

the Montrose Mirror

© Issue No. 517 Jan. 23, 2023

Fresh News for Busy People!

AXIS HEALTH SYSTEMS SHARES ANNUAL REPORT WITH BOCC, COMMISSIONERS APPROVE LIQUOR LICENSE TRANSFER AT FAIRGROUNDS



By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-BOCC Chair Sue Hansen called the session to order as the Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) convened for a regular meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 18. BOCC Vice Chair Roger Rash led all in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

Delivering the invocation was Pastor Brandon Mathes of Celebration Church, "...It's better to be of a lowly spirit and seek wisdom than to be of a haughty spirit and fall...Lord we ask for your wisdom...we thank you for your assurance that our future is better than today...we thank you for hope..."

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Paul Reich of Axis Health System introduced himself and thanked commissioners for the work they are doing. Reich shared the organization's annual report. He thanked Hansen for her work in the area of behavioral health.

Continued pg 16

At the regular BOCC meeting of Wednesday, Jan. 18, Paul Reich of Axis Health System (Axis Crisis Walk-In Center pictured above) shared the organization's annual report with Montrose County commissioners.

COLORADO WOLF REINTRODUCTION DRAFT PLAN UPDATE

By Lauren Hall Ruddell, PhD

"We also found, however, that respondent sociopolitical identity eclipses all other predictors of wolf opinions, and its effect becomes even stronger when our political indicator distinguishes the most conservative."

COLORADO-At first glance, the reader might think that the survey quoted above was conducted in Colorado of course. Not so. The only thing Coloradan about this survey was the research team, studying correlations between beliefs, attitudes, and wolf presence in northeastern Oregon.

Still, one might draw conclusions about the feelings of certain Colorado stakeholders



Photo courtesy of Jean Beaufort

when it comes to ideology and personal interests about wolves, either pro or con. Be careful about over generalizing, especially about Coloradans. What was evident during the livestreamed wolf reintroduction meeting of the CPW Commissioners on Jan. 19 in Colorado Springs were deep reservations in the participants about the draft plan as it stands. Nevertheless, whether left or right, rural or

Continued pg 36

in this issue

Carole Ann McKelvey's Rocky Mt. Cravings

Chris Larsen: Holding mentally ill with criminal population must end

Ulibarri demands crosswalk safety: "I hate to see some of our constituents ran over."



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GIVING CLUB TO MEET FEB. 6

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-All women are welcome at the Women's Giving Club of Montrose as they kick off 2023 with their first quarterly meeting Monday, Feb. 6, 5:30 p.m. at The Bridges. This begins the Giving Club's 6th year and marks over \$300,000 given so far in support of local non-profits.

A great opportunity to join other women in our community who care about making a difference, gatherings are fun, fast, and effective! One hundred percent of all monies received goes to the selected organization. Attendees pay \$100 per quarter and are allowed to nominate a non-profit and to vote. First time attendees may have that amount waived to come and observe. All attendees are asked to pay a \$10 hospitality fee that covers appetizers, a drink, and the room rental fee.

For more information, please contact Phoebe at 970-209-9598 or givingclubofmontrose@gmail.com. Checks may be mailed to PO Box 1403, Montrose, CO 81402 for those who are unable to attend, but would like to participate in The Giving Club.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE GOT TALENT AUDITIONS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Montrose Got Talent Auditions-5:30pm on Jan. 24 at the Montrose Pavilion. Student age competition only. First 50 acts registered will be accepted to audition.

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CITIZENS CLIMATE LOBBY TO MEET FEB.14

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Citizens Climate Lobby meets on Monday Feb. 14 at 5pm in the Montrose Library meeting room, Citizens' Climate Lobby.org monthly action progress. Non-Partisan, national, environmental moves forward on a local topic for action info at 970-765-9095.

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MONTROSE — In response to a failing culvert at the intersection of 6700 Road and LaSalle Road, City of Montrose Streets Division crews will begin repairs on Monday, Jan. 23, with work expected to conclude by Thursday, Jan. 27.

The roadway will be significantly impacted during this scheduled work. Northbound traffic on 6700 Road from Highway 50 to LaSalle Road will be detoured to 6650 Road via Locust Road. Any northbound traffic wanting to continue east on LaSalle via 6700 Road will be unaffected.

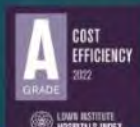
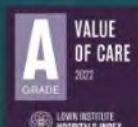
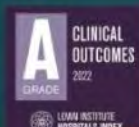
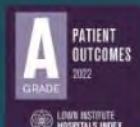
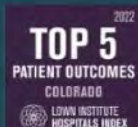
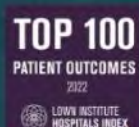
Until the repairs are completed, motorists are urged to use caution in the work area and follow the detours that are in place. Public Works would like to thank the public for being patient as crews repair the damage.

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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

SECRETARY OF STATE'S OFFICE PRESENTS INNOVATECO FORUM & DATA CHALLENGE

Special to the Mirror

DENVER— The Colorado Secretary of State's Office is proud to present the inaugural InnovateCO Forum and Data Challenge. The events will bring together the nonprofit, business, entrepreneur, govern-

ment and tech communities of Colorado to share ideas and issues that may be addressed using public data.

The InnovateCO Forum on May 19 is a one-day event featuring leading data authorities and front-line data practitioners

offering their experience and insight in educational sessions to the nonprofit, economic development, tech, and business communities. The event is designed to bring businesses, support organizations, technology and data providers together for discussions on best practices to turn public data into business efficiencies.

The Forum will include the InnovateCO Data Challenge final competition and networking event. The challenge will ask competitors to develop solutions that address key Colorado business issues. This year, the competition will be a single track, sustainability-, environmental-, green-themed data-analytics competition. Teams will compete to integrate Colorado's public data into analytics useful for Colorado's business decision-makers.

The InnovateCO Data Challenge will begin in late March and end with a pitch battle hosted as the capstone event to the InnovateCO Forum on May 19. The InnovateCO Data Challenge will be a new, slimmed down and more targeted version of the former Go Code Colorado competition. The InnovateCO Forum and Data Challenge will consist of a series of virtual and in-person events.

If you or your organization would like to be involved in this year's InnovateCO Forum & Data Challenge without participating in the competition, there are several partnership opportunities available. To learn more, please visit bic.coloradosos.gov.

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OIL & GAS CONSERVATION COMMISSION INITIATES STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH

Special to the Mirror

DENVER - The Colorado Oil & Gas Conservation Commission (COGCC) today announced a series of stakeholder meetings to solicit initial input on the COGCC's approach to further address Cumulative Impacts in the permitting process.

Stakeholder Meeting Details:

Zoom Details: All meetings will be held virtually using Zoom:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86217031112?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86217031112?pwd=dXc2czU3TlM3eXZreWI1ekFsQ2FjQT09)

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Webinar ID: 862 1703 1112

Passcode: 123456

Phone: (669) 900-6833

When: *Stakeholder Meeting #1:*

Date & Time: 10 a.m. - Noon, Friday, Jan. 27

Click [here](#) to sign up for public comment at meeting #1.

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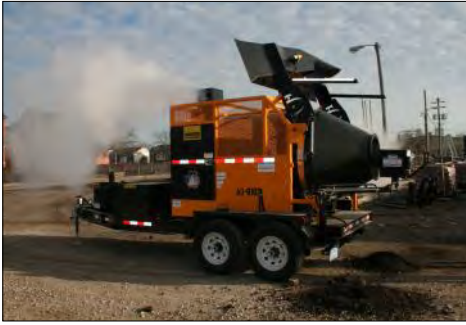
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ASPHALT RECYCLER A WELCOME ACQUISITION FOR CITY CREWS



An asphalt recycling machine. Courtesy photo to KM International.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-Mayor Dave Frank welcomed all to the regular meeting of the Montrose City Council on Tuesday, Jan. 17, and led in saying the Pledge of Allegiance. All city councilors were present. Mayor Pro Tem Barbara Bynum had no changes to the meeting agenda. The meeting was not livestreamed due to the change of location to the Montrose Public Safety Complex.

CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council unanimously voted to approve the minutes of the Jan. 3, 2023, regular City Council meeting as presented.

ORDINANCE 2611 ON FIRST READING

As discussed previously in work session, Council voted to adopt Resolution 2611 on first reading, granting and authorizing the conveyance of an interest in City-owned real estate. Councilor Ulibarri asked where the funds received for the property conveyance would go; City Manager Bill Bell said that the funds would be put in the General Fund.

SPRUCE POINT SUBDIVISION FILING NO. 3 FINAL PLAT

Council voted unanimously to approve the Spruce Point Final Subdivision Filing No. 3, creating 36 new residential lots on 23.26 acres, conditioned upon City staff ensuring that all policies, regulations, ordinances, and Municipal Code provisions are met and that the applicant adequately addresses all of staff's concerns prior to the execution of the Final Plat.

2023 EQUIPMENT PURCHASE RECOMMENDATION

As discussed previously in the Jan. 3 work session, Council voted unanimously to

approve the purchase of four dump trucks, an asphalt recycler, and a police armored vehicle for the total amount of \$1,772,924.

Councilor Ulibarri commented on the asphalt recycler.

"I think that's going to make a difference to the community, especially if we can do our patching all year round with that thing," Ulibarri said. "It's going to make the streets a little bit better to drive in the wintertime."

Councilor Bynum asked staff to send a picture of the asphalt recycler. "...I can't quite figure out what this one looks like, but I like it."

STAFF REPORTS

Finance Director Shani Wittenberg presented the Sales, Use & Excise Tax Report. Montrose County has changed to a new vendor for the emergency alert system, Police Chief Blaine Hall said, and citizens will need to sign up for the new system. "That's the best and quickest way our community members will receive notifications."

With no further business, Mayor Frank adjourned the meeting.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

IS IT THE GAS OR THE COOKING ENDANGERING OUR LIVES?

Dear Editor,

There seems to be some controversy about the amount of pollution gas stoves add to our homes. I would like to see a study done in which equal portions were prepared on gas and electric stoves in similarly controlled environments. Only then will we know whether it is the gas or the cooking which is endangering our lives. Obviously vents will play a major role in the discoveries. I hope they investigate external vents (which expel conditioned air to the atmosphere, drawing in new air to be treated) as well as recirculating vents.

Rick Bleier, Montrose

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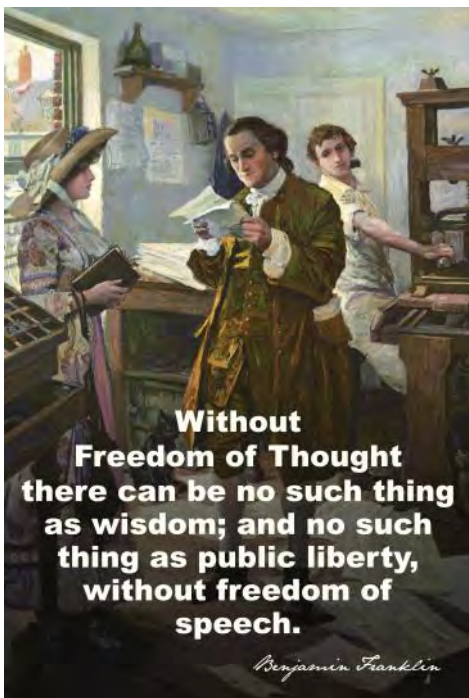
COLORADO MAN SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON FOR ROLE IN MONEY LAUNDERING CONSPIRACY

Special to the Mirror

DENVER – The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Colorado announces James Albert Witte, age 69, formerly of Wray, Colorado, was sentenced to 26 months in federal prison for conspiracy to commit money laundering. Witte was also ordered to serve three years of supervised release and pay \$763,089.21 in restitution to the victims of the scheme. According to the plea agreement in the case, from January of 2020 until September of 2020, the defendant was part of a conspiracy to launder funds obtained from a government official impersonation scheme. Victims were contacted by telephone and coerced into believing they were under investigation by "agents" of federal law enforcement agencies (the FBI, SSA, DHS, Treasury, or DEA). It was further part of the conspiracy that the conspirators told these victims that their identities had been connected to a criminal incident, their imminent arrest and/or deportation from the United States had been ordered

by law enforcement, and that the only way to avoid arrest and or deportation was to pay the "Government" large sums of money, as instructed. The victims were instructed to withdraw cash from their bank accounts and mail the cash to various addresses, which turned out to be Walgreens stores in northeastern Colorado. Witte's role in the scheme was to use fake identification cards provided to him by a conspirator to pick up victims' packages of cash mailed to the Walgreens stores. He used some of the cash to purchase money orders, which one of his codefendants then deposited into third-party accounts. The cash contained in 33 packages picked up by Witte, the shipping costs for those packages, and shipping costs for another 15 packages that were either in-

tercepted by law enforcement or a victim, resulted in a loss to the victims of \$763,089.21. Witte received a percentage of the cash in each package he picked up. Judge Raymond P. Moore sentenced the defendant on January 20, 2023. This investigation was conducted jointly with investigators from the Social Security Administration (SSA) Office of Inspector General (OIG), United States Postal Inspection Service, Department of Homeland Security-OIG, Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), and the Sterling, Colorado Police Department. The District Attorney for the 13th Judicial District also provided assistance. This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Martha A. Paluch and Laura Hurd.
CASE NUMBER: 22-cr-00202



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COMMISSIONERS APPROVE LIQUOR LICENSE TRANSFER AT FAIRGROUNDS *From pg 1*

There are changes at the state level, with around a dozen bills dropped in the legislature.

Also, "We are working with local law enforcement to partner with them for crisis intervention training," Reich said, noting that a 40-hour class with role playing will be held in March.

COUNTY MANAGER

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent agenda items were unanimously approved.

MONTROSE COUNTY LOCAL LIQUOR LI-

CENSING AUTHORITY

The BOCC left regular session to reconvene as the Montrose County Local Liquor Licensing Authority, approving the transfer of the Lodging & Entertainment Liquor License at the Montrose County Event Center from Montrose County to La Familia Gardens LLC, as well as a Temporary Permit for the Montrose County Event Center to continue alcohol sales during the transfer of the Lodging & Entertainment Liquor License from Montrose County to La Familia Gardens LLC.

Commissioners returned to regular session as the BOCC.

GENERAL BUSINESS & ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Hansen opened a public hearing. Engineer Keith Laube presented for the 2022 Colorado Department of Transportation Highway Users Tax Funds (HUTF) report and Resolution No. 4-2023 for annual changes, additions and deletions (East and West End maps are included in the packet as are mileage stats) of roads to the county road maintenance system. Resolution 4-2023 was approved unanimously, and the public hearing was closed.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Commissioners approved the Amended Plat of Lots 1-3 Montrose County Commerce Park Filing No. 1 [AM22-010] proposal to combine lots, adjust a boundary line, and vacate a drainage easement at Parcel Northwest corner of Highway 550 intersection with Vernal Road and the Amended Plat of Lots 1-3 Montrose County Commerce Park, to combine lots, adjust boundary lines, and vacate a drainage easement based on the findings of fact listed in paragraph #5 of this report.

With no further business, "Madame Chair, I move we adjourn," Commissioner Keith Caddy said, and the motion was approved.



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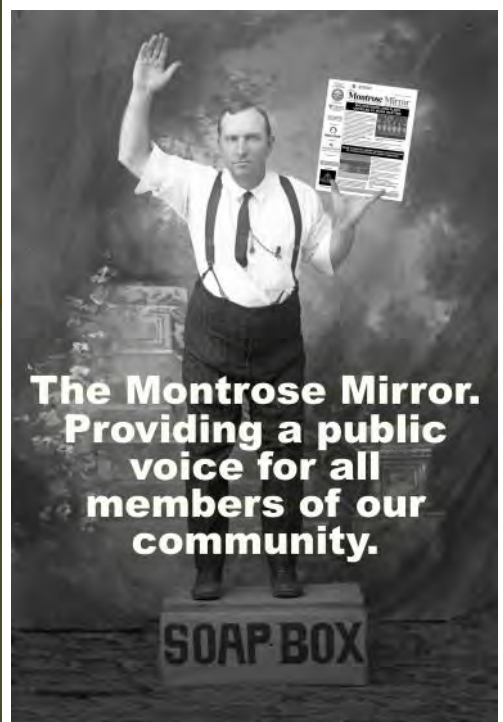
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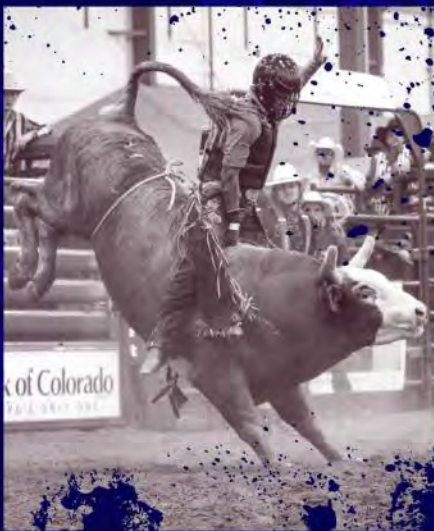
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"I HATE TO SEE SOME OF OUR CONSTITUENTS RAN OVER"

Ulibarri questions intersection safety as city updates traffic code



The only crosswalk on Rio Grande Avenue for high school students and others is blocks away from the school and unsafe.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE- Mayor Dave Frank called the regular Montrose city council meeting of Jan. 17 to order; all councilors were present. The meeting was not livestreamed due to the change of location to the Montrose Public Safety Complex.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEES

Office of Business & Tourism (OBT) Manager Lisa Kuczmarski, who formerly working as City Manager's Bill Bell's assistant in Rhinelander, Wisconsin, welcomed new employees to the OBT.

Joining the city team are Marketing and Tourism Manager DeVerna Rogers and Marketing and Tourism Specialist Jacob Wilson.

Human Resources Manager Terri Wilcox introduced Rogers. "We've been working to get her here for quite a while."

Said Kuczmarski, "We are so excited to have our marketing team back in place...DeVerna comes with us with a lot of great experience and she's just jumped right in...we're happy to have her as part of the team."

Raised in Cortez, Rogers shared information about her background, and thanked the Mayor and Council. "...So it was really just a natural fit... we were looking for a good fit with the city for a while now, and we finally found that place. I am just really excited to be here."

Introducing Wilson, Kuczmarski said, "Jake is the other half of our marketing team, and we are very happy to have him

on board too. So we're full force. And he brings a lot of great Montrose experience because he was born and raised here..."

Wilson said that he was born and raised here and was teaching writing before the pandemic but "pivoted" to do some freelance content creation before joining the city.

Public Works Director Jim Scheid welcomed Street Division Worker Gabe McCain, who was born and raised in Council Bluffs, Iowa. "He's a very valued member of the team already..." McCain's girlfriend's family lives here; prior to coming to work for the city he worked as a gold miner in Alaska, McCain said. "...Just kind of ended up here, and now we love it."

Also a new Street Division Worker, Bob Tarcsay drew laughter as he introduced himself. "Hello, I'm Bob from Wisconsin." Tarcsay said he has worked many jobs. "I've been self-employed for about 32 years...I love to hunt and fish, I love Montrose with a passion...I've been wanting to move here for years and finally made it. Been here for three years...I love making changes, making things better..."

Utilities Worker Drake Horn was born and raised in Delta and is a recent Colorado Mesa University (CMU) graduate. "I'm really looking forward to working here, thank you."

Human Resources Generalist Katey Crowley is a Westminster native, and worked with Hunter Douglas for 27 years. "...it was time to leave the city...we just decided this would be the right place...I think it's going to be great."

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Discussion items included adoption of the 2020 Model Traffic Code to supersede the 2003 code currently in use. City Attorney Ben Morris presented the item, noting that the most recent updates to the traffic code occurred in 2005 when he and former Municipal Judge Dick Brown updated the code. Current Municipal Judge Charles Greenacre was present at the work session to discuss the changes. Fines assessed by the court follow the traffic code. Police Chief Blaine Hall also spoke in support of the traffic code update.

City Engineer Scott Murphy presented a contract award for construction of the 6700 Road Extension Project. Except for intersection work, the project is straightforward, Murphy said.

Background-Council will consider approving \$4,595,856.14 in expenditures for construction of the 6700 Road Extension Project. This includes the award of a construction contract to Williams Construction in the amount of \$4,387,256.14, a survey and engineering support contract to Del-Mont Consultants in the amount of \$133,600, flashing crosswalk and school zone signage expenditures of \$25,000, and up to \$50,000 in expenditures to Delta-Montrose Electric Association for a portion of costs associated with powerline relocation and undergrounding alongside the project. A memo from Murphy to council states, "The City budgeted a total of \$4.09M for this project out of the City's capital improvement (\$3.5M), water capital (\$290k), and sewer capital (\$300k) funds. This places the project approximately \$500k over the total budget. This overage is primarily due to three factors: (1) since initially budgeted, the project footprint has expanded further into the intersections...to achieve proper geometric design at the road crossings, (2) general cost escalation within the construction industry, (3) high demand for earthwork contractors with all of the projects currently being awarded within the region."

Public Works Manager Jim Scheid discussed three items, the first of which concerned a 2023 Trash Truck Purchase Recommendation. Council will consider the purchase of three Trash Trucks from Kois Brothers Equipment in Commerce City in the amount of \$1,226,495.25.

"We're definitely coming to our capacity limit," Scheid said.

Background-A memo from Scheid to Council states, "The City of Montrose self performs the collection of curb side trash and recycling from City residences. This operation utilizes six Automated Side Loader (ASL) trash trucks currently. Due to growth in the number of City of Montrose Trash and Recycling customers, the city

ULIBARRI QUESTIONS INTERSECTION SAFETY AS CITY UPDATES TRAFFIC CODE

From previous pg

budgeted for an additional ASL trash truck in 2022. This additional truck was budgeted in the Trash and Recycle Division 2022 Budget. The City of Montrose Fleet Division replaces vehicles and equipment in the Fleet based on the life expectancy and the maintenance cost of each. The City's ASL trash trucks are on a seven-year replacement schedule to maximize the useful life of the equipment and utilize it at the lowest cost of operation. The replacement schedule has one replacement in 2022 and one in 2023. These two replacements are budgeted in the Fleet 2022 and 2023 Budgets and bring the total ASL trash trucks to be purchased in 2022 and 2023 to three. The City of Montrose authorized a purchase of two ASL trash trucks in December of 2021 for the 2022 budget year. This award was not honored by the vendor selected for the chassis which resulted in the order being terminated. The budgeted amounts in the 2022 budget are rolled over into the 2023 budget to be used for the purchases recommended above. On Dec. 6, 2022, the City of Montrose accepted bids for three new ASL trash trucks. Unfortunately, none of the bids met the specifications in the bid packet and were rejected. The City of Montrose Fleet Division has been reaching out to as many vendors as possible, working closely with vendors that provide the specific equipment necessary and has requested quotes from three vendors to meet our specifications. Of the three vendors that a quote was requested from only one quote was returned. The City of Montrose has received one quote...The budgeted amount for all three of the purchases combined in 2022 and 2023 is \$930,00. Due to significant price increases and low availability for specialized equipment, the above recommendation is over the budgeted amount by \$296,495.25. This overage will be covered by the Fleet Fund initially and recouped through the internal lease payment from the Trash and Recycle Division to the Fleet Division."

Noting that the city is presently opening vehicle purchase bids for 2023, Scheid

presented the 2022 Ford Vehicle Purchase Amendment, in which Council will consider approving a price increase for the 2022 Ford vehicle order that was previously awarded to Sill-Terhar Motors.

Background-A memo from Scheid to council states, "On Dec. 9, 2021, the City of Montrose issued a purchase order to Sill-Terhar Motors for 20 new Ford vehicles. Since placing this order, the City of Montrose has received one of the ordered vehicles. This past year has presented many challenges in the automotive industry. We have had microchip shortages along with supply chain issues due to global events. Due to these issues, the volume of vehicles produced by Ford and other vehicle manufacturers has been reduced. This reduction in vehicle volumes produced has resulted in many orders not being fulfilled within the model year they were ordered. For the City of Montrose order placed in late 2021, 19 out of the 20 vehicles will be pushed to 2023 model year and 2023 pricing. The 2023 pricing from Sill-Terhar does match the pricing that was awarded on the Colorado State bid for Ford vehicles...The budgeted amount for all the purchases combined is \$961,250. The 2023 pricing is over the budgeted amount by \$42,408. The 2023 Sill-Terhar pricing is still less than the next qualified bid received in November of 2021 in the amount of \$1,016,463. The \$42,408. over budget will be paid for by the Fleet Fund and recouped by the Fleet Interfund Lease to each division that utilizes these vehicles."

Scheid also asked Council to approve disposal of the city owned vehicles and equipment to be replaced in 2023, listed in the work session packet.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Mayor Dave Frank said that he had attended a police department recruiting event the previous Saturday, and found the atmosphere very welcoming.

"I thought it was very well done," Councilor Glaspell said.

Councilor J. David Reed said that he was impressed with the number of police department staff who made time to attend

the recruiting event on a Saturday. "Thanks to them."

Councilor Ed Ulibarri said that he spoke with the county sheriff, who had high praise for the police department, as well as appreciation for cooperation and response times for assistance. "They're glad to see that you have new officers." The Sheriff also noted an increase in road rage incidents, Ulibarri said. "Have we seen that sort of stuff in the city of Montrose? ...I definitely have seen some really careless drivers, passing on the right and...not stopping for citizens...the rage part was pretty interesting to me."

Police Chief Blaine Hall said that while data can be difficult to quantify, "...I don't think you could talk to hardly a single person, myself included, that hasn't seen just more prevalence of those types of things. Whether that's leading to higher traffic crashes I don't know."

Police Officer Dave Copeland is moving into traffic and will be a dedicated resource to go after those types of individuals, Hall said. "Tailgating, running stop signs, trying to be first."

Officers will patrol high-volume intersections including the light at South Fifth and Townsend Ave, he said. "You'll get two people that have passed through a red light before...you better look both ways before you go through that intersection."

Ulibarri said he is especially interested in crosswalk safety enforcement.

"We certainly have seen some serious infractions. It worries me," he said. "I hate to see some of our constituents ran over."

Mayor Pro Tem Barbara Bynum said that people do want to see increased enforcement on traffic infractions.

Hall said that Montrose County has changed its system for emergency notifications, and citizens will need to re-enter contact information.

Planning Manager Jace Hochwalt said that the housing needs assessment is underway and will remain open until Feb. 9.

"We still have a couple of weeks, really hoping to get as much response as we can."

WEEKLY CARTOONS

SOUR GRAPES

by Tim Jones



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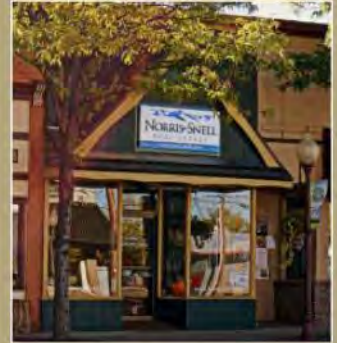
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CHANGES TO CITY RECYCLING PROGRAM EXCLUDE CERTAIN PLASTICS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE — Due to market changes in the recycling industry, the City of Montrose in partnership with Waste Management has changed the Single-Stream Recycling Program to limit the types of recyclable plastics accepted. The City will now collect ONLY plastic items marked with 1, 2, 4, and 5 recycling symbols. Effective immediately, numbers 3, 6 (expanded polystyrene or styrofoam), and 7 items can no longer be placed into city recycling collection cans.

Please check the recycling number on your plastic items before disposal. Compliance with these new restrictions is a key factor in maintaining a sustainable recycling program. Plastics 3, 6, and 7 will be considered contaminants in the recycling stream and excessive contamination will be charged back to the city as a fee.

Waste Management's Montrose Recycling Center, located at 1901 6450 Road, will be imposing the same restrictions on plastic materials that it accepts. Those who deliver materials to this site should remove 3, 6, and 7 plastics from their recyclables.

Other items that may NOT be placed in Single-Stream Recycling Program collection cans include glass, green waste, liquids, plastic bags, Ziploc bags, plastic caps and lids, styrofoam packaging and peanuts, paperboard with wax/plastic coating such as juice and ice cream containers, batteries, and electronic waste. These items are considered contaminants in the recycling stream as well.

In addition to acceptable plastic recyclables, tin and aluminum cans, caps, and metal lids that have been rinsed clean of debris and residue, paper products such as newspaper, mail with plastic removed, flattened paperboard, and cardboard may be recycled and placed into city collection cans.

For more information about the updates to the City of Montrose recycling program contact Public Works at 970.240.1401 or visit CityofMontrose.org/Recycling.

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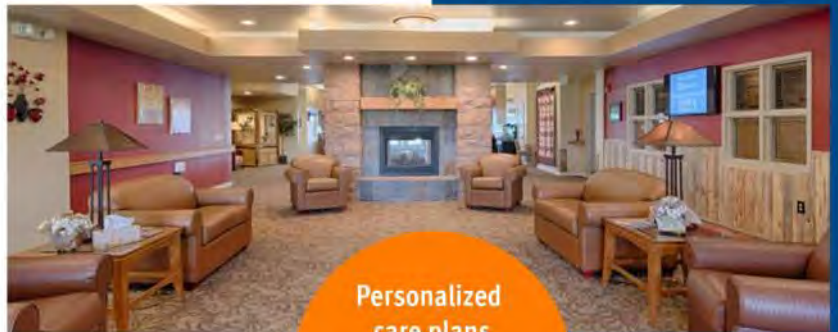
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OPINION/EDITORIAL: CARTOONS

I AM TRYING TO PUT MY HAT ON AND THINK ABOUT WHAT PEOPLE CONTACT ME ABOUT. PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN MONTROSE. AND THEY SAY THINGS LIKE, 'YOU GUYS SHOULD MAKE THERE BE MORE RESTAURANTS. OK, 'HOW?' HUH. SHORT OF...WE'RE NOT GONNA OPEN UP A RESTAURANT... *



*Actual comment from City of Montrose Work Session of Jan. 3, 2023.


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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

THE POLITICAL PARTY THAT HARVESTS THE MOST BALLOTS AND CREATES ELECTION RULES WINS THE MOST ELECTION RACES AND BALLOT INITIATIVES IN COLORADO

Editor:

Ballot harvesting was perfected in California by Democrats before it was brought to our beautiful state. Many Coloradans do not even realize that our Secretary of State, along with the majority stacked Democrat legislature and a few Republicans, made it LEGAL for every single individual in our state to harvest 10 ballots EACH!! And there are zero regulations, as far as I can tell, on where the ballots can be harvested from. Plus, there is no sworn statement signed by the harvester like there is for assistants with disabilities that states "I... certify that I am the individual chosen by the elector to assist the elector in casting a ballot. I further certify that I will not in any way attempt to persuade or induce the elector to vote in a particular manner. So, you must ask yourself, since no signed oath is required, is persuasion and induction taking place from ballot harvesters? I say, there is a lot of room for this corruption to take place. Just like there is a lot of room for harvesters to help electors fill out ballots to sway an election. In this past election I received verbal confirmation in Montrose that ballot harvesters were being offered pay. This

disgusted me enough to write this letter to the editor and report it to several elected officials and law enforcement. Most intelligent adults know when money is involved in voting steps it only encourages corruption.

Ballot Harvesting across America, in my humble opinion, should be banned all together. It is rife with corruption by having few to no regulations and can easily create massive election theft. However, if it is to be continued, I think every American should demand that a statement like the Voter assistance for electors with disabilities be signed by every single harvester and filed by their county election clerk. This would give the elector legal rights and it would create a check on the harvesters. By my personal research it looks like most of this last Colorado election harvested ballots came from college students who were quickly coerced into registering to vote right before the election, then with same day voting these students were most likely coerced and maybe even helped filling out their very 1st election ballot possibly the way the person helping them typically votes. They might even have given their ballot to the harvester to put in a

drop box to save them time. I say this because Ms. Griswold, right before the election, conveniently created a massive contest between college and university campuses on who could register the most voters. She even created an award. Then she proudly increased the number of drop boxes in mostly Democrat saturated areas with hundreds of them near campuses. It looks like the party that makes up the election rules and encourages ballot harvesting win the most races and initiatives in Colorado. This includes Ms. Griswold herself winning her race while creating the election rules that would help her the most and enforcing the rules plus certifying her very own election. Nothing wrong with that, right? Isn't that what dictators do? So, if you're wondering about Colorado elections just remember **the party that harvests the most ballots win!** All This is brought to you by majority Democrats and a few gullible Republicans. If you think that change needs to take place, call the Colorado capital at 303-866-2578,9606. Or 2909 and voice your opinion. Your legislators are YOUR employees and sometimes you need to rein them in.

Kelly Ray, Montrose

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ANONYMOUS CALL

MONTROSE REGIONAL CRIME STOPPERS

OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

TIME TO LEAVE INEFFICIENT UTILITY POLE ACCESS RULES BEHIND



By Kevin Kuns

MONTROSE-On the Western Slope, we are lucky enough to be part of an incredibly beautiful and unique landscape. From the National Monument to the Great Sand Dunes we live amongst some of the most valued places in the country. What many people outside of the region do not recognize is that there are living, and working communities scattered across the Western Slope maintaining businesses, schools, stores, and restaurants that require connection to high-speed internet. Without access to reliable broadband, it becomes unimaginably difficult to keep up with the rest of the world.

We saw this intensify during the pandemic and are still trying to recover. Towns struggled to stay afloat as the entire world became digital and areas without high-speed connectivity suffered. Senator Hick-

enlooper recognized this and was integral in passing last year's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. By allocating \$65 billion to expand connectivity, lawmakers have equipped us with a historic opportunity to level the playing field and get everyone online. As we get one significant step closer to pursuing our goal of bridging the nation's digital divide, a pivotal yet often overlooked process - inefficient utility pole access rules - could prevent the Law from doing as it was intended and connecting every American.

Utility poles are not typically owned by internet providers and the providers must first be granted access by the pole owners - often co-ops, and local utilities and electric companies - to affix their broadband technology to the poles. A complicated permitting system creates problems for a process that should be straightforward. Lengthy disputes can happen between pole owners and internet providers regarding pole replacement and maintenance cost and those of us that need the broadband connectivity are the ones who suffer the consequences of unreliable or nonexistent high-speed internet. Coloradans are stuck without telehealth appointments, virtual business meetings, and

online learning as different entities argue over an outdated system to determine who is responsible for what.

Coloradans deserve more than to be in the middle of this fight. We have come so far with the infrastructure package and are close to closing the digital divide now thanks to federal funding opportunities. What we need now is a clear and expedited system for how to resolve disagreements over cost-sharing when it comes to poles so that broadband can be expanded as quickly as possible. Our federal leaders have the authority to make sure there is a transparent timeline for resolving disagreements. We do not have time to waste. Senator Hickenlooper has championed this issue before and I urge him to continue his work to fix this outdated system so Coloradans do not have to worry about being left behind.

Author Bio: Kevin Kuns grew up between Wyoming and Tripoli, Libya. After graduating from ASU and fostering a successful career in restaurant ownership and management, Kevin and his wife Bobbie moved to Montrose, Colorado in 2014, where they have been active members of the community since. Kevin is the Chair of the Montrose Democratic Party.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

NO REASON APPLICATION SHOULD NOT BE APPROVED WITH REASONABLE CONDITIONS

Editor:

In the past 65 or so years, I've attended many Planning Commission meetings as well as serving a term on a Planning Commission in the San Luis Valley. With experience on both sides of the table, so to speak, applicants generally come to the table with facts and an open mind. In controversial issues, usually valid concerns can be raised for consideration, but far too often opponents get whisked away with emotion and arguments not germane to the issue.

Since the December 15, 2022 Planning Commission meeting, I've heard a lot of noise about the gravel pit off 5875 Rd proposal. This past Sunday I took a tour of the site as well as the 5875, 5850, and Maple Grove Roads.

It was eerily like deja vu because this site

was so similar in character to the T Rd gravel pit application of 2015 that was approved with conditions. Both sites are elevated on high mesas, well out of view and distant from neighborhoods. The only difference is that unlike the T Rd site a pit already exists where gravel has been crushed. Apparently there was no organized opposition to this, but one complaint was made for trucking off site.

I reviewed concerns of the organized opposition to this application, and again it was like deja vu with the T Rd site. Valid concerns raised included noise, dust, odors, traffic safety, property values, and water quality, as it was with the T Rd site. Then, as with the T Rd site, opposition concerns were expanded to include view restrictions, disturbing wildlife patterns, and harm to eagles, hawks,

quail, rabbits, coyotes, fox, birds, and bees etc.

In the seven years since the T Rd site was approved with conditions, Rocky Mountain Aggregate has operated with no violations or citations. This certainly speaks loudly to their business philosophy as well as their integrity of commitment. It is interesting to note that none of the frivolous objections ever materialized and property values actually increased despite the gravel pit.

Frankly, I see no reason why this application should not be approved with reasonable conditions such as were added to the T Rd site. The January 26 Planning Commission meeting will hopefully separate the wheat from the chaff.

Sincerely,

Dee Laird, Montrose

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

SEARCH WARRANT RECOVERS OVER \$50,000 OF STOLEN PROPERTY

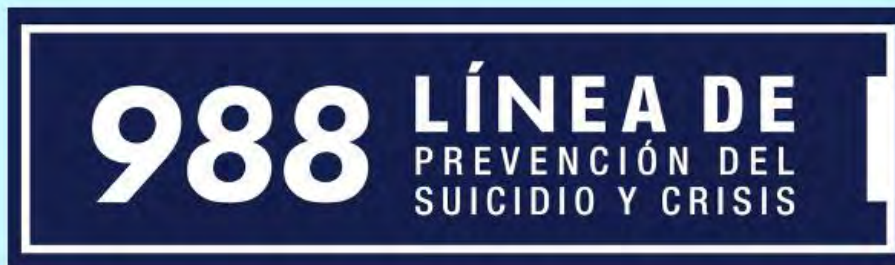
Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The Montrose County Sheriff's Office successfully completed a search warrant last week and recovered more than \$50,000 of stolen property. As part of an investigation of two separate burglaries on Jan. 11 and Jan. 16, deputies and investigators began looking into possible suspects. Their investigation led them to the 17000 block of 6725 Road where deputies found nearly all the missing items including several firearms, tools, precious metals, family heirlooms, and more.

"I am proud of the work of our deputies, investigators, and High Impact Target Team in handling this warrant with professionalism and efficiency," said Montrose County Sheriff's Office Commander Ty Cox. "There has been an increase in burglaries over the past several years, and it is always a win when we are able to reunite victims with their stolen property."

Deputies arrested the following individuals on Dec. 17 in connection to the burglaries: Roy Sory (charges of Second Degree Burglary, Theft, Possession of Weapon by Previous Offender, Violation of Bail Bond Conditions, Protection Order Violation), Ryan Loomis (charges of Theft and Complicity), and Nicole Skowronek (charges of Theft and Complicity).

The case is still under investigation by the Montrose County Sheriff's Office, Montrose Police Department, and 7th Judicial District Attorney's Office. If anyone has information regarding these burglaries, please contact dispatch at 970-249-9110. Please note all charges are merely accusations and the defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MAGIC CIRCLE THEATRE PRESENTS MY FUNNY VALENTINE: ROUTE 66



Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Above, the cast of the Magic Circle Theatre production "My Funny Valentine: Route 66" gather for a photo. The original show celebrates the fun and history of Route 66, America's iconic Mother Road. Come and support community theatre! The show runs Feb. 9-12, with dinner and wine at the Stone House before the show on Feb. 9. Courtesy photo Lisa Rediger, Magic Circle Theatre.



BALANCED REPORTING WITH A FLAIR FOR SOMETHING FUN.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

COUNTY INVESTS IN BRIGHT BEGINNINGS AT COLORADO OUTDOORS TO CREATE MORE CHILDCARE SPOTS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE- The Montrose County Commissioners recently allocated \$80,000 to Maslow Academy of Applied Learning. The funding will assist with the creation of their new childcare facility, Bright Beginnings at Colorado Outdoors. This facility will add up to 70 additional childcare spots for infants to preschoolers. Per the county's funding stipulations, the added spots will also help serve households that qualify for the Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP). "Montrose County is as a 'childcare desert'—finding care here is a challenge for working families and limits our workforce," said Chair Commissioner Hansen. "We are pleased this award is helping fund a new facility for up to 70 additional children as well as opening up added spots for Colorado Child Care Assistance Program families. I am equally excited about pairing the Colorado Subsidized Training and Employment Program with Bright Beginnings at Colorado Outdoors. This program will grow and train a reliable workforce that is a critical piece in expanding childcare availability locally."

"We are incredibly grateful for the support of the county and other generous donors. This endeavor would not be possible without all our partners," said Chrissy Simmons, Executive Director of Maslow Academy of Applied Learning and Bright Beginnings at Colorado Outdoors. "We have been working diligently for years to open a new school to serve our community's needs. We are a non-profit organization and continuously work to find money to help support our schools that is not solely relying on tuition. This \$80,000 will ensure that more families in Montrose can access childcare since there are very few options available which in turn supports economic growth. Maslow Academy has been around for over 13 years providing quality and loving care and education, and this support from the county will help Bright Beginnings be sustainable like our other site." In addition to this funding, the county is working with Bright Beginnings at Colorado Outdoors to use the Colorado Works Subsidized Training and Employment Program (STEP) to connect individuals who are eligible for basic cash assistance with crucial professional work experience as childcare workers. Colorado Works STEP is administered on a local level with state contractors working with the county to offer a variety of services to help boost workforce development. The program helps participants work toward earning a living wage, securing permanent employment, and creating a brighter economic future for their families. Participants learn valuable skills to prepare for careers in industries with a demonstrated shortage of qualified workers, creating unique opportunities to fill employment gaps and drive Colorado's economy forward. To learn more about Montrose County, please visit montrosecounty.net. More information on Bright Beginnings is available at <https://maslowacademy.com/>.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

BLOOD DONORS—WILL THE BLOOD YOU DONATE EVER REACH A PATIENT IN NEED?

Editor:

I have donated blood in the past at Montrose Memorial Hospital and, once they closed their blood bank, through St. Mary's Hospital program. When St. Mary's closed their service, a national company called Vitalant took over blood donation services for Western Colorado. While going through their pre-donation paperwork online and answering the standard donation questions, I came across their Use of Donor Information, Blood, and Blood Samples in Research document that one has to agree with in order to donate. I was quite disturbed by some of the things to which they were asking me to consent. So, what's the big deal you may ask? I

will let you read some Q&A statements contained within this document to see if you might share my concerns. Their words are in normal type, my comments are in italics.

Research studies may be conducted to improve overall blood safety, further the advancements made in transfusion medicine, and for other purposes. Participation in research is voluntary. By agreeing to donate, you are agreeing to the potential use of your donor information, blood, and blood samples in research. *Concern: However noble this research element may sound, it is quite deceptive in nature. If you wish to donate blood for the benefit of humankind but do not wish to be part of their research program as I desired, you will discover your participation is mandatory, not voluntary as stated, once you agree to donate. When I contacted Vitalant asking about the ability to opt out of the research element, this was their email response, "I apologize for an inconvenience you may have experienced while filling out any of the documents needed in order to donate with us. Unfortunately, there is no flexibility when it comes to the agreements needed signed. There is no way to opt out of signing." Thus, you cannot donate without automatically agreeing to participate in research. You have to sign their agreement in order to donate.*

How will my donor information, blood, and blood samples be used in research? Your donor information, blood, and blood samples may be used in research to learn

more about blood transfusion, human disease, and important public health issues. Your donor information, blood, and blood samples may be stored and made available for use by researchers indefinitely. *Concern: My blood may not even go to help save the life of another and personal information and samples are stored indefinitely?*

Who may use my donor information, blood, and blood samples for research? Research staff from blood centers, universities, government agencies, and drug or health companies from the U.S. and around the world may conduct studies using your donor information, blood, and blood samples. *Concern: The sky is the limit as to who can have access to my blood and donor information. The government, big pharma and foreign entities? Really? I think not.*

How is my privacy protected when my donor information, blood, and blood samples are used in research? Strict security measures are in place to protect your privacy. Researchers will not be given any information that would allow them to identify you. Only select, authorized blood center personnel will have access to your personally identifiable health information, or identifiable blood, and blood samples. *Concern: Yeah, right. This statement contradicts the previous one above where they just told you your donor information 'may be used' which will definitely identify you.*

It is possible that commercial researchers or companies may benefit financially from the use of your unidentifiable donor information, blood, and blood samples in research. *Concern: I donate my blood free to help save a life, and the above described entities can profit from it? How much is Vitalant profiting from providing our blood for research? How much of our donated blood is actually going to benefit patients? Perhaps donors should be compensated the going rate for a unit of blood or platelets since their blood is now profitable for others. If a hospital collects my blood and charges a patient for the blood product in order to recover their costs associated with its collection, I am fine with that. However, selling my blood for research that I donate for free, and profiting off of it, is not OK*

with me.

Will my blood be used in genetic research? Some researchers may examine short pieces of your genes, like your DNA, in some studies on blood and blood samples. It is extremely unlikely that results could be used to identify you. Without your specific additional consent, we will not allow research involving whole genome sequencing, which examines the entire length of a person's genetic code. *Concern: This should be obvious and scary. Would you want someone experimenting with your DNA? Your blood contains your entire genetic code. Once in the hands of researchers they will do as they please.*

What else may happen if my donor information, blood, and blood samples are used for research? We may contact you to see if you want to participate in other research, ask for more samples, or gather more health information. *Concern: I thought this was anonymous. If you have the good stuff research is looking for flowing through your veins, forget hoping it will ever reach a patient. What, no mention of financial compensation for your continued participation? What are my rights? Your participation in research is voluntary. If you decide not to participate, you will not be able to donate blood today. By signing your Blood Donation Record, you are giving consent to allow us to use your information, blood, and blood samples for research purposes. Concern: Sounds a bit more coercive than voluntary? If you don't consent to research, you cannot donate.*

Is it ethical to mandate participation in research when a person donates blood? Why is there no opt out option? Even if one was added at this point, I might still be skeptical. What percentage of blood is allocated for research verses how much actually makes it to a patient in need? Is this why we always hear of a great need for donors? How many donors will be lost due to this policy? They lost this one.

Could it be time for our local hospitals to step up and develop blood banks once again designed to serve our friends and neighbors in need, instead of allowing our precious life's blood to flow out into the research world?

Dave Loncar, Montrose

COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE REGIONAL CRIME STOPPERS ALERT

Montrose Regional Crime Stoppers

MONTROSE-The Montrose Police Department needs help with a theft valued at \$70,000, that occurred last year. Sometime during July or August of 2022, a 28ft. enclosed trailer was stolen from a storage facility in the 63000 block of LaSalle Rd. Inside the trailer was a Harley Davidson motorcycle, a CanAm side-by-side, and misc. construction tools and camping gear. Attached are photos of the maroon trailer, the motorcycle, and the side-by-side. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

If there is anyone with information regarding this incident, please contact the Montrose Police Department or Crime Stoppers by calling Crime Stoppers anonymously at (970)249-8500, use the app P3 Tips, or provide information via [P3Tips.com](https://p3tips.com). Crime Stoppers wants your information, not your identity. If the Tip results in an arrest, the Tipster may receive a cash award. For additional information, please view our Facebook page, Montrose Regional Crime Stoppers. Crime Prevention and crime solution are everyone's responsibility.

MRCS would also like to remind everyone that all persons of interest depicted in our alerts by photo or not, or by any other means, are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



Montrose Senior Center, 1800 Pavilion Drive.

1 pm, Jan. 23rd. Western History with Kate Burke

Little Bighorn Battlefield - Contested Ground - The Backstory



Kate Burke presents a colorful and intriguing portrayal of the primary characters and events that culminated in the Battle of the Little Bighorn, otherwise known as "Custer's Last Stand." Includes authentic maps, video, rare photographs, and an award-winning documentary DVD by historian and interpretive ranger, Steve Adelson.

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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS



COLORADO DIVISION OF INSURANCE RELEASES GENDER AFFIRMING COVERAGE GUIDE

Colorado Division of Insurance

DENVER - Starting this month (January 2023), Colorado becomes the first state in the country to explicitly include gender-affirming care services in its benchmark health insurance plan for essential health benefits (EHBs). A benchmark plan establishes the EHBs within Colorado for commercial plans, meaning that in 2023, individual health insurance plans (plans not from an employer) and small group plans (for employers with less than 100 employees) *must* cover these services. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) approved the new benchmark plan for Colorado in October 2021.

It can be challenging to understand one's health insurance, and even with the changes due to the benchmark plan, it is also true for transgender people seeking specific medically-necessary services or hormone therapies as part of their treatment plans. To help better understand this new required coverage, the Division of Insurance (DOI), part of the Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA), has developed a guide on insurance coverage of gender-affirming care medical services for individual and small group health insurance plans.

Gender-Affirming Care Coverage Guide for 2023

Please note that the information in this guide is not an exhaustive list of all gender-affirming care procedures, but rather a list of many common services to treat gender dysphoria. It also does not include the different processes, like prior authorization or letters from a provider, that may be required by an insurance company in order to show that it is medically necessary to receive a service or medication. Gender-affirming health care is an important part of the health care services that every transgender person deserves to achieve their own well-being, and it is not a one-size-fits-all health solution. There are many protections in place in Colorado to ensure access to medically necessary gender-affirming care and non-discrimination in health care based on one's gender identity.

LGBTQ Health Insurance Coverage Rights in Colorado

Colorado Insurance Regulation 4-2-62 prohibits discrimination in private health insurance plans based on sexual orientation or gender identity. **If your health plan ID card has "CO-DOI" on it, your plan is regulated by the Colorado Division of Insurance and subject to Colorado's insurance laws and regulations.* Find more information at our website [LGBTQ Health Care Rights and Resources](#).

People with questions about their health insurance coverage can contact the Division of Insurance Consumer Services Team: 303-894-7490 / DO-RA_Insurance@state.co.us / <https://doi.colorado.gov/> (click on "File a Complaint").

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COLORADO WOLF REINTRODUCTION DRAFT PLAN UPDATE *From pg 1*

or urban, rancher or conservationist, the public made their concerns known in best town hall fashion.

After initial reports and comments by the Commissioners and the several members of the Stakeholders Advisory Committee, the public was invited to comment. These interested parties were allowed to express either personal or organizational viewpoints for three minutes. Twenty-seven individuals did so and were evenly divided along urban/rural and ideological lines. But the big news is, the concerns, frustrations, and fears were expressed with civility and even courtesy and gratitude for the hard work of the volunteers and civil servants involved in this effort. Even the young rancher who wanted to see wolves introduced into the areas where pro-wolf voters were living (inviting to my lurid imagination wolves running rampant through the streets near Larimer Square, while old hippies and young metrosexuals try to tempt them with veggie burgers or handfuls of Blue Buffalo Wilderness dog food) delivered his suggestion with decorum.

Despite the decorum, anxiety about certain outcomes was apparent. Few members of the public seemed to be fully satisfied with the state of the plan as it stands. Equal numbers of livestock owners and wildlife advocates spoke out on the restoration plan at Thursday's meeting.

"...it's a scary prospect for a sheep rancher. Because we don't just lose one sheep at a time, we lose hundreds," said rancher and SAG member Renee Deal. "None of us walked away from this completely satisfied with what we came up with. But I think that speaks to the fact that it was a true compromise."

"I heard earlier today that 150 wolves would be sufficient to prevent extinction," Lindsey Larris, wildlife program director for WildEarth Guardians said. "I'm questioning why that should be the bar that we're going with." WildEarth Guardians has taken the position that the geography and ecology of mountainous Colorado west of Denver could host 1,000 wolves, based on current science. They would be happy with 750, however.

Ranchers petitioned for more support in the plan for people whose livelihoods may be affected negatively by wolf reintroduction. They called attention not only to the

financial losses of livestock killed by wolves, but the harder-to-quantify reductions in stock fertility, general health, and weight loss that can result from predator harassment stress.

Rancher Ginny Harrington spoke with me remotely after the meeting. Members of the Holy Cross Cattlemen's Association serving Garfield, Pitkin, and Eagle counties are not as anti-wolf as much as some wolf advocates may think. But they are deeply concerned about unsustainable wolf predation losses that may force some small operations out of business. The current draft plan calls for a 5 to 1 loss ratio if the rancher takes no preventive measures. A ratio of 7 to 1 is permitted for ranches with non-lethal measures in place. The plan allows for livestock owners in Colorado to engage in a variety of "impact-based management" activities to prevent wolves threatening their stock. This includes physical deterrents, nonlethal force, and lethal force, which is ultimately permitted when livestock are attacked repeatedly.

The ranchers in the Holy Cross area are concerned that they won't know in a timely manner when wolves are in the vicinity in order to take those preventive, non-lethal measures. This is an issue that Rancher Don Gittleson has coped with for years in North Park after frequent losses to packs migrating from Wyoming.

Harrington expressed concern on her own behalf and on behalf of her fellow ranchers about the fairness of the current plan. As written, when a pack takes out numerous calves in the high country, if one slaughtered calf that is found mauled and certified as a wolf kill by CPW personnel, this can be considered as warrant to compensate the rancher for five missing animals whose carcasses cannot be located. If one calf is found, but nine are missing, no compensation above five is permitted. Harrington also pointed out that this is an imperfect process already, and that overworked and overcommitted CPW personnel cannot always get to a kill site in a timely manner, much as they try their hardest to do.

"CPW is going to be spread thin," she said. This reality, plus the \$8,000 cap for claims per animal, causes great concern among ranchers who have registered livestock, especially bulls or performance

horses, whose value routinely exceeds that amount by several thousand dollars. Harrington feels that any cap is inherently fraught with unacceptable loss to certain ranchers and amounts to an illegal taking of private property.

"Case by case, not all clear cut," she urges, but dependent upon the circumstances and provable value of the animal lost. This would be more appropriate and would greatly help to insure ranchers' good will towards the presence of wolves in their area, as would permitted lethal force when all else fails.

Wildlife advocates spoke out against allowing lethal force in the draft plan. Many also objected to the final stage of the draft plan, Phase 4, which allows for wolves to be hunted for sport if reintroduction is successful.

"These wolves are not being reintroduced so they can one day become somebody's trophy," Kelly Murphy, a caretaker at the Colorado Wolf and Wildlife Center stated. Murphy "How does proposing that foster tolerance?"

The draft plan, slated to begin implementation winter of 2023, aims to achieve the successful recovery of the gray wolf in Colorado by introducing 30 to 50 wolves over three to five years. Plainly, the social and economic consequences of the plan have made it a controversial topic across the state. At this stage, adjustments to the plan can still be made. Four more public comment hearings will be held until Feb. 22, and then the plan will be approved at a CPW meeting in Glenwood Springs on May 3 and 4.

"In a lot of ways, this isn't about wolves, it's about people," CPW Commission Chair Carrie Hauser stated. "And it's about how we work together to move this forward and to ensure a successful plan. And that will mean compromise, it will mean learning."

Regardless of the stakes and the emotions involved, it appears as though this process might indeed be an exemplar of American democracy doing exactly what it is supposed to do. I was skeptical, but glad to be able to say, "I was wrong."

For more information about meetings and deadlines, go to:

<https://cpw.state.co.us/aboutus/Pages/CommissionMeetings.aspx>

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

MCSO CITIZEN LAW ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

Editor :

Recently I had the privilege of attending the 12 week Montrose County Sheriff's Office Citizen Law Enforcement Academy. The experience was so much more than I had anticipated. Each interactive class was jam-packed with interesting information about the Sheriff's organization and Sheriff's Posse covering the wide-range of responsibilities/practices of the various positions/departments from K-9 to Investigations to Deputies to the Sheriff. I highly recommend this annual Academy

to truly gain a better understanding of our Sheriff's Department. We are very fortunate to live in a commu-

nity with such a dedicated and professional team of Sheriff Department personnel.
Lita Sargent, Montrose

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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

Stephen Varela Appointed to Fill Colorado State Board of Education Congressional District 3 Seat **VACANCY COMMITTEE FOR CD3 SELECTS HISPANIC DAD WITH SCHOOL AGED CHILDREN**

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO-The Republican Party Congressional District 3 (CD3) Vacancy Committee overwhelmingly voted to appoint Stephen Varela to fill the CD3 vacancy on the State Board of Education.

Joyce Rankin stepped down as the elected representative for CD3 effective January 10, 2023, following her husband's resignation from the State Senate. Stephen Varela has a long history of education advocacy. He has school aged children and will be the only member of the State Board of Education with children in public school. Stephen is a military veteran and has a master's degree in Social Work. He is a seasoned collaborator and an activist focused on building communities and providing opportunities for youth. Stephen was the Board President of the Chavez Huerta Preparatory Academy, a charter school in Pueblo. He helped secure a BEST grant to support new facilities brining additional Career and Technical

learning opportunities to students. Stephen also spent years developing early learning opportunities for children in rural communities. "I am honored to be able to represent the amazing people of Congressional District 3 and bring the voice of parents back to the State Board of Education. Our public schools face many challenges as far too many students aren't learning grade level material. We need to take the politics out of our classrooms, return to teaching basics, honor parents, strengthen collaboration between teachers and parents and support our high performing, dedicated education professionals," said Stephen Varela. According to the 2022 Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS), nearly sixty percent (60 percent) of Colorado's third graders are not meeting grade level standards in English language arts, and Math scores are worse. Achievement gaps persist in Colorado with our black and Hispanic students underperforming their white peers by 23

to 32 percentage points on CMAS assessments. Stephen Varela is a graduate of Colorado State University, Pueblo. He is the first Latino to serve as the CD3 representative to the State Board of

Education. Stephen and his wife Kayla have four children ages seven to fifteen attending schools in Pueblo. CD3 covers about 50,000 square miles running from the Wyoming to New Mexico border in western Colorado and from the Utah border nearly ¾ quarter across southern Colorado. The district covers twenty-seven counties with large voter populations in Mesa and Pueblo counties and small populations in Hinsdale, Minera I and San Juan counties. It is a diverse district covering much of rural Colorado.

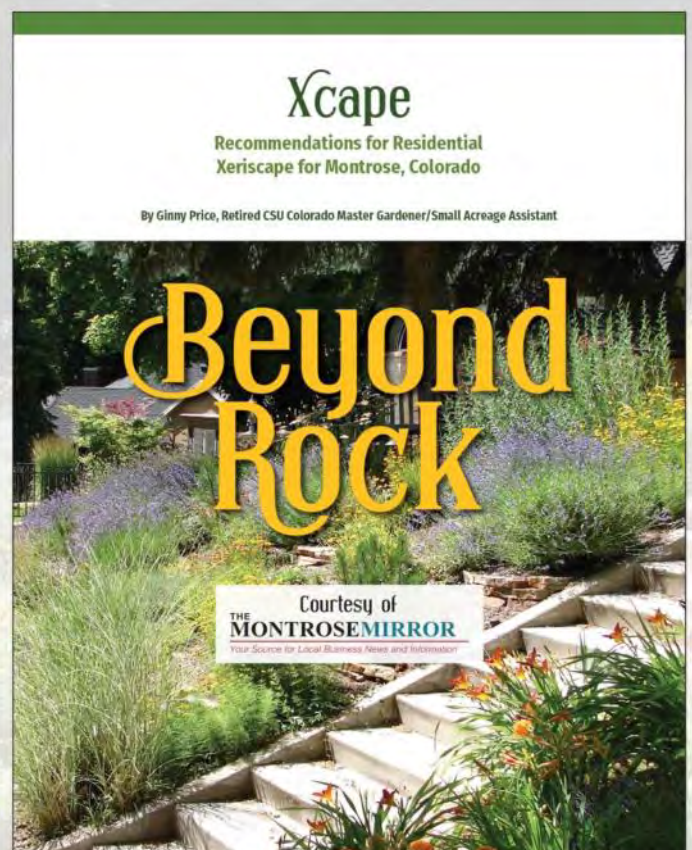


Stephen Varela.
Courtesy photo.

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SCHEDULE

1:00-1:45 What is CCIOA- Dave Firmin

Learn more about why to have a management company.

1:45-2:30 HOA Reserve Studies - Bryan Farley

The Purpose & Importance of HOA Reserve Studies

2:30-2:45 Break

2:45-3:45 Panel

Panelists: Aaron Clay - Attorney, Steve Pope - Executive Director of UVWUA, Dave Firmin - Altitude Community Law, Marti Whitmore - County Attorney

Moderator: Tina McFarlin

Concerns from HOA Members including Code Enforcement, Irrigation Factors, Subdividing in an HOA, The Do's and Don'ts of an HOA

3:45-4:00 Questions and Discussion

MEET THE SPEAKERS



David Firmin

David A. Firmin is the shareholder in charge of Finance at Altitude Community Law. David is a longtime resident of Colorado and attended the University of Denver for both undergraduate and law school. Out of law school, David's legal work concentrated on real estate law and development issues including formation and creation of homeowners associations. Prior to entering the Homeowners association world, David worked with Ryland Homes and K. Hovnanian Homes handling land acquisitions, land entitlements, corporate governance and special districts. David has also worked with the Wheat Ridge Housing Authority and the Douglas County Housing Partnership setting up homeowner associations for income qualified housing developments. An active volunteer with the Community Association Institute, David has served on the CAI-RMC Spring Showcase Committee, Mountain Conference Committee and Colorado Legislative Action Committee. He has also been a frequent presenter for CAI at both a local and national level, presents for HOA Leader on nationwide topics and is recognized as an industry leader.

Bryan Farley is the President of Association Reserves, CO and has since completed over 3,000 Reserve Studies and earned the Community Associations Institute (CAI) designation of Reserve Specialist (RS #260). His experience includes all types of condominium and homeowners' associations throughout the United States, ranging from international high-rises to historical monuments.



Bryan Farley

OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

THERE IS NO GREATER GIFT THAT WE CAN GIVE



By Christopher Larsen

UTAH-I have lived a tough life in this country as a mentally ill person. Fighting persistent prejudice and fear from an ever-weary populace—a population that at every turn is bombarded with messaging that tells them something must be done to protect them from the scourge of the lone gunman to the serial defecator who can never seem to find a public restroom in time.

I mean what normal person ever thinks of mental illness without some sort of negative connotation? Even if you have some experience with a mentally ill person, you probably distance yourself without even knowing it.

Self-preservation is a core fundamental instinct found deep in our genetic code, and dictates that we fear what we do not understand and avoid that which is different or unfamiliar. The mentally ill are most certainly different, and the degree to which our society shuns them still astounds me.

Shuns them. Unfortunately, for the severely afflicted members of our society, it is only a matter of time before their mental illness manifests itself in some sort of odd behavior. A behavior that is no doubt reported to the police. In the absence of a viable mental health network these unfortunates are now caught up in a legal system designed to punish criminals and not

treat mental health patients. When the two worlds collide both parties are completely ill equipped to deal with the stresses each bring to the table. It is a recipe for disaster and has the potential to completely destabilize a mental patient permanently.

In our revered constitutional republic, we have a network of Sheriff's departments responsible for housing pretrial detainees and those serving time for misdemeanors. These people are housed in our county jails. It is in these facilities, absent of any meaningful oversight, that real suffering and abuse take place. The afflicted are usually separated from the general population and simply locked down. This barbaric practice of segregation based on a mental condition is widespread throughout the system. The anguish and anger you build while isolated can haunt you your whole life and forever diminish your view and trust of law enforcement. Also, most of the jurisdictions around the country are poor and getting poorer. Modern mental health medications are prohibitively expensive, so most jails provide older, cheaper medications that have terrible side effects and do not really deal with the core issue. The La Plata County jail is notorious for this.

In the wake of yet another mass shooting, do we really want to "skimp" on psychiatric drugs for mental health patients accused of usually petty offenses? Further destabilizing the person who is going to be released broke and homeless and without the correct psych drugs? Where is the logic in that?

Let us not forget most mentally ill people, and most normal people for that matter, avoid police contact at all costs. We fear the treatment we face in county jail more than anything else. Remember county jail is the place for all criminals to start their legal journey. Often, due to the size of the facility and the current trend of shrinking budgets and labor shortages, inmate classification is ignored or not possible. This

sets up a situation where the mentally ill inmate interacts with the criminal population. And it is the criminal in survival mode within the criminal justice system who has the most detrimental effects on the mental patient. The entire panoply of horrors can be perpetrated upon a person suffering a mental health crisis, from beatings and robbery to rape. I know because I have seen it. The usual underlying reason... food.

I was traveling by bus a year ago to visit family and friends, and was astounded by what I saw. There were people who simply did what was once taboo behind closed doors right there on the sidewalks of Denver. Homeless kids in their twenties mixing fentanyl and methamphetamine in the open. I was offered "blues" at least 15 times from the terminal to my waiting ride. I guarantee you every one of these people were mentally ill.

There are two things I have seen that haunt me more than any other thing I have witnessed. The first happened while driving shackled in police custody from the Denver mental health facility to Glenwood Springs. Along the way we passed the cemetery just outside the state mental hospital, where the unfortunate souls who were dropped off never to return are buried. The stark reality of becoming locked up for life without justice chilled me to my core. The second? The dead and hollow eyes of the people who offered me "blues" in Denver.

I know that there are better minds than mine looking into the problem of mental health in this country, but should anyone value the opinion of someone who has been there, I have but one suggestion. Actively treat the problem with depo shots. Antibiotics and antipsychotics need to top the list. Today's new drugs mercifully come without the side effects last century's pharmaceuticals did. There is no greater gift a nation can give than that of a normal life to someone with a mental disability.

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

LYNETTE ROWLAND



LYNETTE ROWLAND of Olathe, Colorado, died at the age of 61 on January 18, 2023. She was born in Delta, Colorado, to her parents, Dewey and Marilyn Boyd. She was a younger sister to Scott Boyd. Lynette

graduated from Olathe High School in 1979 and attended Oklahoma Christian

College to study social work. She married Mark Rowland and moved to New Hampshire in 1992. Their daughter, Emily, was born in 1997. Lynette became a widow in 1999 and persevered through the heartache and challenges of being a single parent. She and Emily moved back to Olathe, Colorado, in 2002.

Lynette was involved in her community in many ways. Her circle of influence stretched far and wide, and she positively impacted innumerable people. In her lei-

sure time, Lynette enjoyed outdoor, family, and church activities. She loved generously and laughed freely. Although Lynette wore many hats, the one she never took off was being a woman of deep faith. Her Christian identity was the most important part of her life. Because of her deep faith, we know that Lynette is now in the presence of God. Lynette's funeral will be at Montrose Church of Christ at 10 Saturday, January 21. Crippin Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements.

JOSHUA LEVI ROBINSON

January 9, 1980-January 9, 2023

JOSHUA LEVI ROBINSON of Montrose, Colorado, passed away on January 9, 2023. His unexpected death was felt deeply, and we mourn the loss of a son, brother, uncle, and friend.

Josh was born January 9, 1980, during a snowstorm in Portland, Oregon, to John and Renee Robinson. At age seven, his family moved to Colorado, where he was homeschooled. Once he completed his education, he followed in his father's footsteps, becoming a master aviation mechanic. He moved to Oregon in 1998 to work in an aviation machine shop, returning to Colorado in 2001. He began working at Western Skyways in Montrose as an

engine assembly mechanic. In 2009, he became a partner in the family business (Colorado Airparts) with his father and brothers, Jesse and Joe, where he was the shop machinist and engine assembler. Known for high standards and friendly service, he was proud that his work reflected the values of his dad.

Josh was a kind man and a very loyal friend. He built friendships that stood the test of time with people all over the country. Whether they were hunting, fishing, camping, or exploring, Josh enjoyed the outdoors and loved to share it with family and friends. Josh always made you feel welcome, and invitations and opportuni-

ties for fun were met with an enthusiastic, "Heck, yeah!" He cared for kids and was a loving uncle to his nineteen nieces and nephews.

Josh is preceded in death by his father John (January 9, 2016). He is survived by his mother Renee of Delta; brothers Roger (Kristin), Jesse (Mindy), and Joe (Andrea) also of Delta; brother Jacob (Amy) of Saugus, MA, and sister Jannie Fockler (Jared) of Montrose, along with countless family members and friends.

No funeral is planned at this time; family and friends will gather this summer to celebrate his life and share memories of the man they all loved.



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COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

DENNIS DEAL LYONS

July 22, 1943 - January 13, 2023

DENNIS DEAL LYONS of Olathe, Co. passed away on January 13, 2023 surrounded by family members. Dennis was born July 22, 1943 to Bob and Dorothy Lyons in Chadron, NE. Dennis played basketball in high school in which his father was his coach. Dennis enlisted in the Armed Forces in 1965 and was stationed in Germany. Dennis was of Christian faith and loved to help minister and testify for Our Lord Jesus Christ. Dennis enjoyed cooking and taught his children to love to cook. He also enjoyed hunting and fishing. Dennis' fond-

est times were spent with cousins and family in Brule, Wisconsin. He has chosen Brule to be his final resting place.

Dennis is survived by his three children, Denise (Bill) King, Brad Lyons (Jolynn Ellis), Tracy (Steve) Bennigsdorf. Brothers Mark (Ann) Lyons and their family, Lee Lyons Grandchildren Krista (Dalen) Luckett with children Bradley, Addy and Everett, Katelyn (Clint) Hanavan, Evan King, Josiah King, Heather (Scott) Bullis Ava and Irie, Brad Bennigsdorf, Ryan McMullan, and Zach Lyons, Dalton (Andrea) Kincaid and chil-

dren MyKaylah, Maci, and Arya. He is predeceased by father Robert Lyons, mother Dorothy Lyons, sister Mary Lyons, and wife Barbara Lyons. There will be a Celebration of Life Service in Brule Wisconsin at a later date. Crippin Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements.



JAMISON JESUS RAMIREZ

October 22, 2022 - January 7, 2023

JAMISON JESUS RAMIREZ passed peacefully in the arms of mom & dad on January 7, 2023 at 9:12 p.m. He was born at 8:51 a.m on October 22, 2022 and met the eyes of Jesus after being in the hospital for 2 1/2

weeks. Jamison was the son of Francisco and Erica Ramirez.

Jamison had tuberous sclerosis and was epileptic and passed away due to not having adequate blood/oxygen flow to his

brain. He is survived by his big sister Melilah-jo Brooke Ramirez, and his parents Francisco and Erica. Jamison gave us a lifetime of love during his short time with us.

Now more than ever...

Thank you for reading

THE MONTROSE MIRROR

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

ROBERT O. STRONG

November 27, 1925-January 12, 2023



Longtime Montrose resident Robert O. Strong, born November 27, 1925, passed on January 12, 2023 at the age of 97 at home with his wife Phyllis by his

side. Bob was born in Lamar, Colorado to Giles and Ruth Strong. He graduated from Lamar high school in 1943, and at the age of 17 joined the Navy to fight in WWII. He served aboard the USS Highlands APA119 and participated in amphibious landings at Iwo Jima and Okinawa, the liberation of the Philippines and the occupation of Japan. While manning a Higgins landing craft at Iwo Jima, he witnessed the iconic moment captured in the famous photograph of the US Marines raising the flag on Mt. Suribachi. He was honorably discharged in 1946 and returned to Lamar where he attended Lamar Junior College and met his future wife Phyllis. She was working as an announcer on the local radio station and he heard her voice and immediately wanted to meet her. They were married in 1951 and celebrated 71 years together on Dec. 2, 2022. He always teased that they were "happily married for 14 years," leaving the listener to ponder the math.

He and Phyllis started their life together in Lamar, and then lived in several Colorado

communities until they finally landed back in Montrose in 1969. He owned several businesses including bulk gas delivery, Gambles Hardware, Baskin Robbins ice cream, and the Montrose Sears Catalog store. He was very active in the Montrose community, serving on the Montrose City Council for eight years (two as mayor), Masonic Lodge, American Legion, VFW, Toastmasters, Magic Circle Players, and numerous committees. While mayor, he worked as part of a team to influence the building of the Dallas Creek Project to ensure an ongoing water supply to the Montrose region. He was an avid member of the Lions Club for over 60 years. He could regularly be found hiding Easter Eggs for kids, flipping pancakes at the Pancake Breakfast, or ringing the bell for the Salvation Army at Christmas with several appearances as Santa Claus thrown in.

Bob loved to tell jokes and kept the Lions Club laughing at his costumes and antics. He was a talented doodler, loving to sketch trucks and cartoon figures for his kids and grandkids. He encouraged his kids to build retirement accounts before it was common, he took up the computer in his 70's, and used his iPad daily to research products, keep up with news, and download every grocery coupon. He loved chicken fried steak, biscuits and gravy, breakfast in general, and the Denver Broncos. He was a patriotic American, proudly wearing his WWII Veteran hat whenever he left home. He was a life-long Republican, and never

hesitated to express his views of current events by sending letters to the editor.

He was gentle and fun and kind, a protector, a provider and a role model. He always put his family first and he was a good friend to many. He was one of the founding members of a group of community-minded friends called the "Montrose Think Tank Bored" who met over the years at numerous local coffee-drinking spots to solve world problems. Their group continues today, with a commitment to keeping the spirit of the "Bored" alive.

The family wants to thank the wonderful nurses at HopeWest who cared for him in his last few months, and the invaluable helpers from Comfort Keepers.

He is survived by his wife Phyllis, two daughters Leslie (Bob) Mussetter and Deanna (Mike) Ballantine of Fort Collins, son Jay of Parker, grandson Scott Ballantine and fiancée Carina of Boston, and grandson Ryan Ballantine of Salida. He is also survived by his sisters Mary Weimer and Virginia Inman of Lamar and many nieces and nephews. We will deeply miss his guidance, his humor, and his love.

Please join the family for an informal Celebration of Life Open House on Saturday, January 28 from 2-4 p.m. in the Community Room at HopeWest, 725 S. 4th Street, Montrose. Memorial contributions can be made to HopeWest. Please visit <https://www.hopewestco.org/robert-o-strong/> or www.crippinfuneralhome.com for his full obituary and to leave condolences.

CELEBRATING LOCAL BEAUTY.



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ISSUE 405 Jan 23, 2023

ART & SOL

OK, SO YOU WANT TO START A NEW BUSINESS...



by CB Williams

MONTROSE-Montrose is ever changing and businesses lining Main Street and Townsend - and a few blocks surrounding that main intersection - have seen some of that change in the last two years. In June 2022, a shop opened that sells turtles and reptiles among other pets: Tortoise and the Hare at 523 E. Main. Wild Horse Wine and Whiskey at 439 E. Main St., a wine bar, just popped up in November 2022. Both are quite a jump from the soda bar and twirly chairs of Woolworth's that once graced Main Street.

There is a women's clothing and lifestyle shop, Mauve, in the old Simpson Art Gallery store at 324 E. main, and down the



Lizz Martensen, Mauve owner, with cute, comfy clothes!

street is Hosanna Floral (formerly The Flower Shoppe), located in a pretty little yellow house at 625 E. Main. Both businesses opened in the spring of 2021. Before that, Mosaic, a boutique, creative studio and gallery opened at 21 N. Cascade.

So, what goes into starting a new business in Montrose? Recent observations would say hard work, determination, and a leap of faith come into play, while a great idea really seems to make a difference.



Hannah Browning, owner of Hosanna Floral. (courtesy photo)

Lizz Martensen, owner of Mauve, started her business online mauveonmain.com about eight years ago. She said she started selling handmade products provided by a variety of vendors. Now in the storefront, she features products from about 18 local businesses and 208 businesses from across the US.

Martensen said she believes in "cute." Her cute, combined with confident, tasteful, stunning, humorous, welcoming - as well as functionality - are apparent throughout the store. The store has a feeling that emanates from Martensen herself.

She said that she has always had a plus-size figure, and at the same time is confident in who and what she is and wants others to share in that. Her clothing lines

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offer a wide variety of sizes, mainly small to 3X, sometimes even 4X sizes. A buying philosophy that supports the Mauve mission: "To help you live your most beautiful, comfortable and confident life."

Martensen did not start out with a written business plan, although she holds a master's degree in library science, and certainly can write. She had an idea and when the building came available, she started, and started small. "I did not want a business loan," she said, "so I started with a few things in the front of the store." If you visited the store a year ago, it looked nothing like it looks today. Her online business was the base she worked from – before she had products in the store, she had many available online.

To help fill the retail space, she called on vendors who fit the Mauve mission.

"Other than clothes," Martensen said, "the products all are handmade, and they are different from one another."

Betty's Cakes and Confections is one local vendor that gets a lot of attention, she said. Customers wait for an announcement, often on Instagram, that special treats are coming in and cannot wait to run into the store and pick them up.

And who does not need Aspire Higher? This media production company specializes in digital marketing and owner/pilot Elizabeth "Eli" Bennett shares her art and designs with Mauve customers.

Wired Glass, Casey Brethouwer Casual Creations, Dimples Design Co., Happy Glampers, are some of the other locals who make a multitude of different products from jams to candles to home décor items to specialty binders and so much more. Martensen's father Paul is a former builder, now continuing as a craftsman, who makes one-of-a-kind wood cutting boards and other products.

Mauve calls this group of vendors The Collective, and local businesses must apply and be accepted by the group before they are able to rent a large or small space and sell in the store.

Martensen said Mauve's plan includes creating a "capsule collection" where every six weeks or so she puts together a new collection of clothing and accessories –

with a seasonal flair – and displays them mainly in the front of the store. The Collective products are featured throughout the store, with specially designed areas in the back.

The idea of a collection spills over into Mauve's Happy Mail, where Martensen sends out a little mailbox cheer, she said. Customers pick out a gift (made of one or a collection of items), in the store or online – or let her know their budget and she puts a gift together. Then she drops it in the mail. If she puts the gift together, she asks a few "likes" questions and what budget the customer has in mind.

She has a cute new product called Chicken Poop Lip Junk that she can toss in the Happy Mail gift to bring on a smile.

"We all know someone who needs a little Happy Mail," Martensen said.

She also puts together gifts for all occasions.

"Not many people register for weddings anymore," she said. To help her customers, Martensen guides them to unique gifts that suit a multitude of tastes and budgets. She helps customers who are uncertain what gift to give, or those who come in with special things in mind. Her customers are 50 percent local and 50 percent tourists, she estimates, and although many products are geared toward the millennial generation, customers range in age from middle school aged girls to retired folks. "It's often a husband comes in with pictures that his wife took and she would like," she said,

"I love helping people find gifts."

Valentine's and Galentine's Days are nearly here!

Martensen right now is busy collaborating with San Juan Brews, just down the street at 512 E. Main St., for a "Galentine's Day" event. Defined as "a special day when gals assemble with their best friends and celebrate life," Martensen said she will announce the plans on Instagram, Facebook, her website and other social media.

Down the street, Hannah Browning is gearing up big time for Valentine's Day. Her business, Hosanna Floral, formerly known as The Flower Shoppe, is taking Valentine's and Galentine's Day orders

through her website [hosannafloral.com](https://www.hosannafloral.com).

Flowers might fit in for the Galentine's Day collaboration with Mauve and San Juan Brews, she said.

Browning also started her business with no written business plan, although she, too, had started in the business years before opening a storefront.

"I started in high school, making corsages and boutonnieres," she said, "then went to CMU (Colorado Mesa University) to study occupational therapy." Covid shut down in-person learning and Browning said she did not want to pay in-person tuition for on-line classes. So, she left college and travelled down to Austin, Tex., and worked for a florist there.

"This building became available in May of 2021," she said, and she opened for retail and delivery of floral arrangements and other gifts. She had a few weddings at first and also taught floral workshops.

"A florist that I used to work for told me that I could probably make it as a florist in Montrose," she said. There are not a lot of florists in town.

Browning said God's grace allowed her business to flourish. By the summer of 2022, she knew that keeping The Flower Shoppe open for retail while she was trying to do weddings was very hard to manage. She hired help but found she also needed that person to help set up the wedding flowers. So, she decided to refocus and rebrand the business.

She went to experts and found a photographer/business consultant for ideas on rebranding, how to set up website, marketing, etc. She launched with a new website she created herself, with photography by Anna Lord of Denver.

"I always wanted to name the business after Hosanna," Browning said. A close family friend's daughter Hosanna died tragically in a car accident at 22 and Browning wanted to honor her. "I hope Hosanna Floral honors her well," Browning said.

Networking: Not just a word, a necessity

Browning believes in networking, and she has formed relationships with wedding planners, flower growers and photographers from Montrose, Telluride, Crested

OK, SO YOU WANT TO START A NEW BUSINESS... From previous pg

Butte, Grand Junction, Denver and more. She works with a variety of local businesses including Knotted Events and Alpenglow Growers.

Although Hosanna Floral is making a dis-

tinct move toward weddings, Browning said that she still wants to serve the needs in the community for local orders, workshops, and collaborations. During the recent holidays she hosted two wreath-

making workshops, where participants learned the art of creating hanging or table-top wreaths. Browning said she will announce upcoming workshops on her website, Facebook and Instagram.

Her move to weddings and working with different wedding planners has pushed her to learn more about flowers for all sizes of weddings. She has learned how to use scaffolding to cover an archway and dangle features from ceilings, and she pours over magazines to expand her design techniques.

Her business grew from 20 weddings in 2021 to 60 weddings in 2022 and she knows her knowledge must grow with her business.

This April she is planning a trip to Belgium to attend Fleuropean, a group workshop focused on creating beauty.

"It's four days of workshops – floral design – with photographers from all over to come photograph those designs," she said.

Both Mauve and Hosanna Florals have a family network in Montrose

"I would not survive without it," Browning said. Her mother Jody, father Wes (a local contractor) and other family members often dig in when times and scheduling get tight.

Martensen's mom Sue "helps on the business side of things" and her dad helps with the building.

"Mom works in store about two days a week," she said. Mauve is open Mondays-Sundays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

There are many ways to start a business in Montrose: a changing – growing – environment and Hosanna Floral and Mauve are just two great examples of that!

The 5th Annual
2023 MONTROSE'S GOT TALENT COMPETITION

auditions:
JANUARY 24th
5:30pm~Pavilion

the first 50 acts registered will be accepted to audition for one of the 20 acts to compete for a chance to win the \$1,000 grand prize!

finals will be:
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MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY

ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH

Anglican Church in North America
Address: 2057 S. Townsend, Montrose, CO 81401
Office Hours: Varies and by appointment
Contact Information: (970) 249-2451
<https://www.allsaintsmontrose.org/>
Priest: The Rev Gary L. Way
Worship Service Times:
Sunday, 9AM, Holy Eucharist.

Wednesday, Noon, Multi-denominational Prayer Hour. There are multiple Bible Studies during the week. All Saints Anglican Church is Biblical, Anglican and Orthodox. The Liturgy (order of service) is from the Anglican Church in North America Book of Common Prayer (2019). Music is a combination of traditional hymns, contemporary, and more modern songs. This is a family-sized church that welcomes all individuals

and families. We are currently comprised of families and singles, ages 25 to 90. Fellowship time follows each Sunday Service with a potluck meal following the service on the 3d Sunday.

All Saints Anglican Church
2057 S. Townsend Ave
Sunday Holy Eucharist, 9 am
The Rev Gary Way, Interim Priest
allsaintsanglicanmontrose.org

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Olathe, Co 81425
Tuesday-Friday Phone: 970-808-1021
www.biblebaptistchurcholathe.com
Pastor Gabe Skillo

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
Sunday 10:30 a.m.
Sunday 6 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study/Prayer 7 p.m.

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Denomination: Christ Lutheran Montrose
Affiliation: Lutheran Church Missouri Synod
Address: 1980 N. Townsend Ave., Montrose, CO 81401
Contact: 970-633-0226

Website: www.montroselutheran.org
Email: montroselutheran@gmail.com
Pastor: Tim Onnen
Worship: Sundays at 9 AM
Sunday School and Adult Bible Class at 10:15 AM; Women's Bible Study Fridays at 9 AM. At Christ Lutheran Montrose you will

find friendly people gathered in a welcoming environment being comforted and encouraged by the forgiveness and love of Jesus, and sharing that with one another. We are a small congregation of seniors and middle-aged, sprinkled with young children and teenagers.

FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

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

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

disciples in Montrose Colorado and around the world.

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MONTROSE

Affiliation: Presbyterian
Address: 1840 E Niagara Rd. Montrose CO. 81401 **Office Hours:** M-Thu 9AM - 12PM **Contact:** 970-249-4732, [\[form@fpcmontrose.com\]\(mailto:form@fpcmontrose.com\), \[www.fpcmontrose.com\]\(http://www.fpcmontrose.com\)
Pastor: Jesse Mabanglo
Worship Service times: 9:30AM, Student Worship at 6PM. *We strive to encourage, challenge and support one another*](mailto:in-</p>
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er through spiritual growth, worship, and service in our community, country, and world. We also encourage children and youth to grow their relationship with Christ through our children and student ministries.

HILLCREST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Denomination affiliation: United Church of Christ
Address: 611 South Hillcrest Drive, Montrose, CO 81401
Office hours: By appointment
Contact information:

Phone number: (970) 249-9047
Email address: office@montroseucc.org
Website: montroseucc.org
Current Pastor: Rev. Wendy Kidd
Worship service times: Sunday, 10 a.m.
Hillcrest Congregational UCC is a welcoming, open and affirming church, open to all no matter who you are or where you are

on life's journey.
Church demographics: HCUCC welcomes all ages to worship with us. (predominately family, youth, seniors, singles)
We offer inter-generational worship with a children's "prayer-ground" and activity packets. A cry room is also available.

MONTROSE MEDITATION CENTRE

The Meetings will be on Tuesdays at 6PM at 602 N. Nevada in Montrose, 81401 at the Lions Park Community Center. Brought to you by Denis Hoin Darby, a Buddhist Zen Monk. Contact Rev.Hoin.Darby@gmail.com for more information about the meditation schedule.

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MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY From previous pg

MONTROSE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Denomination Affiliation: United Methodist

Address: 19 S. Park Avenue Montrose CO. 81401

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

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

montroseumc.org

Current Senior Pastor: Rev. Kevin Young

Worship service times:

8:30 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual

9:45 a.m. Christian Education & Fellowship

11 a.m. Sanctuary

Montrose UMC is a leader in being fully

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

ROSEMONT BAPTIST CHURCH

Affiliation: Southern Baptist

Address: 1598 E. Niagara Road, Montrose, CO 81401

Office Hours: Tues-Thu, 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: In-person Sunday Unity Service at 11 a.m., (Social Time begins at 10 a.m.); Quiet Meditation at 10:30 a.m. Virtual Afternoon Service on Zoom at 2:00 p.m.; Chai Chats, a Wednesday morning midweek informal gathering at 10:30 a.m. at Pun Hill Himalayan Restaurant, Montrose; Thursday Empowerment Circle at 10:30 a.m. on Zoom. Everyone is wel-

come. 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 Give-away and Wellness Fair. People of all ages are welcome. There are currently no Sunday School or nursery services provided but craft supplies are available for youth.

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: Sunday Worship is at 9 am followed by a time of fellowship and snacks. Summit Church has frequent Bible studies and other events for adults, young adults, youth and children. Please visit <https://www.summitchurchmontrose.org/events> for more information.

Summit Church Montrose is a new church plant that preaches the Word of God,

reaches the lost with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and equips Christians to serve the Lord. Summit Church has people of all ages!

We have families with children (babies, school aged, recent high school and college graduates) There are retired couples and widows. During the Sunday sermon we offer teaching for children ages birth to Kindergarten, in a kid friendly room called Base Camp.

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY From previous pg

VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH OF MONTROSE

Denomination Affiliation: Independent Baptist

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

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8am-12pm

Contact Information: Phone (970) 249-6874;

email at info@vbcmontrose.org; website: vbcmontrose.org

Current Pastor: Roland Kassales

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

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

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

Church Directory

Mirror Editorial Staff

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

information to the Montrose Mirror:

Name of church

Denomination affiliation

Address Office hours

Contact information (phone number, email address, website)

Name of current Senior Pastor

Worship service times

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

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

Do your church services include Sunday School and childcare?

Birth Certificates & Death Certificates

available at

MONTROSE COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH
1845 SOUTH TOWNSEND AVE. MONTROSE
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MONDAY - FRIDAY 9AM - 4PM
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WWW.MONTROSECOUNTY.NET



COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

PARKER DAVIS MAKES PRESIDENT'S LIST AT WESTERN TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Special to the Mirror

LA CROSSE, WI-- Parker Davis, from Montrose, CO was named to Western Technical College's President's List of High Distinction for the Fall 2022 term.

To be included on the President's List, students must achieve a grade point average of 3.5 or higher and carry six or more credits in an associate's degree or technical diploma program.

For more information about Western Technical College programs and services, call 608.785.9200 or visit www.westerntc.edu.

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By Carole Ann McKelvey

Montrose – There's a new little coffeeshop in Montrose worth your time. My son and I stopped at Jireh Café & Bakery for a quick lunch on a recent Saturday. We were moving furniture from the sale of my little house and worked up an appetite.

One thing to understand: On Saturdays the café only serves breakfast and coffees. I chose the avocado toast (\$7); mashed avocado tomato & mayo on wheat bread topped with 2 over medium eggs & everything bagel seasoning. Ian opted for the sunrise bowl (\$9); hashbrowns, bacon or sausage, scrambled eggs, onion and peppers and cheese smothered in green chili sauce. Both were tasty and worth it. Coffees were great!

Breakfast:

Breakfast burrito (\$8) with choice of ba-

con or sausage eggs, onions & peppers, cheese, mayo & tortilla grille on the press; breakfast croissant (\$6) with a choice of bacon, sausage or ham with scrambled egg, American cheese and mayo in a croissant.

Lunch:

Grilled chicken sandwich (\$11) chicken breast provolone cheese, lettuce & tomato, pickles mayo & special sauce; Chicken salad sandwich (9) house made chicken salad, lettuce & mayo on a croissant; turkey bacon club sandwich (\$11) turkey, bacon, lettuce, tomato, cheese, avocado & mayo on croissant; chicken pesto panini (\$10) chicken breast, mozzarella cheese, tomato & pesto on ciabatta roll; BLT wrap (\$8) on a tortilla; tomato basil soup & grilled cheese combo (\$10.25), cup of soup \$5.25; bowl of soup \$6.25; southwest chicken soup & quesadilla combo

(\$10.25) creamy chicken-based soup with corn, green chilies, cilantro, served with a quesadilla.

Kids Menu:

Comes with a side of fruit or chips. PB&J (\$4.50); grilled cheese (\$4); grilled ham & cheese (\$4.50).

Pastries:

Now this is where Jireh shines! Pastries run from \$3.5-2.25 and are worth every calorie. Stop in and try their weekly feature pastries. We're talking apple turnover, cream cheese Danish, scones (even a gluten free raspberry scone), bacon-cheddar scone (\$4), cinnamon rolls, breads and lemon pound cake. Oh my! I'll be back for a coffee and pastry one day. Jireh is located at 2724 N. Townsend Ave, out by the airport on the frontage road. Open daily except Sunday, 7-3 and 7-2 on Saturday. Call 970-787-2230.

This property in the Brown Ranch Subdivision is waiting for you!

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Come quickly to see this new home in Brown Ranch Subdivision. The 6'-wide entry immediately welcomes you into the home. Warm tones in the cabinetry as well as quartz countertops throughout are a refreshing combination. Laminate and tile floors are another welcome bonus. The pantry and inviting work island, extending from kitchen into dining area, are both so efficient. Notice the dual walk-in closets in the main suite along with the 5-piece bath with wonderful tile detail. Outside you will find the 21'x12' covered patio ready for entertaining or relaxing. This home is on a cul-de-sac just minutes from the busy-ness of Montrose.



Peg Evanoika

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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

YOUTHFUL COMPOSER BRINGS FRESH TOUCH TO CLASSICAL MUSIC

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE- The Valley Symphony Association (VSA) presents, "Young Composers: Be Inspired!," on Saturday, Feb. 4 at 7:30pm and Sunday, Feb. 5 at 3pm. Presented with season partner Cimarron Wealth Management and concert partner Montrose Regional Health, performances celebrating the young composer's journey, past and present, will be held at the Montrose Pavilion and feature both the orchestra and chorus.

A regional, all-volunteer performing arts organization in its 51st year, the VSA is looking to capture the attention of all families, students, and music lovers to attend their winter concerts. More than 100 musicians ranging in age from teens to octogenarians share the stage for the VSA's quarterly concerts this season.

While the orchestra will treat audiences to a creative presentation of movements from the first symphonies of five classical masters, the chorus will look into the contemporary composer's journey, starting with Western Slope native Anwen Borgo. Her piece, "Something Better," will be premiered by the chorus at the February concert series.

A freshman at the prestigious Berklee College of Music in Boston MA, Borgo is studying film and video game scoring and performs with the BCSO (Berklee Contemporary Symphony Orchestra) and BMPO (Berklee Motion Picture Orchestra). Her musical journey started outside Ridgway, where she grew up playing viola with the Valley Youth Orchestras starting in 2014 and joining the VSA Orchestra in 2018. As a pre-teen, her very first composition, "Eclipse," was premiered by the VYO in 2017. In February 2020, at the age of 15, two of her pieces, "Egyptian Moon" and "Last Time," were premiered by the VSA Orchestra at their "Kaleidoscope of Local Color" concert.

"As a baby freshman in college studying film composition, writing for a full choir is surprisingly something I haven't done before, and I am so excited to have my piece performed," Borgo said.

Explaining her creative process, she said, "When I compose, after I write the first couple of bars, the piece tends to write itself: I hold on for dear life and attempt to capture everything that my brain decides will come next."

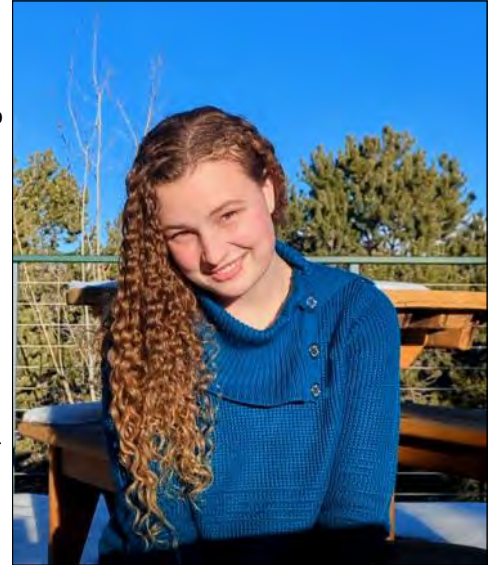
Borgo's familiar method was affected by COVID, however, when she was unable to create as she had in the past. "Whether from stress, anxiety, or grief, I had composition block. 'Something Better' is the piece that broke the block. It's about how a live choir can't be one person but requires many people of such different ranges and styles to unify to create 'something better,' hence, the title of the piece," she said. "Alone we can't do much, but together we can create amazing things."

Though she began composing as a pre-teen, Borgo spoke of being a musician first. "My favorite thing about playing is listening to everyone else's part and how mine fits with that, and from there, I wanted to be able to do the same thing, to create a full composition," she said. "Composing is almost like creating an object, one you get to pick up, look at, slowly mold, and turn into whatever you'd like it to be musically."

To help young people in the audience get a taste for young Borgo's passion, there will be an interactive element included at the performance.

"As an added feature to this unique and inspiring concert, we will invite a willing, young audience member to the stage to interactively create and build a composition with members of the orchestra and chorus—live!" VSA Chorus Conductor Katy Kristoffersen said. "Think of it as a musical choose-your-own-adventure!" She explained, "This young person will stand on the conductor's podium and build a composition with the biggest, live musical toolkit possible. It's an incredible opportunity to glimpse into the composer's experience and use the sounds of our fabulous ensemble as paint on a very large musical canvas."

The Young Composers concert will also feature performances of two other origi-



Composer Anwen Borgo. Courtesy photo.

nal choral compositions written for the VSA, one by Kristoffersen and another by published composer and member of the VSA Chorus Nathan Howe. Together with Borgo's piece, the three choral compositions that will be premiered will highlight the arc of contemporary musical composers who are creating in our midst in a special way.

"From the past, to the present, and into the bright musical future—which is Anwen!—we, the VSA musicians, are inspired by these young composers who give us the music that we love to perform!" Kristoffersen said. "So, on February 4th and 5th, we look to inspire everyone and hope to see lots of young people in the audience. It'll be a musical experience unlike any the Western Slope has ever seen!"

For information, upcoming concerts, tickets, and the audition process, visit the VSA on Facebook

@ValleySymphonyAssociation and online at ValleySymphony.net. Tickets are also available in Delta at Clubb's (502 Main St), in Montrose at Colorado Smiles (601 S 3rd St) and at season partner Cimarron Wealth Management (1731 E Niagara Rd), and at the door on event days. Other inquiries may be directed to 970-765-8323 or info@ValleySymphony.net.

READER PHOTO SPOTLIGHT: LINDA LAKE



Photographer Linda Lake captured these images on Saturday, Jan. 21 at the 28th Annual Ouray Ice Climbing Festival.

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The Vaccines for Children Program (VFC) is a federally funded program that provides vaccines 0-18 years of age who are enrolled in Medicaid, who have no insurance, or who are American Indian / Alaska Native. *Children who are underinsured may receive VFC vaccines at a federally qualified health center (FQHC) or rural health center (RHC).

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Hep A	Hep B
	COVID-19

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Register Online

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Pneumonia	HPV
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Td or DT	Rabies
Meningitis	Polio
Varicella	Japanese Encephalitis
Hep A	Typhoid
Hep B	Hep A/Hep B
	COVID-19 (Moderna)

CVS (IN TARGET)

3530 Wolverine Dr Montrose
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Hep A	Tdap
Hep B	Varicella
Hep A/Hep B	Pneumococcal
HPV	Meningococcal
Shingles	Hep A/Hep B
Typhoid	Japanese Encephalitis
Polio, adult	COVID-19 (Pfizer & J)

CITY MARKET NORTH

128 South Townsend Ave Montrose
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Pneumonia	MMR
Tdap	Rabies
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Chickenpox	Japanese Encephalitis
Hep A	Hep B
	COVID-19

SAFEWAY

1329 South Townsend Ave Montrose
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MMR	Meningitis
Hep A	Hep B
	COVID-19

WALMART

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Walk-in's welcome

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MMR	Meningococcal
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Please note that this list is not exhaustive and is not an endorsement of any pharmacy or provider. Visit www.cdc.gov/vaccines for the latest recommendations. Please contact your Pharmacy or Provider to confirm availability of vaccines. Montrose County Public Health will not provide immunizations after June 30th, 2020. Last Updated 7-25-2022.



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ONGOING-

Schedule a \$10 **RIDGWAY TRUE GRIT WALKING TOUR** of downtown filming sites. Named readers choice for best historic town tour by True West magazine. Contact evebeckerdoyle@icloud.com

MEDITATION CENTRE in Montrose. Meetings will be on Tuesdays at 6:30 PM at 602 N. Nevada in Montrose, 81401 at Lions Park Community Center. Brought to you by Denis Hoin Darby, a Buddhist Zen Monk. Contact Rev.Hoin.Darby@gmail.com for more information.

NEWCOMERS AND NEIGHBORS welcomes adults who are new to Montrose or have been here awhile, who would enjoy learning more about the town and area, plus have opportunities to participate in social activities. Meetings are held on the first Wednesdays of the months September-May (Dec./holiday party TBA). We gather at 10:00-11:30 am in the downstairs meeting hall of Cedar Creek Church (222 S. Townsend and S. 3rd). Hope to meet you there! Contact Patti at 951-544-6289 with questions.

NURSE FAMILY PARTNERSHIP-Breastfeeding Support Group on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month. This is a great opportunity to come talk to Montrose County NFP nurses Jodi Hyatt, RN, BSN, IBCLC and Kim Cook, RN, IBCLC and get support from fellow moms. An infant scale will also be available to check your baby's weight. WHAT: Breastfeeding Support Group (Bring your questions and your family!) WHERE: Montrose County Event Center (1036 North 7th Street Room 3) WHEN: 10am - 12pm. Questions? Please call 970-252-5015.

BINGO EVERY FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY at 7pm at the American Legion Post 24 Olathe doors open at 5:30. Sunday Bingo will start at 1:30pm after Nov. 6. More info call Tom 970 260 8298.

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

THE HEALING COLLECTIVE OF WESTERN COLORADO offers local practitioners, who focus on healing the whole being, to attend a free one-hour informative get together every first Tuesday of the month from 12p to 1 pm and every third Tuesday from 6 pm to 7 pm, upstairs at the Mother Earth store on Main Street . We support one another with our practices, business, and personal needs. For more information please contact Erin Easton at ErinKEaston@gmail.com

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.)

MONTROSE FARMERS MARKET SCHEDULE

Holiday Market Dates: First three Saturdays of November and December-10am-1pm

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

Jan 24. Kids' Groundhog Day Project. 4-5:30 pm. Montrose Rec. Center. \$15. Cut, color, paste your own groundhog to find out if he will see his shadow. <https://kathrynrburke.com/012423-2/>

Jan. 24-Montrose Got Talent Auditions-5:30pm at the Montrose Pavilion. Student age competition only. First 50 acts registered will be accepted to audition.

Jan. 26-Greater Montrose Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours, 5:30 to 7pm. Host is American Family Insurance the Dieter Agency, LLC at 315 S. 12th Street, Suite B. Members \$5, Non-Members \$10.

Feb. 6-The Montrose Giving Club quarterly meeting will be on Feb. 6 at 5:30 ...Remington's at the Bridges.

Feb. 14-Citizens Climate Lobby meets on Monday Feb. 14 at 5pm in the Montrose Library meeting room, Citizens' Climate Lobby.org monthly action progress. Non-Partisan, national, environmental moves forward on a local topic for action info at 970-765-9095.



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READER PHOTO SPOTLIGHT: DEB REIMANN



Photographer Deb Reimann captured the image above, of a historic Montrose resting place named Button Cemetery, and at left, the "Peace through Unity" Memorial at the Battle of Little Bighorn National Monument.

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