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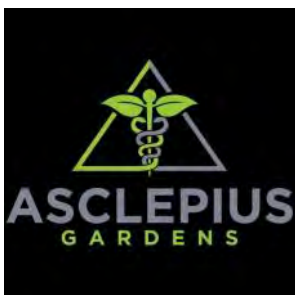
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the Montrose Mirror

Fresh news for busy people!

Issue No. 460 Dec. 20 2021

RE-1J BOARD HEARS PRESENTATION ON CDE MILL LEVY CORRECTION, APPROVES AUDITED FINANCIALS

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-The Montrose County School District RE-1J Board of Education met for a regular meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 14. Board of Education President Sarah Fishing called the meeting to order. All joined in saying the Pledge of Allegiance, and the meeting agenda was approved. In addition to Fishing, all board members were present, including Board Vice President Jeff Bachman, District B Director Jacob Suppes, District C Director Alice Murphy, District D Director Tom West, District G Director Stephen Bush, and District F Director Eric Kelley.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

RE-1J Public Information Officer Matt Jenkins introduced the Montrose High School Vocal Effect advanced a capella group, who sang Silent Night for the enjoyment of the Board of Education and all in attendance. Vocal Effect performed

[Continued pg 14](#)



The Montrose High School Vocal Effect advanced a capella group performed Silent Night at the RE-1J Board of Education meeting on Dec. 14.

'AND THEN COMES THIS SITE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT'

Montrose attorney questions County about City's demand for 'site development agreement' for hangar at Montrose Regional Airport, saying term appears nowhere in City's Municipal Code and is not defined



Sheriff Gene Lillard, above center, presented the annual Public Safety Sales Tax Report. Courtesy image MCSO.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-All commissioners were present when the Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) met for a regular meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 15.

BOCC Chair Sue Hansen wished all a Merry Christmas. "This is the last meeting of the 2021 year—it seems like it's been a longer time than that."

INVOCATION

Pastor Buddy Cook of First Church of the Nazarene wished everyone a Merry Christmas and delivered the invocation. Cook thanked commissioners for the privilege of speaking and thanked the lord for the commissioners and staff. He prayed for comfort for those who have lost loved ones, healing for those struggling with illness, and for strength and peace for those who are tired and stressed and for them to be uplifted and encouraged.

"...we think today particularly of Rick LaPena and others who have left

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[DMEA Regular Meeting report](#)
By Gail Marvel!

[Carole Ann McKelvey's](#)
[Rocky Mt. Cravings!](#)

[Letters to the Editor!](#)
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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

DECEMBER MARKS NATIONAL IMPAIRED DRIVING MONTH

Special to the Mirror

STATEWIDE — As drivers hit the road to celebrate the holidays, the Colorado Department of Transportation, Colorado State Patrol and local law enforcement agencies are gearing up to keep travelers safe from impaired drivers. The Heat Is On Holiday Parties DUI enforcement period runs from Dec. 15-29. Drivers may see sobriety checkpoints, saturation patrols and additional law enforcement on duty dedicated to impaired driving enforcement. Local law enforcement agency plans can be found at <https://www.codot.gov/safety/traffic-safety-reporting-portal>.

As of Dec. 1, there have been 620 fatalities on Colorado roads, of which 221, or 36%, involved an impaired driver. For yearly impaired-driving crash and fatality data in Colorado, visit <https://www.codot.gov/safety/traffic-safety/crash-data-management/fatal-crash-data>. Information about DUI laws in Colorado can be found at NoDUIColorado.org.

THE MONTROSE MIRROR

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CITY OFFICES TO CLOSE DEC. 23, 30

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE — City of Montrose offices, including City Hall, Municipal Court, Animal Shelter, Visitor Center, City Shop, Montrose Pavilion, and Police Department, will be closed on Thursday, Dec. 23, for the Christmas holiday, as well as on Dec. 30, for the New Year's holiday. Police Department offices will be closed but officers will be on duty and responding to calls. The Black Canyon Golf Course will also be closed. Trash and recycling schedules will be adjusted for the two holidays. For residences with Thursday, Dec. 23 collection, trash pickup will instead occur on Tuesday, Dec. 21, and Wednesday, Dec. 22. Residences west of Townsend Ave that are normally on the Thursday route will receive collection services on Tuesday, Dec. 21. Residences east of Townsend Ave that are normally served on Thursday will receive service on Wednesday, Dec. 22.

For residences with Thursday, Dec. 30 collection, trash pickup will instead occur on Tuesday, Dec. 28, and Wednesday, Dec. 29.

Residences west of Townsend Ave that are normally on the Thursday route will receive collection services on Tuesday, Dec. 28. Residences east of Townsend Ave that are normally served on Thursday will receive service on Wednesday, Dec. 29. City residents with recycling collection scheduled for pickup on Thursday, Dec. 23 will instead receive collection service on Friday, Dec. 24. City residents whose recycling collection service is scheduled for pickup on Thursday, Dec. 30 will instead receive collection service on Friday, Dec. 31. For more information, please contact City Hall at 240.1400.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

FOUR SEATS OPEN IN 2022 CITY OF MONTROSE MUNICIPAL ELECTION

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE — The City of Montrose will hold a municipal election for four city council seats on Tuesday, April 5, 2022. Council seats in District I, District II, District III, and the At-Large position will be on the ballot.

Candidates elected to the District I and II seats will serve four-year terms, while the District III and At-Large representatives will serve two-year terms. To view a map of Montrose's council districts, candidates can visit www.cityofmontrose.org/188/Elections.

Those interested in running can access the candidate packet via the city website as of Monday, Dec. 13, 2021, or pick up a paper version from the City Clerk's office between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m., Monday through Thursday.

To qualify as a candidate, individuals

must be registered electors, eighteen years of age or older, and have resided within the city and district they wish to represent for at least 12 consecutive months immediately preceding Election Day.

While candidates for the At-Large seat can reside anywhere within city-limits, they must meet the minimum residency requirement.

In addition to the aforementioned guidelines, voters adopted revisions to the City

Charter in 2014 requiring all City Council candidates to be clear of felony convictions.

Candidates may circulate nomination petitions beginning on Tuesday, Jan. 4, 2022, and no later than Monday, Jan. 24, 2022. Petitions must include 25 valid signatures for a candidate to be included on the ballot.

For more information, please contact the City Clerk's Office at 970-240-1430 or via email cityclerk@cityofmontrose.org.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

MAKE POLLUTERS PAY FOR THEIR IMPACT WITH CARBON POLLUTION FEE

Editor:

Let us think of this new coming year as a real opportunity for action on climate change rather than a repeat of the indecisiveness and deadlock that we can now leave behind. (As well as various greenwashing efforts.)

To get to the heart of the matter, this

idea internalizes the free market principle of cost/benefit by putting a fee on carbon pollution and not rewarding polluters with various market subsidies. In other words make polluters pay for their impact. One solution has already been under suggestion: that of Carbon Fee and Dividend.

Both our Senators, Bennet and Hick-

enlooper, are in favor of putting a fee on carbon pollution as a plank in the Reconciliation Bill. Please let them know that you support their efforts, but also suggest that the money gained from this should be returned to the citizens as a rebate for the harm being done to their environment.

Wayne Quade, Montrose



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- Approx. 20 acres of gourmet veggies, fruits, and melons planted in raised beds each year and watered with a direct-root delivery soaker system from our pond at up to 1,000 GPM of filtered nutrient-rich pond water.
- Farmers Market, Commercial Retail, and Restaurant-direct veggie supplies
- Farmers Market options this year grown in the field. The general public may shop at our Farmers Market starting this fall, Tues.-Sat.
- We have a small variety of seedlings for sale, however due to construction delays it will be next year before we will have large inventory of vegetable plants available for retail or sales of 4-pack seedlings and mature vegetable plants for sale to the home gardener.
- There is a large variety of direct sown veggies in our massive garden.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE AREA SEASONAL CLOSURES TO PROTECT WILDLIFE BEGIN IN DECEMBER

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— Annual winter closures went into effect Dec. 1 on public land managed by the Bureau of Land Management in the Montrose area to reduce stress on wintering wildlife and prevent road damage. These seasonal closures

remain in place to protect wildlife during times of the year when they are most vulnerable to disturbance.

Annual closures extend through parts of the Dry Creek Recreation Area, the Ridgeway Trails Recreation Area, the Gunnison Gorge National Recreation Area, the Jum-

bo Mountain Special Recreation Area, the Burn Canyon Area, and the Dominguez Escalante National Conservation Area. The closures have varied effects on non-motorized/non-mechanized recreation such as hiking, biking, and horseback riding. Maps, a complete list of areas affected by winter closures, and details on when areas reopen are available online at go.usa.gov/xepSb.

"Temporary closure of these areas is important for the health of wintering wildlife," said Suzanne Copping, BLM Uncompahgre Field Manager. "Winter conditions in southwest Colorado are severe at times and the public can help ensure wildlife populations remain healthy by respecting these temporary closures."

When recreating on public lands in the winter, remember to observe wildlife from a distance and always keep pets under control. For additional information, call the BLM Uncompahgre Field Office at (970) 240-5300 or visit us at the Montrose Public Lands Center, 2505 South Townsend Ave in Montrose Colorado.

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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

BLM TO EVALUATE USE OF INTEGRATED WEED MANAGEMENT PRACTICES ON 600,000 ACRES OF PUBLIC LAND IN GUNNISON FIELD OFFICE

Special to the Mirror

REGIONAL-The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate the use of integrated weed management practices, including chemical and mechanical treatments, to effectively manage noxious and invasive terrestrial and aquatic plant species on public lands throughout the BLM Gunnison Field Office.

The BLM plans to open a 30-day public scoping period beginning Dec. 15, 2021, to identify potential issues and concerns and additional information the BLM should consider in its analysis.

"The associated costs for treating and controlling invasive species in southwest Colorado can be high," said Jon Kaminsky, Gunnison Field Manager. "By evaluating the impacts of various weed treatment methods, the BLM can develop long-term control strategies to more efficiently meet different management objectives in a variety of situations, as well as provide for early detection-rapid response strategies to address the introduction of new weed species."

The Gunnison Field Office has been treating noxious and invasive plants for over two decades using a range of herbicides. The analysis will consider in what areas to approve the use of herbicides on over 600,000 acres of public land in the Gunnison FO and whether to allow for aerial application of herbicide by fixed and rotor-winged aircraft.

The introduction and spread of new invasive species by vehicles, recreational equipment, machinery, livestock grazing, wildlife, other animals, and humans are a continual threat. Weed inventories in the Gunnison Basin prior to 2017 indicate increases in noxious and invasive weeds. The impacts of weeds are varied but significant and include: Reducing the quantity and quality of habitat and forage for wildlife and livestock; increasing wildfire frequency and the potential for soil erosion; altering soil productivity; adversely

impacting water quantity and quality; compromising sensitive plant species habitat; adversely affecting riparian area function; and degrading recreational experiences.

Project documents and information, including how to provide input, are available on the BLM ePlanning project website at: <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2016876/510>. The BLM will con-

sider the public's substantive comments on the proposal from December 15, 2021, through January 14, 2022 online or by U.S. mail at: BLM Gunnison Field Office, Attn: Brian Stevens, 210 W. Spencer Ave., Ste. A Gunnison, CO 81230.

If you have additional questions, contact Brian Stevens, Fire Management Specialist, at 970-642-4950 or by email to bwstevens@blm.gov.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

NIGHTTIME SNOW REMOVAL OPERATIONS SET FOR US 550 MOUNTAIN CORRIDOR

Special to the Mirror

SOUTHWEST COLORADO — CDOT will perform nighttime winter maintenance operations on US Highway 550 Coal Bank, Molas and Red Mountain Passes next

week. Crews will remove excess snow, where needed, from the shoulder of the highway to ensure there is optimal cleared lane space along the mountain corridor. Crews will also remove snow from the

inside ditch and right-of-way (along the cliff side of the highway) to allow for additional snow storage that will be needed for plowing operations during future storms.

Traffic Impacts — Work will take place every night from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m., Sunday through Wednesday, Dec. 19-22, from Cascade to Ouray, mileposts 51-91. The nighttime work will require lane shifts and intermittent, brief closures. Motorists are urged to drive with caution and watch for heavy equipment, operators and flagging personnel.

Watch Where You Park — Backcountry users and recreationists are urged to “watch where you park!” CDOT maintenance crews’ first priority is clearing the driving lanes of highways. Once this has been accomplished, crews will then clear the shoulders of the roadway and parking areas.

Please remember to park only in clearly marked and designated parking areas. Anyone leaving a vehicle unattended on the side of the road, runs the risk of breaking the law, being fined, and having their vehicle towed away by law enforcement. (Download the flyer: “[Watch Where You Park](#)”)

Know Before You Go — Travelers are urged to “know before you go.”

Gather information about weather forecasts, anticipated travel impacts, and current road conditions prior to hitting the road.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

RIISING EMPLOYEE TURNOVER COSTS COMPANIES AN AVERAGE OF \$26,511 ANNUALLY

Special to the Mirror

GRAND JUNCTION-Adding to the difficulty of finding qualified workers this season, 42% of U.S. companies say employee turnover has increased this year, costing businesses an overall average of \$26,511 annually in lost productivity and recruiting. This is according to a new survey from The Harris Poll commissioned by Express Employment Professionals.

That figure is even higher for 21% of companies that say the price tag to replace employees overall is \$50,000 annually or more.

This proportion swells to 34% for companies with 500+ employees, but only 4% for those with 2-9 employees.

Beyond the financial impact of employee turnover, around 2 in 3 (68%) companies agree this challenge places a heavy burden on existing employees. In response, most businesses (80%) plan to rehire workers, generally either to keep the same level of employees (36%) or to increase their overall employee count (34%).

Among those that have experienced an increase in turnover, the most common reasons are more advancement opportunities elsewhere (37%) and better pay/benefits offered elsewhere (35%). Around 1 in 3 hiring managers say vacancies increased due to employees resigning (33%) or retiring (33%) and/or better perks elsewhere (e.g., Summer Fridays, unlimited vacation days) (32%).

"Colorado has the highest quit rate in the nation," says Nina Anderson, owner of the Grand Junction Express Employment franchise office. "Companies need to consider becoming an employer of choice in their communities by offering competitive salaries and benefits along with flexible work/life balances."

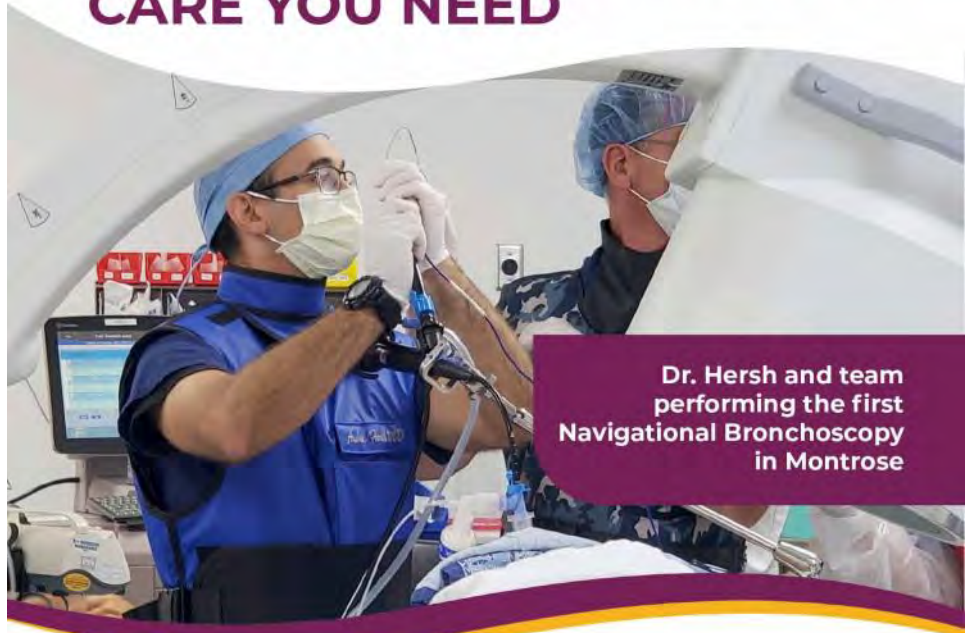
Survey Methodology

The survey was conducted online within the United States by The Harris Poll on behalf of Express Employment Professionals between March 23 and April 12, 2021, among 1,001 U.S. hiring decision-makers (defined as adults ages 18+ in the U.S.

who are employed full-time or self-employed, work at companies with more than one employee, and have full/significant involvement in hiring decisions

at their company). Data was weighted where necessary by company size to bring them into line with their actual proportions in the population.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE REGIONAL HEALTH INTRODUCES DR. RHONDA PARKER AS CHIEF MEDICAL DIRECTOR

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE – Montrose Regional Health (MRH) announces the addition of Dr. Rhonda Parker to its Senior Leadership team.

Dr. Parker has been an integral part of the Montrose medical community since she and her family arrived in Montrose in 2009.

As a board certified and fellowship trained Orthopedic Surgeon, she practiced in Montrose for over a decade. Most recently, she served as a consultant to MRH using her expertise in health care administration and surgery, providing essential support and guidance to many of the hospital departments.

"I am very excited to have Dr. Parker on our team," said Jeff Mengenhausen, CEO

of Montrose Regional Health. "Dr. Parker has been instrumental in our hospital already, and we know she will help our organization continue to meet the needs of our growing communities. She is going to provide needed physician insight and clinical leadership to our already strong leadership team."

Dr. Parker said "It is an honor and a privilege to represent MRH as the Chief Medical Director. MRH is a phenomenal organization with highly qualified caregivers who are dedicated to the health and well-being of our communities. I look forward to serving the hospital and our communities in this new capacity."

In addition to the duties required of the leadership team, Dr. Parker will also oversee the Surgical Services and Pharmacy

departments. With her extensive knowledge, training, and experience, she will add great value in these areas.

Chief Medical Directors are quickly becoming essential for today's hospitals. This is especially true for growing hospitals, like MRH, which is expecting to grow in size and services. Adding Dr. Parker to the MRH Senior Leadership is a win for hospital and the communities.



*Dr. Rhonda Parker.
Courtesy photo.*

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RE-1J BOARD HEARS PRESENTATION ON CDE MILL LEVY CORRECTION, APPROVES AUDITED FINANCIALS *From pg 1*

a concert on Dec. 6, Choir Director Monica Phillips said, and will do another in the spring.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS/CELEBRATIONS

Donations

Jenkins listed donations recently received by the School District:

- Two donations in the total amount of \$15,000 from the Dorcha and Matt Boisen family. A donation to Johnson Elementary in the amount of \$10,000 which will be split between the Physical Education Department, \$2,500; the Library, \$2,500; the Art Department, \$2,500 and the Music Department, \$2,500. The other donation is to the district GATE program in the amount of \$5,000;

- A donation to the Northside Health Center from the Montrose Democrats' Outreach drive including coats, socks, books, toys and \$3,575; and

- The Academic Booster Club has awarded \$2,868.99 for the following grants: Stephanie Pietrick, Johnson Elementary School - \$500 for iPad charging stations; Brett Mertens, Montrose High School - \$500 for weight benches; Jo Schroeder, Centennial Middle School - \$869.70 for classroom iPad pencils; Marinda Whitcomb, Johnson Elementary School - \$499.29 for Library books; Kate Taylor, Johnson Elementary School - \$500 for yoga mats.

Altrusa Apple Award

Allison Nadel of Montrose Altrusa presented Altrusa Apple awards to Oak Grove Elementary School Severe and Significant Needs Teacher Lee Woods and to Pomona Elementary School Physical Education Teacher Amanda Connelly.

KREX Golden Apple Awards

Jenkins recognized Montrose High School Special Education Teacher Tori Barker as the first honoree of the newly-created KREX TV Golden Apple Awards.

Auditor's Report

RE-1J Director of Finance Emily Imus presented the Auditor's report. Lisa Hemann of Chadwick, Steinkirchner, Davis & Co., P.C. served as Principal in Charge of the Audit and was present virtually to discuss the report. Audited financial statements

are available online.

The Auditor issued an unmodified opinion. Results indicated no material adjustments during the audit in the current year as a result of audit procedures, no gray areas in the financial statements, and no disagreements with management.

Advisory Committee Updates

District G Director Stephen Bush said while it was not a committee update, the issue of HB 19-1192 has come up. School boards are required to have a public meeting by 2024 to discuss the contents and standards that are going into the history and civil curriculums, he said.

Fishing said that the board should have a meeting on committee assignments.

Superintendent Carrie Stephenson said that the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) is revising standards for social studies curriculum. "They are at a point where they are accepting feedback," she said.

The second meeting of the District's mascot selection committee was also on Dec. 14.

COMMUNITY INPUT

First to speak was Olathe Educator Kari Keller. Keller congratulated the newly-elected and re-elected board members for winning their seats and thanked members of the Board of Education for their service. She also referenced a Nov. 9 decision by the Board of Education to take a step back from its proposed serial testing mandate.

Keller said that she has been employed as a teacher, coach, and club sponsor in the RE-1J schools for more than 30 years. "...I am extremely grateful to the board members who asked for a delay in the Nov. 19 serial testing mandate, which created time for a better plan, giving staff members more choices.

"Sadly, I have lost some colleagues because of how the situation was communi-



Olathe Teacher Kari Keller asked the RE-1J Board of Education to continue to support the master contract agreement.

cated," Keller said, "but because of your support I feel that we concurrently have an opportunity to move forward."

She said that her father taught for 30 years in a school district without a master contract, while her mother taught for 30 years in the RE-1J schools, which did have a master contract.

"So when I was looking for a job, I only applied to districts that had master contracts," Keller said. "After growing up and watching both of my parents' careers, I did choose to work here because Montrose County had a master contract. A master contract agreement protects teachers, both members and non-members, and it gives us a voice.

"I am asking the board to continue to support our master contract agreement. Thank you."

Also taking time to address the Board of Education was Jessica Newcomb, who introduced herself as the mother of a child with autism who attends school in the district.

"...Mandates truly do affect the families within this community," Newcomb said. "...I'm concerned with the way the school district continues to comply and implement the mandates only to move the goalposts further away...as soon as we give the government any kind of power that they did not previously have in order to let us participate in society or earn a paycheck, than we're on a very slippery

RE-1J BOARD HEARS PRESENTATION ON CDE MILL LEVY CORRECTION, APPROVES AUDITED FINANCIALS From previous pg

slope.

"...We should be cautious about anything that inhibits our freedoms, yet we're watching it happen before our eyes...I am not anti-anything, I am pro medical freedom. I stand with the teachers and staff who are choosing to opt out of experimental treatments or leave the COVID testing.

"Whether you agree with someone's medical choices or not, the freedom for us to choose is the structure that allows this country to be amazing," she said.

"...The only true mandate that America has is the Constitution. We cannot simply our way back to freedom."

COVID-19 is not the biggest Childhood cancer is the leading cause of death, she said. She cited chronic illness, obesity, learning disabilities, mental illness and autism.

"Anxiety, depression and isolation are crippling the children in America," she said, while COVID continues to take center stage.

Fishing thanked Newcomb for her comments. "We appreciate you being here."

ESSER FUND REPORT

Director of Finance Imus presented information on the district's Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER) budgets and next steps. Implemented in three phases, a total of \$14,323,575 in ESSER funds are intended to address COVID-related expenses, learning loss and extended learning opportunities. Phase Three has a planned budget of \$9,213,675. Data from Imus' [presentation can be viewed online](#). Community feed-

back has been accepted through a November survey; there will be a work session in January to discuss next steps.

CDE MILL LEVY UPDATE

Glenn Gustafson of the Colorado Department of Education Finance Department presented information on CDE's [mill levy correction strategy](#), a legislative and legal directive intended to address the under-collection of local property taxes for education. For informational purposes, one mill is one tenth of a cent or one 1000th of a dollar. In Montrose County, the local share of the district's \$52,502,275 in allocations is presently 32 percent, while the state's share is 68 percent.

ENROLLMENT REPORT AND CERTIFIED OCTOBER COUNT

Imus presented the [enrollment report](#) and [October count information](#). December enrollment is 6,065, while the certified October count is 5,854.

EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER (ECC) UPDATE

Early Childhood Center (ECC) Director Penny Harris presented an [informational update with data](#), and acknowledged community donations and support from groups such as the Tom Goodrich Warm Hearts Memorial Project; Operation Homefront; Montrose United Methodist Church; the Cobble Creek Angel Tree; and TREK Bikes of Montrose. "We do have some great relationships," Harris said.

Fishing asked about plans for summer school, Harris said that those plans will be discussed.

OLD BUSINESS

Fishing presented the following revised

board policies, which were approved:

-[BID/BIE, School Board Member Compensation/Expenses/Insurance/Liability](#) - updated to reflect legal change in compensation to Board members;

-[IHCD, Concurrent Enrollment](#) - minor language changes and addition of information to middle school students;

-[JEB, Entrance Age Requirements](#) - updated age requirements for enrollment;

-[JICDD, Violent and Aggressive Behavior](#) - updated anti-discrimination designations;

-[JII, Student Concerns, Complaints and Grievances](#) - updated anti-discrimination designations;

-[DAA, Fraud Prevention and Reporting](#) - New Policy recommendation from the state in support of the districts RISE grant.

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda items including a [job description for a Systems Administrator](#) and [Personnel Report](#) were approved.

NEW BUSINESS

The Board of Education voted to approve and [certify the Mill Levy for the Property Tax Year 2021](#) as presented.

The Board also voted to accept the [Audited Financial Statements for 2020-2021](#).

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board of Education voted to enter into Executive Session pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402 (4)(d) for the purpose of discussing details of a current safety investigation.

Following the Executive Session the meeting was adjourned. The RE-1J Board of Education will meet for a regular meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 11, 2022 at 6:30pm.



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UPSTAIRS PRESENTS

2022
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-31 DECEMBER 2021-

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SWING CITY EXPRESS

\$20 ENTRY | DANCE CLASS | CRAFT COCKTAILS

511 EAST MAIN STREET MONTROSE

OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

TIME TO PLACE PUBLIC ADVISORY NOTICE AT BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS?

By Caitlin Switzer, Mirror Editor

MONTROSE- At any public meeting involving a governmental agency or public school board, there are times when filming members of the audience is appropriate—for example when someone is speaking at the podium during the time for public input, or when there is a scheduled presenter or student group.

Since the return to in-person meetings after the initial pandemic shutdown, our local schools have taken it one step further.

The focus of the video camera used to record the regular meetings of the Montrose County School District RE-1J Board of Education has done a pivot.

Rather than dutifully and audibly recording the official interactions of the board as in the past, the practice now is to turn one video camera on the seated public and

one on the board throughout regular meetings.

While this can seem intimidating, those who come to watch the meetings are now part of the broadcast.

Anyone who attempts to watch the RE-1J meetings from home on the livestream quickly realizes that the sound quality is

often inaudible these days, so in person attendance is important if you are interested in hearing what is being said. Still, the people seated on the metal folding chairs for hours at a time in the audience portion of the Board of Education meetings are not necessarily aware that they are being filmed.

Perhaps it's time for the Board of Educa-

tion to place a disclaimer near the entryway as Montrose County has done for years, alerting citizens that filming is taking place and that anything you say or do during the session may become part of the public record.



Those who come to watch the meetings of the RE-1J board of Education are now part of the broadcast. Screenshot capture, RE-1J Facebook video.

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UNTIL DECEMBER 23**

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE & GUNNISON COUNTIES – Little Blue Creek Canyon US 50 (Mile Points 123-127) is now OPEN to alternating one-way traffic with no nighttime closures through December 23.

Beginning December 23, road closures associated with construction on the US 50 Little Blue Creek Canyon 4-mile critical safety improvement project located between Montrose and Gunnison (Mile Points 123-127) will remain OPEN to two-way traffic until spring 2022. Regularly scheduled road closures are targeted to resume in March 2022, depending on the weather.

"The timing of the winter shutdown was made with the upcoming storm cycle and the holidays in mind," said Kathleen Wanatowicz, Public Information Manager for the Little Blue Creek Canyon project. "At this time, the project team is working with the U.S. Department of Transportation and CDOT to determine the schedule impacts resulting from the opening of US 50 during the emergency closures of I-70 at Glenwood Canyon this summer."

Prior to the road closures resuming in the spring, the project team will release information in advance of these closures to proactively announce closure dates and the 2022 construction schedule.

PROJECT FUNDING AND PARTNERS

American Civil Constructors West Coast (ACC) continues to work in partnership with the Federal Highway Administration, Central Federal Lands Highway Division (FHWA-CFLHD), and the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) to minimize impacts on local communities as much as possible.

The US 50 Little Blue Creek Canyon improvement project results from a partnership with the FHWA-CFLHD and CDOT. The \$40 million project is provided by a \$20 million grant from the Colorado Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP), with CDOT providing the matching \$20 million.

The project is also in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), Grand Mesa Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests, the US Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and the National Park Service (NPS).

Work also includes guardrail replacement, additional rockfall catchment area, new signage, and striping.

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

DEMOCRATS NO LONGER ATTEMPT TO HIDE THEIR AGENDA

Editor:

Hispanic voters are abandoning the Democrat party in droves. There is a long list of good reasons for that. Since day one of his administration, Biden has set out to destroy oil companies and reduce production, spend trillions of dollars we don't have, and dramatically increase our taxes. One result is the worst inflation in forty years – worse, much worse, than even under President Carter. While the Bidens celebrated Thanksgiving in luxury on a billionaire's Nantucket estate with nary a care, middle-class people are paying more for essentials but getting less. Meanwhile, the Biden White House views the problem as one of “messaging” and “spin”, rather than anything they either caused or need to address. Their “messaging” is: 1) Things are actually going well; don't believe your lying eyes or empty pocketbook. 2) It's your fault. 3) Your suffering is for a good cause. Don't you know you should be driving an electric vehicle? And, 4) Americans need to “consciously lower their expectations”. For their own good.

Violent crime is making major Democrat-run cities unlivable. Twelve major Democrat-run cities have all time high homicide rates this year, and the year is not yet over. Democrats don't want to hear about rogue Soros funded prosecutors who won't prosecute or police who can't police because Democrats have defunded and demonized them. Nor do they want to

hear the truth about their woke policies having everything to do with the chaos -- or the fact that the majority of the victims of this outrage are black and brown racial minorities.

The list goes on. The abandonment of women's rights – Our wives and children are no longer safe in their restrooms or locker rooms because predators can now freely use those facilities by simply identifying as female. High school, college, and olympic women's sports are now dominated by males identifying as female. Immigration – Biden intentionally eliminated our southern border with the assumption that the invaders will be future Dem voters, with no consideration of the negative impact on working Americans of all races. Destroying our military – Wokeness is now a priority over preparedness and strength. Need I mention abandoning Americans in Afghanistan? Loss of faith in our core institutions – The DOJ, FBI, and IRS have weaponized against Democrat opponents, while Biden family corruption is totally ignored.

All these Democrat failures have had an impact on Hispanic voters, but are only contributing factors to their no longer supporting the Democratic Party. More importantly, I think Hispanics are thoroughly disgusted with Democratic Party ideology. Dems are no longer attempting to hide their agenda. Instead of hiding their goals or even sugar-coating them,

the left is now shouting them openly. All their proposals involve transferring more power and money to the already too powerful federal government, by sowing racial hatred, creating chaos, and establishing as many “victim” groups as possible. Americans of all races are figuring out that people Dems label racist – anyone disagreeing with them – are not racist in any sense of the imagination. People are realizing that Dem's race hustling is just a garbage scam to increase the liberal establishment's power.

All the Hispanics that I have ever known, including family members, would cringe at being labeled a victim. They have lived through real racism and prejudice, but still believe this is the greatest country in the world. They are focused on their families and their God, and know that this is one of the few nations in the world where a person can rise from poverty to middle-class in one generation – not by big government welfare, but by hard work and fortitude. (You know, those attributes Dems label as “racist”.) They are appalled by the idea that America has not improved and can't improve or that this nation must be destroyed. They want to make our police departments and justice systems fairer – not tear them down.

Is it any wonder minority voters are ditching the Democrat plantation in record numbers?

Ed Henrie, Montrose

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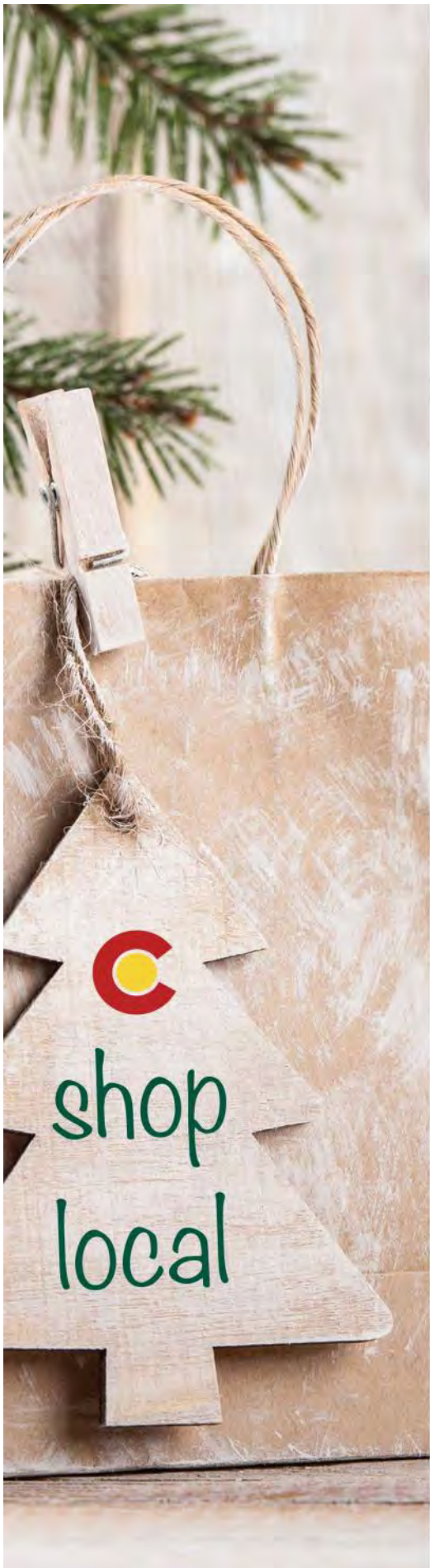


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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

ONE YEAR LATER: DELTA HEALTH REFLECTS ON ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST COVID-19 VACCINE GIVEN TO LOCAL HEALTHCARE WORKER

Special to the Mirror

DELTA-December 17 marked one year since Delta Health administered the very first Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine in Delta County.

The first person to receive the vaccine was healthcare worker, Gwen Eslinger, Delta Health Surgical Tech.

"I'm glad to have gotten the vaccine," said Eslinger in 2020 after receiving the vaccine. "It's been stressful for the [healthcare workers], and we must get this done so that we can stay here and take care of our patients. It means a lot to all of us and it's giving me hope."

Back in 2020, Eslinger was one of the first of 175 frontline healthcare workers at Delta Health that signed up for the first round of vaccines. Physicians, nurses, respiratory therapists, environmental service works and other medical units were among the first group to receive the vaccine. "I remember last year being very anxious that the vaccine would not be available soon enough to protect our healthcare heroes," said Jody Roeber, Senior Vice President and Chief Clinical Officer for Delta Health. "Today, one year later, I am grateful for those that have continued to care for the sick and suffering during the pandemic, and I am so proud to be associated with the amazing healthcare heroes who have protected and cared for our community."

To date, Delta Health has administered over 9,000 COVID-19 vaccines to the community and has helped facilitate numerous vaccine clinics at the hospital and primary care clinics to provide improved access for the community.

"The Delta Health Quality Department has played a vital role with the vaccine roll out and I am so proud of our team for stepping up and helping provide this critical need," said Janel Webb, RN, BSN, Delta Health Quality Director. "It hasn't been easy – we've faced many challenges, but this past year has taught us that we are resilient and that we can get things done when we work together."

Delta Health continues to provide access to the COVID-19 vaccine and boosters at their primary care clinics. "I am so grateful that we now have the boosters availa-

ble," said Roeber. "Delta Health and our community partners have done an amazing job through their county-wide effort of providing access to vaccines for the community. We know that our work is not finished, but we will continue to work hard and to provide quality, compassion-

ate healthcare to our community." For more information on COVID-19 vaccines at Delta Health can be found at deltahealth-co.org/covid-19-vaccine/.

The Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson and Johnson vaccines are available at Delta Health Primary Care Clinics.

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FEATURED LISTING



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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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DMEA MEETS, NO NEW INFORMATION RELEASED ON NOVEMBER CYBER ATTACK

By Gail Marvel

Regular Meeting:

MONTROSE The Friday, Dec. 17 Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) Board of Directors virtual meeting was called to order at 3 p.m. The meeting was held via Zoom; however, a majority of the board members and staff participated in-person in the Black Canyon Board room. With the exception of Damon Lockhart, all board members were present.

DMEA co-op members are afforded an opportunity to speak during Member Comments, which for this meeting was scheduled for 4 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 consent agenda (Minutes from the November Special Meeting and the November 2021 Regular Board Meeting).

Board Committee Items:

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

Watson said, “We did not meet, so we do not have a report at this time.”

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

Cannon said, “We did not meet. No report.”

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

Patterson said, “We did not meet, but we took care of the annual meeting date at the last meeting [held in November].”

Executive Committee – Kyle Martinez, Chair.

Martinez said, “We did not meet since two-weeks ago. Nothing to report.”

Financial Report with Variance Report.

The report was omitted from the December agenda due to network issues that impacted DMEA.

Martinez said, “It will be available next

month.”

CEO Report – Alyssa Roberts, CEO.

Roberts began by introducing the new Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Gayle Gouker to the board.

The CEO report, a PowerPoint presentation, offered no new information on the cyber-attack that occurred on Nov. 7, 2021, nor was a public update on the investigation given. The limited report stated:

Cyber incident communications. The following is a list of communications/

outreach tactics used to communicate about the cyber-attack and restoration efforts.

Press releases – targeted to local media only

-November 8, 2021

-November 29, 2021

-December 10, 2021

News. DMEA published the following press releases since the last report.

-November 4, 2021 – DMEA Offices Closed to Public in Response to COVID-19

-November 8, 2021 – DMEA Internal Network Incident

-November 29, 2021 – DMEA Fills Board of Director Vacancies

-November 30, 2021 – Message to Members – DMEA Victim of Cyber Attack –

-December 10, 2021 – DMEA One Step Closer to Network Restorations.

A board member asked about the effects of the cyber-attack as it relates to members and billing. Roberts said, “Everything is available. From the members’ perspective [everything] is there.”

The CEO report included brief comments in a number of areas including the overall budget, Operation Round-Up, and the scholarship program now open.

Operation Round-Up, a program that allows members to round-up the amount



During their regular meeting in November, the Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) Board of Directors appointed Jacob Gray to fill the District 3 seat (Photo courtesy of DMEA).



During their regular meeting in November, the Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) Board of Directors appointed Kevin Williams to fill the District 5 seat (Photo courtesy of DMEA).

of their payment, is used to help defray expenses to other members who are struggling to pay their bill. Roberts said, “We’ve had over \$60,000 to help our community. It’s a really great program.”

Roberts noted that DMEA has received several compliments for the staff and their efforts to make the cyber-attack situation transparent. New hire Tim Vigil, Chief Operations Officer (COO), will begin work on Jan. 17, 2022.

Bill Patterson said, “How many in-house tree trimming crews do we have? Two are contracted. Are they [in-house] really that much better, or are they doing more things?”

Roberts said, “There are three crews, but they are not all operating at the same time.”

Patterson said, “DMEA crews are doing far more.”

Roberts said, “They are doing significantly different things.”

It was noted that DMEA is \$50,000 over-budget. Roberts said, “It’s not significant, but it’s not insignificant.”

Recently appointed board member Kevin Williams asked about the condition of operations. Both Roberts and Attorney Jeff Hurd wanted that discussion held in executive session.

DMEA MEETS, NO NEW INFORMATION ON NOVEMBER CYBER ATTACK From previous pg

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

Due to the network issues the SAIDI report was unavailable.

Non-Privileged Legal Report - Jeff Hurd, Attorney.

Hurd said, "I will defer my report to executive session."

Representative Board Reports

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

Fleming said, "We did not meet. I anticipate we will not meet in January."

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

Board President Martinez said, "Damon is not here. They did meet, but there is no report."

Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program (RESAP) - Chad Stickler, Safety Director.

Using a PowerPoint presentation, Stickler reported on the RESAP, a National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) program which is administrated in Colorado by the Colorado Rural Electric Association (CERA).

Every three-years a panel of three staff members from local cooperatives, CREA employees and Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange review 17 different

criteria with best practices and suggestions for improvements.

In the 2018 DMEA report three "Key Attention Areas for Improvement" were listed — Common Facility Safety Equipment and Issues, Warehouse and Covered Storage, and Substations. Stickler said, "We've corrected all the issues." The 2021 report reflects that all three areas were brought up to reflect either "strong performance" or "generally satisfactory."

For the Safety Improvement Plan (SIP), Stickler presented the Three-Year SIP Goals, as well as the Annual Objectives for SIP 2022-2023.

The recently appointed board members were offered the opportunity to take a field trip with Stickler.

Operation Round Up New Director Appointment

Randilyn Madison was recommended and appointed to serve as a trustee on the nine-member Operation Round-Up board.

Future Meetings:

Beginning in January the regular DMEA meeting will resume in-person meetings.

Meeting Dates:

January 25, 2022

February 22, 2022

March 22, 2022

April 19, 2022

The April strategy meeting, which is one

full day, will take place between April 26-28.

Member Comments 4:00 p.m.

The regular meeting concluded at 3:40 p.m. There were no virtual comments from members.

Executive Session

Privileged Legal Reports: Corporate, Litigation, and Regulatory Matters

Power Supply Update

Network Update

Review of Board Self-Evaluations

No summary for this executive session is available.

Dist 1 - Bill Patterson, 970-209-1449,

bpatterson@montrose.net

Dist 2 - Kyle Martinez, 970-615-7124,

kyle@touchofcarepcp.com

Dist 3 - Jacob Gray, 970-778-9512, jacob.gray@dmea.com

Dist 4 - Ken Watson, 970-275-2100, kenethrwatson@gmail.com

Dist 5 - Kevin Williams, 406-839-1603,

kevin.williams@dmea.com

Dist 6 - Damon Lockhart, 970-314-1071,

damon.lockhart@dmea.com

Dist 7 - Enno Heuscher, 970-270-

6523, enno.heuscher@dmea.com

Dist 8 - (North Region) Stacia Cannon, 920-

207-8831, stacia.cannon@dmea.com

Dist 9 - (South Region) Jock Fleming, 970-

275-1808, jock.fleming@dmea.com



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'AND THEN COMES THIS SITE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT' From pg 1

us.....especially we pray that you give us hope," Cook said, "As we end this year and move into another one, we pray for your hope and for your peace."

Commissioner Roger Rash led in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

First to address commissioners was Robert Jones. Jones said he was a 21-year local resident and had raised five kids in Montrose.

"...Basically, I'm here because Reagan warned me I should come talk to you before I wake up in a world of socialism," Jones said. "I'm hoping I'm not too late." He implored commissioners to "lead us out of this COVID paradigm we're in."

Jones said, "I feel strongly that somehow we're waiting for something to happen, whether it be elections in 2022, waiting for Trump to ride his horse in and save us all from some of the governmental tyranny that I've experienced."

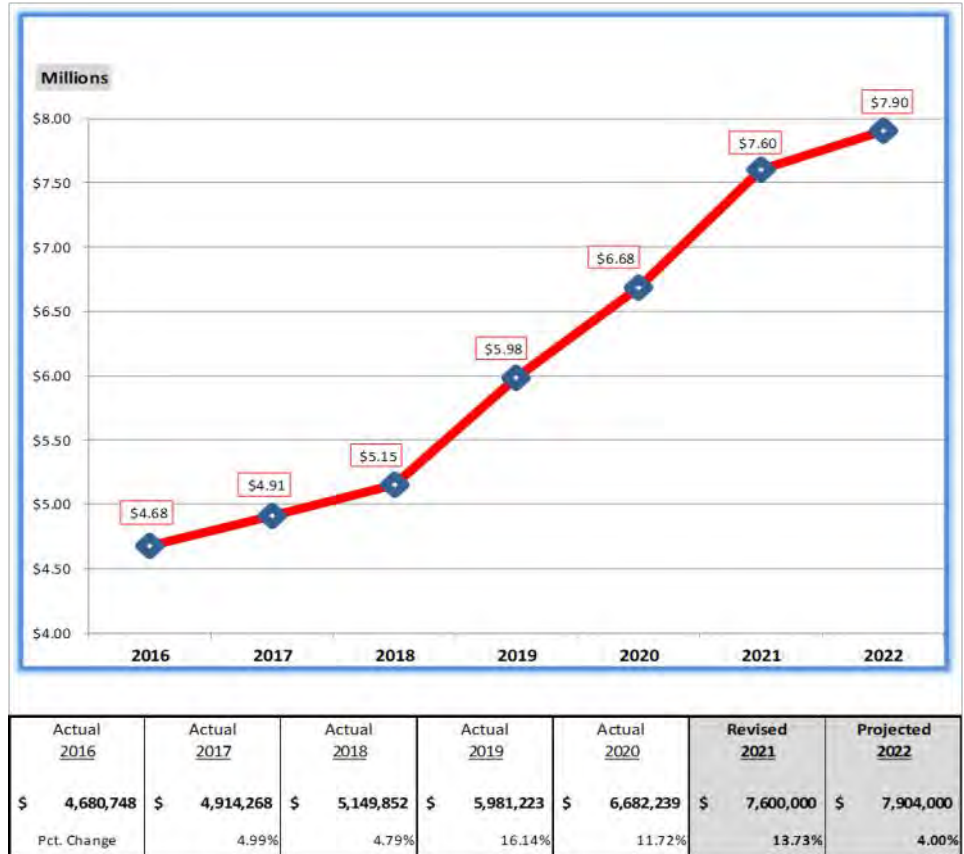
"...I'd like to also remind us, Trump was President when we got locked down," Jones said. "Trump thought the vaccine was going to be the answer. And I think the data's coming in that that's not going to be the solution to this problem."

"I remember when San Miguel County locked me out of the county," Jones said. "And I lost my job. It was a good job. I worked for the rock star and the movie star up there."

He took a breath. "I'm afraid what I'm seeing is us compromising ourselves to the protocols of the CDC through some of the contracts we're signing as a community...I know through the CARES Act and ESSER Acts we're subject to the protocols of the CDC. Our kids are subject to that."

"I didn't vote for Doctor Walensky, I don't think anybody voted for her...I guess I'm trying to figure out why the county's putting money into vaccine distributions on public property when every citizen in this town can walk in to 10 or 11 places in the city, walk across the street and get a vaccine," Jones said.

Jones said he is culpable as a taxpayer for any injury to any citizen caused by the



Above, a chart depicts the history of the County's Public Safety Sales Tax. Courtesy image.

vaccine.

"There's blood on my hands, and that's not cool."

He said he was at the Reagan Lincoln Dinner and met the Sheriff.

"...That's why I'm here. I don't want to be overrun," Jones said.

Hansen said that commissioners do not always respond to public comments.

Also addressing the BOCC was local Attorney Brad Switzer, who said he represents Lewis Energy Lands.

"We received a hangar lease approved by this board of commissioners on July 21, 2021," Switzer said. "Now we're going through the process of getting a building permit from the city, and we've got some problems."

Switzer said that his client has submitted the proper application as well as plans and drawings for the building permit and has addressed numerous concerns raised by

the City's Planning Department.

"We've addressed all those. And yesterday, the City of Montrose presented a site development plan to Lloyd Arnold at the Airport regarding our hangar lease," he said. "And the city is requiring that Lloyd Arnold, on behalf of the County and to bind the County, sign this site development agreement."

Switzer said that after a review of City Municipal Code, he found that the term "Site Development Agreement" does not appear at all and is not defined.

"But the City is requiring the County to sign off on this Site Development Agreement...before Lewis Energy Lands can get a building permit from the City," Switzer said. "We're willing to get a building permit; we've done all things we're supposed to do."

"And then comes this Site Development Agreement."

'AND THEN COMES THIS SITE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT'

From previous pg



Local Attorney Brad Switzer spoke to commissioners about problems encountered while trying to obtain a City Building permit on behalf of a client who has leased hangar space at Montrose regional Airport.

Switzer said that he spoke with City Planner Amy Sharp, but still could not find the term "Site Development Agreement" in City Code, though Sharp referred him to a section of Code that did not contain the term.

He said that he spoke to Lloyd Arnold as well as County Manager Jon Waschbusch, and with Attorney Julie Andress at the County Attorney's Office.

"...I just want to inform the County that there is this situation," Switzer said. "We're ready to build. We have a hangar that's been manufactured, ready to be delivered out there. We've jumped through all the hoops with the city for a building permit, except for the amorphous site development agreement."

He thanked commissioners for their time. Next to address the BOCC was Michelle Gomez, who said she is the wife of the Robert Jones who spoke previously. Gomez tried to recall the last time she had appeared before the BOCC. "...We've worked up the courage to come and talk to you today...my public comments are really nothing but a testament of spirit. "And God hath not given me the spirit of fear but of love, of power, and of sound mind...I would venture to say that many

of us do feel troubled in the mind these days, and in the heart and the soul and the spirit."

Gomez said, "And like my husband, we chose to leave that job because of the requirements that were being asked of us, that we felt that were infringing on our liberties, and our freedom to love God and walk in God's light every single minute."

She raised concerns over contracts being signed by the County, "...In my mind these are not routine, these contracts that are being signed," Gomez said, noting a recent contract of \$2.3M for an Airport Rescue Grant.

"...This contract is for four years...under the conditions and the strings attached for this money is Number 22, a face coverings policy.

"...This means I cannot go to the Airport for four years," she said. "...You may say I can if I comply with this, but then I'm complying with what I see as tyranny."

She pointed out several contracts on the meeting agenda that cause her concern. "...In particular the Pediatric Associates is not even properly signed...the second thing is not signed at all...so I'm not sure how valid that is right away...we own an

LLC, we work with music and we brought the gospel quartet in. And I believe music is healing. So I feel that this has become a slippery slope for ya'll. I really do.

Gomez said, "Because you could give us money and we could help heal people. Or you could give the CBD company money and they could help heal people. How many people would be supportive of that?"

BOCC Chair Sue Hansen wrapped up the public comment. Hansen said that if Gomez has specific questions the County is happy to meet with her. She thanked Gomez for her sentiment. Though an arm of the state, Hansen said, "We are a county that believes in choice...we are happy to meet with you and talk about that."

Gomez said she is ready to ride her horse and tell the town.

COUNTY MANAGER

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda items were unanimously approved.

GENERAL BUSINESS & ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

County Engineer Keith Laube presented the annual [Road and Bridge Sales Tax Report](#) for 2021 and Five-year plan for 2022 through 2026. He explained the letter grading system assigned to county roads. "We've eliminated a lot of the 'D' roads."

The County maintains approximately 1,379 miles of roads with 298 miles of paved roads and 479 miles of gravel roads. About 105 miles receive magnesium chloride treatment. There are 602 miles of primitive roads with dirt and native surface.

Laube discussed asphalt paving and plans for future improvements. Next year the County will pave 17.8 miles, with plans to pave roughly 17 to 22 miles per year moving forward.

Montrose County has 18 bridges and 37 large culverts. Since 2008, the County has replaced 32 bridges, Laube said. He discussed bridge upgrades, the County fleet, and roadway safety.

Most crashes on county roads are caused

Continued next pg

'AND THEN COMES THIS SITE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT'

From previous pg

by males under age 25, Laube said. The average crash takes place on a sunny day with dry pavement, often at a curve or an intersection.

Laube thanked road and bridge crews for their work.

Hansen said she is proud of road and bridge crews.

Commissioner Roger Rash said he could not be more pleased with the work of the Road and Bridge Department. "We go out and look at the product on the ground, and the craftsmanship, the work that's being done, outstanding job...it saves lives. That's the bottom line."

Crews work 24 hours a day, seven days a week, he noted.

"They are standup people and really dedicate their lives to making sure that we're safe when we're driving to and from around our county."

Rash praised the efficiencies of staff as well. "Thank you for a job well done and thank your staff."

Commissioners voted to accept the [2021 Road and Bridge Sales Tax report](#). The complete [presentation](#) is available online.

Resolution 58-2021

Commissioners voted to approve [Resolution No. 58-2021](#), for a road closure to through traffic on Shavano Valley Road between Spring Creek Road and Rim Road during the Coal Creek bridge deck replacement project.

Resolution 59-2021

Hansen opened a public hearing on the next item, Sheriff's Office [Resolution No. 59-2021](#), presented by Emergency Manager Scott Hawkins, regarding the adoption of the newly revised Ambulance Licensing Regulations for ambulance services in Montrose County. The resolution supersedes the previous ambulance licensing Resolution No. 13-2019.

Hawkins discussed specific changes, which clarify who can perform inspections and on how complaints are handled.

Representing local medical transport provider Trans Care Inc., Allen Hughes addressed the BOCC. He asked commissioners to delay ratification of the resolution. "I've read it...I would ask that we revisit the insurance requirements that are in this document."

Trans Care has been in Montrose since 2008 and was licensed until 2020, Hughes said. "We met all of the qualifications except for the insurance qualification...I'm just here to give you the facts and let you guys make a decision."

Hughes said the insurance requirements include the words, "for medical providers." He said he has spoken with Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (CDPHE) and the Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA) about the issue.

"Because of this requirement, this one requirement, we can't find insurance," he said. "...we're the only private (company) on the Western Slope...the agents wouldn't touch us."

Still, Trans Care does not conduct emergency transport but instead moves patients to medical facilities and appointments. "We don't want to be in the 911 business, but it appears that this is geared for 911 services...everyone we deal with is stable...their medical needs have been n stabilized...we fill the gap..."

Commissioner Rash said he wished Hughes had come forward sooner. "If we pass this today, we can always revise this in the future." He suggested moving forward and working with Hughes to address his concerns. "It should have been brought forward months ago."

After more discussion, "It does seem like you're falling between the cracks," Hansen said.

Hughes said he could provide actual medical care only under the good Samaritan Act and would be breaking the law by doing anything more.

Commissioners agreed to work on the issue, but not to delay adoption of Resolution 59-2021.

Hansen said, "Every time ambulances come up we have this issue. If I...get re-elected I don't want to see this anymore. I'd like to get it resolved once and for all. It would be really great to figure out what the issue is here." She closed the Public Hearing.

Commissioners voted to adopt [Resolution No. 59-2021](#), regarding the adoption of the newly revised Ambulance Licensing Regulations, concerning ambulance ser-

vices in Montrose County.

Resolution 60-2021

Hawkins presented Sheriff's Office [Resolution 60-2021](#), regarding the adoption of an update to the [Montrose County Emergency Operating Plan \(EOP\)](#).

Commissioners voted to approve Resolution 60-2021. Hansen thanked Deputy County Attorney Julie Andress for her work on the plan.

Sheriff's Office Presentation

Montrose County Sheriff Gene Lillard presented annual [Public Safety Sales Tax Report](#), and said he would be holding an awards presentation the following evening. In addition to data and statistics, the report includes highlights such as

- New K-9 on board, Deputy Peters and Tigo;

- Two Internal Investigations conducted in 2021;

- Deputy Sarah Belcher and Deputy Brian Wright, new Drone Pilots;

- Two CSA's hired to assist with booking and fingerprinting;

- Twelve New Hires in 2021;

- Started Patrol Deputy rotation for two months into investigation. (Three deputies completed);

- Re-assigned WE Deputy Scott Sandefur as school resource officer/Investigator;

- No COVID outbreak in Montrose County Jail as of 10/27/2021;

- Sgt Bruce Schmalz is acting Division Commander in the West End of Montrose County;

- High Impact Target Team – established – very successful - Three Deputies sworn in as United States Marshals are still working with the Feds on High Risk Warrants;

- Montrose County Drug Task Force. 14 Federal Indictments and an additional 5 in late 2021. Very busy in Narcotics investigations;

- Deputy/Agent Chance Davidson was selected Narcotics Officer of the year for the State of Colorado;

Goals for 2022 include:

- Start a five-year Strategic Plan for the MCSO;

- Continue to concentrate on quality assurance, keep training up to P.O.S.T. standards which would include all divisions within the Montrose County Sheriff's

'AND THEN COMES THIS SITE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT'

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Office;

-Continue K-9 and Deputy training in the East and West End;

-Update 11 Patrol Vehicles to Chevy Tahoe's;

-Budget for three additional Deputies for 2022;

-Jail re-model for late 2022 or early 2023; Lillard shared photos from the past year and announced plans to shop with 16 needy children in the community over the weekend. He thanked the commissioners. "...We are very proud to protect and serve..."

The [entire report](#) can be read online. Hansen asked whether there plans in place to expand the co-responder program. Lillard said the department has two co-responders now.

Hansen said she is very proud of the Sheriff's Department. "I really appreciate your leadership."

BOCC Vice Chair Keith Caddy thanked Lillard as well. "Thank you for bringing us out of the old days and into the new days with equipment and everything you got on board working with the task force...very, very needed in this community and I do appreciate it."

Rash said, "Here's another example of a sales tax that is actually used to save

lives...that's the bottom line. That's what we do with these funds...we do pay into this tax, but it is utilized and it's utilized for a very good cause"

The County protects the citizens of Montrose County as well as its deputies, he said.

Hansen thanked citizens for voting for the tax. "...They saw a need and came together and worked really hard to put that measure on the ballot. It really speaks to when citizens get engaged and see a problem, they can fix it."

Without the tax, criminals would win, Rash said.

Efforts to fight crime can resemble Whack a Mole, Sheriff Lillard said. The tax makes a world of difference, he said. "It's a Godsend, it truly is."

Commissioners voted unanimously to accept the Annual Public Safety Sales Tax Report into the public record.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Resolution 61-2021

In a public hearing continued from the BOCC meeting of Dec. 2, Planner Tallmadge Richmond presented a proposed [amendment to Zoning Regulations](#). "Really great reading," Hansen noted of the new regulations.

The only changes made since the previ-

ous meeting were a spelling change and the removal of a use (outdoor shooting ranges) from the agricultural use table that should not have been there, Richmond said. Definitions, graphics, and tables have been added.

The BOCC voted to accept the proposed amendments for zoning regulations with an effective date of Feb. 1, 2022.

"This is something I can be proud of," Hansen said. "I'm really tickled."

RETIREMENT OF CLERK TO THE BOARD

Hansen announced that Eloise Lentz would retire; for five years, Lentz has served as clerk to the BOCC.

Rash called Lentz an "all around great friend."

"It was great working with you Eloise," Caddy said. "It really was."

Hansen thanked Lentz and wished her well in the future.

"It really has been a joy," Lentz said.

"...You three commissioners, you do such a good job...your hearts are so in the right place, and you really do what you consider best for the community, and I've seen that time and time again...It's really been an awesome experience, hope to see you all again," she said.

With no further business, the final BOCC meeting of 2021 was adjourned.

SEE SOMETHING - SAY SOMETHING



970-249-8500

ANONYMOUS CALL

MONTROSE REGIONAL CRIME STOPPERS

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Local Man Held on Federal Charges Related to Capitol Insurrection

Special to the Mirror

TELLURIDE – The San Miguel Sheriff's Office working with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) out of Washington, DC arrested 68-year-old Avery MacCracken, a decades-long on and off resident of Telluride, for a federal warrant with charges related to his alleged participation in the January 6th U.S. Capitol insurrection.

This afternoon (Tuesday, Dec. 14) federal authorities unsealed documents indicting Mr. MacCracken for multiple charges including:

- Assaulting, Resisting, or Impeding Certain Officers Using a Dangerous Weapon or Inflicting Bodily Injury
- Civil Disorder
- Entering and Remaining in a Restricting Building or Grounds
- Disorderly and Disruptive Conduct in a Restricted Building or Grounds

-Engaging in Physical Violence in a Restricted Building or Grounds

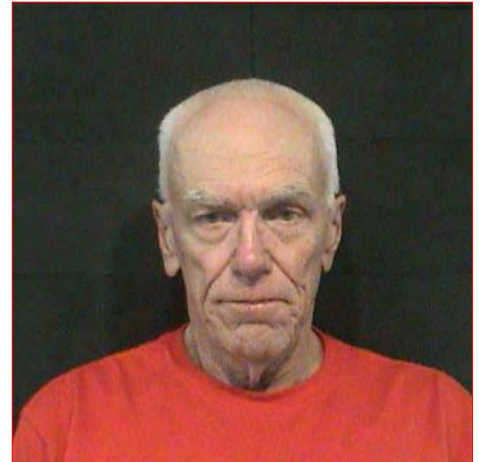
-Act of Physical Violence in the Capitol Grounds or Buildings

Mr. MacCracken has a long history of criminal misconduct and has over the last several years lived out of his car in different areas of the county.

Sheriff Bill Masters said his office was happy to help authorities with this case.

"It's no surprise to those of us who have had to deal with this career criminal that he, along with the other clowns, violently assaulted peace officers who were attempting to protect our Republic."

Mr. MacCracken was apprehended in Norwood, Saturday morning, arrested, and booked into the San Miguel County Jail where he was held until he was released to the custody of federal authorities Monday afternoon.



Avery MacCracken. Courtesy photo.

Sheriff Masters said, "I am pleased to see federal authorities continue their obligation and commitment to indict those who committed crimes during that dark day in United States history."



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CAREGIVER SUPPORT FOUNDATION GAINS TAX EXEMPT STATUS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The recently founded Caregiver Support Foundation (CSF) received notice this week, from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), that they had been granted tax exempt status.

The status advances the credibility and ability to raise funds for the CSF, which provides support for people who are caregivers for loved ones suffering from brain failure such as Alzheimer's, Dementia, Parkinson's, and others.

Montrose residents Laird Landon and the late Glen Hinshaw founded the organization after the two men had cared for their wives in their spouses last years of life. According to Landon there are upwards of 53 million Americans who are family caregivers.

"They are caring for someone. It could be a parent, a sibling, or other relative suffering from Alzheimer's, Parkinson's or some other disease," said Landon, the CEO of the foundation.

"Many of these people sacrifice a good deal and need support because they are isolated from the community. They don't know what to do and they are watching their loved ones slowly die."

CSF incorporated as a nonprofit entity in September, and Landon immediately filed for the 501-3c designation. The Feds notified the Montrose-based organization last week of their new standing. Landon said that the three-month processing time was quicker than what he had expected. Landon also said the standing as a tax-exempt

charity benefits the foundation and its donors beyond just tax exemption.

"Donors don't have to pay tax on the money they donate, but even more important for a small organization such as ours, there are a lot of larger foundations who believe in the kind of work we are doing. With the IRS having already done the vetting, the potential donors don't have to do the work to find out if we are worthy," Landon said

At present the foundation is working hard on helping caregivers learn the benefits of group support. How to find a support group, what to expect, how to get the most out of it are some of the insights CSF teaches caregivers who are said to have, "The hardest job in the world," according to Landon.

Landon said the foundation is moving to create a bridge between health care professionals, patients, families, and caregivers.

"There are doctors, nurses, social workers, and hospitals that are involved primarily with curative measures. We want to work with them on a palliative care team to also address the family's needs. By doing that we can help improve the comfort and longevity of the patient, and the wellbeing of the family (caregivers). This is good for everyone."

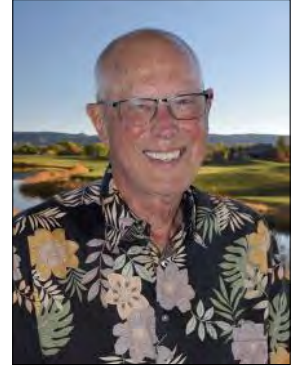
"Palliative care" is an emerging regimen among caregivers and Landon sees CSF as a leader in helping professionals and caregivers understand and use it. "Palliative care means quality of life care," Landon

explained. "It may have to do with curative care or not, but it is aimed at allowing the patient to live the best possible life. To achieve that goal caregivers who help their loved ones through a long disease also need quality of life support."

The Foundation's motto spells out the palliative care direction. "Keep your loved ones safe, comfortable, and create moments of joy."

After their own experience as caregivers, Landon and Hinshaw co-authored the book, *Caregiving—Journey to a New Horizon*. The book documents the experiences of actual caregivers and their trials during extended caring for a loved one. The book has become a go-to reference for caregivers.

Earlier this year Landon engaged a producer to build a series of videos based on the book. He received a grant from the Region 10 Agency on Aging to help develop the series. There are seven videos in the library, with three more scheduled by end of the year. The videos are available for view at the CSF website www.family-caregiver.org.



Laird Landon. Courtesy photo.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

AGRICULTURE CONFERENCE FOCUSES ON 'FARMING IN THE NEW WORLD'

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE- The Western Colorado Food and Farm Forum is the Western Slope's foremost agriculture conference, with 2022 marking the 10th annual event. The Forum has a rich history of bringing together farmers, ranchers, and agriculture advocates to benefit from networking and agri-business workshops focusing on drought resiliency, innovations in crop, soils, livestock and financial management practices.

Hannah Gosnell, PH.D., a professor with Oregon State University, will be this year's keynote speaker. Gosnell's research focuses on agricultural landscape changes, rural sustainability, land, and water conservation from a social-ecological systems perspective. Most of her projects have taken place on rural, agriculture working landscapes focusing on a belief that collaborative and interdisciplinary solutions to conservation challenges must involve all affected stakeholders to be more durable. Gosnell's keynote will address, "*Coerced Regimes? Irrigated Agriculture in the 21st Century US West.*"

Friday morning, Valley Food Partnership together with Libby Christensen, Mitch Bennett and Shawn Gardener will be leading a workshop that will report on and demonstrate the work of their USDA Regional Food Systems Partnership planning grant. The format will be a highly experiential series of role play exercises that will mimic interaction on the digital communications and trading platform being planned with the grant. Participants will practice capacity-building models of collaborative decision making and action that will be used in the future digital platform.

This workshop will give everyone an understanding of the purpose, processes, principles, and value of digitizing our regional food value chain.

Whether you're a farmer, rancher, or simply interested in better food, Kris Nichols' talk, "Regenerating Soil with Soil Biology," will be sure to draw you in. By taking a systems approach to regenerate soils through soil biology, farmers will increase resilience and profitability by maximizing nutrient and water use efficiencies to regenerate soils. Dive deep into the six principles of soil health and how integrating these practices can help address fertility, pest and disease issues while increasing nutritive quality. Dr. Kris Nichols is a Soil Microbiologist with over 25 years of research experience studying arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi. Kris builds upon a soil health foundation to identify biological methods for agricultural production and tools and practices to reduce pest issues, soil erosion, fossil fuel use, and greenhouse gas emissions.

"There's no easy answer to water concerns in the west. We're excited to announce a new kind of water conversation at this year's Western Colorado Food and Farm Forum. Water experts will be role playing positions on Colorado's conflicting water priorities in order to generate innovative solutions for our collective future. Speakers will include Andy Mueller (CO River District), Brad Wind (Northern Water), Becky Mitchell (CWCB), Alex Davis (Aurora Water), Paul Bruchez (Rancher), and Sean Cronin (St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District)."

Additional presentations will include, Ranching with Wolves, Similarities be-

tween the Soil and Gut Microbiomes, Colorado River Basin Challenges, Vegetable Breeding by En-



vironmental Context, Weather Ready Farms and Ranches, Running on All Cylinders (a stress management discussion), Produce Safety Tailgate Training, and Bringing Bees to your Operation. For a complete list of topics visit: foodfarmforum.org.

Join us Friday at 5:30pm in 2Rascals Brewery (147 N 1st St Montrose, CO) for a Chili Dinner Social Event, being catered by the Montrose High School Catering Team. Friendly faces, great conversations, food and libations. Then help wrap up the forum with a Saturday post conference Happy Hour from 6:30-8:30pm, location and time to be decided.

We look forward to seeing you in person January 21-22, 2022!

The Valley Food Partnership, Rocky Mountain Farmers Union, CSU Extension, ENGAGE, the Valley Organic Growers Association, Coldharbour Institute, and Shavano Conservation District organize the conference collaboratively. Scholarships are available by application to FFA, 4-H, enrolled students, beginning farmers and ranchers through an application process. To register please visit: foodfarmforum.org or call Amanda Laban, Event Coordinator at (781) 264-1882.



COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

WILLIAM 'BILL' BLAIR

September 10th 1937-October 14 2021

WILLIAM "BILL" BLAIR of Delta passed away October 14 2021 from cancer. As was his wish, he passed away at home surrounded by his family.

Bill was born September 10th 1937 in Eckert Colorado where he lived throughout his childhood being raised by his grandmother Christina Schrader, he graduated from Cedaredge High School before joining the Navy in 1955. Bill was stationed in California, Washington State and throughout Asian countries during his 20 years of service to our country, retiring in 1975. He served aboard 4 aircraft carriers USS Kearsage, USS Ticonderoga, USS Oriskany and the USS Kittyhawk. When Bill retired from the Navy he moved to Lazear CO and worked at Russell Stover's. Missing serving the community and camaraderie he decided to join the Delta County Sheriff's Department as a reserve officer for 6 months before he took a full time position as a deputy. Bill worked his way up the ranks to undersheriff until being appointed Sheriff in 1989 and then elected to the

same position in 1991. He served in the position of Sheriff for 3 more elected terms until he retired in 2004.

On December 7, 1984 Bill married the love of his life, Loyola with whom he shared 36 years of marriage. They made their home in Lazear for 19 years before moving to Delta after he retired until the time of his passing.

If you knew Bill you knew he had an unforgettable smile, generous heart, kind spirit without a stingy bone in his body and may have been known to pull a prank every once in a while. His unwavering sense of integrity and spirit of giving extended to his family, friends, church and everyone he met along the way. Courageous, successful, accomplished, devoted, respectful are the words Loyola has chosen to describe this amazing husband, father, grandpa, great grandpa and friend. That legacy of kindness will continue through his family. Bill's favorite pastimes were reading, Sudoku, taking walks, fishing, camping and traveling on an adventure. Sometimes those ad-

ventures led him down a back road, yard sale or an antique store. He also was an avid bowler for 26 years traveling to state tournaments most years. If there was an event for his grandchildren he and Loyola were front row. He took great pride in his yard, garden and home. He was an active member of the Hotchkiss Elks Lodge, VFW, American Legion, and anything Veteran related.

Bill is survived by his wife of 36 years Loyola Blair, daughter Tina Oeltjenbruns (Dennis), son Paul Calvillo (Aimee), and son Scott Blair (Bev), 12 grandchildren and 3 great granddaughters. He was preceded in death by his grandparents who raised him August and Christina Schrader, Uncle William Schrader, parents Roy and Mildred Blair and his sister Betty Hinsen.

Please join us in a celebration of life for Bill on December 23 at 2pm. Grace Community Church 300 Stafford Lane in Delta. In lieu of flowers please make a donation in memory of Bill to Grace Community Church.

Now more than ever...

Thank you for reading

THE MONTROSE MIRROR

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

CHARLES 'CHARLIE' DAVID RUSSELL

October 15, 1935 – December 9, 2021



Charlie was born October 15, 1935 in Ponca, NE to David Franklin and Lavona Bernice (Force) Russell. He passed away peacefully at home December 9, 2021. Charlie grew up farming in the heartland. Throughout his life, he loved working the earth in fields with his Farmall tractor, growing big, fantastic gardens and tending animals. You could have the best conversations with him about growing anything and the animals - he always had some - from chickens, pigs, cows and horses to the dogs that were won-

derful companions.

Birthdays and Celebrations always included hand cranked, homemade ice cream and chocolate cake!

Charlie graduated from Allen High School. In 1955-56, he served his country in the Army.

Charlie married Darlene Korthouse in 1958. They had four children - Jeff, Brian, Lisa and Lori. They divorced in later years. Charlie lived in Nebraska until 1978 when he moved to Montrose, Colorado.

Charlie married Georgiana Rocha Ladage Russell on February 16, 1984. Son, Nick Ladage joined the family with Georgiana. Charlie and George were happily married until she passed away in November 2020. Charlie created a legacy of caring and serving others in his life. This started with his family, continued in his work, and was woven throughout his life. He worked in many different capacities in the community of those with developmental disabilities.

Through the years, Charlie and his wife were host home providers - providing a home for those with disabilities, supporting them in their lives and building inde-

pendence.

He worked in and led many programs over the years - sometimes leading large, multi-faceted programs, sometimes particular programs - like the Woodshop. He was always an advocate for those with disabilities.

Charlie was preceded in death by his parents, David and Lavona Russell, infant son Brian Dwayne Russell, and his wife Georgiana Russell, and siblings James Russell, Norma Waggoner, Larry Russell. He is survived by children Jeff (Sabine) Russell, Lisa (Tim) James, Lori Czuba and Nick (Bonnie) Ladage. His grandchildren include Heather Russell Gabel (great grandchildren Brenden, Halle and Brant), Jennie Czuba, Zac Czuba, Josh Ladage and Michaela Ladage.

He is also survived by many nieces and nephews (and greats), cousins and other extended family. We lovingly remember sharing family holidays and vacations together.

We're all a little better for having had Charlie in our lives.

He is loved by many and will always be greatly missed.

DAVID ALAN FRANCK

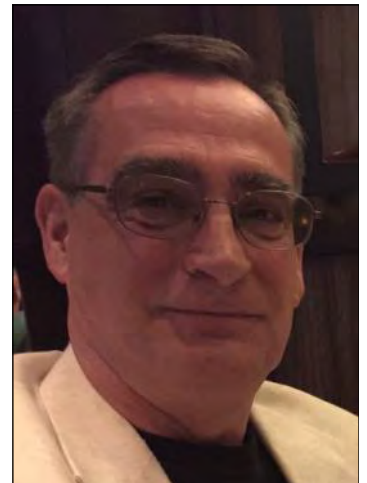
DAVID ALAN FRANCK passed away on December 11, 2021, at the age of 68.

He is survived by his wife of 32 years, Jill Chitwood Francini Franck. He is also survived by his seven children; Naomi (Stephen) Vachon, Daniel (Heather) Franck, Adam (Nicole) Franck, Erin Franck, Ben (Clare Densow) Franck, Jacob (Brandy) Franck and Eve (Cody) Vasquez. He is also survived by his mother, Arlene Franck as well as siblings Dennis (Jill) Franck, Karen (Mark) Seppo and Daniel (Victoria) Franck. He is also survived by 12 grandchildren, with the 13th due any day, and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his father, Leon, and brother, Steven.

David was a carpenter, roofer, loving husband and father. He had an amazing singing voice, one of the many things that will be so greatly missed. He loved to fish, camp and have bonfires. He collected tramp art.

He helped care for his in-laws in their senior years. He was a gentle, generous and loving man. He was always faithful to his wife, family and embraced everyone with open arms. His goal in life was to please his wife, which he did so well.



COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

KENNETH RAYMOND 'KENNY RAY' CHENEVERT

March 19, 1967 - November 30, 2021

KENNETH RAYMOND "KENNY RAY" CHENEVERT, 54 long-time resident of Western Colorado, passed away peacefully in his home on November 30, 2021, after a short illness.

Ken was born on March 19, 1967 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana to Ed and Joyce Chenevert. When he was a child, his family relocated to Colorado. Ken graduated from Olathe High School and went on to earn a BA in Music Performance at the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley.

He continued his education, earning a master's degree in Choral Directing from Portland State University (PSU). He also obtained his teaching certificate from Western Colorado University.

Ken was an accomplished musician. While at PSU, he actively participated with two university choirs: one he directed, and the other he toured with in Europe. He played in several bands in the Portland area and local bands around Montrose including Ghost River in the 1990's, Ulterior Motive, and most recently, Crazy Like a Fox. Some highlights during his musical career include playing on the American Queen Riverboat in New Orleans, Louisiana; performing the lead role of Prince Karl in the opera "The Student Prince", which was one of the first productions at the Montrose Pavilion; and the pinnacle of his music career was when he, as a member of the band "Jason Snell and the Last Ride," opened

for Alabama at Rose Garden Arena in Portland, Oregon.

When he was not making music, he was inspiring the next generation, lighting passion for music in many of his students. As an educator, he worked in the classroom and taught private lessons for more than 20 years.

When teaching elementary music, Ken created innovative methods using music to teach reading and math, resulting in increased standardized test scores for his students.

Ken was a friend to all. He never met a stranger, and he had a way of bringing people together. He was a history buff and a life-long learner. He enjoyed watching baseball and football, camping, target-shooting, riding his bicycle, and politics. But one of his favorite things was being Uncle, both to his biologic and honorary nieces and nephews. He made a point to attend sporting and musical events whenever he was available, as well as offer advice, insight, and a listening ear.

He is survived by his father Ed Chenevert of Montrose, sisters Michelle (Richard) Hamilton of Sandston, Virginia, and Di-



ane (Jon) Pfeiffer of Colorado Springs, Colorado, nephew Spencer Hamilton and niece Valerie Pfeiffer. Ken was preceded in death by his mother, Joyce Chenevert. Services are scheduled at St. Mary's Catholic Church, 1855 St. Mary's Drive, Montrose, Vigil at 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, December 21, 2021, and Funeral Mass 10 a.m. Wednesday December 22, 2021. There will also be a Celebration of Life on Sunday, December 19, 2021, at 7 p.m. Upstairs at Precedence, 511 E. Main St., Montrose. Ken will be laid to rest in Salida, CO sometime this spring.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations in Ken's name to the Ronald McDonald House.

Crippin Funeral Home is assisting Ken's family.



COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

ROBERT DEAN (BOB) COREY

January 18, 1925 - December 12, 2021



Bob went to meet his Lord on December 12, 2021.

He was born January 18, 1925 in Olathe, Colorado to Bertha Olive (Christi) Corey and Paul Ray Corey. Shortly after, the doctor discovered he had a heart murmur and said he wouldn't live three months. His eleven siblings all preceded him in death. Most of them had grown, married, and left home before he was born. Bob always said he was from the "second litter". He spent his early years in the Olathe area, then he moved with his family to Boulder. He grew up there and graduated from Boulder High School in 1943, marrying Madeline Gabriella and moving back to Montrose in 1948. He built Silver Springs Trout Farm on the west flood-plain of the Uncompaghere River across Highway 550 from the old Riverside School. He served that school as janitor, football, and basketball coach (cleaning up the competition), as well as dusting off the roads driving its school bus.

In 1960 he relocated Silver Springs Trout Farm to the northern area of Mexican Gulch. He delivered trout by truck across all of Colorado, New Mexico, and into

Arizona as far south as Lake Patagonia, near the southern border. In the early 1970s, he added 75 pair of registered shorthorn cattle to his fish operation and began serving to the food market "fish and chips", as he was always sure to say, making this his new business motto.

In 1965, Bob learned to fly. He bought a 1958 Cessna 182, N5029D. The airplane proved rather handy for delivering fingerling trout to remote areas. He attracted a lot of attention when landing on dirt roads to complete many air deliveries. But other deliveries went down somewhat differently. Most lakes didn't have nearby roads smooth enough for landing a small plane. So he dropped those fingerlings in flight, informing his customers that the hardest part of the delivery was teaching the little fishies how to deploy their parachutes. He dropped one delivery over a lake in the West End's Death Appointment Valley. The ranch caretaker said the drop would have been perfect but for hitting the wrong lake, the caretaker's lake. He happily paid for that drop and ordered another for the right lake.

Bob regularly flew pan-ready trout to Aspen. Those fish didn't need parachutes and hit the plates right every time. He supplied most all the upscale restaurants of both Montrose and Ouray with the loveliest, pan-ready trout in the country. His were the only deep-lake grown trout in the U.S. His fish never wore their fins off jostling together nor became sun-darkened from growing up in that industry's normal, over-crowded, sun-scorchingly shallow and narrow raceways. Bob loved watching Bronco games, hunting, and flying 29er-Delta. He was so outgoing that he never knew a stranger. He loved working with the youth of all ages. After moving from the Riverside School area, he continued coaching grade-school football and pee-wee basketball. For 30 years he was a 4-H leader, and he

served at least twenty-years on the Montrose High School football chain-gang. He seldom missed a game, even away games. He played basketball in the Montrose City league. His teammates and he took nicknames to play an out-of-town exhibition game. That night, Bob became "Fishbait Corey". He sponsored the Silver Springs Trout Farm bowling team, outfitting it in gold lettered, forest green shirts with a beautiful rainbow trout embroidered on the back. The pinnacle of his bowling years was a 279 game, lacking only one, tenth-frame strike from being a perfect score of 300. But Fishbait Corey was, himself, the completion of that 300 score. He was a two-term president of the U.S. Trout Farmers' Association, a president of the Colorado Sportsman's Association, and a Montrose County Commissioner from 1979-86 and 1992-94. He took his commissioner job very seriously. The people's problems were his concern, not their votes, nor any government red-tape or over-regulation. During the massive snow-melt runoff of Spring, 1984, he saved Olathe from flooding by ordering the county road and bridge crew to rip-rap key bends in the Uncompaghere River in spite of Army-Corps of Engineer regulations against "foreign materials in the waterways". "We'll deal with them later," he said of the Corps' threats, "Today, we save Olathe." This country could have used more politicians like him during the 2020 Summer of "love". Shoot! We could use 'em right now, Lord, please, please. Bob was instrumental in the expansion of the Montrose County Airport and the construction of the new Justice Center during his final term as county commissioner.

He was a 32nd degree mason and a member of the Order of the Eastern Star, and a member of the Montrose Elk's Lodge, and of the Gideon's International,

Continued next pg

ROBERT DEAN (BOB) COREY *From previous pg*

and of the Olathe Rotary Club, the Montrose Chamber of Commerce, and the Montrose, San Miguel, Ouray County Farm Bureau. While a member of the Montrose County Sheriff's Posse and the Civil Air Patrol, he engaged in several search and rescue missions. But his chief search and rescue mission engaged his 40-year membership in the Montrose Christian Church, where he often taught adult bible classes, served communion to the homebound, and delivered numerous communion and offertory meditations all the way through his membership in Christ's Church of the Valley to the Lord's taking him home. He relished the great honor of having baptized his

grandsons Kyle and Jordan Cribari.

He had three children by his first wife, Madeline, Kenneth Dean Corey (deceased 1974), Teresa Lynn Dilka, and Steven Ray Corey. Bob and Madeline divorced in 1966, though they never stopped caring about each other's well-being. He married LaVelle Cribari in 1967, who brought her sons, Jimmie Dwain Cribari, and Richard Joseph Cribari into his family. He is survived by his wife of 54 years, LaVelle, and his children Teresa, Steven, Jimmie Dwain, and Richard, by nine grandchildren, Jason Hall of Idaho, Cole and Corey Dilka, Jordan, Kyle, and Ethan Cribari, Natasha Reed, Erin Armstrong, and Rachel Corey, and by twelve

great grandchildren.

Many times during his life Bob said, "It has been a long three months." And he always quoted to his children his mother's favorite expression, "Cleanliness is next to godliness." Well, orderliness is basic to cleanliness. So the Lord God was sure to honor Bob's orderliness by bringing him home on 12-12-21, twelve being the Biblical number of perfect order, doubled for emphasis, in the 21st year of the Lord's second millennium (the number of God's doing-it, 3, times 7, the number of perfect spirituality), in the 3rd hour of that morning. Great job, Jesus, great job! It's going to be a long eternity now, Bob.



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COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

MICHAEL J. LAWTON

By Carole Ann McKelvey

Special to the Montrose Mirror

MICHAEL J. LAWTON: world traveler/photographer, with more stories than photographs in his "portfolio". The world-known, 360-degree photographer pioneer, Bauhaus designer and frequent contributor to The Mirror, said his good-byes to family and friends on Tuesday, Dec. 14 and quietly passed away in his sleep. Michael Lawton was the photography and life partner of Carole Ann McKelvey and contributed many photographs over the previous 5 years to the Mirror.

Lawton was 78 years old; he'd spent 50+ years of his life as a traveler taking photographs, 12 of those years for National Geographic Magazine; he also took photographs for NASA; shoot images for the United States Information Agency (now the State Department), accompanied the Catholic Church on world-wide peace missions in the early 90's, and more. During his time with National Geographic Magazine in the 1970's and '80s, he introduced full 360-degree panoramic photography that worked with existing graphic formats, which had never been used before his tenure. It was at the Geographic that Lawton had the chance to begin shooting volcanos around the planet. In April of 1980, he stood on a hillside barely 7 miles from the north face of Mt. St. Helens, 3 days and 2 nights, enduring 2 pyroclastic eruptions, shooting photos all the time. A month later, when the mountain was expected to finally fully blow, he debated whether to return to the mountain, or show up for his scheduled wedding in Connecticut. He chose to get married. Had he not decided on the marriage, he would most certainly have been blown away with the mountain precisely at 8:33 a.m. Pacific Standard Time – 6 days before saying his vows on May 24th, 1980. And..... 26 miles behind that spot on the mountain where

he had stood, was devastation. No one survived with in that zone.

Through a personal invitation of a Red Army General and the Academy of Sciences of the Soviet Union, Lawton and an associate were escorted to Star City, Training Center for Cosmonauts. There Lawton photographed the first man to walk in space, Cosmonaut Alexei Leonov, in a Soyuz space capsule mock-up.

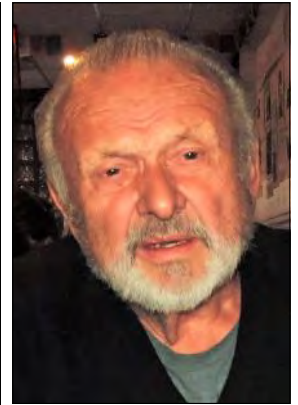
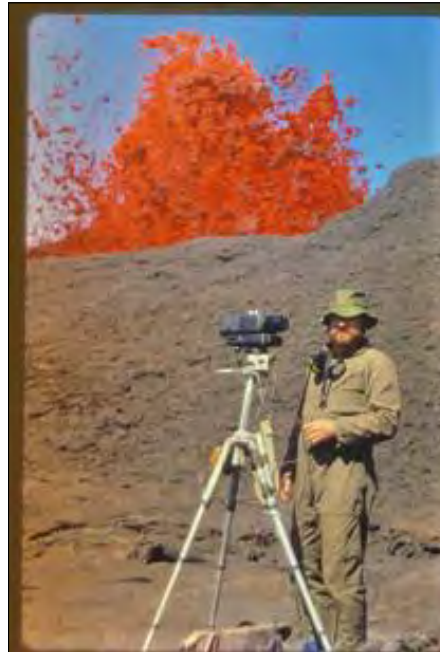
Chronicling trips sponsored by Franklin Delano Roosevelt's grandson, Jorge Delano, Lawton shot some of the remotest and oldest mountains on earth in Venezuela, 800 miles south of Caracas into the Amazon.

On a peace mission with the Catholic Church to Hanoi, Vietnam, Lawton heard the vice-president of Vietnam suddenly query, "Why did you do this to us? We rescued your pilots in World War II!" Several nights later, at a Russian Embassy party Lawton was told what the Vietnamese called the Russians. . . "Americans without money."

Yale's Peabody Museum sent Lawton to Machu Picchu, Peru, to create a panoramic portfolio of the ancient Inca royal city. There he began a quest to discover more of that ancient world.

He also spent 4 months in Greece shooting at the behest of the Greek government with unlimited access to places such as the Parthenon.

Lawton had also shot commercial projects for many prominent banks, annual reports for IBM, Goldman Sachs, United



Technologies, Aetna and Travelers Insurance, to name a few.

An irascible character, Lawton often described himself as a "traveler who traded pictures for

airline tickets."

Always self-effacing, he described his life often in a joking manner, but his life was anything but a joke.

Ever the intrepid traveler and cameraman, Michael Lawton had hoped his adventures would continue into the future, but it was not to be.

Lawton suffered a debilitating stroke at Montrose Memorial Hospital on March 6, 2000. Since he had spent time attempting to recover at Delta's Willow Tree Nursing Home. At his side as he breathed his last were his son, Ross Lawton, of Stamford, CT., his life and writing partner, Carole Ann McKelvey, of Montrose. Ross, Lawton liked to point out, would not exist, if he'd decided to stay 7 miles from the north face of Mt. St. Helens to watch it explode. "Was that safe? Hell no!" he'd often say.

He is also survived by his former wife, Carol Lawton of Connecticut, numerous nieces and nephews, and many friends whose lives he touched around the world. A celebration of Michael Lawton's life will be held in Santa Fe, NM, in March, 2022, at a time to be announced.



**Always digging for
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ISSUE 348 Dec. 20

ART & SOL

SAN JUAN RURAL PHILANTHROPY DAYS
CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN RIDGWAY IN 2022*Special to Art & Sol*

RIDGWAY-The 2022 San Juan Rural Philanthropy Days conference will be hosted by Ridgway in Ouray County from June 7-9, 2022. The announcement about the location of the conference came in early December after community leaders were successful in their pitch to host the event in Ridgway.

Rural Philanthropy Days (RPD) is a statewide program that provides nonprofit leaders the resources they need to lead effective and sustainable organizations. RPD conferences convene nonprofits, funders and local governments to share ideas and develop collaborative opportunities to build the capacity of local organizations and communities to address regional issues.

The Community Resource Center, along with committees of local volunteers, coordinate RPD conferences in eight rural regions throughout Colorado. The San Juan (SJ) region consists of Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montrose, Ouray, and San Miguel counties. RPD conferences are hosted in each rural region every four years, with the location varying depending on the interest of host communities each cycle. The conference would have been slated for 2021, but was delayed by one-year due to the impacts of COVID-19.

For over three decades, local communi-

ties have worked together to coordinate RPD in partnership with Community Resource Center and Colorado's philanthropic community.

"RPD builds opportunities for important community projects in rural regions across the state by strengthening regional relationships, building the skills of the region's nonprofits, and connecting local organizations with grantmaking organizations," said Maria Fabula, Community Resource Center CEO.

The relationships built between local organizations and statewide funders help to break down barriers and ultimately result in stronger partnerships, increased access to resources and the development of long-term relationships. Fabula shared that "RPD is a grassroots effort to bridge the resource gap between rural and Front Range communities. It exposes funders and nonprofits alike to the unique challenges, as well as opportunities for partnership, that each diverse rural region of Colorado faces - and because of this ultimately more grant awards are being made to our rural communities to support their critical work. In the year after the last San Juan RPD, from 2016 to 2017, funding to nonprofits in this region increased by 48%. The scale of the impact is immense, we



know that 12 of the foundations who participate in RPD alone gave more than \$36,000,000 directly to San Juan nonprofits from 2009 - 2019."

Local nonprofit leaders and community members continue to generate momentum and express enthusiasm around bringing RPD to Ridgway and the surrounding communities. Carrie Andrew of Lone Cone Library and Danelle Hughes Norman of the Voyager Youth Program have been selected to serve as the San Juan RPD conference co-chairs, and were a part of the team that proposed Ridgway to host the event.

"Rural Philanthropy Days provides a unique and fun way for grant makers, nonprofits and members of local government organizations to get together to meet face to face and learn from one another. In fact," Andrew said, "a large part of the grant funding for our new library was a result of relationships built with grantmakers through past RPD conferences. That and education opportunities

SAN JUAN RURAL PHILANTHROPY DAYS TO BE HELD IN RIDGWAY IN 2022 From previous pg

provided through the event set our project up for success."

"This event supports communities across the San Juan region in so many ways. It brings agencies across the region together to collaborate innovative solutions to challenges we all may be facing," shared co-chair Danelle Hughes Norman, "It offers professional development for staff and boards, it connects funders with commu-

nity nonprofits, and this all while celebrating the beautiful mountainous and human landscapes of the region."

Andrew and Hughes Norman will lead a regional steering committee that has already begun to plan the conference with the first meeting being held in December. Recruitment is still ongoing for the 20+ member regional conference Steering Committee; local nonprofit leaders, gov-

ernment officials, and community leaders are encouraged to consider serving on the 7-month committee which will shape the event in June.

The next meeting will be held Thursday, January 20, 2022 from 10 am - 4 pm in Ridgway. If you are interested in joining, please reach out to Nellie Stagg at stagg@crcamerica.org.

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



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

Alpen Confections
970-648-0609

Busy Corner White Kitchen
970-323-6215

Amelias Hacienda Restaurante
970-249-1881

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

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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

VIRTUAL WORSHIP: A BLESSING FOR SOME

Special to Art & Sol

REGIONAL—José Ortega, a volunteer minister in Greeley, was on vacation in Paris when he was awakened by a 3 a.m. phone call from his family. The pandemic had just started, and they wanted him back in the United States before the borders closed. Ortega got on the next flight he could.

As he sat 30,000 feet above the Atlantic, Ortega wondered how his congregation back home would continue to function in a pandemic. “This was one of those things that you just didn’t know—is this going to work out or is it not?” he said.

Before Ortega arrived home, an unprecedented decision had already been read at his local congregation meeting.

Hugs and handshakes at their Kingdom Hall were replaced by smiles and waves over videoconferencing when Jehovah’s Witnesses worldwide suspended in-person meetings in March 2020 in response to the coronavirus threat.

When some struggled with technology, Ortega and others in his congregation organized technical support for congregants while maintaining physical distancing. “We would make sure that they were up and running. It’s important to be able to not miss meetings. It’s a very fundamental part of worship,” Ortega said.

Today, when Ortega asks people in his congregation if they want to return to in-person meetings, most say they’re just grateful to have meetings at all. They ap-

preciate hearing others’ comments and “being able to see their expressions of faith.”

Others with more serious challenges to in-person gatherings have seen the silver lining to the temporary transition to videoconference services as well.

A single whiff of perfume from across a room can land Shane Brown in the emergency department—or worse. A new cleaning product sprayed down the hallway in the hospital once cut off his breathing for over a minute.

Long before COVID-19, Brown was wearing a mask and social distancing due to mast cell activation syndrome, a rare disorder causing life-threatening allergic reactions. Although unable to attend religious services in person, the 50-year-old from Hollywood, Florida, has kept his faith alive amid unrelenting isolation. For years, a telephone tie-in has been his connection to listen to Bible talks and hear fellow worshippers’ heartfelt expressions in his congregation of Jehovah’s Witnesses.

Attending his first video conferencing meeting, Brown could at last put friendly faces to names and voices he’d heard for years. “I almost couldn’t contain myself,” he said. “I was so happy.”

Brown’s advice echoes that of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on its “Coping With Stress” webpage, which encourages readers battling pandemic loneliness and depression to connect with com-



José Ortega delivers a Bible presentation from his home in Greeley, Colorado, during a virtual meeting of Jehovah’s Witnesses. Courtesy photo.

munity- or faith-based organizations.

Weekly worship also helped many to maintain regular routines and structure in life, which “can buffer the adverse impact of stress exposure on mental health,” according to a 2020 review in the *Journal of Global Health*.

A year and a half into the pandemic, Ortega’s congregation continues to meet virtually. Overall, he says their faith is stronger from the experience. “If we have to go through something else, this proves that we can go through it. You can trust Jehovah (God) that he’s going to help you go through it, even though at first you might not think so.”

To connect with a local congregation of Jehovah’s Witnesses, visit the “About Us” section of the organization’s official website, jw.org.



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MONTROSE REGIONAL
 CRIME STOPPERS

see something, say something



TED NELSON'S STEAKHOUSE

By Carole Ann McKelvey

MONTROSE — Ted Nelson's is the quintessential local steakhouse. Some think it's the best you can find. You can count me among them, especially in Montrose. The food, service and hospitality at Ted's is superb.

Ted Nelson has run this steakhouse in Montrose at 103 Rose Lane since April of 2012 when he renovated and remodeled his new location. He's been serving Montrose diners since 1962.

Last week my son-in-law Ross Lawton and I decided we wanted some good old comfort food. There was a good reason for this, having just visited his father, Michael, in hospice in Delta.

We needed a pick me up.

Ted never disappoints. I started with one of their "dirty martinis with two olives, please" and Ross ordered a nice lager.

Ross was in the mood for a prime rib sandwich and I ordered a sauteed walleye steak. Both were delish! Ross's prime rib was cooked perfectly as he liked and the walleye, very Southern presentation, like my mother would have cooked in her heyday.

My dinner came with a baked potato, salad and veggies. Ross ordered the prime rib sandwich, which he proclaimed very good and a cup of the evening soup, a roasted mushroom. And he comes from the East Coast so he knows great food. He had wished he'd ordered the sandwich on other than the French roll, which he found a bit soggy, but oh well, all good.

Now Ted's is known for its variety of comfort type food and good old American fare. It's the destination for many a Montrose anniversary or birthday dinner party. So many choices at fairly reasonable prices:

Entrées include: potato (baked, mashed, fresh-cut fries, sweet potato fries), rice or pasta; includes vegetables; and your choice of soup or salad.

ENTREES: Sirloin: a marinated 8-ounce sirloin, just back on the menu due to pop-

ular demand (\$27); a filet, 7-ounce grilled certified Angus beef filet (\$36); rib eye, 13-ounces of also Angus beef (\$38); the aforementioned prime rib, 10-ounces (\$32) 14-ounces (\$35) of hand-carved Angus beef prime rib slow roasted and served with au-jus and horseradish; Chicken-fried steak, lightly seasoned, pan-fried and topped with cream gravy (\$20); then you have BBQ baby back ribs that are slow roasted and topped with Ted's BBQ sauce, then finished on the grill (\$25-28), half or full rack of ribs; Tuscan-stuffed chicken, chicken breast stuffed with Italian sausage, sun-dried tomatoes and cheeses. Roasted and served with a brandy cream sauce (\$27); Grilled chicken breast, simply grilled or

you can add blackened seasoning (\$15); Chicken-fried chicken, slightly tenderized, hand battered then pan-fried and crowned with rich gravy \$19). Or you have: Chicken (or shrimp) Alfredo primavera with chunks of chicken breast in a classic alfredo sauce with a handful of seasonal veggies, served on al dente pasta, (add \$5 for sauteed shrimp.) (\$19-24);

Now on to the fish entries: Walleye (which I highly recommend) which is a delicate fresh water fish prepared with a Southern seasoning and pan-fried (\$25). Or, stuffed salmon, with an 8-ounce salmon fillet stuffed with a blend of lump crabmeat, chopped shrimp, cream cheese, a touch of dill then baked; a salmon fillet (\$22), 8-ounce fillet of salmon is prepared grilled or blackened (\$22); wild caught gulf shrimp, with a choice of sautéed in butter and garlic (\$22) or lightly breaded and deep-fried; a lobster tail, 7-8-ounce cold-water lobster tail (at \$40). You can add to any entrée shrimp (chilled, sautéed, or fried for \$3/each), lobster to any entrée for \$30, Oscar ~ lump crab/asparagus/béarnaise to any entrée for \$6.

APPETIZERS:

Eggplant Rollups: Thinly sliced eggplant lightly fried, rolled around cream cheese & basil plated with marinara sauce(\$8.50);

prime rib crostini, toasted garlic-rubbed baguette slices with crumbled Blue cheese, prime rib, red onion and a drizzle of au jus (\$12); stuffed

mushrooms with Italian sausage, spinach and cheese (\$12); a shrimp cocktail with four jumbo shrimp lining a chilled glass of cocktail sauce for dipping (\$12); oysters on the half shell, 6 raw East Coast oysters served on the half shell (\$10); or oysters Rockefeller, with a half-dozen East Coast oysters crowned with a spinach-bread crumb blend, then baked (\$14); chicken wings, deep-fried & Served with hand-crafted bleu cheese dressing for dipping. Ask if you want spicy. (\$10); bruschetta, toasted baguette slices topped with tomato, basil, garlic and olive oil sprinkled with parmesan cheese (\$7); a cheese quesadilla, with a large flour tortilla stuffed with a blend of mild cheeses and grilled to melty goodness and served with fresh Pico de Gallo. You can add shrimp or chicken (\$7-10).

Ted's serves white or red wine by the glass or bottle and a choice of house wines. (\$8-24) A full bar is available (i.e., the martini I enjoyed) And there is beer on draft or by the bottle.

If you want a lighter meal, try the: prime rib sandwich, a burger, grilled chicken sandwich or portobello stir-fry, from \$18-13) or a salad, from \$18-\$5 and soup of the day at \$5.

Desert? Ted's serves a complimentary small cheesecake bit at the end of your meal. Yum!

For takeout or to make reservations (recommended) call [\(970\) 252-0262](tel:9702520262).



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

**CEDAR POINT HEALTH/
URGENT CARE**
836 S. Townsend Ave. Montrose
970-249-2118
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

NORTHSIDE HEALTH CENTER
528 N. Uncompahgre, Montrose
970-240-6438
www.facebook.com/northsidechildheathcenter

(WEST END) BASIN CLINIC
421 Adams St, Naturita
970-865-2665
www.basinclinic.org

PEAK FAMILY MEDICINE

Available for new/existing patients
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970-497-4921
www.peakpros.org

PIC PLACE

Available for new/ existing patients.
87 Merchant Dr, Montrose
970-252-8896
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

WALGREENS PHARMACY

Testing is available on a limited basis.
2351 South Townsend Ave, Montrose
970-252-1743
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
updated 11/8/21

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY

FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

Denomination: Church of the Nazarene
Address: 705 South 12th Street
Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9 am- Noon and by Appointment
Contact Information: Office Phone 970 249-9213, mncfirst@gmail.com, www.montrosenazarenechurch.org

Pastor: Buddy Cook
Services Sunday: Worship 10 AM, Adult Bible Study 11:30 AM Worship includes age-appropriate children's ministry during adult worship.
 Wednesday: Prayer Boot Camp - 7 PM
 Mission Statement: *Montrose First Church of the Nazarene exists to make Christlike*

disciples in Montrose Colorado and around the world.

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MONTROSE

Affiliation: Presbyterian
Address: 1840 E Niagara Rd. Montrose CO. 81401
Office Hours: M-Thu 9AM - 12PM
Contact Information: 970-249-4732, info@fpcmontrose.com

www.fpcmontrose.com
In Transition-Currently: Howard Davidson
 Merle Bierma
Worship Service times: 9:30AM, Student Worship at 6PM

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

MONTROSE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Denomination Affiliation: United Methodist
Address: 19 S. Park Avenue Montrose CO. 81401
Office Hours: M-Thu, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Contact Information: 970-249-3716, office@montroseumc.org

montroseumc.org
Current Senior Pastor: Rev. Lisa Petty
Worship service times: 9:30 a.m. Casual Contemporary Worship & 11:15 a.m. Traditional Worship
 10:30 - Social/Devotional Time
Montrose UMC is a leader in being fully

inclusive, loving and just servants of Christ. Our church family welcomes people from various cultural and faith backgrounds: single, married, remarried, with and without children, from diapers to dentures. Wherever you are on your spiritual journey we invite you to come and discover hope, joy, peace and purpose.

ROSEMONT BAPTIST CHURCH

Affiliation: Southern Baptist
Address: 1598 E. Niagara Road, Montrose, CO 81401
Office Hours: Tues-Thurs, 9am-4pm
Contact information: Phone: 970.249.4887
 website: www.RosemontBaptist.org
 email: office@rosemontbaptist.org
Senior Pastor: Rolland Kenneson
Worship Service Times: Our engaging and relevant Sunday Worship Service is at

10:45 AM. We also have Bible Study for All Ages Sunday mornings at 9:15 AM. We provide a professionally-staffed nursery throughout both.
Rosemont Baptist's desire is to passionately bring people face-to-face with the life-changing power of Jesus Christ. We are a multigenerational church from different walks of life who love Jesus, love each other, and love our community. Everyone comes dressed in whatever is comfortable. We love meeting new people no

matter what stage of life they are in.
Children's services: We have a fun Sunday School for children from four years old through youth. We provide Children's Church during the Sunday Worship Services where children four years old through 9 years can learn to be worshippers of Jesus.
We provide a nursery for children under four years old with paid staff providing excellent care during Sunday Morning Bible Study and Worship Service.

SPIRITUAL AWARENESS CENTER

Denomination affiliation: Independent Interfaith
Address: Meeting at Lions Park Community Building, 602 N. Nevada, Montrose
 Office hours: Tues-Fri, 9 am to 4 pm,
Home Office – 970-252-0908
Contact information: Rev. Dr. Arlyn Macdonald, 970-252-0908, arlyn@spiritaware.org

www.spiritaware.org
Name of current pastor: Rev. Dr. Arlyn Macdonald, Senior Minister; Rev. Catharine Gates, Associate Minister. Spiritual counseling available.
Worship service times: Unity Service at 11 a.m., Adult Discussion at 9:30 a.m., Quiet Meditation at 10:30 a.m.

The Spiritual Awareness Center is an interfaith spiritual community welcoming spiritual seekers and people of all faiths, providing a safe place to explore and nurture the individual's unique connection to the Divine through Unity services, classes, family and community projects, including the Great Community Giveaway and Wellness Fair.

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY From previous pg

SUMMIT CHURCH OF MONTROSE:

Denomination affiliation:

Southern Baptist

Address: 10977 60.75 Rd. Montrose, CO 81403

Office hours: Varies

Contact information:

phone number: 970-275-7026

email: summitchurchmontrose@gmail.com

website: www.summitchurchmontrose.org

Name of current Senior Pastor: John De-Sario

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

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

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

VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH OF MONTROSE

Denomination Affiliation: Independent Baptist

Address: 2890 N Townsend Ave., Montrose, CO 81401

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8am-12pm

Contact Information: Phone (970) 249-

6874; email at info@vbcmontrose.org;

website: vbcmontrose.org

Current Pastor: Roland Kassales

Worship Service Times: Sunday School at 9:30am, Sunday AM Service at 10:30am, Sunday PM Service at 6pm, Wednesday Night Service at 6:30pm (all services include childcare)

Victory Baptist Church exists to exalt God, edify saints, and evangelize the lost.

Demographics: Victory Baptist serves everyone with age-appropriate classes, groups, and activities. Families with children make up the majority of VBC with young adults, singles, middle-aged couples, and seniors comprising the rest.

Church Directory

Mirror Editorial Staff

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

formation to the Montrose Mirror:

Name of church

Denomination affiliation

Address Office hours

Contact information (phone number, email address, website)

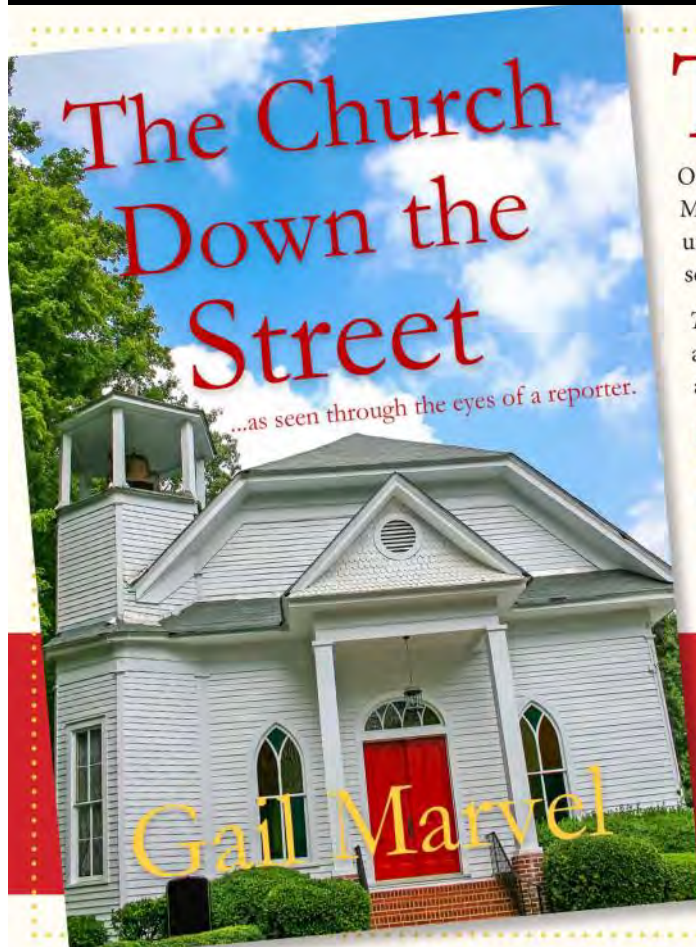
Name of current Senior Pastor

Worship service times

Please give a one sentence description of your church and its mission in the Montrose community.

Brief description of your current church demographics (predominately family, youth, seniors, singles).

Do your church services include Sunday School and childcare?



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

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

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

Readers will:

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

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

GAIL MARVEL
Montrose Author & Reporter



YOUR BRAIN ON NATURE – SMARTPHONES AND ADHD



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

Greetings Mirrorites!

In my last article I discussed the effects of smartphone use on certain teenage brains and how that use can and should be restricted when young nomophobes are outdoors. There is another group of young folks that need their phone use restricted when they are immersed in nature, those with ADHD.

In writing this contribution to The Mirror, I reminisced about friend and family members I have known who experience the cognitive and social challenges that come with ADD and ADHD. One example jumped out at me for this article.

Long ago in a galaxy far away, known as Gunnison, I worked for the county as a cartographer. My boss was an awesome guy, with an awesome son that the parents just could not keep in school. Neither medication nor switching schools, which did they just about yearly, was helping this super smart, but super scattered and energetic lad. And then, a miracle happened. They got him into a program where outdoor exercise came *before* classroom-based learning sessions. After two hours of cross-country skiing in the mornings, he was ready to be attentive in the afternoons. Soon this young man was competing nationally in his sport, while excelling for the first time at his studies. And he loved it! The family discovered this just before a great deal of research would be published on the benefits of outdoor activities for children and teens with ADHD.

Much of the research on this topic has



Photo courtesy of Julia Raasch, 2020.

been performed by a team whose efforts focus on the benefits of nature through the lens of Attention Restoration Theory. According to ART, the ability to focus one's attention for extended periods of time is like a muscle that gets fatigued with sustained usage. That part of the brain needs a break, and nature is most effective at providing a type a low arousal stimulation that effortlessly allows voluntary attention to recover. Through soft fascination with sights, sounds, and scents that we have evolved with, humans are pre-disposed to experiencing restoration of exhausted attentional resources in an extremely swift and efficient fashion when exposed to a non-threatening and safe natural environment.

People with ADHD, such as this young man, my own father, and many others I could name, find themselves in a semi-permanent state of attentional exhaustion most of the time, and not just after a challenging experience such as a midterm exam or tax preparation session. The researchers I mentioned above, Kuo and Faber Taylor, performed cutting edge research on populations of children and teens diagnosed with ADHD.

ADHD is expressed as a persistent pattern of inattention that is more frequent and severe than is typically observed in indi-

viduals at a comparable level of development. We now know that this disorder is a function of brain morphology, and not poor parenting or too much junk food (although those things probably don't help much). Physical differences in the brain morphology of children with ADD and ADHD, specifically, the right frontal lobe, play a key role in faulty directed attention. In children and adolescents with ADHD, inattention appears to be linked to reduced brain connectivity not only in the frontal but also in the anterior cingulate, temporal, and parietal regions. These are not macrostructure differences but are rather minute but significant differences. Intelligence is generally not affected, but social and life skills may be. This sucks hugely for these kids, and for the adults that do not grow out of it as the brain matures.

Time spent in nature and in vigorous outdoor activities appear to directly affect the areas of the brain that suffer from reduced connectivity. Two decades ago, natural environment interventions held the "*promise to supplement current approaches to managing ADHD, with the advantages of being widely accessible, inexpensive, nonstigmatizing, and free of side effects*" as stated by Kuo and Faber Taylor back then. They decided to test

YOUR BRAIN ON NATURE – SMARTPHONES AND ADHD From previous pg

their theories by examining the effect of a 20-min guided walk on concentration in 17 children with ADHD. Each child was exposed to three settings: a city park and two well-kept urban settings, with a one-week separation between each walk. The greatest improvements in concentration were seen after the walk in the park setting.

They wondered how families of children and teens with ADHD perceived their child's symptom manifestation after exposure to nature, so in 2011 they devised a survey for parents. The respondents indicated that when their children's play time was confined to *deep indoors* (inside the home or a very enclosed school setting) significantly more severe symptoms were observed than when they played in either of the two green setting categories, *open grass* or *big trees and grass*.

There could be many reasons for this. I have hypothesized one that seems to have merit given some of the current brain research. Researchers from Taiwan who are versed in the literature of ART have found that brain activity of the cuneus portion of the prefrontal cortex is increased by views of mountains and natural water bodies (so no pictures of toilets, sinks, or bathtubs were included in this experiment). Many, many other researchers have shown that the activity and connectivity of this region is hampered in kids and adults with ADHD. It seems likely then, that one of the mechanisms for nature reducing the outward manifestations of ADHD unwanted atten-

tional switching and problems with impulsivity control is the stimulating effects that natural scenes have on this part of the brain. Just my humble hypothesis, but I think it makes sense.

This and other benefits of immersion in nature can be sabotaged by smartphone use. The phone hijacks the experience, and the stress and anxiety that result can make ADHD symptoms worse in some folks, whether in nature or not.

We all have seen images of the quintessential young Asian woman taking selfies with her phone everywhere she goes. This phenomenon is not just an erroneous misrepresentation of Asian youth, it has a basis in fact, one that parents in the eastern hemisphere find just as concerning as parents in the west. Many studies are being conducted, but one that caught my eye was from South Korea, where the team found that ADHD predicted smartphone addiction more consistently than any of the other variables examined, including gender. A likely conclusion is that the ADHD teen spending time outdoors engaged in an activity that permits cell phone use may well indulge in it to the

point of worsening their symptoms and negating all of the benefits to their brains that nature can offer.

The good news for ADHD teens and their parents is that in contrast with neuro-typical peers, a majority of kids with ADHD routinely play outdoors. In this US national sample of 421 children with ADHD, many (60.5%) play outdoors. Settings that are preferred most are open green spaces, rather than parklike settings with big trees and grass swards. Kids with ADHD show a substantially greater propensity to vigorous exertion outside compared to neuro-typical peers, just like the young man mentioned above. Maybe they just get tired of their parents shouting at them to 'take it outside', and so they do. Or perhaps they are self-medicating through their wise choice of play settings. It would be the wise parent that makes sure that smartphone use does not torpedo that healthy impulse, submerging it into the depths of the social media swamp.

Be well and get outside with those energetic beings that I so envy at this age, and as always, questions and comments can be sent to agescapes@gmail.com.



COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

COLORADO SECRETARY OF STATE'S OFFICE ANNOUNCES YEAR-END HOURS OF SERVICE FOR BUSINESS FILING

Special to Art & Sol
DENVER, Colo— In observance of the

Christmas and New Year holidays, the Colorado Secretary of State's office will be

closed December 23 (after 1 p.m.), December 24, and December 31. Due to yearly maintenance, online services will be unavailable from 11:30 p.m. on Friday, December 31 until noon on Saturday, January 1 and services like filing and searching will be affected. Mergers or other paper documents must be received in the office no later than December 30. Do not wait until late afternoon on December 30 to submit your paper filings as circumstances beyond our control (weather, illness, etc.) may prohibit our ability to process your filing in the timeline you are attempting to achieve. Filings not received during scheduled business hours will be processed the next working business day. You should plan ahead and file earlier by using a delayed effective date, and time if necessary, for filings that must be effective on December 31. Filing deadlines will not be extended. For more information on merger/paper filings and COVID, [click here](#). Email business@coloradosos.gov or call (303) 894-2200 with any questions.

Holiday Catering Options:

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970-249-6442

My Favorite Muffin
970-765-0076

Heidi's Brooklyn Deli
970-240-1605

Rib City
970-249-7427

Stone House
970-240-8899

Mimo's
970-249-0616

Camp Robber
970-240-1590

Liquor:

Beer Barn II
970-249-5550

House of Spirits
970-240-4799



Jimmer's Steak & BBQ
970-252-1227

Fiesta Guadalajara
970-249-2460

Alpen Confections
970-648-0609

Remington's at the Bridges
970-252-1119

Lighthouse Eatery
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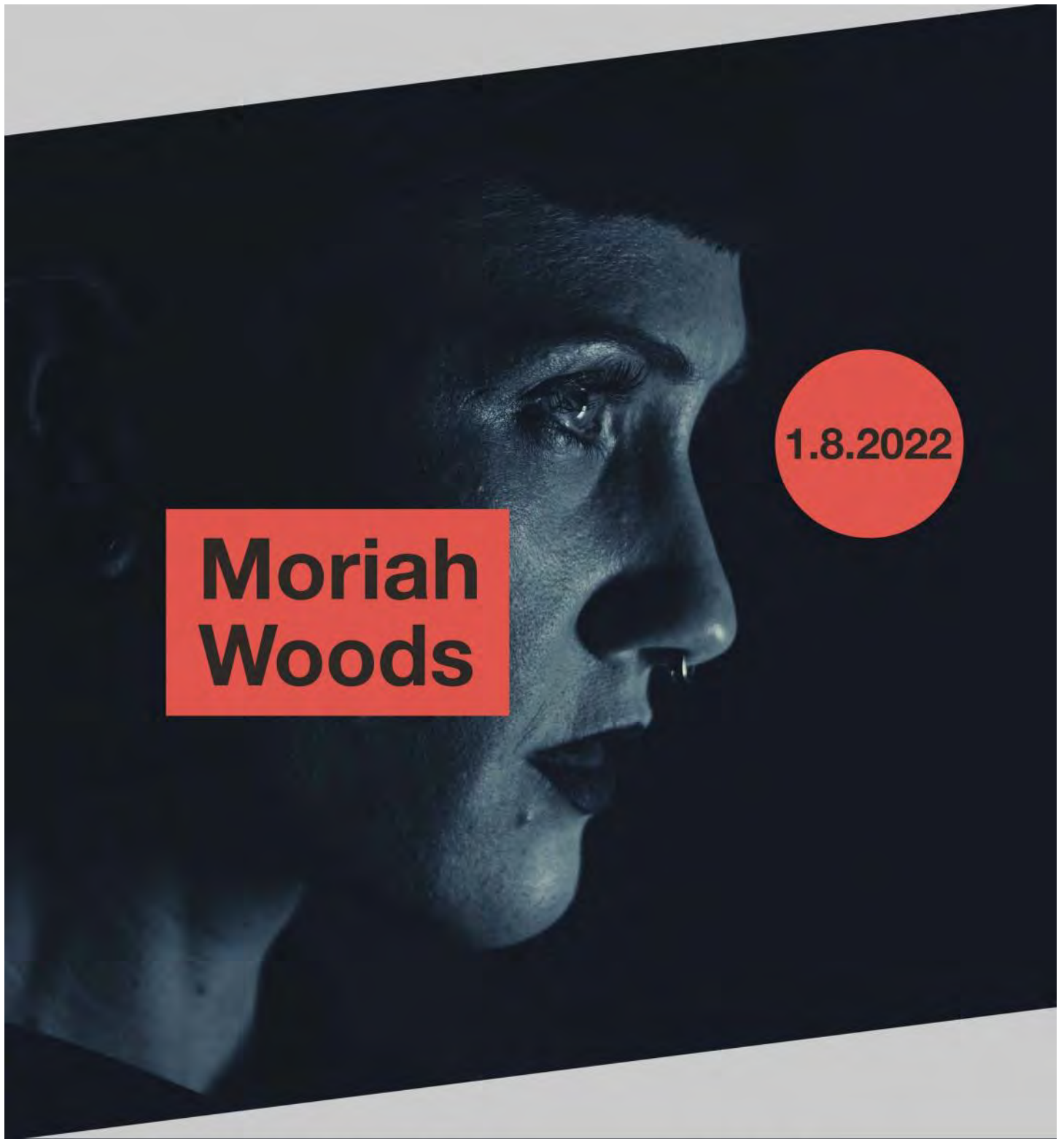
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Moriah Woods

1.8.2022

Solo acoustic concert
Healthy Rhythm Art Gallery
Montrose, CO

**HEALTHY
RHYTHM**
ART GALLERY



Doors: 6:30 pm Show: 7:00 pm
Tickets: \$17 advance - \$20 day of show

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. Meetings will be on the 1st Wednesday of each month (January – May). 10am-11:30am in the downstairs meeting hall of Cedar Creek Church, 222 S. Townsend and S. 3rd. enter through the side door on S. 3rd St. Hope to meet you there! Contact Patti 951-544-6289 if you have questions.

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

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

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

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

COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY-Registration now open for Sept 2021 - Apr 2022 COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY, an international 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. 31-New Year's Eve 2022, Precedence Upstairs hosts DK Kato and Swing City Express. 511 E. Main. \$20 entry. Craft cocktails, dance lessons.

Jan. 8-Moriah Woods, Solo Accoustic concert at Healthy Rhythm Gallery. Tickets \$17 advance, \$20 day of show.. Doors 6:30pm. www.healthyrhythm.net

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Tuesday: 9 AM - 6 PM

Thursday: 8 AM - 12 PM

Friday: 8 AM - 3 PM

Contact Us

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tracie@neurobasedspeechsolutions.com

www.neurobasedspeechsolutions.com

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Contact the Montrose Mirror:
970-275-0646

Editor@montrosemirror.com
www.montrosemirror.com

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