whining while lying in Raico's spot. It was horrible to watch and made me feel helpless that I couldn't help them feel better. Some close friends and family members started telling me that they wanted to help but didn't know what to do. One of them suggested going public and letting the community speak for themselves since "taxpayer dollars" was the city's defense as to why they wouldn't sell Raico to me.

After some time passed and the city was still refusing to work with my attorney on the situation, one of my close friends collected pictures from me and launched a Facebook Page to let everyone know what was going on. When I became aware of the page I requested that the person running the page not badmouth or post anything that was not true or supported by facts. Of course, you can't control everything people say but I still requested that it be monitored as best possible. I personally do not have social media so I couldn't monitor it all of the time. I did provide pictures for them to post and if I was made aware if something was derogatory, I asked the person running the page to take it down. The page BringRacioHome showed me that there are a lot of great people out there who understand the bond I have with Raico.

I was contacted shortly after the page launched and asked to tell my story to a local news station. I offered to share my feelings on the matter and it aired on TV. The reporter who did the story asked the department for a statement and they released a statement that stated, The Police Department says the reason the K-9 officer was taken away was that he was paid for with taxpayer money. Then went on to say, "K9 Raico is happy, healthy, and actively training with a new handler. Raico is not currently on active duty while he trains with a new handler. The City continues to evaluate Raico's future, and we

hope to see him return to active duty to serve with his fellow police officers in protecting the City of Delta."

This statement is terrifying to me because based on expert advice, it takes 9 to 12 months to bond properly. Then the fact that Raico is a very high drive dog. I can contest too many times it took every ounce of strength I had to hold Raico back or control during calls and training. Currently, there is no officer at the department with any background in dog handling suitable to effectively handle Raico's level of drive.

This creates a huge risk to the public and not only the other officers but Raico himself.

Can you imagine if Raico was misused on a call and bit someone, or couldn't be controlled because of his drives? This would not be fair to anyone involved especially Raico. The release of this statement is why I can stop fighting to get Raico back. I have heard from department members before that if Raico couldn't be controlled or became aggressive, they would, "Do what they had to do."

This is not fair to do to him in this situation especially when they have a way out that doesn't involve the risk. Anyone who can relate to my situation should understand, Raico needs to come home to have a happy end to the story.

Until then, I will not stop fighting for him because that's how strong our bond is and always will be.

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# SOLAR INSTALLATION ALONG HWY 50 NEARS COMPLETION *From pg 1*



***Above, Men and equipment are working in dusty conditions at the old LP building site to install solar equipment; at right, solar installation going in along Hwy 50 at Montrose County border with Delta. Photos by Carole McKelvey.***



developed around the old Louisiana Pacific (old LP) industrial building on the northern border of Montrose County isn't being developed for solar power for Montrose or for the Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA). Rather, the solar facility will produce energy for a data storage business; the technical equipment to be installed requires a huge amount of energy and the solar installation will help meet those needs.

Should the solar property have a surplus of power, it could eventually impact DMEA's power grid for the positive, though the power is being generated for use by the data storage facility.

The developer of the land, CO Mine 1 Landco, LLC, is based in El Segundo, California. The company is developing the property and repurposing the large industrial building on the site.

White said the old LP site has been zoned industrial since 2011 and is in an industrial zoning area along the highway as suggested in the Master Plan.

A solar facility "Is within the use by right

category for industrial zoning," he said.

That means the new owners did not have to have a special use permit to build the solar facility, though the Montrose County Planning Commission did have a public meeting when the rezoning was requested. The rezoning for the project was presented to the Montrose County Planning Commission in a [public meeting on July 22, 2021](#).

A recommendation for approval was then forwarded to county commissioners. At that time no one knew of the plans for the solar installation and this use was not mentioned in the report authored by Planner Tallmadge Richmond.

CO Mine 1 Landco applied for and received rezoning on a triangle piece of acreage next to the building before the Montrose County Board of Commissioners (BOCC) [on Sept. 1, 2021](#).

[CO Mine 1 Landco, LLC](#), is a Delaware Limited-Liability Company filed on May 11, 2021. The company's filing status is listed as Good Standing and its File Number is [20211447766](#), according to the Colora-

do Secretary of State. The registered Agent is Michael Cohen.

The solar project at the new data storage facility is being built by [E Light](#) Electric, a solar company located in Englewood, CO. E Light Electric was founded in Colorado in 1998. They are a provider of electrical and renewable energy installations and are Colorado-owned and operated. [The web-site](#) states the company can service projects and job sites nationwide.

Those driving by the facility at the old LP building need not despair that the solar facility may not provide power to the local community. Solar power is in our future as well, even if it doesn't come from this new installation at the county border.

Regional energy supplier, DMEA, and its newly approved provider, Guzman Energy, will be working on a new solar facility in Delta County soon. Earlier this year DMEA announced its plans to purchase a significant portion of the output from an 80MW solar energy project in Delta County. That project has already been approved but is not being built yet.



## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

### WHEN IT'S TOO LATE, THE RICH POLITICIANS WHO CAUSE THE PROBLEMS WON'T BE AFFECTED

*Editor;*

The American people are confused. They see this Biden regime making decisions and demands on the American people that are in no way for the benefit of Americans and are definitely not patriotic decisions. The perfect example is their so-called new Omicron "variant" virus that the regime tells us was started in Africa. Biden immediately banned several African nations from traveling to America. Isn't it amazing how he so quickly banned their travel to America, but is welcoming millions of illegal border invaders into America from over 140 countries world-wide with no requirements for Covid testing nor vaccinations? And Biden said it was "racist" and "homophobic" when President Trump banned certain travel from America. And isn't it astonishing this new so-called Omicron variant popped up overnight all over the world and even had a fancy name already affixed to it the minute it was announced? Think back to approximately January 2020 when Covid first became the new national scare and remember that was the year of a very consequential election where Democrats had to defeat a president who had in just four years defeated and repealed a horde of Democrat malfeasance and unpatriotic measures enacted mainly by the previous Obama/Biden administration. So they colluded with Democrat polling administrators in mainly Democrat states and cities to allow after-hour, past-deadline

mail-in votes to be counted. Those after-hour past-deadline ballots were of course 99% for Biden! Democrats pulled all the strings to get President Trump defeated to the point that even Biden bragged and admitted they (Democrats) had the best voter fraud system there ever was. And it worked. But their best choice to replace Trump is a worthless, weak, and unpatriotic Joe Biden who's allegiance is with China and Russia with multi million and billion dollar family business deals which is making millionaires out of Biden's entire family and that compromises Biden's every national security decision. And Democrats were trying to tar and feather President Trump for that same thing which was proved to be a total lie! They have no shame!

And now, take notice we are about the same distance away from the next hugely consequential election and what do we hear? Of course there is another new "virus" that will limit in-person voting and will require more mail-in voting along with ballot harvesting. Same thing all over again! They haven't mentioned it yet, but hold on, it's coming! Fraud worked before, so why would Democrats abandon it? They certainly will not have a candidate patriotic or smart enough to compete legally. So now until the November election they will have plenty of time to brainwash and scare people again about a "new" virus. Think about it, when do you hear any Democrat praise America? Or

celebrate our Constitution?

Or demand safety for American citizens walking our streets? Or admonish criminals for burning our cities? Or rebuke criminals for gang theft in department stores? Or praising our police? Or censuring the trash our school children are being taught in public schools? Or support our military by demanding it be the strongest in the world? (By contrast, the Democrat multiple \$ trillion-dollar spending bills have nothing for our military, but is disgracefully loaded with trillions for border invaders!) Or demand our borders be closed to invasion? Or follow their own rules for society? Or taking responsibility for tearing the very fabric of America apart? Or accepting blame for the inflation they are causing?

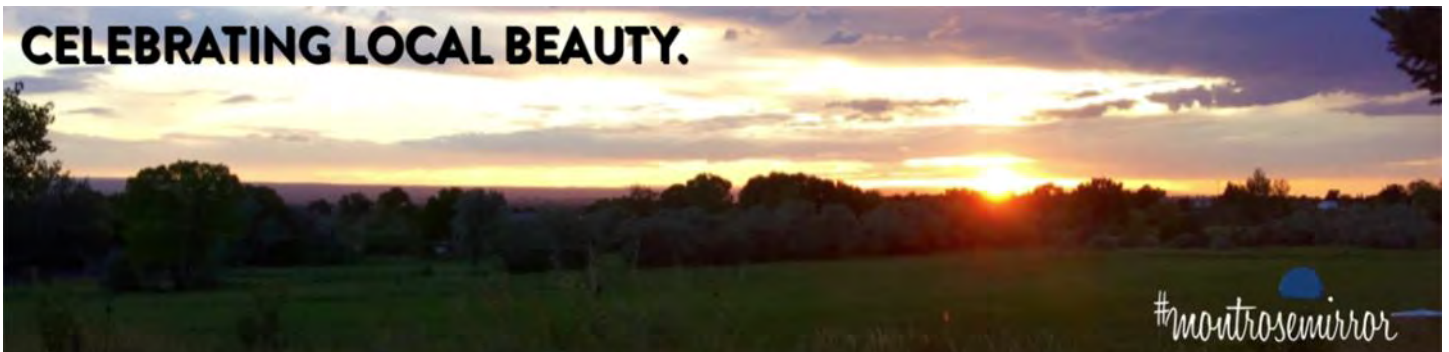
The list cries for something.....just anything good that we can say comes from Democrat policies. And they won't tell you that the massive invasion at the border is going to cause massive food shortages in America and huge water shortages in the near future.

Then what? Then it's too late, but of course the rich politicians who cause the problems won't be affected. They will be first in line to take what there is.

"If it be asked, what is the most sacred duty and the greatest source of our security in a Republic? The answer would be an inviolable respect for the constitution and laws." ---- Alexander Hamilton

*Jerry Bartholome, Montrose*

## CELEBRATING LOCAL BEAUTY.





## DMEA SIDESTEPS RANSOMWARE QUESTION AS INTERNAL NETWORK OUTAGE CONTINUES *From pg 1*

Electric Association (DMEA) Board of Directors meeting, held virtually via Zoom, was called to order at 3:10 p.m. Seven board members were present.

DMEA co-op members are afforded an opportunity to speak during Member Comments, which is scheduled for 5 p.m.

During meetings the board of directors hear verbal summary reports of their monthly meetings and activities; however, neither the co-op membership nor the media have access to the written reports submitted for board approval.

The call to order was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, the opening meeting prayer, determination of a quorum, and approval of the agenda.

### General Business.

Several reports and documents normally presented at board meetings could not be given due to the attack on the internal network system, i.e., the consent agenda, Financial Report with Variance Report, and System Average Interruption Duration Index (SAIDI).

Board President Kyle Martinez said, "There is no consent agenda, those documents aren't ready for approval."

### New Directors Appointment

Martinez said, "There are seven board members present and two in the wings." Paonia resident Jacob Gray was appointed to the District 3 seat and Montrose resident Kevin Williams was appointed to the District 5 seat.

The board is now full with nine members. Martinez said, "We had 17 resumes and more than a dozen interviews."

### Board Committee Items:

**Finance – Audit – Rate Committee (FAR)** – Ken Watson, Chair.

Watson said, "We did not meet, so no report."

**Engineering – Construction – Energy Services Committee** – Stacia Cannon, Chair.

Cannon said, "We did not meet, so I also do not have a report."

**Member Relations – Energy Services Committee** – Bill Patterson, Chair.

Patterson said, "We did not meet, but we have a report." The board then discussed the annual meeting date, the selection of



*The Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) Nov. 30, 2021 Board of Director's meeting was virtual via Zoom. Participating from the Black Canyon Board Room at DMEA headquarters are (L to R) Chief Technical Officer Kent Blackwell and Chief Executive Officer Alyssa Roberts. Photo by Gail Marvel.*

the credentials committee, and the ballot holding company.

**Approved unanimously:** The Annual Meeting Date is set for June 16, 2022, the Credentials Committee selected is Survey & Ballot Systems, and the Ballot Holding Company selected is Dalby, Wendland & Co.

Three options for future elections were discussed (Web only plus on-site voting; mail-in ballots and on-site voting; a hybrid of all three). Patterson said, "I would opt for having a paper ballot so it can be maintained. If there were any controversy we could go back and count."

Ken Watson said, "We should move toward electronic votes, especially if it is cheaper, but maybe not now."

Martinez said, "Move toward it, but not now. We should look into it." It was determined the DMEA election process would continue as it has in the past with no changes.

**Executive Committee** – Kyle Martinez, Chair.

Martinez said, "We did meet as a full board to review applications for the District 3 and District 5 seats. We interviewed candidates on two different days." Martinez reminded the board that their self-evaluations were due and he also made committee assignments for the new board members (Gray and Williams).

### Financial Report with Variance Report.

This report was omitted from this month's agenda due to the ongoing network issues that have impacted DMEA.

### CEO Report – Alyssa Roberts, CEO.

Using a PowerPoint presentation Roberts gave the board an update on the DMEA cyber security attack that took place three weeks earlier. Two slides titled, "What Happened" and "Next Steps/Timeline" were briefly discussed.

It must be noted that following the regular meeting the board went into Executive Session to discuss agenda items, one of which was "Network Matters." It is unknown if the Board of Directors suggested any changes to the staff recommendations

*Continued next pg*

## **DMEA SIDESTEPS RANSOMWARE QUESTION AS INTERNAL NETWORK OUTAGE CONTINUES** *From previous pg*

for the "Next Steps/Timeline."

### **WHAT HAPPENED?**

- Nov. 7 DMEA was the victim of a sophisticated cyber security attack
- 90 percent of internal network function and a good portion of data was corrupted
- Affected phones, email, and data such as forms/documents/spreadsheets/historical data, etc.
- Unable to take or make payments
- Our power grid and fiber network are unaffected by this event

### **NEXT STEPS/TIMELINE**

- Payments with SmartHub & kiosks will resume week of Dec. 6-10, 2021
- Resume billing week of Dec. 6-10, 2021
- Half of the memberships will have received two bills within two weeks and the other half will receive three bills two weeks apart.
- Through Jan. 31, 2022
- No disconnects or late fees will be assessed for non-payment
- Will offer three-month payment arrangements
- During initial stages of COVID-19 did similar process
- Six months no disconnects or late fees, six-month payment arrangement options
- There is a list of payment assistance programs and help on the website
- Elevate does not allow for payment arrangements but we will not disconnect until Jan. 31, 2022.

Roberts said, "This is where we are with the network. Twenty-years of [historical] data is gone. Limited functionality. We hope to return to normal by the end of the year. We are still investigating and finding things day by day. I can discuss some matters in executive session." Newly-installed board member Kevin Williams said, "Is there any [personal] information [taken] about members addresses?"

Roberts said, "We don't believe that it was accessed at this time. Before more questions along this line, we'll need to move into executive session."

Patterson requested a copy of the timeline. He said, "At Rotary today there was some pressure from the *Daily Press*. They

want to say to readers what the timeline is."

**October 2021 System Average Interruption Duration Index (SAIDI)** - Alyssa Roberts, CEO.

Due to the network issues this month the staff was unable to provide this information to the board.

**Non-Privileged Legal Report** - Jeff Hurd, Attorney.

Hurd touched briefly on Dark Fiber Network, Tri State (baseline for emissions calculations), fiber grants, PUC filings, and pending request for settlement approval. He said, "I'll save the rest of my report for executive session."

### **Representative Board Reports**

**WUES Report (Western United Electrical Association)** - Jock Fleming.

Fleming said, "We didn't meet so I have no report."

**CREA Report (Colorado Rural Electric Association)** - Damon Lockhart.

Lockhart said, "There is no report as we did not meet in November. I'll send some notes to you later."

### **Future Meetings**

The next regular meeting is tentatively scheduled for Dec. 28, 2021.

### **Member Comments 5 P.M.**

Because the meeting lasted only 35 minutes, Martinez opened the meeting up for member comments early. However, he noted the board would also return to member comments at 5 p.m. if there were others who joined the meeting at that time.

Roberts introduced Gayle Gouker, who will assume her position as the new Chief Financial Officer (CFO) on Dec. 13.

An unidentified audience member asked a question which was fielded by Roberts. The question was not repeated for public consumption, but Roberts answered, "We are a victim of a malicious cyber attack and that is as far as I will go."

**Note:** It was learned through the Surface Creek Message Board that DMEA co-op member Anne Wheeler, who took notes during the Zoom meeting, posed the question to the board.

Wheeler posted, "I specifically asked if

this was ransomware hacking; this question was completely sidestepped. The response was that this was a malicious hacking situation. Because of the refusal to directly answer my question, I'm guessing it was. If it wasn't ransomware, the appropriate response would have been "no". Typically, generic hacking attempts are resolved sooner than this has been. Ransomware attacks are much more challenging to resolve. Do we pay or do we just try to reconstruct our data? I am surmising this is the situation, but it seems reasonable to guess that it is."

### **Executive Session**

- Privileged Legal Report: Privileged Corporate, Litigation, and Regulatory Matters
- Power Supply Update
- Network Matters
- Board Conduct

### **Summary Report Following Executive Session**

In an email Executive Assistant Amy Taylor provided a summary of action taken following the Executive Session. Taylor said, "At 3:48 p.m., upon motion from Director Cannon, seconded by Director Fleming, the board unanimously went into executive session to: receive a privileged legal report regarding privileged corporate, litigation, and regulatory matters; receive a power supply update; discuss network matters; and review board conduct. Director Heuscher excused himself during the board review of board conduct. At 6 p.m., upon motion of Director Watson, seconded by Director Patterson, the Board voted unanimously to exit executive session. Having no further business to conduct, the board adjourned its regular meeting at 6:01 p.m."

### **DMEA Member Outreach**

On Dec. 1, an email letter from CEO Alyssa Roberts was sent to 23,000 DMEA members who have an existing member email address in the database outside of the DMEA billing system. For members who did not receive the email, the letter is available on the website at [Network Updates | Delta-Montrose Electric Assn. \(dmea.com\)](https://www.dmea.com). The letter is also available on the DMEA Facebook page.



## **DMEA SIDESTEPS RANSOMWARE QUESTION AS INTERNAL NETWORK OUTAGE CONTINUES** *From previous pg*

Dist 1 - Bill Patterson, 970-209-1449, [bpatterson@montrose.net](mailto:bpatterson@montrose.net)

Dist 2 - Kyle Martinez, 970-615-7124, [kyle@touchofcarepcp.com](mailto:kyle@touchofcarepcp.com)

Dist 3 - Jacob Gray

Dist 4 - Ken Watson, 970-275-2100, [kennethrwatson@gmail.com](mailto:kennethrwatson@gmail.com)

Dist 5 - Kevin Williams

Dist 6 - Damon Lockhart, 970-314-1071, [damon.lockhart@dmea.com](mailto:damon.lockhart@dmea.com)

Dist 7 - Enno Heuscher, 970-270-6523, [enno.heuscher@dmea.com](mailto:enno.heuscher@dmea.com)

Dist 8 - (North Region) Stacia Cannon, 920-207-8831, [stacia.cannon@dmea.com](mailto:stacia.cannon@dmea.com)

Dist 9 - (South Region) Jock Fleming, 970-275-1808, [jock.fleming@dmea.com](mailto:jock.fleming@dmea.com)



## **NEW SCHEDULE**

**MONDAY  
TUESDAY  
THURSDAY  
FRIDAY  
SUNDAY  
9am - 2pm**

**MONTROSE REC DISTRICT  
FIELD HOUSE PARKING LOT**

**REGISTER FOR AN APPOINTMENT:  
[AFFINITYECARECOLORADO.COM/CO/](https://affinityecarecolorado.com/co/)**

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**Affinity Empowering  
1-844-631-0469**

# Help Make a Difference!



"Alpine Bank partnered with Second Chance to get the word out. They helped us engage more people to adopt, volunteer, foster and donate."

— Kelly Goodin, Second Chance Humane Society



Every time you use your Loyalty Debit Card\*, Alpine Bank donates a dime to community causes that are important to you.

\*Alpine Bank Debit Cards are available with no annual fee to individuals with an Alpine Bank checking account.





# COVID-19 Testing Sites in Montrose County



**AFFINITY  
MONTROSE REC FIELD HOUSE**  
MON, TUES, THURS, FRI, SUN  
9am - 2pm  
25 Colorado Ave, Montrose  
[www.affinityecarecolorado.com/co](http://www.affinityecarecolorado.com/co)

**CEDAR POINT HEALTH/  
URGENT CARE**  
836 S. Townsend Ave. Montrose  
970-249-2118  
[www.cedarpointhealth.com/testing](http://www.cedarpointhealth.com/testing)

**DR. MINDY MILLER/ TRAILHEAD CLINICS**  
Available for new/existing patients.  
1329 S Townsend Ave, Montrose  
970-240-8199  
[www.trailheadclinics.com](http://www.trailheadclinics.com)

**NORTHSIDE HEALTH CENTER**  
528 N. Uncompahgre, Montrose  
970-240-6438  
[www.facebook.com/northsidechildheathcenter](https://www.facebook.com/northsidechildheathcenter)

**(WEST END) BASIN CLINIC**  
421 Adams St, Naturita  
970-865-2665  
[www.basinclinic.org](http://www.basinclinic.org)

## PEAK FAMILY MEDICINE

Available for new/existing patients  
1550 East Niagara Road , Montrose  
970-497-4921  
[www.peakpros.org](http://www.peakpros.org)

## PIC PLACE

Available for new/ existing patients.  
87 Merchant Dr, Montrose  
970-252-8896  
[www.pic.place](http://www.pic.place)

## RIVER VALLEY FAMILY HEALTHCARE CENTER

Available for new/existing patients  
1010 S Rio Grande Ave, Montrose  
970-497-3333

308 Main St, Olathe  
970-323-6141  
[www.rivervalleyfhc.com](http://www.rivervalleyfhc.com)

## WALGREENS PHARMACY

Testing is available on a limited basis.  
2351 South Townsend Ave, Montrose  
970-252-1743  
[www.walgreens.com/pharmacy](http://www.walgreens.com/pharmacy)

**Please reach out to one of the providers listed to schedule a COVID-19 test.**

For additional regional testing sites, please visit [www.montrosecountyjic.com](http://www.montrosecountyjic.com)  
updated 11/8/21

## COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

### BONNIE JEAN (BASTIAN) WILLIAMS

*September 16, 1941-September 16, 1941*

BONNIE JEAN (BASTIAN) WILLIAMS graduated to Heaven on November 25, 2021. She was born to Weldon and Melba (Parker) Bastian in Spokane, Washington on September 16, 1941. Bonnie was the third of seven children in their family.

Bonnie Jean had a zest for life and an enduring love for the people in it. She lived a rich, full life as a Daughter, Sister, Wife, Mother, Grandmother, and Great Grandmother, homemaker, gardener, massage therapist, jokester and friend. Bonnie enjoyed baking, canning, gardening, learning, seeking, and discovering new things. Bonnie shared her wonderful baking with many, especially her amazing homemade bread, pies, and Christmas cookies. Her greatest joy was in raising her eight children. She taught her children many values especially loving well and the importance of family, which she experienced from her parents. Bonnie also loved music as it was a big part of her upbringing. She enjoyed accompanying her father on the piano when he played the violin. Bonnie was a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for much of her life.

She loved to socialize and spend time visiting with family and friends. She had a beautiful sense of humor and joked with enthusiasm, even in the hardest situations, all the way to the end. Many felt loved by the way she would really listen to them and was always interested in what they had to say. We all have so many precious memories of our dear Bonnie.

Bonnie fought an incredible fight over 28 years battling multiple cancers and living with complex health issues. Bonnie Jean is a true warrior. She was so grateful to be loved deeply and cared for by her Heavenly Father, her family, and communities of friends. She lived in many different places during her lifetime including, WA, AK, CA, MT, Vernal, UT; Parker and Naturita, Colorado.

Bonnie was married to Wayne Grant Williams for 31 Years. She is preceded in death by her youngest son, Jeremy David Williams, her parents, Weldon and Melba (Parker) Bastian, and her brother David Bastian (Marilyn). She is survived by her brother Larry Bastian (Diane) of Bountiful, Utah; her sister Marlene Safsten

(Curtis) of Springville, Utah; her brother Steve Bastian (Debra) of Trophy Club, Texas; her sister Penny Lindsay (Chappy) of Fremont, California; and brother Daniel

Bastian (April) of Vernal, Utah. She is survived by her daughters Sherry Lewis of Boulder, Colorado; Ruth Reams (Earl) of Naturita, Colorado; her sons Michael Williams (Caradie) of Midway, Utah; Matthew Williams of Overton, Nevada; her daughters Karen Rea of Parker, Colorado; Kathy Cheney (Troy) of Manitou Springs, Colorado; Julie Garcia (James) of Parker Colorado. Bonnie is also survived and loved by 18 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren.

"Well done my beloved child, you have run the race and now you're home." Arrangements by Crippin Funeral Home.



### WILLIAM "BILL" ROBERT SCHMUTZLER

*February 16, 1940-November 7, 2021*

WILLIAM "BILL" ROBERT SCHMUTZLER left this world on Sunday, November 7, 2021. Bill was born in Denver on February 16, 1940, to Chris Schmutzler and Eleanor Callison of St. Joseph, Missouri. Bill grew up in Denver and graduated from East High. He joined the Navy and eventually married Sally Elizabeth Andrews who sparked in him a love of classical music and of art. All of his life Bill had a love of nature – plants, animals and the Rocky

Mountains. He had a green thumb and made gardening look easy. Bill loved dogs and had many that were good friends throughout his life. He liked to sit outside and would often watch birds that came to eat the seed he put out. Bill had a sense of humor and was often joking and laughing when he was feeling well. He will be missed by his family. Bill was preceded in death by his parents, his wife, and his sister Suzanne Paul. He is

survived by his sons, Andrew (Nicole) Schmutzler and Robin Schmutzler and his grandsons, Rodney and Damian Schmutzler, all of Montrose, CO. A graveside service will be held at Grand View Cemetery in Montrose, CO on Friday, December 3, 2021 at 3 p.m. Deacon Mario Diaz of St. Mary Catholic Church will officiate. A celebration of Bill's life will be held at a later time. Crippin Funeral Home is assisting Bill's family.



## COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

### ROBERT EUGENE ROMERO

*February 2, 1936-November 29, 2021*

ROBERT EUGENE ROMERO died early morning of November 29, 2021 in the presence of his step-daughter Brandi and Hope West Hospice, he was 85 years old.

Robert (Bob) was born to Henry Romero and Mary Madaline (O'Donald) Romero on Feb. 2, 1936, in Montrose, Co. He graduated from Montrose High School, where he excelled in sports, he lettered in Football, Baseball, and Track. He then married Connie (Terrazas) Romero in 1958, they had one daughter Donna Lee Romero, they divorced in 1961.

Robert joined the National Guard, April of 1954 till November, 1955, he later joined the Army on November 2, 1955, until March of 1958, he then preceded to enlist in the US Navy in 1958, where he retired in 1978 as a Gunners Mate in San Diego, CA.

He then married Donna Jean (Durbin) Blubaugh, in August of 1968. He raised six step-children Betty, Barb, Bev, Brian, and twins Brandi and Brenda.

They lived in Douglas, Wy, where he drove a mail truck and worked in the oil rigs, they later returned to Montrose,

where he worked at the lumber mill in Olathe, CO. Then in 1990 he went to work for the Montrose School District, retired from there and then went on to work for Russel Stover as a security guard for 10 years and retired permanently.

Robert was preceded in death by his wife Donna on 4-12-2019, they had been married for 51 years, his father Henry & Mom Mary Romero, a brother Don, brother Lee, brother Henry, and sister Norma.

He is survived by brother Melvin Romero, sister Sharon Diamond (Hank), two very special nephews, David and Terry Martinez, daughter Donna Lee, her children, Stephanie, Monica (Erik), and Michael (Joann), stepson Brian (Carrie), children Crystal, Mariah, Bobbie, and Joseph, stepdaughter Brandi, and children Jeffrey and Tiffany, stepdaughter Brenda, and children David and Carrie, and a total of 11 grandchildren, 9 great-grandchildren, 5 great-great grandsons, and 1 great-great granddaughter, and a total of 18 nieces and nephews.

He enjoyed fishing, especially fly fishing,



hunting, camping, but most of all he enjoyed spending quality time with his grand-children and great-grand-children. His step-daughter Carrie has been his care taker the last 2 ½ years.

A special Thank You to Hope West Hospice.

Crippin Funeral Home is assisting with details.



*Thank you for reading*

**THE MONTROSE MIRROR**

## COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

### RICHARD LEVI LAPENA (RICK)

*August 2, 1973-November 27, 2021*



Rick passed away Saturday, November 27th at St. Mary's Hospital in Grand Junction. He was born on August 2nd, 1973,

to Terry and Rebecca LaPena in Montrose.

He was a lifelong resident of Montrose, except the years he was in the military. He graduated from Montrose High School in 1991. Right after high school he joined the United States Army and served and was honorably discharged. later went on to graduate with an associate degree from Colorado Mesa University.

He currently worked as a fraud investigator for Montrose County. He previously was employed as a Montrose County Sheriff's deputy and a Montrose police officer.

His two daughters and four grandchildren were his greatest joys. He was truly a supportive father who always did the best for his girls.

He was a great man who loved to laugh and whose smile lit up the room. He was

an amazing friend to many more. He was currently engaged to Tanya Hawk who has a daughter Markie.

Preceding him in death are his parents, Terry and Rebecca Lapena. Surviving are his daughters Shalynn (Matt) Maestas and granddaughter Adelay Maestas of Grand Junction, Hannah (Zach) Francis and granddaughters Jamie, Felicity, and Sophia Francis of Delta. His sister Gail LaPena and Two nieces Cyra and Mckayla LaPena of Denver.

His brother Lenny of Texas, his aunt Claudia of California.

His favorite pastimes were hunting with his dad. fishing with his daughters and fiancé, four-wheeling, being in the mountains, and spending time with his daughters and grandchildren. He will be greatly missed by them and all of the lives he touched in the community that he served.

### LAURA LOU CLAIR (GATES)

LAURA LOU CLAIR (GATES) ran with joy into her Savior's arms on Saturday, November 27th, 2021 @ 4:14 pm.

She was surrounded by the love of her family and in her home as she rejoined her beloved husband, Dave Clair and many other precious family and friends who had made their journey ahead of her.

Laurie lived a full and blessed life growing up on the family ranch in Burns, Colorado and working side by side with her parents Frank & Goldie Gates & siblings-her sisters Loretta (Retsie) Riggan, Helen Davenport, Laveta "June" Brunner and brother George "Bud" Gates.

Laura met the love of her life and she and Dave married March 18, 1960. They had four children: Brenda (Leonard) Swank, Daniel (Darlene) Clair, David (Loua) Clair and Steven (Karen) Clair.

She had a precious relationship with all of

her grandchildren, and a special bond and many grand adventures with Brenda's daughters who were blessed to share a home with her. Laurie loved every single one of her 14 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren so very much.

Laurie actually loved everyone! She had the biggest, most beautiful, gracious heart of any human we've ever known. She truly was an example of Christ's love and grace to others and her HUGS were everyone's favorite moment in the day.

Besides raising her own children in Carbondale, CO until 1973 then in Montrose, CO- she worked for many, many years as a preschool and daycare provider through her own business "Laurie's Place" as well as Sonshine Patch and The Learning Tree. She touched the lives of so many young children who, as adults, talk about her impact on their lives. Laurie and Dave had

a loving, life-long relationship that blessed all who knew them. They became strong pillars of the Christian community through their service at Montrose Christian

Church, and after Dave's death due to leukemia in 2001, Laurie attended Christ's Church of the Valley and First Presbyterian Church of Montrose. We've heard all week from people who's lives were touched by Laurie's love, kindness, graciousness and wonderful hugs.





ISSUE 346 Dec. 6

## ART &amp; SOL

## ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS

By Bob Cox

MONTROSE-One hundred years ago, in July, congress passed a joint resolution declaring an end to World War One. In August the United States signed peace treaties with Germany, Austria, and Hungary. In November the first burial at the Tomb of The Unknown Soldier was held. Americans were anxious to celebrate Christmas with "Peace on Earth and Goodwill to Men."

By November the newspapers were brimming with Christmas gift ideas. Money was still tight, but Americans were ready to spend what they had and the various merchants and companies were ready to take every advantage. The *Elk Mountain Pilot* in Gunnison County, and many other papers around the country, ran an interesting ad campaign for a publication bearing the name *The Youth's Companion*.

The *Youth's Companion* was not a new publication. It was first published in 1827 and was directed to the younger crowd, but their 1921 promotion made it clear that they wanted more adults to become avid readers. The November ads read, in part:

*Can you remember that Christmas when you first received The Youth's Companion among your Christmas presents? You can perhaps recall the titles of some of the serial stories in those early numbers, and you can well remember how everyone in the family wanted to read your paper.*

*Today The Companion makes the ideal Christmas present. No family, especially one with growing boys and girls, should be without the tried and true Youth's Companion.*

*Youth's Companion* was published by the Perry Mason Publishing Company. One of their dedicated fans was a young man named Erle Stanley Gardner. In 1933 Gardner borrowed the name of the publisher and published the first Perry Mason mystery. Perry, Della Street, and Paul Drake were introduced to the public in the first of many Perry Mason books. The famous attorney went on to be a favorite television character.

On Dec. 2, 1921 *The Delta Independent* declared Delta to be "Gift Headquarters." One ad listed the "Prince of Gifts" being a new suit of clothes and even a "Babe Ruth Robe."

The gifts ranged in price from \$6.50 to \$15." The Marshall-Smith store promoted "practical" gifts such as Peters brand shoes for infants for as little as \$1. The most expensive gifts in their advertisement were "Special men's blue serge suits" that were priced up to \$45.

Probably one of the most practical gifts advertised in that issue of the *Independent* was one by the Delta National Bank. The ad, in its entirety, read:

*PLANNING FOR CHRISTMAS? The newest and finest sort of a Christmas present you can give to each of the kiddies will be a*

*The*  
**HOOVER**  
ELECTRIC SUCTION SWEEPER

A USEFUL CHRISTMAS GIFT

Not a Vacuum Cleaner but a  
SUCTION SWEEPER

There are few Gifts so much appreciated  
by a woman as  
**A HOOVER SWEEPER**

The Special \$65.00      The Baby \$52.50  
We Will Gladly Demonstrate

**THE COLORADO POWER CO.**

*This ad was printed (including misspelling) in the Dec. 2, 1921 edition of the *Salida Record*. It was typical of ads by power companies promoting various electrical appliances. It would likely be worded somewhat differently in today's market. Source: Colorado Historic Newspapers.*

*brand-new Savings Bank Book, issued by the Delta National Bank. On the outside of the book will appear the boy's or girl's name, and on the inside will show credit for the sum that has been deposited. With the first deposit of \$1 we give a pocket*

## ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS From previous pg

bank for the nickels and dimes; when the deposit reaches \$5 or more, we loan you a larger metal bank to which we keep the key. If you don't think the kiddies would appreciate a Bank Account and a Bank—you just try them. Don't you wish somebody had given you a bank account when you were a kid? And do you know that the one greatest permanent good you can do a child is to give that child a practical lesson in Thrift? And did you know that on all these Savings Dollars in the bank we pay 4 per cent compound interest?

The O.M. Stearns store suggested that a perfect gift for "hubby" was a Remington (wait for this one guys) portable typewriter. Maybe if "hubby" wanted to impress the woman in his life he responded to the Aspen Stores Company ad that suggested a Gossard lace-in-front corset, or maybe he could go to the Silver State Music Company in Pueblo and buy her a new Victrola. "The ideal Christmas gift that the whole family can enjoy." At the same time Geo. Sanbourn Mercantile Company promoted a Pathe phonograph that could be purchased with "reasonable terms."

The *Cheyenne Wells Record* suggested

that a new Ford Coupe would make somebody a 'mighty nice Christmas present," but the ad had a twist. The new car was being raffled. The tickets varied in price from a penny to \$4 and the winner then had to pay a one-dollar purchase price. In Longmont the Cleland-Vorbeck Company just wanted to sell their cars outright. One could buy a new Ford Runabout for \$530.36, or maybe a Ford touring car for \$561.59. The top of the line Sedan could be chosen for only \$780.26.

Lewis and Son, located on the corner of 16th and Stout in Denver, advertised that they had turned their entire store into a Christmas bazar and featured such popular gifts as union suits for the entire family. The women's version was made of heavy brushed cotton and came in several styles, including low neck, ankle length and high neck. The boys version was available in gray.

If the gift giver waited until the last minute, the Crews-Boggs Company in Pueblo suggested, "Silk underwear, the loveliest gift of all." If that was not deemed appropriate the company offered dinner sets for

as little as \$7.80 or an electric coffee pot for \$12.

1921 was the first year for Lincoln Logs (for boys of course.) Teddy Bears and dolls were also popular that year, as were Erector sets, which dated back to 1913.

Electricity was becoming the norm in many households. Numerous ads appeared for various electrical appliances sold in stores.

The power companies jumped on the bandwagon and promoted electric irons, toasters, and coffee pots, often promoted as good gifts for women. Because the government had lifted the ban on civilian radio ownership, radios were starting to appear, but they would have had to buy early to have heard the first broadcast of a baseball game. That event took place on August 5, 1921. The game was between the Pittsburgh Pirates and the Philadelphia Phillies.

Note from Bob: My family and I wish you all a very merry Christmas and pray for better times to come, but we must remember that we are not the first people to experience difficult situations. As Americans, we will survive. God bless everyone.

## COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

### MHS PRESENTS DECEMBER DIVISION AWARDS



Montrose High School has announced the Division Award winners for December. Pictured L--R are Dane McCoid, Joanie Mendez-Nunez, Kolton Cohick, Dusti Renick, Nathan McWilliams, Ava Silverberg, Jacob Kipp, Zoe Shipley, JayDee Skees, and Amili Chavarria.

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**Montrose Community Band**

**Annual Christmas Concert**

**'Making Spirits Bright'**

**Sunday, December 19**

**3:00 p.m.**

**Montrose Pavilion**

**FREE CONCERT**

**Sponsored by  
Western Gravel**





## COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

### KANE SCHEIDEGGER FINE ART PHOTOGRAPHY NAMED DECEMBER 2021 RACC MEMBER OF THE MONTH



*A Sea of Cimarron Gold, by Kane Scheidegger. Courtesy photo.*

#### *Special to Art & Sol*

MONTROSE-Kane Scheidegger Fine Art Photography is being recognized as the December 2021 Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce Member of the Month. The RACC Member of the Month Program is in its third year as an ongoing effort to promote and get to know our local businesses and organizations.

Kane became interested in photography during art school and incorporated it into his graphic arts and advertising business from 2006 to 2012. He transitioned to a full-time fine art photographer in 2012.

"I started shooting large-scale, panoramic images of the mountains and extreme ski

descents because the composition would not lend itself to a single-frame capture. I wanted to bring scale and life to the images, which led to printing large-scale works," he said.

His gallery in Ridgway offers fine art photography of the American Southwest – mountains to the desert – ranging from small, matted prints to large-scale art installations. He works closely with clients and provides custom sizing to make sure the artwork stands out in the setting. He also offers fine art printing services.

The gallery will be giving special discounts during the Noel Night holiday event on Friday, Dec. 3 from 4 to 8 p.m. in Ridgway.

Many different-sized images will be available this holiday from 12-inch by 18-inch matted prints, 12-inch by 12-inch canvas gallery wraps and 36-inch canvas gallery wraps up to large-format custom artwork.

To learn more about Kane Scheidegger Fine Art Photography, go to [www.Kane.gallery](http://www.Kane.gallery), call 970-901-4880, or email [Kane@kane.gallery](mailto:Kane@kane.gallery). You can also visit the gallery at 133 North Lena Street in Ridgway (call for hours).

To read the full interview about Kane Scheidegger Fine Art Photography, go to <https://ridgwaycolorado.com/news-events/el-agave-azul-september-2021-racc-member-of-the-month>.





## COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

### ALEXANDRA KAY COMING TO THE MESA THEATER DEC. 8

*Special to Art & Sol*

GRAND JUNCTION-Rising country music artist Alexandra Kay is coming to the Mesa Theater on Dec. 8 with Cooper Alan and

special guest Thomas Mac. The third leg of the "In Real Life" tour takes the up-and-coming stars through the south and allows their ever-growing fanbase to see them

#### Holiday Catering Options:



**Remington's at the Bridges**  
970-252-1119

**Lighthouse Eatery**  
970-964-4424

**Jimmer's Steak & BBQ**  
970-252-1227

**Fiesta Guadalajara**  
970-249-2460

**Alpen Confections**  
970-648-0609



*DineOutMontrose.com*

**Rib City**  
970-249-7427

**Stone House**  
970-240-8899

**Mimo's**  
970-249-0616

**Pahgre's**  
970-249-6442

**My Favorite Muffin**  
970-765-0076

**Heidi's Brooklyn Deli**  
970-240-1605

**Camp Robber**  
970-240-1590

#### Liquor:

**Beer Barn II**  
970-249-5550

**House of Spirits**  
970-240-4799



Alexandra's latest single "We Wouldn't Be Us" debuted at No. 3 on the iTunes Country Songs chart. Courtesy photo.

"in real life."

Alexandra has also made appearances on NBC's "The Voice," had a starring role in the Netflix original series "Westside," and reached the No. 1 spot on the iTunes Country Songs chart independently with her second and third singles "I Kinda Don't" and "All The Cowboys." Alexandra's latest single "We Wouldn't Be Us" debuted at No. 3 on the same chart and is her most colorful and lively release yet. She has captivated audiences around the world with her videos and has proven that she can turn social media recognition into an adoring fan base. With over six million collective streams on her independent releases, Alexandra is preparing for her In Real Life Summer tour and to release another sure-to-be hit on June 30 entitled "How Do We Go." For more information visit [www.alexandrakayofficial.com](http://www.alexandrakayofficial.com).

#### The Mirror:

For coverage that never leaves our readers out in cold ...



[www.montrosemirror.com](http://www.montrosemirror.com)

# 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](mailto:mncfirst@gmail.com), [www.montrosenazarenechurch.org](http://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-</a></p>
</div>
<div data-bbox=)

*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](mailto:office@montroseumc.org), [montroseumc.org](http://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](http://www.RosemontBaptist.org)  
 email: [office@rosemontbaptist.org](mailto: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](mailto:arlyn@spiritaware.org), [www.spiritaware.org](http://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](mailto:summitchurchmontrose@gmail.com)

website: [www.summitchurchmontrose.org](http://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](mailto:info@vbcmontrose.org);

website: [vbcmontrose.org](http://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)

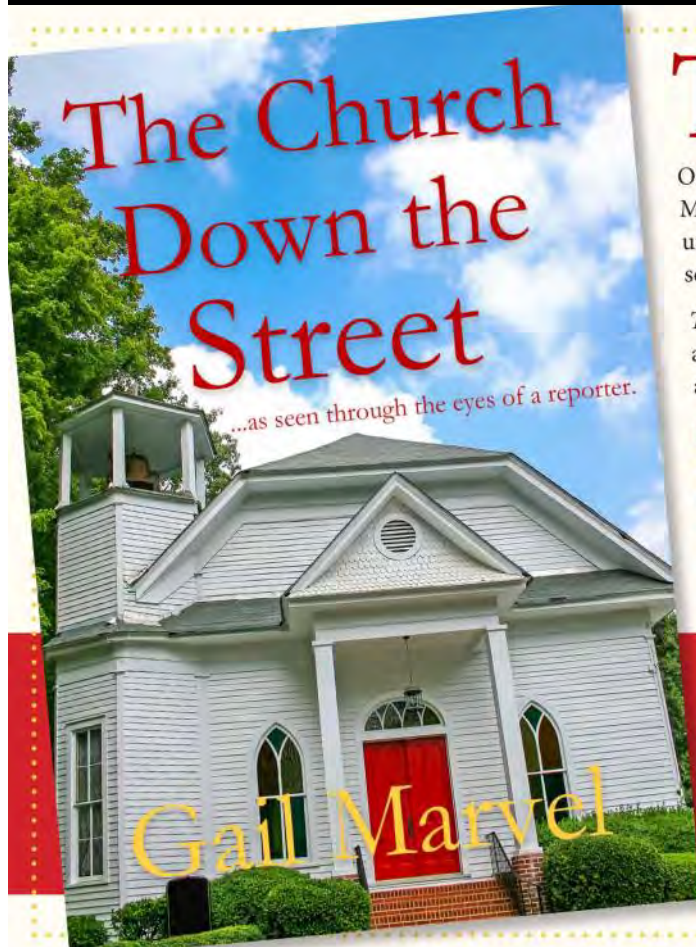
Name of current Senior Pastor

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?



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

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

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

#### Readers will:

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

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

**GAIL MARVEL**  
Montrose Author & Reporter



# YOUR BRAIN ON NATURE – ELECTRONICS PART TWO



By Lauren Hall Ruddell, Ph.D.. Courtesy photo.

## Greetings Mirrorites!

In the last installation of Your Brain On Nature, I discussed the effects of lack of mindful observation on long term memory and other cognitive effects. In this article, I want to highlight the effects of smartphone use on the younger set.

Most old farts such as myself take very few selfies or give a flying you-know-what about social media influencers. That is one of the perks of age, a certain type of wisdom is accrued. But our mature brains have a different mandate than those of a teen.

The adolescent brain becomes fixated on social standing and acceptance. This is a highly adaptive trait for most youth. This is a time when core identity and worldview are being formed by peers and mentors, and the search for potential mates begins. I know I spent my fair-share of time at 16 wondering how I could cover up that gnarly zit that was emerging just two weeks before the prom, and whether the cute boy that I was thinking of asking would notice it.

That being said, today there is a certain type of young person that is much more comfortable spending hours on their smartphone than they are with real people, much less time in nature. Although they are in the minority of teens, this psychological condition known as 'nomophobia' or 'fear of being without a smartphone', is increasing. This is not a good thing for anyone but is especially



**A teen checks her phone instead of enjoying the beauty of a Utah park.**

Photo courtesy of Persnickety Prints, 2018.

problematic for teens whose brains and social skills are still developing. For instance, current research (oh there she goes with her current research thing again, you sigh to yourself, but bear with me) has shown that 'stress mediates the relationship between smartphone addiction and satisfaction with life.' Whaaaat? This just means that certain phone addicted teens with social anxieties find their social phone use increased their stress levels and made them feel even sadder and less content with their lives. Ironically and tragically, it's often those same young folks who experience extraordinary anxiety whenever their phone is *not* right in front of their face.

To some extent, we all feel the siren song of checking our phones or computers for communications from friends. In 2020, 50 percent of US teens reported that they felt they were addicted to their own phones. And although the American Psychiatric Association does not officially recognize this problem as a serious psychological condition yet, many professionals

disagree and have observed that it is akin to a gambling addiction. Sounds serious to me!

Researchers who analyzed the brains of teens diagnosed as PSU (problem smartphone users) found they exhibited dysregulation in their levels of GABA, a neurotransmitter in the brain that inhibits or slows down brain signals, as well as glutamate-glutamine (Glx), another neurotransmitter that causes neurons to become more electrically excited. The correct ratios of these things to one another were all cattywampus in these kids. When that happens, as now seems to be common with both internet and smartphone addictions, depression and anxiety can result.

A professor at my old alma mater put it this way...*Teens who spend more time than average on screen activities are more likely to be unhappy, and those who spend more time than average on nonscreen activities are more likely to be happy... when teens spend more time on smartphones and less time on in-person social interactions, loneliness is more common. So is depression.* (Dr. Jean Twenge, researcher, San Diego State University.)

The fix? You guessed it, nature. It's not the only one, but it may be the best, and possibly cheapest. But it appears that in order to work, a sense of connectedness to nature is critical in delivering the best dose. For instance, one study of PSUs found that obsessive use was *negatively* related to nature connectedness. In other words, the more outward connectedness to a wider world, the less narcissistic and compulsive phone behavior was noted. The more nature connectedness, the easier the teen found it to successfully manage their phone use.

The urge to splurge on Snapchat isn't just vanity or boredom alleviation beckoning, it's a real prod toward genuine addiction. As one researcher said...*That buzzing brick in your pocket? It's fueling the release of more stress hormones, and our brain's pleasure and reward-related chemical, dopamine.*

Dopamine touches very different areas of



# YOUR BRAIN ON NATURE – ELECTRONICS PART TWO

## From previous pg

our brain than serotonin. Dopamine and serotonin are both critical in coping with unnecessary anxieties, but these chemicals perform a number of other tasks as well.

Serotonin promotes a type of happiness referred to in earlier articles known as 'eudamonia.' It is a sense of correct functioning, a feeling of a life being well-lived. It involves at least 14 different receptors. It is instrumental for sensations of joy, love, and contentment.

Dopamine, on the other hand, only has five brain receptors. Dopamine is involved in regulating many things in our brains: rewards, motivation, pleasure. It's a quick buzz, an instant "Whoooopeeee," while serotonin is more like a time release capsule of contentment. While both are important to optimal functioning in teens and adults, they operate very differently from one another.

One promotes resistance to anxiety, the other promotes FOMO, a fear of missing out. The vulnerable teen gets a hit of dopamine whenever they feel like an insider, but soon feel anxiety there's something socially important slipping past them and only continually, unending contact with the socio-verse can prevent embarrassment and ostracism.

I know how hard it can be for parents to manage a hormonal teenager. If it's not

one thing, it's the other with those little creatures. Remember the tale of Lauren and re-emerging zit, well in high school I'm sure my preoccupation with looks and popularity with boys gave my parents fits. But according to some professionals, I may have been enacting a healthier and more natural method of adulting than social media friendships only. Contrast my pre-historic teen experience to now. *About 56 percent of high-school seniors in 2015 went out on dates; for Boomers and Gen Xers, the number was about 85 percent.* This from Dr. Twenge again, God bless her. Dating face to face builds social skills, like Wonder Bread, 12 ways (at least).

Mindfulness in nature has been shown over and over to increase serotonin in a manner that leaves one fulfilled and inspired, but not starving for more in an unhealthy, compulsive way. The more time spent in nature as teens mature, the more connectedness to nature they report. The more connectedness they report, the more self-esteem, self-control, and self-confidence they report.

Scroll forward three decades from my follies of youth and imagine my parents getting a last laugh, because as the parent of a teen with ADD, my fight against her excessive screen time was constant. I finally allowed the problem to be the solu-

tion. I would tell my pouty teen..."You want screentime, you go clean the horse stalls for an hour, then you get an hour of computer."

However, if a parent is not in the position of assigning farm chores, joint activities in natural settings holds options.

For instance, in a previous article, I mentioned the concept of a pomodoro for taking a break from computer driven tasks. This can work for the phone addicted teen as well. Prepare for a fight, with tears and manipulation, but the results will be worth it.

First, lace up your own boots or tennies and go for a nature walk with that young thing. Their phone stays in your pocket, not theirs. No drinking, eating, or tweeting while in motion. Every half hour, take a rest break, with snack, water, and phone. Five minutes, no longer, and then you set off again. Rinse and repeat as often as you possibly can. One-hour, three times a week (like a regular 1/2 hour brisk jaunt out and back from the parking lot of Riverbottom Park) will gain benefits for them in terms self-esteem, reduced anxiety, and increased impulse control. Of course, more is better.

Be well and get those teens outside, and as always, questions and comments addi-

tively attended to at [agescapes@gmail.com](mailto:agescapes@gmail.com)

## LIVE MUSIC ROUNDUP, WEEK OF DEC. 6

By Paul Arbogast

**Grand Mesa Arts & Events Center, Cedaredge:**

- Friday, Dec. 10, 7 PM – Moors & McCumber /w Bittersweet Highway

**Healthy Rhythm Art Gallery:**

- Friday, Dec. 10, 7 PM – Jeanine Renee

**Horsefly Brewery:**

- Wednesday, Dec. 8, 6:30 PM – Open Mic Night

**Mesa Theater, Grand Junction:-**

Monday, Dec. 6, 7 PM – Yngwie Malmsteen

- Wednesday, Dec. 8, 8 PM – Alexandra

Kay, Cooper Alan & Thomas Mac

- Saturday, Dec. 11, 8 PM – Cycles /w Wave 11

**Warehouse 25sixty-five, Grand Junction:**

- Thursday, Nov. 18, 7 PM – Eli Young Band

CELEBRATING LOCAL BEAUTY.



## COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

### AL ZOLYNAS WILL HEADLINE TALKING GOURDS' DEC 7 BARDIC TRAILS ZOOM POETRY SERIES

#### *Special to the Mirror*

TELLURIDE ... Escondido, CA poet Al Zolynas will be the featured reader for the Bardic Trails Zoom poetry webinar Tuesday, Dec. 7 at 7 pm (Mountain Time). A production of the Telluride Institute's Talking Gourds Program and the Wilkinson Public Library, Bardic Trails is a free virtual poetry reading open to anyone who preregisters.

Register online by Dec 6<sup>th</sup> at the Wilkinson Public Library to get Zoom Link. Go to [telluridelibrary.org/events](http://telluridelibrary.org/events).

Al Zolynas has published four books of poetry: *The New Physics*, Wesleyan U Press, 1979; *Under Ideal Conditions*, Later-than-never Press, 1994 (San Diego Book Award, Best Poetry, 1994)

*The Same Air*, Intercultural Studies Forum, 1997; and *Near and Far*, Garden Oak Press, 2019.

With Fred Moramarco, he co-edited two anthologies, *Men of Our Time* and *The Poetry of Men's Lives* (both from U of Georgia Press). Retired from academia, he practices and teaches Zen in Escondido, California where he lives with his wife and their cat.

Though out of print, *The New Physics* and



*Al Zolynas. Courtesy photo.*

*Under Ideal Conditions* can be accessed online via the Contemporary American Poetry Archive [here](#) and [here](#), respectively.

Following Zolynas' reading, there will be a short Question and Answer session and then an on-line Gourd Circle where participants can share a poem.

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TIM VEAZY

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**DECEMBER 17**

HUGH PHILLIPS

**DECEMBER 24**

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EXIT

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# 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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. 3<sup>rd</sup>. enter through the side door on S. 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 non-denominational 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 of 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. 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.

**Dec. 19**-Sunday at 3 pm “Making Spirits Bright” Free Annual Christmas Concert by the Montrose Community Band @ the Montrose Pavilion. Come to relax for a while, warm your hearts, and help you enjoy the season.

## MIRROR IMAGES: MONTROSE PARADE OF LIGHTS



Photos by Paul Arbogast.





Contact the Montrose Mirror:  
970-275-0646

[Editor@montrosemirror.com](mailto:Editor@montrosemirror.com)

[www.montrosemirror.com](http://www.montrosemirror.com)

## MIRROR IMAGES: PARADE OF LIGHTS



Despite cold temperatures and COVID-19, Montrose turned out for the Parade of Lights on Main Street Dec. 4. Photos by Paul Arbogast.



Trattoria de Sofia  
970-249-0433

Rib City  
970-249-7427

Double Barrel Taco Co.  
970-417-4340

Stone House  
970-240-8899

Cold Stone Creamery  
970-252-8014

Mimo's  
970-249-0616

Pahgre's  
970-249-6442

My Favorite Muffin  
970-765-0076

Sidelines Sports Bar  
970-765-0129



*DineOutMontrose.com*



Alpen Confections  
970-648-0609

Busy Corner White Kitchen  
970-323-6215

San Juan Brews  
970-901-8594

Camp Robber  
970-240-1590

Crash Burger  
970-249-0825

Heidi's Brooklyn Deli  
970-240-1605

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

Tacos & Beer  
970-964-4448

Tacos El Gordo  
970-964-4022

Horsefly Brewing  
970-249-6889

Remington's at the Bridges  
970-252-1119

Lighthouse Eatery  
970-964-4424

Rio Bravo  
970-964-4477

Jimmer's Steak & BBQ  
970-252-1227

Fiesta Guadalajara  
970-249-2460

El Jimador  
970-249-8990

Buckaroos Slices & Scoops  
970-787-9437

