

the Montrose Mirror

Issue No. 523 March 6, 2023

Fresh News for Busy People!

DMEA LOOKS AT POTENTIAL DIRECTOR RECALL POLICY



By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE- The Feb. 28 Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 3 p.m. All current board members were in attendance; last month's resignation of Director Ken Watson leaves the District 4 seat vacant.

The call to order was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, the opening meeting prayer, determination of a quorum, and approval of the consent agenda (Membership Report and, with one minor correction in grammar, the Minutes from the January Regular Board Meeting).

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

During meetings the board of directors hears verbal summary reports of their monthly meetings and activities. Co-op membership has access to some

[Continued pg 13](#)

The regular Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) board meeting was held at 3p.m. on Feb. 28. DMEA Department heads routinely attend board meetings in order to report and answer board questions. Far left (L to R), Engineering and Power Resources Manager Mateusz Pena, Chief Information Officer Bob Farmer, Chief Relations Officer Lindsay Forepaugh, Chief Technical Officer Kent Blackwell, Chief Financial Officer Gayle Gouker, and Chief Operating Officer Tim Vigil.

COUNTY APPROVES DEDICATION OF RIGHT-OF-WAY ALONG V66 TRAIL

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) Vice Chair Roger Rash called the regular meeting to order with a gavel on Wednesday, March 1. "Good morning everyone..." BOCC Chair Sue Hansen was absent; Commissioner Keith Caddy was present. Project Manager Emily Sanchez led in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

Delivering the invocation was Pastor Roland Kassales of Victory Baptist Church. "Father we thank you for this opportunity that we have to live in Montrose...I thank you for the men and women in this room who represent the government of this area...I ask that you give them wisdom today, that you would help them as they make decisions that affect the lives of the people that live here...I thank you for how they have led in the past, and ask that you give them clarity for the future...bless the meeting today..."

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

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

[Continued pg 5](#)



BOCC meetings are held at the Road & Bridge Facility.

in this
issue

[Bob Cox: How Sweet it is:
Sugar Beets in the Valley!](#)

[Montrose Entrepreneur Creates Space
for Balance, Mindfulness!](#)

[Bowie School Alumni
recall Coal Camp Days!](#)

[Letters to the Editor
Regional News Briefs!](#)



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SPECIAL HEARING MONTROSE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS GRAVEL PIT : SU22-013

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**PRICE
ADJUSTMENT**



COUNTY APPROVES DEDICATION OF RIGHT-OF-WAY ALONG V66 TRAIL *From pg 1*

COUNTY MANAGER

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioners voted to approve Consent Agenda items as presented.

GENERAL BUSINESS & ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

There were no General Business or Administrative items.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Planning and Development Director Tallmadge Richmond presented the plat of Dedication of a Portion of the V66 Trail Road Dedication [RD23-001] proposal to dedicate right of way along V66 Trail at Parcel 403904402001. The .075 acres of right-of-way to be dedicated will be a portion of the turnaround and will be taken over by Montrose County for maintenance, Richmond said.

County Engineer Keith Laube said that the road was built to county standards but had no turnaround, and the long-term plan is to get a turnaround built now that land is dedicated. The Homeowners Association for a nearby subdivision has been maintaining the road.

Commissioner Keith Caddy said that he drove out to the area in the fall. "I think it's a great idea to put it in there because the BLM users do use that road...and I think it's partially our responsibility to take care of that."

Commissioners voted to approve the dedication of right-of-way along V66 Trail at Parcel 403904402001.

Also approved was the Luca Estates No. 1 Extension [EXT23-001] proposal to extend the time period to file an approved plat for recording at 5790 Road.

With no further business and no executive session, the BOCC meeting was adjourned.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

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Editor:

One of the most cherished rights granted us by our Founding Fathers is delineated in the First Amendment to our Constitution, guaranteeing every citizen the express "right" to freely express their opinions on any issue. Letters to the Editor offer every citizen the opportunity to do exactly that. In an age of increasing censorship from seemingly every direction, a favorite tactic of today's corrupt Democrat party, infested with woke liberal progressive pseudo intellectuals, is to belittle or attempt to shame those who exercise their right to voice contrary opinions. It was disturbing to see that spectre raise its ugly head recently in The Mirror.

Dee Laird, Montrose

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

NO BASIS FOR APPROVAL OF SU22-013

Dear Editor,

There have been more than 1300 signatures on a petition and in letters voiced in opposition to SU22-013.

The Board of the Montrose Planning Commission voted unanimously to deny SU22-013.

The numbers voiced in approval of SU22-013 represent less than 5% of those who have voiced opposition.

This then raises the following questions:

1 In elections, are people elected into office with less than 5% of the voting populations?

2 In sports, is the winner the person/team granted the win with less than 5% of the total points?

3 Are high school and/or college graduates granted diplomas and degrees with the student passing only 5% of the mandated curriculum?

4 Do employers expect less than 5% of their employees to run a successful business?

The masses have spoken. Our voices should and do count.

Transparency has been non-existent in regard to SU22-013. At the December planning commission public meeting, Mr. Luttrell confirmed that an asphalt/cement plant would be operated. Up to that date, rumors abounded. If, at that time, Mr. Luttrell would have further stated that Elam Construction would be running the asphalt plant (as it does at the Uncompahgre pit) it would have cleared up confusion as to the statement from Tom Peterson at the public BOCC meeting of

2/24/2023. That is if Elam Construction will be running the asphalt plant at the proposed SU22-013 gravel pit.

Attorney for Matt Miles, Shelly Dakonish, stated at the County Commissioner meeting of 2/24/2023 that the county is to only consider "competent evidence". The application for SU22-013 is grossly unfinished.

To wit: *haul routes defined (2 of the 4 listed have no defined destinations as 1 terminates in the very north end of Shavano Valley and 1 terminates at the intersection of 6100 and Spring Creek Roads), *what measures will be taken of ALL vehicles exiting said proposed pit (employees of Rocky Mountain Aggregate - Mr. Luttrell's company are bound by his company policies, but sub-contractors, businesses desiring gravel, personal vehicles desiring gravel are not bound by those company policies), *water issues that have to be in place before granting this special use permit (have only been stated as "to be resolved" in the future), *amounts of aggregate already permitted and how adding to this amount is necessary (applicant's vague statements that supplies are "dwindling" when Montrose county has 82 gravel pits - information supplied by opposition), not to mention credible defined studies of ground stability, preservation of personal property, and wildlife habitat impact. All of which have been credibly defined by opposition, *how their "reclaimed farmable ground" will have irrigation water, access to and from and other measures to

successfully reclaim the land and make it "farmable" in a 50'-100' deep hole. The land is currently level and farmable.

The public BOCC meeting of 2/24/2023 was adjourned 40 minutes early without hearing rebuttal from the applicant/owner of SU22-013, thereby giving the applicant/owner 12 days (BOCC decision to be rendered 3/5/2023) at which time the rebuttal will be entered. However, the motion was passed to close public comment.

The Montrose County Master Plan cites that "health, safety, and well-being" is a major emphasis. The let us consider the following definitions:

Health: state of being free from illness or injury, a person's mental or physical condition.

Safety: condition of being protected from or unlikely to cause danger, risk or injury.

Well-being: state of being comfortable, healthy or happy.

None of these definitions say that there has to be supporting documentation of medical records, legal documentations or testimonials of experts. Therefore, all of the voiced concerns by citizens being negatively impacted by this proposed SU22-013 are very much considered "competent evidence" that was required by Ms. Dakonish.

In conclusion, the masses have rendered "competent evidence", declared that the application for SU22-013 is incomplete and therefore has absolutely no basis for approval.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim and Vicki Gardner, Montrose

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UPDATE ON REPORTED SHOOTING IN DELTA

Special to the Mirror

DELTA- In the early morning hours of 2/27/23 officers of the Delta Police Department responded to the area of Hwy 50 and H25 Rd. in the City of Delta for a possible shooting. The victim on scene reported an unknown male had shot him and fled the scene prior to our arrival.

After extensive examination of the physical evidence, Detectives of the Delta Police Department came to the conclusion that the physical evidence did not match the account of the incident as provided by the victim.

Upon conducting an additional interview with the victim and confronting said victim with the physical evidence, the victim admitted that the gunshot was a self-inflicted. The victim expressed the fears present at the time that prevented this person from providing the true account of the events at the time of the shooting.

After receiving the new information from the victim, the Delta Police Department is confident there is no other person involved in the incident and there is no suspect still at large.

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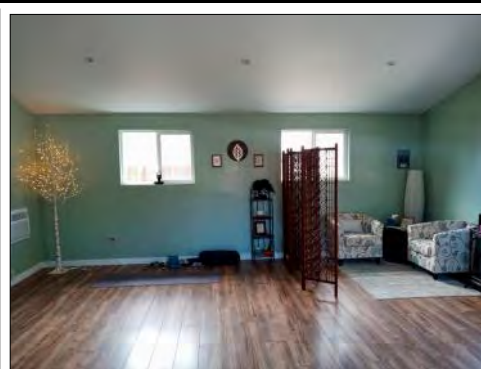
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MONTROSE ENTREPRENEUR CREATES SPACE FOR BALANCE, MINDFULNESS



Erin Easton, owner of New Leaf Mindfulness Coaching, now offers yoga classes from her new studio in Montrose.



By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE—After graduating from college and living all over the world, multi-lingual language teacher, Yoga instructor, and Mindfulness Coach Erin Easton made a conscious decision to relocate to Montrose. In 2021, Easton hosted the first Whole Being Health and Wellness Expo here, helping to launch the Healing Collective of Western Colorado, a non-profit that provides education on alternative healing and wellness options to the local community through expos, classes, demonstrations, and speaking events. Easton has given talks at the Montrose Library and has shared “Mindfulness Moments” on community radio station KVNF

at 11am on Sundays. Easton continues to serve as Board President of the Healing Collective, while teaching yoga at the Rec Center and running her own business, New Leaf Mindfulness Coaching.

In July Easton finished building her own yoga studio, and now teaches classes in the studio at 220 North Stough. “I made it perfect for the energy I want to have in my classes,” she said. Classes are therapeutic in nature, to help those who may need assistance in recovering from injuries and older adults who want to maintain a sense of balance while remaining physically and mentally fit. Adults often experience more falls as they age, Easton noted. “We lose ten percent of our balance every

decade—having a practice that helps with that balance is very important.”

While both mindfulness and yoga are increasingly popular disciplines, the practice of mindfulness is still new to many. For those with the courage to try it, mindfulness can help build a good relationship with one’s mind and perception of life, she said. “Mindfulness helps you to think and act in ways that serve your well-being,” Easton said. “It clears out obstacles and helps you to be your best self.”

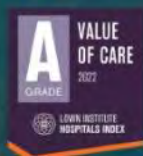
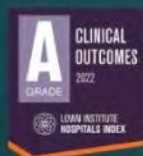
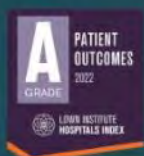
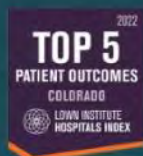
As her practice grows, Easton hopes that Montrosians will take advantage of the opportunity to build flexibility and balance at any age through mindfulness. “This is beneficial to everyone.”

Contact Easton by phone at 719-293-4600, or via email at erinkeastn@gmail.com.



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DMEA LOOKS AT POTENTIAL DIRECTOR RECALL POLICY

From pg 1

some of the written staff reports submitted for board approval, i.e., minutes of the previous meeting, CEO report, and action items (resolutions). Following the meeting members can access packet information through SmartHub, the online service that allows members to manage their DMEA accounts.

Introductions: In person, Operation Round-Up Board of Trustees member Barbara Bynum was introduced; Bynum is also the City of Montrose Mayor Pro Tem. Member Mike Atwood (Paonia) attended via Zoom.

Board Committee Reports:

Finance-Audit-Rate Committee (FAR) – TBD, Chair.

In the absence of former chair Watson, committee member Damon Lockhart assumed the interim position and said, "I have no report. There was no meeting of the finance committee."

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

Cannon said, "We had a meeting February 13th, all [committee] members were present. It was a three-hour meeting that was in-depth and well attended by other board members and staff. We discussed transmission, the future of the energy market across the country, as well as locally, and where DMEA is positioned. It was the best committee meeting that I've ever attended!"

Member Relations Committee – Bill Patterson, Chair.

Patterson said, "We met today. The Annual Meeting will be [held] someplace in the Cedaredge area on June 15 at 4 p.m. The theme is "Co-operative Country". The board election is the same format as before. We'll look at forums, meet & greets, for candidates to meet as many members as possible. The middle of May ballots will be mailed out."

Executive Committee – Kyle Martinez, Chair.

Martinez said, "Has not met. No report."

Non-Privileged CEO Report – CEO Jack Johnston.

Johnston said, "We've had a couple of member issues. One was unhappy be-

cause we don't take Discover cards. We're looking into that. The second was a letter of displeasure on us using the Grand Junction Post Office [remitting payments]. This is done through Alpine Bank. Alpine has outsourced and they use that vendor. We don't believe any changes are necessary."

Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Gayle Gouker said, "This was not a financial decision."

Patterson noted he had spoken to a member whose bank changed his account number and he was now having trouble changing his self-pay. Johnston said, "We want to know if it's resolved. We'll reach out to him. We are working on Policy and Review Plans. We'll come back to the board, there is more to come on that."

On the operations side, Johnston reported on a vehicle out of service because of a deer strike, a Colorado State Patrol (CSP) Officer attending a DMEA meeting to educate employees on the CSP side of things, and flagger training for certifications/recertifications.

Johnston said, "We've had some outages, but no major event days. All things considered; our system holds up well. In Systems Design we are down on new meters, but up on work orders. With EV Chargers there are 30 new net meters. We're not far from a cumulative of 1,500."

Johnston touched briefly on vegetation, grants, and the current remodel of the boardroom which will be state of the art. DMEA continues to monitor phishing scams and improve the answer call rates for Customer Service Representatives (CRS).

The vacancy for the District 4 seat will be appointed by the board. Currently there are five interested individuals; however, at this point in the process names are kept confidential.

Financial Report with Variance Report – Gayle Gouker, CFO.

Two-months of financials were reported. Gouker said, "This is an overview of January. There are \$1.1M in margins. Revenue over expectations is nine percent more than anticipated. Grant revenues increased. Late fees were up over last year;

\$70,000 in fees. Total of \$1.4 M in operation expenses for January. Depreciation is lower than we anticipated. Property Tax is overbudgeted. Capital Credits that we receive from other organizations comes in spurts throughout the year."

Gouker prefaced the December report, "December is unaudited to get our year-end numbers. Revenues were up \$4.4 M year over year. Depreciation is lower in 2022 than 2021. There was [in the past] a change in methodology, we reverted back to the other methodology. The investment in Elevate is doing well." Gouker discussed and explained equity, investment in the plant, short term and long-term investments, and late fees [a FAR committee topic in the future].

Non-Privileged Legal Report – Jeff Hurd, Attorney.

Hurd touched briefly on a potential litigation matter that would be discussed in executive session, the Garnet Mesa Project, pole attachments, and board member certification for board candidates. He said, "I'll save the rest for executive session."

Representative Reports

Western United Electrical Supply (WUES) Report – Jock Fleming.

Fleming said, "We met in January and the annual meeting was last week. Once again, they continue to make more money. Growth is their guiding principle. I sent you guys the minutes. There is an issue about increasing the efficiency of transformers that will require a different type of steel. Transformer manufacturing will have to shut down and produce a different product. It's a different manufacturing process."

Using an expletive, Patterson disagreed and then said, "It's a different material [steel], not a different process. They just want to raise costs." There were chuckles as fellow board members discussed whether Patterson wanted the written report to have his exact quote.

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

Lockhart said, "I'm trying to listen for legislation that might have an impact on

DMEA LOOKS AT POTENTIAL DIRECTOR RECALL POLICY

From previous pg

on our co-op [Inflation Reduction Act]. There's a lot of money out there, a lot of programs, it's a process. Most co-ops are working with someone [grant writers]. There are 300-some bills, a lot of greenhouse bills. There is a labor bill that could have an impact on us. People staying home with kids when there is a weather event. That doesn't work for linemen. They [CREA] are in good shape financially. A lot of discussion on the value of print. A lot of folks in the State do like that magazine. I'm impressed with their leadership. We get a good value out of safety [component]"

Lockhart noted that members of CREA are not all on the same page. He said, "We don't always agree. It takes a two-thirds majority to support or oppose a position [on proposed legislation]. We have diverse co-ops." Lockhart gave the board a heads-up, "In general, the next two years the legislature will be very focused on water and the Colorado River Basin and how it will affect us." CREA has two lobbyists.

Conference, Webinar, etc. Attendance Reports

Fleming reported on attending training on strategic planning.

Informational Item:

Discussion of Potential Director Recall Policy

Background: Earlier in the year a co-op member contacted Directors Williams and Fleming with questions on how to recall a board member. The DMEA Bylaws (Article 4.8; 1.a, 1.b, 1.c, 1. d) address recalls; however, they are not clear on the mechanisms for a recall.

The member's name who requested clarification on recalls was not disclosed during the regular meeting. Attorney Hurd said, "I met with the member and talked with him about his questions. One of his questions was, 'Could the whole board be recalled?'"

Hurd presented a draft policy to the board that can be adopted at a future meeting. He said, "The policy fills in some

of the details. It's a brand-new policy, so there is no policy number."

The board then discussed recall petitions (i.e., printed names, signatures, addresses for verification), number of days for petition circulation, percentage of members needed to recall, and in the scenario of recalling the whole board, simultaneous individual petitions.

Following suggestions and recommendations from the board, Hurd will come back to the board with a revised policy.

Member Comments

Via Zoom, Paonia resident Mike Atwood said, "Single source [Guzman] suppliers for electricity are actively creating energy and changing loads as fast as they can. What if they were to go bankrupt? What position would we [DMEA] be in? Guzman [unlike Tri State] doesn't report to co-op members. Does DMEA have a plan if Guzman goes bankrupt?"

The staff and the attorney explained that the Guzman contract is proprietary, as with any wholesale power supply agreement. The contract is not part of DMEA's financial reports; however, there is mechanism to address risks.

Action Item

Operation Round-Up Audit

Based on an RFP (Request for Proposal), Blair and Associates were unanimously approved as this year's auditing firm for Operation Round-Up. Operating funds for DMEA's charitable trust total \$70,000. Blair will be paid \$3,500 - \$4,000; plus \$900 - \$1,000 for the preparation of the information returns.

Trustee Bynum said, "This is a few thousand dollars less than what was paid to the previous auditor. An audit every year is a good idea."

PCI (Payment Card Industry) Compliance Policy

Policy # 707, Credit Card (PCI) Information Security Policy was adopted subject to naming the responsible party (CEO).

Future Meetings

The next monthly meeting is scheduled for 3 p.m. on March 28.

Executive Session

- Privileged CEO Report
- Privileged Legal Reports: Corporate, Litigation, and Regulatory Matters
- Discuss Request for Confidential DMEA Information

Action Items from Executive Session

Executive Session Summary—Amy Taylor, Executive Assistant.

In an email Taylor summarized the executive session, "At 5:45 p.m., upon motion from Director Gray, seconded by Director Cannon, the board unanimously approved to enter executive session to: receive a privileged CEO report; to review a privileged legal report highlighting key corporate, litigation, and regulatory matters including review of the legal bill; and discuss a request for confidential DMEA information.

Chair Martinez left executive session at 6 p.m., turning governance of the meeting over to Vice-President Cannon. At 7:53 p.m., upon motion from Director Fleming, seconded by Director Gray the board unanimously approved exiting executive session. There were no action items addressed from executive session. With no further meeting items, the meeting concluded at 7:53 p.m."

Dist. 1 - Bill Patterson, 970-209-1449, bpatterson@montrose.net

Dist. 2 - Kyle Martinez, 970-615-7124, kyle@touchofcarepcp.com

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

Dist. 4 - Currently vacant

Dist. 5 - Kevin Williams, 406-839-1603, kevin.williams@dmea.com

Dist. 6 - Damon Lockhart, 970-314-1071, damon.lockhart@dmea.com

Dist. 7 - Enno Heuscher, 970-270-6523, enno.heuscher@dmea.com

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

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

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

GMUG SEEKS COMMENTS ON IRONTON ABANDONED MINE LANDS PROJECT *PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: FEB. 28 – MARCH 31, 2023*

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE —The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests' Ouray Ranger District in partnership with the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety is seeking public comments for the Ironton Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) Physical Safety Closures Project. This project proposes to close 22 inactive mine openings along U.S. Highway 550—Red Mountain Pass, National Forest System Road (NFSR) #886—Corkscrew road and NFSR #887—Grey Copper road, approximately 7 miles south of Ouray, Colo-

rado. The project is currently planned for summer 2023. Closure methods for this project may include backfill, metal grate, cable net, bulkhead, polyurethane foam and grated corrugated steel pipe installations. The closures will eliminate safety hazards to the public, while preserving natural and cultural resources. Bat-friendly slot gates or exclusionary methods will be used at all sites considered to have potential for bat roosting habitat. Comments may be:

Emailed to: Lindsey.Binder@usda.gov.
Mailed to: Ouray Ranger District, Attn:

Lindsey Binder, 2505 S. Townsend Ave., Montrose, CO 81401.

Delivered to the Ouray Ranger District during business hours, Monday - Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Faxed to 970-240-5367.

Comments for the Ironton AML Physical Safety Closures Project will be accepted through March 31, 2023. For additional information contact Lindsey Binder at (970) 318-6516, or Lindsey.Binder@usda.gov. A full project description can be found at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=63597>.

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You Can Grow Old in Your Home

March 14, 2:00 P.M.

Montrose Regional Library, 320 S. 2nd St., Montrose

77 percent of adults 50 and older want to remain living in their homes for the long term - a number that has been consistent for more than a decade, according to a new AARP "Home and Community Preferences Survey." Learn more about the services, programs and options in our area that can help support this goal and what to expect for better long term care planning. Presented by Tara Cassidy, AdvantAge Health Resource Center Manager and a representative from Senior Community Care PACE (Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly).

The Art of Calm: Relaxing through the Senses

April 11, 2:00 P.M.

Westminster Hall, Presbyterian Church, 135 E. 4th St., Delta

Have you seen that poster that says "Keep Calm and Carry On?" It's all about persistence in the face of challenge. Whether your challenges are caused by your own aging, or the aging of someone you give care to, you will want to attend this session. You'll get calming tips to help you identify and deal with stressors, and to establish healthy, calming routines to help stay on task and focus on your goals. You can cultivate your own feeling of peace by using all your senses: touch, taste, smell, sight, hearing, and the divine sense. Chocolate, lavender, and some relaxation hand-outs will be given out. Presented by Barbara Hathaway, ASEDD (Awareness, Support and Education about Dementia for Delta County)



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

LET US ALL STEP BACK, PAUSE AND MOVE FORWARD WITH THE CORRECT STEPS

Editor:

I admit that I went to college in the early sixties so perhaps my vision of what is written today is a bit jaded BUT at least my writing professor taught me to write so that the reader could understand what I am talking about, how important the subject is to me and how factual my information about the subject is.

First, when I am writing 'for effect' you cannot see me swinging my arms, my fists pounding on the podium or the expression on my face. The words and their context must do it all.

Secondly, my education has everything to do with the vocabulary I use, my sentence structure, my punctuation and the veracity of my sources. For the truth of my sources I have always tried to have two or more sources substantiating the truth of my statements and my positions. Anything less than two verifications I consider rumor and identify the same in my text, as 'rumor' or 'opinion'. We all should recognize that anyone who writes to the press or a politician expressing their concerns are NOT endowed with the same writing, thinking or word appreciation talents as those of us with substantial educations. But they have made an effort to be heard and may God bless them! I was taught that Congressional offices equate each letter they receive to represent the feelings of 500 constituents---that may be more now that far fewer Americans can

write coherently but even one to five hundred is significant.

Further, we should be reading these contributions of our fellow citizens 'freedom of speech' with respect and make every effort to understand the 'argument' and not slander the writer for exhibiting poor journalistic talent or membership in the opposite political party. I have three examples of folks 'shooting the messenger' rather than criticizing the message. They are:

The Chinese Balloon shoot-down, questioning the where, when and how. NO ONE knew while it was floating over our precious country what it carried. Yet everyone had to unload their ignorance on where it should have met its demise. Simply it should have been shot down over the arctic waters BEFORE it got near any land. What if its payload was nerve gas, dioxin, anthrax or the like, planned to be released over Canada or the United States? I and thousands of more veterans are still paying the price of Lying Lyndon's acceptance of industry's guarantee that Agent Orange was harmless.

Many of us, medical people and sensible citizens decried the use of the 'Political Covid-19 Vaccine' without adequate testing. Recent history has proven and is proving that the vaccine has far worse side effects than Covid-19 itself. Most of us 'nay sayers' were condemned for our legitimate concerns for this hastily manufactured product and many Americans will suffer the rest of their lives

for having taken the shots. It seems that perhaps our President was and is incapable of 'reading the tea leaves' regarding this 'Political Vaccine' which was not ever medically proven viable or harmless.

We all saw the terrible January 6 riots at our beloved capitol. Pelosi let it happen. Had she called on the Military District of Washington (a resident command at Ft. Myer) to protect the capital complex, there would have been a thousand Marines on the grounds within a couple of hours. In fact, THERE WERE 200 with four blocks at Marine Barracks, Eighth and Eye. This force was twice the force of the Keystone Cops deployed at the capital. I know, I was there during riots precipitated by MLK's assassination in the 1960's! NOBODY GOT NEAR THAT COMPLEX during that riot. But no, Ms. Pelosi, responsible for the security of the capitol, called in 100 "Keystone Cops" insufficient in number and training for the job. No one dare talk about that incompetence. Now there are fences around our capitol just like in Russia. I suppose that I will be tarred and feathered by the way I have just written about that riot---not about the facts of the matter that I have written.

And so, once again I would ask all these highly 'educated jerks' in Montrose who refuse to read the message instead of the vocabulary the writer uses, to rethink who the 'jerks' really are. If the shoe fits.....!

Bill Bennett, Montrose

SEE SOMETHING - SAY SOMETHING



970-249-8500

ANONYMOUS CALL

MONTROSE REGIONAL CRIME STOPPERS

4TH ANNUAL FREEDOM SINGS USA CONCERT SET FOR JUNE 24

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE-Welcome Home Alliance for Veterans will host their 4th Annual Freedom Sings USA Concert in Montrose on June 24, 2023.

This benefit concert will help fund the continuation of Freedom Sings USA Colorado, who will open for county music headliner HunterGirl.

Since stepping onto the American Idol stage in 2022, HunterGirl has wowed country music fans. Having a heart for Veterans organizations, she uses music therapy to transform Veteran's stories into songs. Although she did not win American Idol, HunterGirl is someone to watch on the country scene and appears to be on the fast track to be Country Music's next big female artist.

Concert - June 24, 2023 - Montrose Rotary Amphitheater at Cerise Park, Montrose, CO

Tickets, which are required for admission, are on sale now.

General Admission \$30

VIP \$50 (Limited tickets)

VIP/Meet & Greet \$75. (Limited tickets)

Gates opens at 5 p.m.; music begins at 5:30 p.m.

Food trucks, as well as brewery and wine



garden, will be available.


Contact Welcome Home Alliance for Veterans at 970-765-2210 for more information.

Additional event planned is the Veteran's Songwriting Retreat – July 6-8, 2023

Welcome Home Alliance for Veterans also announced a **Freedom Sings USA On The Road Retreat** scheduled for July 6-8, 2023. The retreat includes songwriting


workshops, followed by friends-and-family-only performances where vets share their experiences and songs. Space is limited. Veterans interested in participating in the retreat can call 970-765-2210.

The final day of the retreat, Friday, July 8th, is open to the public. The event ends with a Concert Finale at the Montrose Rotary Amphitheater at Cerise Park, Montrose, CO.



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ANONYMOUS

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MONTROSE REGIONAL
CRIME STOPPERS

see something, say something

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

PUBLIC INVITED TO OPEN HOUSE ON PROPOSED JUNK ORDINANCE CHANGES

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE—Montrose County will host an open house on March 16 about proposed changes to the county's junk ordinance. The open house is at 6pm at the Montrose County Public Works Conference Room (63160 LaSalle Road). **Please note that the proposed junk ordinance DOES NOT apply to properties zoned as General Agricultural, Commercial, Business or Industrial.** The ordinance is limited to properties zoned as General Residential, Manufactured Home Park Residential and Multiple Family Residential. Montrose County adopted the current junk ordinance in 2015 and is working on updating the ordinance to better define processes, definitions and applicability. The county is seeking public feedback on the proposed changes. The ordinance has not been scheduled for consideration by the Board of County Commissioners at this time. The open house will include a presentation on the proposed changes and an oppor-

tunity to speak with staff and commissioners.

To view an interactive map of zoning in the county, please visit: <https://mcmmap.montrosecounty.net/zoning/>

The current junk ordinance is available here: <https://www.montrosecounty.net/DocumentCenter/View/11416/2015-02-JUNK-ORDINANCE?bidId=>

The proposed junk ordinance is available here: <https://www.montrosecounty.net/DocumentCenter/View/18802/Draft-of-Proposed-Junk-Ordinance>

The following is a list of the major changes that are included in the proposed junk ordinance:

§ 3 : The proposed revised Ordinance adds properties in the Mobile Home Park zoning district, and all properties zoned General Residential, not just those one acre or less.

§ 4.1: A definition of "Complaint" has been added to clarify what information needs to be included for the County to be able to move

forward with a violation.

§ 4.2: A definition of "fence" has been added to help clarify what is considered acceptable screening.

§§ 4.4; 4.7: The definitions of "junk" and "rubbish" have been revised to more clearly distinguish between them.

§ 6: Language has been added to clarify where complaints are to be directed and that the county is not obligated to investigate complaints that do not meet the definition.

§ 7.3: Notice requirements for enforcement are revised to limit a violator's ability to evade enforcement while still ensuring due process requirements are met.

§ 12: The penalty for violations of the ordinance has been updated from a Class a 2 Petty Offense to a Civil infraction in accordance with Senate Bill 21-271.

§§ 17-18: Language was added to provide for the effective date of any new ordinance and revocation of the current ordinance.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

PROTECT HEALTH AND SAFETY OF THE COUNTY'S RESIDENTS AND DENY SU22-013

Dear Editor:

The public needs to know that Zane Luttrell is wrong about SU22-013 traffic hazards. At the Feb. 22 BoCC hearing, a comment he made mischaracterized important and critically relevant observations about project traffic hazards made by Mr. Dennis Murphy, Planning Commissioner when he spoke at the Jan. 26 Planning Commission hearing.

On Jan. 26, Commissioner Murphy provided evidence regarding a personal experience while bicycling on 5875 Rd. He and his fellow bicyclists stopped to help a rancher catch an errant cow at a blind curve. He asked rhetorically, 'What would have happened if a gravel truck had rounded that blind curve while they were trying to round up the cow?'

The public at the meeting understood the serious hazard implication posed by an 80,000# gravel truck that requires much greater stopping distance than cars or

pickups and that could not have safely stopped in such a situation.

Multiple human casualties might have occurred.

Ignoring Commissioner Murphy's important traffic hazard message, Mr. Luttrell commented on Feb. 22 that his driver would have simply stopped his truck to help round up the cow as a good neighbor.

First, he disregarded the serious hazard of this blind corner.

There is another dangerous blind corner on Jig Rd near its intersection with 5850 Rd. Project trucks will round these blind corners as frequently as every 6 to 8 minutes, 12 hours a day, 6 days a week for the next 60 years, posing a serious traffic hazard each time.

Second, NONE of our roads to be used by SU22-013 have shoulders or space for a truck of this size to safely avoid emergencies

or pull over for the driver to 'help out'. That could not happen safely.

Mr. Luttrell's comment was just plain wrong and misleading.

Overwhelming numbers of public comments have notified the Commissioners of the many undue traffic hazards created by the large, heavy, SU22-013 trucks driving our roads hourly that would endanger public safety for decades.

County Regulations require that "...the proposed use does not result in undue traffic congestion or traffic hazards." This requirement cannot be met. The laws of physics cannot be changed. These traffic hazards cannot be mitigated. The County Commissioners' duty is to protect the health and safety of the County's residents and deny SU22-013. Attendance matters - Commissioners need to see you on March 6 @ 6pm.

Douglas Koza, Montrose

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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

HAWKINS HONORED AS WEST REGION EMERGENCY MANAGER OF THE YEAR

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE—The Montrose County Sheriff's Office is proud to announce that Scott Hawkins received the West Region Emergency Manager of the Year for 2022. Hawkins received this award at the recent Colorado Emergency Management Association annual banquet.

"What an honor, our Emergency Manager Scott Hawkins is constantly working to improve the safety and welfare for all residents in Montrose County," said Sheriff Gene Lillard. "His contacts have helped the county in several situations. He helped obtain a fixed wing air-

craft and helicopter from the Front Range in just a day's notice for search and rescue efforts. Scott also applied and received his certification to be a part of the Montrose County Sheriff's Office High Altitude Dive Team. As Sheriff of Montrose County, I am very proud of Scott Hawkins and his accomplishments."

There are nine Regional-All Hazard Comprehensive Emergency Manager awards given each year (one to each region) by the Colorado Emergency Management Association. The award is based on the following criteria: career achievement, overall contribution, local/

regional coordination, specialized projects, or proven leadership in the field of comprehensive emergency management.

Hawkins was a tremendous asset during the 2022

Simm's Mesa Fire, where he took the lead for both Montrose County's and Ouray

County's emergency management response. Ouray County's emergency manager was out of the country at the time and Hawkins filled-in and worked to help evacuate residents, coordinate response efforts, and liaise with federal partners.

He also led the switch to a new emergency notification system from CodeRed to Genasys for the entire region. This six-month process involved interviewing several different vendors, coordinating with stakeholders in the region, and managing the data transfer to the new program. The new emergency notification system will provide more timely and comprehensive notifications to community members in emergencies.

Hawkins was also successful in obtaining several grants in 2022. These grants helped purchase the following items: eight new license plate readers for the sheriff's office, a fire truck for Nucla/Naturita Fire, side-by-side for the Nucla/Naturita Fire, a drone to be used throughout the Seventh Judicial District, and a FEMA grant to update the expiring Montrose County Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Another major accomplishment in 2022 is the update to the Community Wildfire Protection Plan. The current plan is over a decade old. The majority of the update is complete and the plan will be finalized in 2023. This plan is critical as it identifies and prioritizes areas for hazardous fuel reduction treatments, wildfire response, community preparedness, and more.

For more information about Montrose County Emergency Management, please visit montrosecountysheriffsoffice.com



Scott Hawkins. Courtesy photo



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

PLEASE DO NOT MISQUOTE OR TAKE MY WORDS OUT OF CONTEXT

Editor:

I suggest that those who read Kelly Ray's response to my editorial "Not Worth the Read – Skip Over it!" read all of what was written rather than picking and choosing what to quote to make my words appear completely different than what was written and reconsider Ray's belief that she knows how I think.

Quoting Out of Context: When writers use quotes with a meaning other than originally intended, this misrepresents the author/speaker being quoted.

Ray noted that I said, "Other people's views 'are not worth the read-skip over it.'" And she (Schmidt) asked to 'Limit' speech from dissenting voices."

In fact, I noted that "I support freedom of speech" noting all have the right to have editorials published -- left, right, and center -- but "I" have the right to skip over those editorials that I feel lack credible support for their position.

I also emphasized that rather than not reading The Montrose Mirror because it prints viewpoints that may not align with your own, you also have the right to "skip over it" if you believe an editorial is divi-

sive and does not contain credible, supported facts. Again, my position was that all have the right to voice their opinion, and refusing to read a publication just because it prints opposing viewpoints is not the right response.

I also would like to point out several other things that Ray noted seem counter to presenting opposing views.

1. Diverting Attention: Ray notes "Plus, they conveniently are forgetting the vitriol and divisive language coming from Democrat's when Trump was president. Of course, they probably think that was justifiable because he is a Republican." Again, totally unsupported by fact, "I BELIEVE" Ray's comments were meant to divert attention and had nothing to do with my political position as she knows nothing about that topic.

2. Represent What You Think Not What You Think I Believe: Ray notes that "After reading her letter (Ritchey) plus Sue Schmidt's letter on February 20th, one thing that was made obvious by both is the vivid fact that they think that their political view is the ONLY legitimate one

and they do not care to open their minds to others' viewpoints or observations."

No one can step into another's mind and figure out what they believe! State what you believe but don't assume you know what I am thinking. Nothing in what I wrote suggested I am not willing to look at opposing viewpoints. My whole point was that when those with opposing viewpoints tried to engage in meaningful debates, they were often met with unsupported rhetoric and misinformation.

True to my position, I find that quoting my information out of context, trying to divert the audience's attention from the topic at hand, and making assumptions about my willingness to look at all sides is not productive. Instead, it would be helpful to hear Ray's position regarding the points I made -- all should have the right to express their opinion and, if you have a problem with the rhetoric in an editorial, skip over it rather than choosing to no longer read The Montrose Mirror. We need to support publications that print all editorials whether or not we support the viewpoints published.

Sue Schmidt, Montrose



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**MONTROSE REGIONAL
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21 N. Cascade, downtown Montrose
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*Similar to making Christmas ornaments except you pour ink on the outside!
For details, see sign-up links for each location.*

Both with
Kate Burke

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VASES at**

WHAFFV. Sat. March 11, 1:30 pm

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Register Online. Both at <https://kathrynrburke.com/education>



OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

IT'S AMAZING THAT IN 21ST CENTURY AMERICA, WE ARE STILL DEBATING CENSORSHIP

Dear Editor,

First of all, I would like to thank the Montrose County Library Board and library staff for their service to our community, being inclusive to everyone and for being on the frontline in the war on ignorance. As a public school teacher for 23 years, I've always regarded libraries as an ally in furthering the lifelong education process.

It's amazing to me that in 21st century America, we are still debating censorship. This idea of removing or blocking information, speech or expression, has been around since Greco-Roman times. In subsequent centuries, censorship was the stock-in-trade of despots, dictators and any other form of repressive government that seeks to shut down and silence any media sources that don't follow the party line. Sadly, censorship is alive and well.

We got a first glimmer of "wokeness" in the Age of Enlightenment whereby science and reason and the value of individuals in a society began to trump superstition and rule by one or a few people. It was during this time our own country was

born as an experiment in government by and for the people. In 1787 the Founding Fathers added the First Amendment to the Constitution, guaranteeing freedom of the press. That's what America is, the shining beacon of democracy and freedom for the world. Our form of government so inspired the French that they had their artists create the Statue of Liberty as a gift of friendship and to celebrate our success as a viable form of government. Looking back at that gesture, I wish the French would have added another statue alongside Lady Liberty to help hoist that torch, Lady Responsibility. I say this because you can't have freedom without responsibility in a democracy.

So, what is the responsibility of a library to a community? It's to gather and house the collective stories and ideas of humanity in an unbiased way. We need all of the collection to be inspired by and to celebrate the triumphs of the human spirit. From stories in the library collection, we need to learn which ideas were mistakes so we can stop repeating them! There will always be people who are uncomfortable with some of the collection. That is not

the fault or responsibility of the library.

I maintain that parents in our community need to step up and do their due diligence and take responsibility for what their children read, view, and do. Parents need to do more than drop their kids off at the library. They should be having the hard conversations, setting their expectations and then have the spine to enforce those expectations! Stop making the library the heavies, parents! It's your job to guide your children.

In conclusion, libraries are part of the stewardship of freedom of the press. I implore the Montrose County Library Board to hold firm and not be bullied into censoring materials or programming. Let me paraphrase a line that still has meaning in our times: If they come for one resource, they'll come for more. Next time it will be science books, history books, religious books...all under the guise of "uncomfortableness".

Thanks again to the Montrose County Library board and library staff for the service they render to our community and keep up the good work!

Connie R. Guillory, Montrose



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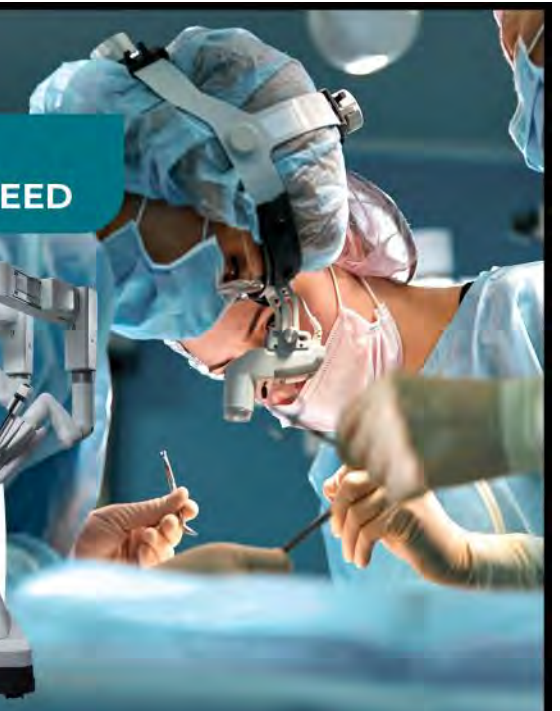
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DONATE SHOES TO SOLES4SOULS PROJECT

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Month of March: **SOLES4SOULS PROJECT** collecting new, single, and gently worn shoes at Lions Park Community Building, 602 N. Nevada, Sundays only from 9 am to Noon; 525 N. 5th Street, Weekdays; and Geek Coffee, 2305 S. Townsend Avenue, next to DMV, Weekdays, 7 am to 3 pm. Sponsored by the Spiritual Awareness Center, 970-252-0908.

PUBLIC MEETING REGARDING PROPOSED JUNK ORDINANCE

MARCH 16TH, 2023 | 6PM

Montrose County Public Works Conference Room
63160 LaSalle Rd Montrose, CO 81401

Learn more about a proposed junk ordinance to address junk and litter issues in unincorporated Montrose County.



COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

The Homestead at Montrose



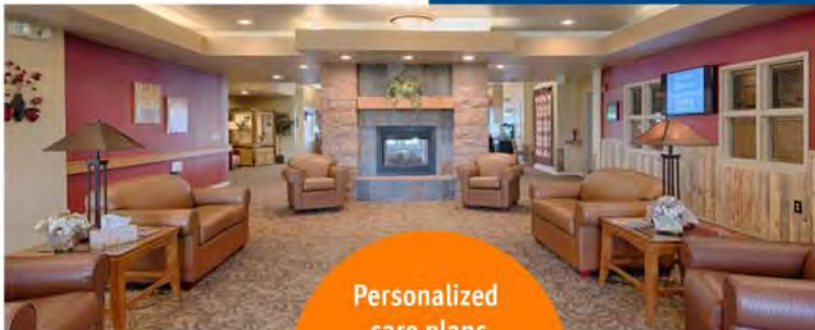
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MONTROSE REGIONAL AIRPORT OFFICIALLY THE BUSIEST AIRPORT ON WESTERN SLOPE

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— Montrose Regional Airport took over the lead as the most-traveled airport on the western slope in 2022. The airport saw over 460,000 passengers last year, which was an increase of 20 percent from 2021.

"The airport continues to set itself up for success by actively updating facilities to better accommodate passengers, provide key airfield improvements for airlines, and increase safety by working towards a signalized intersection," said Montrose County Commissioner Roger Rash.

In 2022, the airport saw 233,745 enplanements and 229,395 deplanements serving a total of 463,140 passengers. The airport has continued to show growth for the past decade. In 2020, Montrose Regional Airport welcomed Southwest Airlines service that has helped provide greater access to hubs such as Denver, Austin, and Dallas. Delta Airlines service returned this winter with daily flights to and from Atlanta. Montrose Regional Airport is the only airport on the western slope that offers service through Southwest Airlines and Delta Airlines. Service on United Airlines and American Airlines is also available.

"The 2022 increase is the direct result of our efforts to continue to provide quality air service through a variety of carriers," said Montrose Regional Airport Director of Aviation Lloyd Arnold. "The new expansion will offer four additional ticket counters and we look forward to working with Colorado Flights Alliance to provide enhanced airline routes."

Montrose Regional Airport is entering the final phases of a \$37 million terminal expansion and remodel project. The estimated completion is early fall. The project will double the size of the terminal and provide a new concourse level with jet bridges for enhanced passenger access. The new addition also includes larger and improved baggage handling areas. Improvements include a bar venue, two restaurants, and additional electronic charging stations.

For more information about Montrose Regional Airport, please visit flymontrose.com.

COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

COLORADO AUTO THEFT PREVENTION AUTHORITY (CATPA) LAUNCHES A NEW PROGRAM

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO - The Colorado Auto Theft Prevention Authority, in cooperation with the Colorado State Legislature, has authorized a financial aid program to assist persons who had catalytic converters stolen in Colorado from their vehicles for a limited time, called the Catalytic Converter Assistance Program. Under this legislation, eligible individuals may receive financial assistance toward the replacement of their stolen catalytic converter.

Funds for this first-time program are limited and applicants are encouraged to apply early. The application period is now open and will close on March 31, 2023. To be eligible for assistance, an applicant must meet all of the following criteria:

-Be the current registered owner of a vehicle titled and registered through the Colorado Department of Revenue that had its catalytic converter stolen in Colorado. The date of replacement of the catalytic converter is February 7, 2023, or later. Or, the catalytic converter has not been replaced yet.

-Have filed and obtained an official police report from a Colorado law enforcement agency, regarding the stolen catalytic converter taken from the vehicle.

-Not in any way have been involved in illegal activity associated with the theft of the vehicle's catalytic converter.

-Have had insurance covering the vehicle, as required under Colorado law, at the time of the vehicle's catalytic converter

theft.

-Have, or be willing to have, all repairs funded under this program completed by using OEM replacement catalytic converters or other converters approved for use by Colorado Statute and can provide documentation of the installation.

-Have installed or agree to install a CatEtch label to the catalytic converter of the vehicle immediately after the completion of such repairs or replacement to the vehicle to prevent further theft.

Assistance will be provided to only those vehicle owners that can have all repairs completed by June 1, 2023.

Please go to lockdownyourcar.org/catalytic-converter-assistance for further information and to complete the application.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

UPDATE ON MISSING DUCK HUNTER IN THE GUNNISON GORGE NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA



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Delta County Sheriff's Office

DELTA-On December 21, 2022, Deputies with the Delta County Sheriff's Office responded to South River Road near Cool Rock trail east of Delta in the Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area for a report of a duck hunter who was overdue and was reported missing by his family. Deputies and the Delta County Search and Rescue Team conducted an extensive search of the area for the missing hunter, Wayne Phillips, by air, ground and in the water. However, due to inclement winter weather and river ice, search efforts were suspended on December 30, 2022, and Mr. Phillips was not located by search teams.

On Saturday, February 25, 2023, the Delta County Sheriff's Office 911 Communication Center received a call from an individual fishing on the Gunnison River near the area Search and Rescue Teams were looking for Mr. Phillips. The fisherman told dispatchers he had found what he believed to be a body in the river. Deputies responded to the area to investigate and confirmed a body was in the Gunnison River. The Delta County Search and Rescue Team and Delta County Coroner's Office were notified and responded to assist with the recovery.

Upon recovery of the body and completion of an autopsy, Investigators with the Sheriff's Office and the Delta County Coroner's Office have identified the deceased as Mr. Wayne Phillips. The Sheriff's Office and Delta County Search and Rescue Team wish to extend our deepest condolences to the Phillips family during this difficult time and are thankful we were able to help bring closure to the family following this tragic accident.

Mr. Phillips was located approximately 150-yards west of the main area searched in December 2022. The search for Mr. Phillips was one of the most lengthy, complex searches in the history of Delta County Search and Rescue Team and included over 500-man hours, as well as the utilization of numerous resources from across Delta County and beyond and included underwater and aerial drones, sonar, search dogs, multiple search and rescue teams, fixed wing aircraft and use of the San Miguel County Sheriff's Office helicopter. Sheriff Mark Taylor and Search and Rescue Commander Randy Toltz would like to thank all our partners for their time and efforts in the search to locate Mr. Phillips.

The Delta County Search and Rescue Team is staffed entirely by volunteers and is funded largely by donations. If you are interested in volunteering or would like to donate to the Team, you may contact Commander Randy Toltz by emailing sar@deltacountyco.gov. Donations may also be made payable to the attention of Delta County Search & Rescue and dropped off at the Sheriff's Office at 555 Palmer Street – Delta, CO 81416.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

2023 WOMEN'S CONFERENCE "TAKE THE LEAP"

Special to the Mirror

FRUITA-Women in Business by The Fruita Area Chamber of Commerce is proud to host the 3rd Annual Women's Conference presented by Timberline Bank on March 9 at CMU's Ballroom in the University Center from 8 am – 5:30 pm. This year's conference will feature meaningful breakout sessions, a stacked panel, and a motivational keynote speaker to go along with our theme, "Take the Leap."

The Highlight of the day will be keynote speaker, Anna Nichols. Anna Nichols is the founder of Discovery Leadership LLC, a personal and professional development company with the mission of helping people become empowered leaders who act confidently and speak courageously while making a positive impact in their

lives, businesses, community, and the world. She is a Certified Coach specializing in Subconscious Transformation and has a master's degree in business administration from Colorado Mesa University. Today she applies her experience and expertise as an entrepreneur, coach, and speaker while also serving on several community boards. Most importantly, Anna is a woman who had a big dream, took a leap of faith to make it a reality, and is committed to helping others have the confidence to do the same.

The conference will feature a panel of prominent leaders from CMU and the steps they took to find success. This year will feature three breakout sessions, each highlighting a different aspect of our theme: Personal Em-

powerment, Professional Empowerment, and Taking the Leap. This event wouldn't be possible without the continued support of our community partner and title sponsor of the Women's Conference, Timberline Bank. Thank you, Timberline! We would also like to thank our supporting sponsor Colorado Mesa University Career Services, for giving us the opportunity to host the conference in the beautiful CMU Ballroom. In support of CMU's Career Services, we are also proud to be hosting a clothing drive for the CMU Student Business Closet at this year's conference.

To secure your tickets visit events.fruitachamber.org for any questions, please email events@fruitachamber.org or give us a call at (970) 858-3894.

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- Master Bath includes Walk-In Shower



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

COMMON GROUND DOES NOT EXIST IN BIDEN'S AMERICA

Editor:

Whenever a Democrat politician starts talking about bipartisanship and starts acting like a good ol' boy moderate, you can guarantee that person has started his political campaign. To read Adam Frisch's comments in the recent Montrose Daily Press front page articles, you would think he just arrived on the scene and would have no part in Democrats' attempts to destroy Colorado's oil and gas industry, as they have done for years. You would have no idea he is a rich politician from Aspen, who will avoid at all costs actually telling us where he stands on Biden's destructive far-left policies. If he was a true moderate he would tell us exactly where he stands on Biden's border invasion, the intentional destruction of our economy, defunding police and rampant crime, gun confiscation, Biden family corruption, the weaponization of the FBI, intentionally sowing racial division, Biden's incompetent foreign policy blunders, etc. Conservatives know Lauren Boebert is a real conservative who will unapologetically fight the Democrats' agenda, and that Frisch will only abet that destruction. This is the same Frisch that Don Coram thinks is a "decent fellow," even though Frisch doesn't deny the report that he thought an Aspen storage unit was a good place to sleep with his married mistress.

In addition to playing like a moderate until they are elected, Democrats like to eliminate all debate under the guise of "overcoming political extremism." Ben Alexander had an excellent column (MDP 2/11) about groups like "restore the bal-

ance.org" supposedly trying to minimize "political extremism" when it is clear they only consider extremism to be "Republican extremism." Alexander compares Democrats' positions versus conservative positions on open borders, abortion, law enforcement, and education, and makes it clear which are extreme --- and why the left avoids talking about their true positions on issues important to the American people.

Common ground does not exist in Biden's America. Following Biden's call for unity in his inaugural address came two plus years of relentless attacks on half the country --- labeling them "semi-fascist", calling those who object to stolen elections "insurrectionists", parents objecting at school board meetings "terrorists", etc. Just this week it was revealed that Biden's FBI is investigating the threat of "white supremacy" among traditional Catholics with no explanation of how these traditional Christians somehow pose a "threat". Meanwhile, there have been little or no investigation into nearly 100 attacks on pro-life pregnancy resource centers and churches at the hands of known pro-abortion domestic terrorists. This is the same administration that thinks a man who thinks he is a woman should be able to shower with your daughter --- and then replace her on her sports team.

We are beyond the point where going along with the opposition is legitimate bipartisanship. Democrats would call the boy who said, "The emperor has no clothes at all." divisive. One wonders if they would have called Dietrich Bon-

hoeffer divisive for speaking out against Hitler and the Third Reich? We are at the point where assisting this administration can legitimately be labeled collusion. Closer to home, Democrat state legislators are busy implementing the same destructive agenda in Colorado. Democrats are backing HB23-1202 which would legalize the use of illegal drugs like heroin and fentanyl in state sanctioned drug dens. A rent control measure just passed a state House committee dominated by Democrats that would cripple the housing market, and actually decrease the number of rental units on the housing market. Democrat bill 1134 passed the House this past week mandating home warranty contracts, which the homeowner must pay for, offering to replace gas stoves (powered by natural gas) to electric stoves (powered mostly by coal and natural gas) --- with no evidence supporting their contention that gas stoves are in any way hazardous to anyone's health. House bill 1165 was passed out of committee also, which would allow the banning of firing guns on private property --- a gross violation of both the Second Amendment and private property rights. It seems Colorado Democrat legislators are intent on implementing policies from the failed states of California and New York in our once-free state. At least we have representative Marc Catlin, R-Montrose, doing battle for us, rather than another Democrat talking about bipartisanship while working hard to implement whatever the real extremists in control of the Democrat party dictate.

Ed Henrie, Montrose



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



*Montrose Senior Center, 1800 Pavilion Drive,
1 pm, Mon., March 13th, Western History with Kate Burke*

Utah's Colorful National Parks & Monuments



Dinosaur. Courtesy James St. John



Arches, Photo Kathryn R. Burke



Grand Staircase. Photo, uwildandtrekking.com



Bryce. Photo, Roger Young

Each of the Parks and Monuments of Utah has a distinct personality all its own. What they have in common is their geologic basis - some of it more than a billion years old!. Explore some of your favorite parks and learn more with Kate Burke's History Talks on March 13th. (See Kate's related story in this issue.)

FREE. Call Cindy Marino for details or to register. 970-252-4884

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

PUBLIC SHOULD BE ABLE TO COMMENT ON FINAL PROJECT PARAMETERS OF SU22-013

Editor:

The 22 February 2023 BOCC meeting regarding SU22-013 was, in my view, disturbing. During the initial portion of the gathering, the applicant and his 'team of experts' (team) presented various information and theoretical concepts, including statistical analyses. The last member of this team to speak was the attorney who stated the BOCC could not deny the SUP application based on non-expert information, that the BOCC had to allow the applicant to resolve any potential issues, and going so far as to say the permit can't be denied, it must be resolved through mitigation.

The team had accolades for all members of the project, and said there would be plenty of eyes on the operation and regulatory oversight to assure everything was done properly. The attorney said the code requires the BOCC to assume all conditions will be met.

As the meeting continued on, the overwhelming public opposition comments made it clear many of the team's assertions were erroneous. For the sake of the applicant's attorney, I am a professional hydrogeologist with 40 years' experience working throughout western Colorado and other portions of the western U.S. In my opinion, for the team's attorney to basically say that public input is of much less value versus the team's paid consultant's statements is not only discriminatory, it is laughable.

For any project, I always try to obtain as much local information, from the client, contractors and others. My analyses may be more scientific, but the 'on the ground' experience from people who have worked and lived in the area is crucial information. Asserting one is more qualified, or intelligent, because of degrees and career path is BS. What matters is awareness and ability to understand, and many people who have worked and lived on the land for much of their lives have better understanding than many scientists I have encountered during my career. Too often, science is 'used' to obtain an end result, instead of actually taking a scientific approach and seriously trying to understand reality. Money, façade prestige and hallucinatory power tend to create poor scientists/consultants/attorneys.

The public needs to assume that none of the conditions will be met. In regard to eyes on the operation and regulatory oversight for the proposed pit, that is meaningless.

There is no real liability for the governmental agencies involved. There are many good scientists in the government, but rarely in the positions where policy and oversight decisions occur. Also, assume more tax money spent on oversight by the County, which may not even be performed once any permit is issued.

There was an emphasis on how the applicant was going to continue agricultural operations, during and after the life of the gravel pit. Then I assume there is a contractual agreement there will never be development on the site after the life cycle of the pit. There are approximately 60 feet of material to mine above the Mancos Shale (Km), and the team said there is no water in the mining deposit. If they are irrigating while the pit is operational, there will be water entering the subsurface. Controlling site impacts from off-site irrigation application will be difficult while mining. It seemed unprofessional to me there was no discussion during the team presentation of long-term seasonal groundwater level data for the property; without that data they do not know much about the site. That data is easy to obtain, but does cost money and it takes time to collect seasonal data. And the data would likely show fluctuating groundwater levels, especially during the irrigation season.

The team comment regarding exiting Jay Jay Road onto Highway 50 only taking about 20 seconds showed their intense ignorance of that intersection. As with the team comment that repairing the haul roads could be done with their material, so it is a 'win win'. Are they saying they are going to pay for the road repairs? Otherwise, it is just another tax subsidy for the developer. Unfortunately, there was no discussion of wildlife impacts that will occur on the haul roads; there will be more animals killed (and other forms of life). They also mentioned the opposition to the pit south of town years ago, and said there has not been any problems. They didn't mention that pit is right next to the highway, and not even remotely similar to SU22-013 which is 5+ miles away from the highway using narrow county roads in an area not zoned for industrial.

The team's property impacts analysis is not even worth discussing, other than to say their hypothetical square footage valuations for houses doesn't even address the concern with property. It's not just houses, it's the land, the stock and wildlife, the ranch opera-

tions, the quality of life, etc. There will be devaluation of property and quality of life, and the developer needs to pay for these losses.

Now the BOCC will consider the public comments to date. The BOCC will not take any additional public comment. This process, as with the process at the BOCC meeting of allowing the team all the time they want to spout the benefits of their project while limiting each member of the public to 3 minutes maximum to respond, seems very pro-applicant. Why can't the public ask their questions directly to the team? It would be advantageous to observe the body language associated with their responses. Even more of a concern is the applicant will ultimately get the final input. If what their attorney said is true, the SUP must be resolved through mitigation. The parameters of SU22-013 have been changing during the entire process, including since the Planning Commissioners meeting, to include additional proposed haul routes, etc. The public should be able to comment on the FINAL project parameters, as well as any final proposed mitigation measures. This is not a permit for a project in an area zoned for the proposed use; this is a special use permit application for a project in an area not zoned for the proposed use.

If the team had moral scruples, they would have tried to permit this project through a re-zoning. But attempting to snake through with a SUP application is simpler, made even easier by a lack of sufficient scientific data presented as theories by the team.

Hopefully, the BOCC shows some moral fiber and denies SU22-013. This certainly appears to be a case of ignoring the Master Plan to make concessions for one developer to change the character of the entire area. As demonstrated during both the Planning Commission and BOCC meetings, the vast majority of folks who live in the affected area(s) do not want a gravel pit.

This type of 'out of character' development is leading Montrose further into a hodge-podge L.A. type of development layout, with the concept of 'forcing' more industrial (and soon to follow commercial) into areas zoned as rural agricultural and residential. And it is increasingly dividing the community. We'll see who the BOCC really represents on 6 March 2023.

Wayne Goin, Montrose

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COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

DANETTE MARIE HYATT *November 30, 1938-March 1, 2023*



March 1, 2023, we lost our Beloved Wife and Mother. Danette Marie Hyatt Affectionately known as "Daney" passed away peacefully in her sleep at home. Daney was born Danette Marie Callaway on November 30, 1938, in Montrose Colorado. She attended all 12 years of schooling in Montrose. While in attendance at the High School she excelled in speech and drama both of which brought her statewide recognition. She was also an Honor Role Student with numerous accolades offered her upon graduation for further academic study.

Daney married Charles Kent Hyatt on April 9, 1959, and they lived in Gunnison to attend Western State College. In 1961 they moved to Southern California to begin professional careers in Education. Daney and family would reside in La Verne California, a small town in San Gabriel Valley nestled among orange and lemon groves. La Verne would be their home for

the next 36 years, a pleasant environment to raise their six children.

Daney finished her post high school education at Mt. San Antonio Jr. College in Pomona California to focus on foreign language and dramatic arts. While there she had the lead female role in numerous plays, the most notable was "Lion in Winter" 1968. Daney received her Associates Arts Degree in 1967. Daney was employed with the Bonita Unified School District for the most part and oversaw High School student funds. All expenditures went through her office, and she demanded an accounting for every dime.

Daney belonged to a Choral group of women with presentations to Civic groups throughout Southern California. The most notable was a part of vocal entertainment for the governor and other state officials. Daney assumed leadership roles for elementary school PTA, Brownies International and Girl Scouts/Boy Scouts organizations. She was a member of the Red Hats Society and Colorado Cattle Women as well. She loved the theater and was a season pass holder and contributor for the Magic Circle Players in Montrose. She was an outdoor enthusiast, especially in cycling. Her favorite was the Palm Springs to Indio ride plus 50-mile excursions throughout Southern California. She was an avid hiker, the most demanding were in and out of the of the Grand Canyon, the Napoli Coast on the Hawaiian Chain-Kauai, and the Blue Lakes Pass into Yankee Boy Basin. Daney and Kent traveled the world and

visited multiple countries as well as most of the Continental United States. Daney and Kent moved back to Colorado after retiring in 1998 and have remained here ever since.

Daney was preceded in Death by her Mother Mafalda Callaway, Father Owen Callaway, Brother Bus Callaway, and infant son Michael Hyatt. She is survived by her children Pama Nething and Husband Philip Nething, David Hyatt and wife Juile Hyatt, Lyn Hyatt, Rebecca Holman and Husband Terry Holman, Paula Hyatt, and Stephanie Hyatt. She has 11 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren and many nieces, nephews, cousins, and countless friends.

Her love of family and friends was always the center of her life. She provided meals and shelter to anyone that needed it including many animals. A heart bigger than the oceans, always a smile and a laugh, she was a joy to be around. We are comforted to know that she is in the arms of Jesus who she loved with all her heart and soul.

We welcome all friends and family to join in Celebrating our Beloved Danette Marie's life. Services will be held at Montrose Christian Church, 2351 Sunnyside Rd. Montrose Co 81401, on Saturday March 11, 2023, at 1 pm. There will be a reception immediately following at the same location.

The family asks in lieu of flowers to donate in her name to Shriners Children's Hospital. Crippin Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements.



OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

WHY IS CMU PROGRAM TO BE FUNDED BY NEW NON-PROFIT ENTITY 'MONTROSE PERMANENT FUND,' ENDOWED WITH TAXPAYER MONIES?

Dear Montrose City Councilmembers:

It has been a while since I have had a reason (s) to correspond with you all. This correspondence, while a bit long, is a heartfelt one that may be, in some respects, tough to read, but is worth doing so and understanding how a City of Montrose resident and businessperson, taxpayer, and former elected official (all of which I am) and many others with whom I interact, feel and think about what the impact of many of the decisions that are and have been made by you are having on the majority of the community.

I'd like to start by thanking you all and Chief Hall for hosting the recent community meeting which focused on criminal activity that business owners have been dealing with over the last few years. The efforts being shown to help with these problems is very welcomed and shows the business community that the City is getting serious about engaging businesses in an effort to protect our property and the community in general against thieves and other vandals. I was glad to see Councilors Reed and Glaspell in attendance which certainly shows that Council is listening to the concerns of the community.

In that vein, I'd like to take the opportunity to discuss some other issues that I and others that have spoken with me feel deserve some attention from the City Council. While I continue to follow City matters via the local media as well as reviewing Council agendas and press releases as time allows, I and the collective "we" have become more and more disturbed by what appears to be the seemingly disjointed and haphazard way decisions are made in the spending of taxpayer monies and feel compelled to ask you to look at your past and future spending decisions as an average taxpaying citizen would and not as an elected official.

Everything from real estate deals meant to enhance other governmental entities (MURA, CMU, etc.) to giveaways to speculative businesses and/or business models (restaurants, brew pubs, hotels, strip malls, tent makers, distilleries, etc.) to establishing non-profit foundations seem to have become the norm in this day and age. As these ideas, concepts, or whatever take shape within the halls of the executive offices of City Hall and their counterparts in the public, non-profit and private sectors, it is evident that all that has to be

done to garner the City Manager's and your attention is to have a few "executive sessions" with the players and bam, the subject becomes an item on an agenda and is typically approved without so much as a transparent and measured open public discussion via media outlets, public notices, etc. The media (outside of The Montrose Mirror), turn a blind eye to this activity or spin it in a way that makes these ideas and decisions appear to the community to be a good and "progressive" way of doing the public's business with the **PUBLIC'S MONEY**.

Fundamentally, I must ask the question many are asking...since when did it become the City's job to become the predominant "Economic Development" driver and funding source? If you all would take a step back and examine the decisions that have been made so far and those that are pending, you might find that much of what you are discussing and approving looks a lot like democratic socialism from the public's point of view. As you know, Council is charged, by the City Charter, with being the policy makers, but apparently your role has moved beyond that to include being the front persons for management's goals and objectives which includes doling out millions of dollars from the public treasury to become "investors" in private businesses, education, housing and many more.

As described in the Encyclopedia Britannica, **"some democratic socialists believe that markets have a place in a socialist economy, so long as the competing businesses are publicly, cooperatively, or otherwise socially owned."** And, like social democrats, many democratic socialists advocate for the enactment of state regulation and state welfare programs (**substitute municipal for state in this definition as it pertains to this communication**), both as temporary means of ameliorating the harm of capitalism and as methods of transforming the system piece-meal." ([Democratic socialism | Definition, Explanation, & Examples | Britannica](#))

Now you all might object to being labeled as such, but let's look at the millions of our taxpayer dollars (money both borrowed via bank loans and money "borrowed" from City enterprise funds and the General Fund) that you and the last few Councils have spent on just these few projects: Colorado Outdoors

([Colorado Outdoors – Live where you work | work where you play](#)) as a project (in excess of \$13M through the City controlled Montrose Urban Renewal Authority - [Tracking the financial picture of MURA and Colorado Outdoors | Local News Stories | montrosepress.com](#)) and then millions of cumulative dollars given to businesses within this development to include speculative buildings, a restaurant, a hotel, apartment buildings, day care centers, an upcoming medical complex, etc.)

Add to this the ongoing expenditures of local tax dollars on Colorado Mesa University, a State funded school for which you have closed or will close streets to create plazas ostensibly for students and their safety as well as for aesthetic reasons. (As a side note, the planned closing and vacation of South 3rd Street between S. Townsend Avenue and Cascade Avenue to create yet another plaza for the CMU campus isn't in your transportation plan and further confuses and congests traffic flow in the downtown area. Why do these seemingly random street closures keep happening?)

On top of the collective millions already spent, City required infrastructure (curbs, gutters, sidewalks, landscaping & more), formerly required to be paid by businesses or developers, is now being paid by taxpayers for the benefit of the developers and in some cases, contractors, some of whom have ties to the City as vendors or contributors to various mutual causes or organizations. The recent granting of over \$110,000 to the Pomona Brewing Co. (formerly Castle Auto Sales on N. Townsend) for a commercial kitchen and \$500,000++ to the privately owned Rathbone Hotel (to be located in the former Budgetline Furniture Co. building next to the Fox Theater) for structural repairs are yet more examples of the giveaways.

Of course, all of this is justified by City Staff and the applicants for these monies who undoubtedly speak to the Return on Investment (ROI) and the pie-in-the-sky financial projections which all show how the City will reap untold wealth in the form of additional tax dollars which will be used, in part, for increasing the size of government and adding to the public trough from which more folks will seek to access these new dollars. All of this is going on while the streets are crater-

WHY IS CMU PROGRAM TO BE FUNDED BY NEW NON-PROFIT ENTITY WITH TAXPAYER MONIES? From previous pg

cratering. Sidewalks (still the responsibility of the homeowner in most cases) are breaking apart and in ill repair and numerous other responsibilities of local government go along without sufficient funding or are made to wait for action through deferred funding and maintenance while the dollars are allocated to these democratic socialist endeavors.

Now, to add to the mix, we learn that the City of Montrose is about to potentially invest a further \$4.5 million dollars in renovating the new City Hall building (the former downtown Wells Fargo bank building on which you've already spent approximately \$4.1 million dollars including the purchase price) by adding a new façade to the building. I would think that 50 gallons of paint and a contest to design and paint a large mural on the Cascade Avenue wall of the building would cost a lot less than that, but obviously, using other people's money to make a statement is staff's preferred means of accomplishing what a coat of paint can do and for a lot less money.

Overall, spending \$8-9 million dollars for a new City Hall by renovating a decades old structure is beyond the pale! I cannot believe that repairs to the historic City Hall would have come close to this amount. (Kudos to Mayor Pro Tem Bynum and Councilor Reed for questioning this latest request for the Phase 3 construction on the building. I hope you and the rest of Council hold fast and minimize the costs as suggested).

Moving on...It's now public knowledge that you're going to "sell" (most likely at a giveaway price) the soon to be old or historic City Hall to Colorado Mesa University or perhaps other investors for a dormitory and to house a Hospitality Program (aka Hotel & Restaurant Management curriculum) that will be funded by a new non-profit entity to be known as the Montrose Permanent Fund with a \$2,000,000 endowment (\$1.5M from the City's taxpayers & \$500,000 from CMU - also taxpayer money). My question is WHY??? Hotel and restaurant programs exist at universities throughout the country. For what reason would you invest in such a thing? The hotel and restaurant industry's wage scales are typically at the lower end nationally and are dependent upon the discretionary income of the populace for its survival. If a person or family can't pay the

electric or gas bill, how are they going to justify feeding a family of four at a restaurant for \$75-\$100 or more? With an economic contraction already here in a lot of places, this is not going to end well. This latest scheme isn't very well thought out in my opinion.

For the most part, none of this is contributing to making life better for the average person in Montrose. Housing and food costs are through the roof and in short supply overall. Over a year and a half ago, I asked you, as a body, to give the taxpayers a "tax holiday" for one year on the sales tax on food given the crushing inflationary impact that prices were and are having on basic food needs. Not one of you responded as I asked in the meeting and in writing. With the impending cut of food stamp benefits by the Federal government that many citizens receive, the need is more urgent than ever to help relieve a huge burden on your constituents versus spending money on these and other grandiose and, in many respects, delusional "profit making" ventures that have gripped this and other Councils for most of the last 10 years.

In closing, I am requesting that you provide the public with a **COMPLETE** list of all of the tax dollars (including borrowed money that has been repaid) that the City of Montrose and its surrogate operations (MURA for one) has doled out to any and all public and private entities as described in this correspondence and others not specifically identified herein as well as totals for public structures (existing and, if planned, engineering, architectural, consulting fees, etc.) such as the new City Hall, the Police Operations Center, the new Recycling Center and Public Works campus, dormitory housing for CMU, etc. Such a disclosure will not only be a benefit to you all as you will have one place to view the cumulative amount of spending on these endeavors as well as the debt load being carried by the City, but to the City taxpayers who really would like to know where their money is going.

Your sales tax dollars come from many sources. We are taxed over and over again with the City collecting sales tax on our electric and gas bills; our cell phone bills; our groceries; our restaurant bills; our hotels and rental cars; our internet purchases (eBay, Amazon, Wayfair, etc.); special taxing districts like those found in the River Landing Shop-

ping Center (Natural Grocers, Marshalls, Ross Dress for Less, etc.) where additional sales taxes are collected; the Public Safety Sales Tax; the Recreation District tax (the City gets a cut of that); franchise fees passed through to the public; building fees; tap fees, and on and on it goes. The public needs be told in an annual report sent to every household how much is coming into the City's coffers and what you're spending it on...all in a transparent fashion. And don't throw out the old line that they can come to a budget meeting or whatever venue you choose. Send unbiased notices via text, voice, email and all other means that are currently at your disposal. Only then can I truly say "shame on you" to the public for not knowing what's happening with their dollars. If the public wants to remain ignorant, none of us can do anything about it.

Finally, the City Manager and you are accountable to the public for all of this. Putting the proverbial lipstick on a pig isn't going to work, but that's what has been going on for years. We look like a progressive Western Colorado town on the outside but are rotting away behind the government created false facade of financial well-being funded by these taxpayer outlays while neglecting the core of what government should be about - providing the services that the private sector cannot provide or that which is statutorily, or charter mandated to be provided by the municipal government. Despite what you know needs to be done, the pressure from competing entities as well as wanting to do good can and has overridden wise decision making. Taking a step back might clear things up a bit. I hope so. A look at your own "puff piece" video now playing on YouTube shows how out of touch staff and by extension, you all are in that the focus of it is on the new City Hall ([City Beat February 15, 2023 - YouTube](#)).

To sum things up, as the former Prime Minister of England, Margaret Thatcher said in a February 5, 1976 interview with Llew Gardner for Thames Television's This Week program, **"Socialist governments traditionally do make a financial mess. They always run out of other people's money."** ([Margaret Thatcher on Socialism | Snopes.com](#)) Please heed her warning.

Sincerely,
David White, Montrose

COMUNITY OBITUARIES

LINDA SUE (COLEMAN) FAUCHER *October 17, 1947-February 8, 2023*



LINDA SUE (COLEMAN) FAUCHER of Montrose, Colorado, formerly of Rimrock, Arizona passed away unexpectedly on February 8, 2023 due to a fall. Linda was born in Albuquerque, New Mexico, 10-17-1947. She was the baby of the family, a total of five girls and one boy. Linda was preceded in death by her parents Drew James Coleman and Rachel Ellen (Henley) Coleman, sister Erma Jean (Coleman) Janke and Drew James Coleman, Jr. She is survived by her beloved sisters Mary Katherine (Coleman) Thompson of Cokeville, Wyoming, Jo Ann (Coleman) Snow, also of Cokeville, Wyoming and Peggy Lenore (Coleman) Morris of Camp Verde, Arizona. Linda was also preceded in death by her husband, her one true love Donald Faucher on June the 21st, 2022.

Linda spent her childhood in New Mexico, Oregon and Colorado. She loved the desert hills around her family's homestead in New Mexico, the lush green forests of Oregon and the Uncompahgre River Valley south of Montrose on her family's small ranch. Linda had the gypsy spirit and loved



to travel and not let the grass grow under her feet. She moved her family all over the western United States, Montana, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona and a little further east to Wisconsin. Linda made friends easily and loved the adventures of living in a new town. Linda met her first husband Harry Robert Cronenberg (Johnny) in Colona, Colorado. The Cronenberg's owned the Colona store that was located just a couple of miles from the Coleman ranch. Johnny was attracted to the beautiful blonde girl riding her beautiful pinto mare in the pastures near the Colona store. Linda and Johnny married in 1966 and were surprised by twins in January of 1967. Jody Dawn (Cronenberg) Sauer was first, followed shortly by Billy Vaughn Cronenberg, the premature twins were a challenge that was faced head on by Linda and Johnny, with the support of both the Cronenberg family and the Coleman family and the then small community of Montrose. Bill Cronenberg lives in Denver Colorado and Jody Sauer lives in Montrose with her husband Dale Matthew Sauer and near her

father Johnny Cronenberg. Linda was a master barber and prided herself on very accurate flat tops haircuts on men and perfect bowl cuts on wiggly blonde children. Linda was always drawn to those "a little down on their luck" and would give them free haircuts and shaves to help them feel better about themselves.

One of Linda's greatest joys in her life was her Grandson Zane Matthew Sauer. She was so very proud of his accomplishments and cherished his visits to her home in Arizona. Linda loved all creatures great and small and was always bringing home an animal that needed a little love and care. She especially loved her Arabian horses and her daughter's Shetland pony. Linda passed on her love of animals to her children and her nieces and nephews. Linda also loved to sing and dance, she knew all the words to the classic songs from the fifties and sixties, they always made her smile and laugh. She was also an artist and loved to paint desert scenes and animals. Linda's gypsy spirit was finally captured by the raw beauty of the Arizona desert and she called Arizona home for the last thirty years. She had only returned back to Colorado to have the care and support of her daughter after the unforeseen death of her husband Don. She missed Don terribly and was ready to join him in heaven. We know that Don was waiting for her and they are now joined forever together. Linda was cremated and her ashes will be taken to Maine to be joined with her husband Don with the Faucher family. There will be a remembrance for Linda this summer in Cokeville, Wyoming to celebrate her life. The family of Linda would like to thank The Homestead of Montrose for providing a beautiful place for Linda to live in her last few months, Montrose Regional Health for the great care after her fall, Hope West of Montrose for their help and compassionate care and Elk Ridge Village Senior Living for their tenderness and loving care of Linda.

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

EDITH ORINE BRUCE BARELA

September 21, 1929-February 17, 2023

At age 93 she passed away peacefully in her home.

Born in Oklahoma City, to Roy Barnes, and Marie McCourry.

She raised four children, Timmie de Castro, Barbara Bruce Garner, Josephine Ballejos, and Ed Albert.

She was a proud member of the Montrose Women's Club, LA Swing Club, Good Sam Club and past President of Emblem Club.

She was a volunteer at the senior center, and the Montrose Public Library on her free time.

She took great pride in raising her children.

She loved to travel. She also enjoyed making Christmas stockings, painting, crocheting, and she spent a lot of her time read-

ing books.

She was loved and will be missed by so many. Some of her family include...

Daughter Timmie de Castro and son in law Dennis de Castro in California

Grand Daughter in Idaho

Casey Wenner husband Edwin Wenner Great granddaughters

Jaylin Navarro in Washington with husband Marc Navarro with great, great, granddaughter Olivia

Great granddaughter

In Idaho

Kylie Wenner

Kenzie Wenner

Mati Wenner

Another Granddaughter

Apryle Christy and husband Curtis and great granddaughters



Kaydence Sanchez

Karsyn Sanchez

Keira Christy

Crippin Funeral Home of Montrose is assisting the family.

JOHN MALCOLM LORING JR.

June 19th, 1934-February 23, 2023



JOHN MALCOLM LORING JR. passed away at his home on the morning of February 23, 2023. He was 88 years old.

John was born June 19th, 1934, to Louise Laurestine Hersey and John Malcolm Loring Sr. in Mancos, Colorado. He would spend his early childhood in Monte Vista, Colorado. He would graduate from high school in Washington in 1952. A year later he would marry the love of his life, Rose Marie Verzal in Las Vegas, Nevada. To this amazing union three daughters were born: Catherine, Jacqueline, and Margaret.

John joined the Air Force in 1952. He would remain dedicated to his country for 29 years and retired as a Lt. Colonel. John was also a member of the Texas State Guard as a Battalion Commander from 1982 to 1985. From 1994 to 1995 John served as Colorado VFW State Commander. He would remain active in the V.F.W., D.A.V., the American Legion, BPOE #309 Life member (Colorado Springs), the Air Force Association, AARP – tax aide from 1985 to 2023 and AARP driver training program. John enjoyed the outdoors of Colorado, hunting and fish-

ing. He was handy with crafts, woodworking, gardening and what he enjoyed most was helping others. John was an active member of the Delta Christian Church as well as the New Hope Church in Cedaredge.

John is survived by daughters, Catherine Hale and spouse Bill of Longview, Texas; Jacqueline Whitman and spouse David of Niceville, Florida; Margaret (Peggy) Warner Spouse Mike of Cedaredge, CO; five grandchildren and ten great grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, and sister Janet Coleman of Salem, Oregon.

Arrangements are under the care and direction of Taylor Funeral Service and Crematory.

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

'VELDA' MONTGOMERY

January 2, 1952-February 18, 2023

FRANCES NOVELDA SEEVERS MONTGOMERY, 71, of Egnar, Colorado, died February 18, 2023, in Denver, CO.

Velda was born January 2, 1952, to Sanford Neal and Frances Mabel (Smith) Seevers in Montrose. She grew up in Sawpit, Colorado, and graduated from Telluride High School in 1970.

Velda married Ivan Montgomery on January 15, in Placerville, CO. To the union of Velda and Ivan are three sons: Patrick Montgomery of Denver, CO, Troy Montgomery of Dove Creek, CO, and Nicholas Montgomery of Grand Junction, CO.

After receiving her degree in Education from the University of Arizona, in Tucson, Velda taught school in Bluff, Dove Creek, and Egnar.

The family was the center of Velda's life. She loved creating a home, holidays, and camping trips. She had a soft spot in her heart for children, most of all.

Velda is survived by her three children (Patrick, Troy, and Nicholas); her twin sister, Val Chambers; siblings, Sandra Iacovetto, Donald Seevers, and Susan Lasley; and five grandchildren, MacKenzie Montgomery, Morgan Montgomery, Ivan Montgomery, Remi Montgomery, and Lane Montgomery.

Services will be held at Cowboy at the Cross, 21573 Austin Road, Austin, CO. (near Delta) on Saturday March 11, at 11am.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making donations to: Cowboy at the Cross, P.O. Box 754, Delta, CO 81416 or online at www.cowboyatthecross.com



MICHAEL WILLARD WASHBURN

May 17, 1941 - February 24, 2023



HopeWest.

Michael is survived by his wife Else of Montrose, his children Ron and Kim Hammack of Royce City, TX, Pam and Dan Mencimer of Montrose, and Paula and Chris Worthington of Montrose. He is the proud and loving grandfather of seven grandchildren: Shelly Hammack, Mindy and Danny Tea, Dillan and Amber Hammack; Sarie and Emily McKee, Levi and Sadie McKee; Tiffany and Steve Gustin, and Libby and Nick Frantz. He also adored 17 great grandchildren.

Michael was born in Des Moines, Iowa in 1941. He graduated high school from Manitou Springs, Colorado in 1961 and took his first job in food service. He was drafted into the United States Army in 1966 and was deployed to Vietnam for three tours where he earned many honors including the Vietnam Service Medal with four Bronze Stars and three Purple Hearts.

Michael married Else, the love of his life, on March 27th of 1985. Michael loved

Else's children as if they were his own.

Ron, Pam, and Paula loved him dearly and are thankful for the good times, sound advice, and wisdom he shared.

He went on to become a USDA meat inspector and retired after 30 years. After retirement, he spent his days fishing and hunting, four-wheeling, and cooking with or for family and friends in Colorado and Utah.

Michael had a gift of making everyone feel loved, especially his family. Michael was a benevolent man; when he saw a need, he would do all he could to help out. He was also an ornery man with a terrific sense of humor. His grin and cackle were captivating for all. He was a man of great wisdom but few words and an often-overactive middle finger.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to HopeWest Hospice in Michael's memory.

Crippin Funeral Home of Montrose is assisting the family.

Michael passed peacefully into his heavenly home on February 24, 2023. In his final months, he was lovingly cared for by his wife and daughters with help from

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

JUDY ELLEN KUNTZ (TESSMAN) AND HENRY JOSEPH KUNTZ



The family of Judy Ellen Kuntz (Tessman) and Henry Joseph Kuntz are saddened to announce the passing of Judy December 21, 2022 who was predeceased in death by her loving husband, Henry on January 13, 2021.

Judy's enjoyed a multitude of interests, crafts, and hobbies. They were usually shared with friends and family and extensive in variety. Including: Scrapbooking, Cricut crafts, Quilting & Sewing, Watercolor & Oil Painting, Knitting & Crocheting, Camping, Fishing, Treasure hunting, Metal detecting, making Greeting Cards, Hiking, Gardening, Jigsaw puzzles, Crossword puzzles, Sudoku, spending time with family and friends, she always made time and looked forward to visitors.

Judy E Kuntz was born on November 29, 1944 to Henry & Candelaria (Sena) Tessman in Albuquerque, NM. and left this earthly realm on December 21, 2022, after a two-year battle of Chronic Myeloid Leukemia, followed by Acute Myeloid Leukemia.

We celebrated Judy's birthday with her and enjoyed Thanksgiving. Then on December 20, she fell gravely ill. At the time of her death, she was surrounded by her family and passed peacefully the next morning at the age of 78 years.

It would be wrong to say that Judy lost her battle with Leukemia, because she never stopped fighting. No matter how sick she was, she was always determined. Judy stayed strong and positive. Through her, we know what resilience and perseverance truly look like. There was no quit in Judy. Just because she is no longer here, it doesn't mean she lost her fight, she now has eternal life.

Judy married her soul mate, Henry on 02/06/1965 and were married for 54 years and 11 months.

Henry and Judy are loving remembered by their son Joseph (Angela) Kuntz; daughter, Hannah (Jon) Grady; grandchildren Sierra Kuntz, Tyler Grady, Megan Rubalcaba, Zerek Kuntz, Brandon Rubalcaba, and Kayla Grady. As well as family members: Sandy Riffel (Davis Kuntz), Henry (Clara) Tessman, Henry III (Cindy) Tessman, Charles (Cindi) Tessman; Joel "Jody" (Cindy) Davis, Sheryl "Sherry" (James) Wardlaw [Davis], Meschelle "Shelly" (Linus) Fox [Davis] and nieces and nephews.

Henry was born on 06/21/1939 in Texas to Joseph M & Elizabeth (McCoy) Kuntz. Henry was raised in Albuquerque NM and attended Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, AZ.

Then he met the love of his life, Judy. Henry was in the Air National Guard. Together Henry and Judy moved to Mont-

rose CO where they raised their two children on Spring Creek Mesa.

Henry owned Alta Manufacturing for over 30 years. After a battle with heart disease, he was surrounded by family, smiled at us and passed away on 01/13/2021 at the age of 81.

Henry and Judy enjoyed many outdoor areas such as Uncompahgre Plateau, Jamos Mountains, Hunting, Fishing, Photographing, Shooting, Prospecting for Gold, and treasure hunting in Tonopah Nevada to name a few of recent. Henry and Judy will be missed by the San Juan Shooting Range, Uncompahgre Treasure Club, numerous friends and affiliations over the years in Montrose Colorado.

Please join us as we express our faith, love and hope at 10 a.m. on Friday March 10, 2023. Henry and Judy want to be buried together.

You are invited to join the family for a Funeral Mass celebrated at St. Mary's Catholic Church, with Fr. Matthew Wertin in Montrose Colorado 81401.

All are welcome. Judy and Henry will be buried together at the Rite of Committal; burial is at Grand View Cemetery following the funeral mass; afterwards a reception is at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Montrose.

The family wishes to send a special thank you to so many who helped care for our parents during their illness; and loving our parents so well. Including: Connie Heaton, Vicki Stuart, Elisha Cummings, Gerilyn Jo "Jojo" Senior, the staff at the Montrose Memorial Hospital, The Montrose Cancer Center, and UC Health - Anschutz. Crippin Funeral Home is assisting Mr. and Mrs. Kuntz family.

**WAKE
UP...**

and smell the ~~coffee~~ **NEWS!**

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ISSUE 409 March 6 2023

ART & SOL

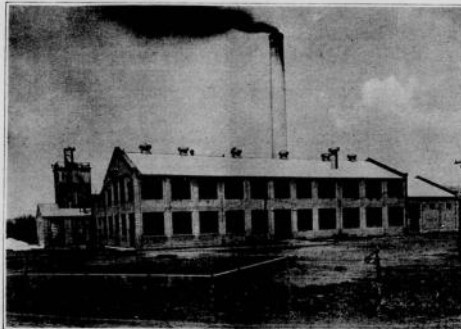
HOW SWEET IT IS: SUGAR BEETS IN THE VALLEY

Sugar Beets and Prosperity for 1923

Sugar has greatly increased in price the last month—it is now over \$3.00 per bag more than it was one year ago. This is on account of a large increase in consumption and a decrease in production, causing a world shortage. All authorities predict this condition will continue for several years. Every dollar increase in price of sugar for the year's sales means considerably more than an additional dollar per ton for beets. Raise more tons per acre—don't be satisfied with a small tonnage.

Watch the Man that Gets 20 Tons Per Acre, You Will Find that he

Plants what he can take care of properly.
Rotates his crops.
Uses lots of fertilizer.
Knows his soil.
Plows in the fall, or as soon as the frost permits in the spring.
Does extra work on his seed bed (It insures a good stand.)
Plants early.
Does not wait for rain or snow to bring them up.
Watches his labor carefully and supervises their work.
Uses the cultivator often.



Keeps the beets free from weeds and watches his moisture. He does not let his beets get too dry but keeps sufficient moisture to make a continuous and heavy growth. He does not make a mud puddle of his field and half drown his beets.

Some land will take more water than other.

Know Your Soil.

Sugar beets are going to be the backbone of the farming industry on the Western Slope.

Get into the Game Now while the Prospects are Exceptionally Bright

If Our Fieldmen have not seen You, Call Our Office at Delta, Both Phones.
Or Allen Douthitt, Delta, For Delta County, Both Phones. C. W. McLaughlin, Olathe, for Montrose County Bell Phone.

N. W. DRAPER, Manager.

Holly Sugar Corporation

The ad that appeared in the Delta County Independent in March of 1923 featured a photo of the Delta sugar beet processing facility. Photo acquired from Colorado Historic Newspapers.

By Bob Cox

MONTROSE-The agricultural production in the Uncompahgre Valley has undergone many changes and adjustments over the years. The changes always affected the economy of the area, and for the most part, the results were positive. When the agricultural community prospers the towns prosper.

One of the historical changes in the crop

production in the area took place about 100 years ago. The growing of sugar beets in Mesa, Montrose, and Delta counties was not a new thing in the early 1920s, but it did take on a new perspective.

When Charles Boettcher came to the United States from Germany in 1869, he was only 17 years old. The mining industry was in its heyday. The results of the gold rush ten years earlier established a boom-

ing economy among the mining towns and Boettcher found a way to take advantage of that. He made himself a fortune providing hardware to the mining communities. In 1899 Boettcher saw an opportunity to increase his wealth through the agricultural activities in Mesa, Delta, and Montrose Counties. He financed the first sugar factory in Grand Junction. His foray into that market boomed. His Great Western Sugar Company averaged one new processing plant per year for the next decade.

The burgeoning sugar beet market was noticed by others. Cuba was having difficulties meeting the demand with sugar cane production and the entrepreneurs in Colorado took advantage. In 1905 Kenneth Schley founded the Holly Sugar Company in Holly, Colorado. Names of the companies have come and gone over the years, but one thing seemed certain to the developers: sugar sweetened their bank accounts.

As for Montrose and Delta counties, the growing of sugar beets took on a new perspective in the early 1920s. Holly Sugar and others were contracting beet production and a new plant was built in Delta, but things were not automatically beneficial to the farmer. On March 17, 1921 the *Olathe Criterion* reported on an apparent dissatisfaction among some of the beet growers. In part, the article read:

At a called meeting of the beet growers of Olathe, held Monday evening, the latest contract offered by the Holly Corporation

Continued next pg

SUGAR BEETS IN THE VALLEY From previous pg

was unanimously rejected by a rising vote... Representatives of the Montrose growers were present and accepted the decision of the Olathe farmers as their own. They went home with the expressed intention of starting wheat sowing the next day.

Subsequently, beet production declined. Then at the beginning of the 1923 season, and with the endorsements of the Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association, things once again started looking a little better. A slump in potato prices helped in the decision making. The *Montrose Press* reported on January 9, 1923 that the UVWA, having been assured that inland dumps would be opened for the transfer of beets to the processing plant, passed a resolution encouraging the growing of sugar beets, especially in places such as Shavano, East Mesa, California Mesa, and Coal Creek.

Holly Sugar was largely focused on getting the Delta County growers to opt in to the current contract proposals. In a letter pub-

lished in the *Delta Independent* the attention given to the Delta area was obvious. Part of the letter read:

The prosperity of Delta County is measured by the business that develops in its cities and towns and the returns of its farms... Every farmer should have a portion of his land devoted to the growing of sugar beets, as it has been demonstrated beyond doubt that financial returns from sugar beets will average better than the ordinary crop, as it is a cash crop and there is never any danger of overproduction.

The letter went on to promote Holly Sugar and encourage the growers to help in keeping the Delta plant running for at least 100 days. In April, the month in which the beets had to be planted, N. W. Draper's notice in the *Olathe Criterion* pointed out that the company had an office in Olathe and that the sugar prices for the next year were very promising. His notice quoted the possibility of beets bringing as much as \$10.78 per ton, depending on the sugar content. The last

quoted price for the previous year was \$10.55 per ton, so the trick was first to get the contract and then dedicate the necessary acreage. By the end of the 1923 season, Holly met or exceeded both supply and contract obligations. Some expressed a little surprise that long-time beet grower Conrad Sittner, a Montrose County farmer, succeeded in having the highest acreage yield. Sittner's totals were acquired by raising 105 tons of beets on "exactly" (according to Holly's press release) five and three-tenths acres. He had been raising beets in the valley since 1913.

For more than half a century sugar beets were considered one of the best crop investments a farmer could make, but myriad market changes, processing efficiency, and other potentially valuable crops--especially sweet corn--slowly took their toll on the western slope beet production. The Delta plant ceased operation in 1977. The main building still stands and has, over the years, housed several other business enterprises.



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BOWIE SCHOOL ALUMNI RECALL COAL CAMP DAYS



Historic Bowie Schoolhouse. Photo courtesy [Paonia Museum and North Fork Historical Society](#).

By Caitlin (Clemens) Switzer

This article was originally published in the Delta County Independent on March 8, 2000.

NORTH FORK VALLEY-The old Bowie schoolhouse is not heated in the winter, and the classrooms are icy cold. There is a piano as in the old days, but it sits silent against a wall. And the rows of desks where generations of students carved their names are now empty.

Still, the little schoolhouse exudes a warmth of its own despite the winter chill. Perhaps that is because of the presence of so many items of historical and community interest. Perhaps it comes from all those names carved in the desks. Or perhaps it is the presence of four Bowie alumni: Alice (Bowie) Abseck; Hazel (Maikka) Barnes; Ruby (Kurelich) Delimont; and Carol (Anderson) Franks.

"Here's my name," Abseck says, pointing out a desk on the far side of the room. Sure enough her signature remains, a memento of her eighth grade year.

Barnes finds a class photo with her own picture in it. "They don't have me listed, but that's me," she says.

Franks finds a picture of her mother-in-law, who taught at the school.

And Delimont laughs when someone points out that the name of one Kurelich or another decorates nearly every desk in the classroom.

Although it has been moved from its original site at the Bowie Coal Camp, the Bowie Schoolhouse remains a treasure trove of historical facts and memories. And these former students remember this building and its companion structure as the very heart of the community.

"It was such a neat place," recalled Franks. "I didn't want to go on to Paonia High School."

Heads nodded in agreement.

"We were a very close-knit community," Delimont said.

"We all helped each other," Abseck said.

"Each teacher taught four grades, and she taught all subjects. It was very disciplined; the teacher would pronounce words for the eighth graders, the eighth graders would pronounce them for the seventh graders, the seventh graders would pronounce them for the sixth graders, and so on.

"It was same for reading aloud," she recalled. "We all took turns."

Added Hazel Barnes, "You always heard what the class ahead of you was learning, and you started learning it too."

Ron Wist attended the Bowie School for eight years, graduating in the school's final class of 1951. "It was a great experience," Wist said when asked. "We were a class of three, Robert Walch, Rich Martinez and myself."

The Bowie Schoolhouse was divided into two sections, a big room and a little room. Students attended from first through eighth grades, although Carol Franks remembers her sister attending Kindergarten there one year.

The School building itself is considered a classic example of Post-Victorian belltower architecture. Built in 1907, it was preceded by a one-room cabin. All eight grades were housed in one building until 1920, when a second one was added. The Bowie School was closed in 1950 when the school district was consolidated.

The North Fork Historic Preservation Society rescued the schoolhouse from decades of vandalism and neglect by moving it to its present site beside the banks of the North Fork River. While denied a place on the National Register of Historic Places because of the move, the school has been carefully restored by the community. Modern visitors enjoy the wealth of historical information on display.

And today's unofficial reunion of Bowie students has unearthed another kind of treasure—the kind of memories that rarely make it into the history books.

These were students who worked hard at their studies. "We learned penmanship," Barnes said. "People sure need that today."

"We had to draw the continents free-hand," Franks said, "And we got them all right."

And they also worked hard at home. "We picked fruit in the summer and pruned trees," Franks says. But we didn't think it was so bad because we were healthy and strong and could do it."

Said Delimont, "My sister and I milked cows, delivered the milk, and then walked to school."

Barnes recalled how difficult it could be to work in her family's store when everyone else in town was having fun. "One time I wanted to leave home," she said. "I had to mind the store on a Saturday when everyone else was ice skating."

"I didn't leave home," she says, "But I didn't skate either."

All four remember the wonderful, thick ice they skated on in winter and the excellent sledding to be had on a hillside near the school.

"The best compliment I have ever gotten was when one boy told me, 'You sure can drive a sled good!'"

During recess students played baseball and games like "Fox and Geese." In the winter they built igloos and snow forts. Passing trains were a source of great excitement, as were the great sheep drives that came down from the high country.

Students held marshmallow roasts and made their own Valentine's boxes for Valentine's Day. In May, they celebrated May

BOWIE SCHOOL ALUMNI RECALL COAL CAMP DAYS From previous pg

Day by making their own May baskets from boxes they had been saving all year. And in summer, they swam in the river.

Students enjoyed participating in school plays and community suppers at the schoolhouse. Graduation from the Bowie School was always a very big deal as students prepared to move on to high school in Paonia.

The ladies remembered one rather unusual Bowie graduate.

"Remember when one of the Bowie dogs earned a diploma?" Franks said. "He had slept under his owner's desk all year and was so good, they gave him a diploma...back then, all dogs had their owner's last names. I remember Pooch McLeary could climb trees."

Delimont recalled Pooch McCleary's owner as well.

"Bob McCleary and his brother waited for me and my sis every day after school by the railroad tracks," she said. "We fought every single day after school—it was a ritual."

Today's fashion-conscious youth would doubtless be appalled at the clothes worn by young Bowie School students.

"Remember those ugly old brown stockings?" Abseck asked as her friends nodded in agreement. And that long underwear? The best day of the year was when we could take them off!"

"Those stockings were awful looking things," Delimont said.

"We rolled them down," Franks said.

"Yes, even if it was cold," Delimont said.

"We rolled 'em down. And then we rolled them back up before we got home."

The students remembered writing notes "for posterity," often burying them in hopes that future generations would find them.

"I even put some in my Uncle Albert's hydrant," Abseck said.

Even the journey back and forth to school was an adventure.

Owner of the famed Pooch McCleary, Bob McLeary remembers that the bus to school was not free of charge. "We paid \$3 a month and caught it in Somerset."

"I loved riding the bus," Barnes said.

"Not me," said Delimont. "We rode behind the Somerset kids and they wouldn't move their knees. But there was no rowdiness because we were crammed in like sardines."

Said Abseck, "One time I got into a scuffle with a friend, during the Wilkie-Roosevelt campaign. We got thrown off the bus three miles from home!"

And while students who tour the schoolhouse today ask whether guns were brought to school, violence was not an issue at the Bowie School.

"In those days a boy was not dressed without his pocket knife, but there was no violence," Abseck said.

"We knew guns were for hunting or target practice," Franks said.

To this day the students are haunted by the question of how, before the arrival of telephones in the area, their mothers always knew everything they had done at school.

"I lived across the highway from the school," Abseck said. "So how come when I got home my mother always knew what I had done at recess?"

Said Barnes, "One time we borrowed a car and took a carload of kids for a ride. When I got home my mother asked what I did. I told her we borrowed the car, and she said, 'You went to Hotchkiss!'"

"How did she know?"

In those days students could count on two punishments for every offense—if they got into trouble at school they were sure to be punished once they got home.

"If we got paddled at school we got paddled at home," McCleary said.

Still, the threat of punishments did not deter the Bowie students from making mischief.

"Do you remember the time we changed the clock?" Franks asked. "Once when the teacher went to the outhouse, we sneaked up and set the clock ahead. It was time for recess!"

"But we ended up staying after school for it."

At one time all of the teachers were living in one house, Barnes recalled. "We sprinkled water all around their door, and it

froze. The teachers were trapped! We kids had to help chip them out."

Delimont shared a memory. "Remember when we put honey on (teacher) Bonnie Small's toilet seat for Halloween?"

Another time, "We put an eraser in that great big old stove," Delimont said. "The teacher just came back, shut the windows, and walked out. We sat there for quite some time. And it smelled awful!"

Abseck said, "Miss Kehmeier was terrified of mice, so some boys caught a packrat and put it in her desk. She got hysterical!"

The former students also recalled a friendly mail bus driver who let them hook sleds to his back bumper, as well as some attempts to hop the trains that rumbled through the area.

Barnes said, "One time on our way to Somerset my friend and I decided to hop the train. The driver must have known what we were doing, because we had hardly got on—I missed a rung and fell but my friend made it—when he stopped that train. Boy did we get told that wasn't the thing to do! We never did that again."

Delimont recalled a favorite prank. "I remember taking the gates off one yard and putting them on another. There was no damage, they were just moved."

Said Franks, "Once on Halloween, we got a ladder and took some shingles off the roof of the big room. Nobody believed girls could do it, so they blamed the boys. Wd did a good job of it!"

Franks also recalled when she and her friends decided to hold a "sneak day" during their sixth-grade year.

"We signed a pact," she said. "There would be no school that day. The only one who went to school was Ann Kochevar, and she even brought an apple! The rest of us got expelled until the school board decided to let us back in."

"I got every award that year," Franks said. "For reading, singing, etc. All except the one for good behavior."

Still, "We weren't malicious or mean," she said. "If someone was sick, we wouldn't knock over the outhouse on them, and we wouldn't flatten their tires."

"We really were pretty ornery."



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Weekdays – 525 N. 5th Street, front porch box

Weekdays, 7:00 am – 3:00 pm, Geek Coffee, 2305 S. Townsend
Avenue, between DMV and Goal High School

Sponsored by the Spiritual Awareness Center

Info at: 970-252-0908

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.

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?

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UTAH'S NATIONAL PARKS & MONUMENTS

History, Geology, and the Best Places to Visit

By Kathryn R. Burke

REGIONAL—Each of the Parks and Monuments of Utah (and the surrounding Four Corners area) has a distinct personality all its own. What they have in common is their geologic basis - some of it more than a billion years old!

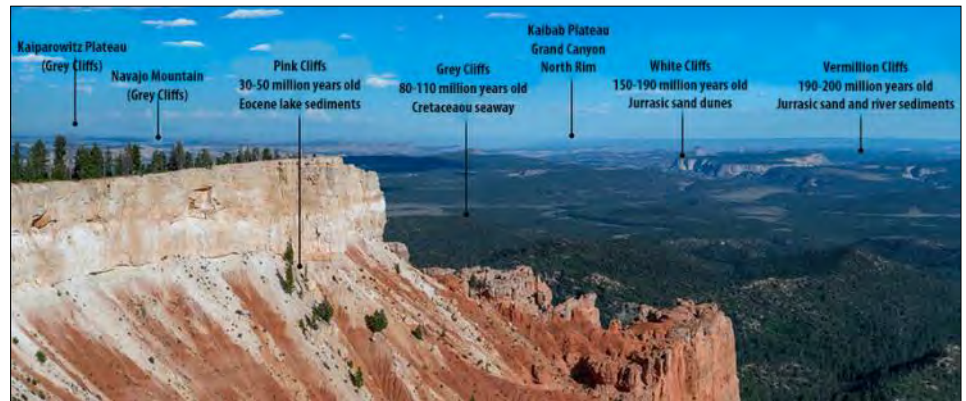
The area lies atop an underground salt bed, responsible for the arches, spires, balanced rocks, fins, and monoliths. Thousands of feet thick in places, this salt bed was deposited over the Colorado Plateau some 300 million years ago, when a sea flowed into the region and eventually evaporated. Over millions of years, the salt bed was covered with residue from floods, winds, and oceans that came in intervals.

Much of the debris was compressed into rock. At one time this overlying earth may have been one mile thick. Five 'steps' of rocks or 'cliffs'—Chocolate, Vermillion, White, Gray, Pink—range in age from 35 million to 100 million years old.

The sedimentary rock layers that lie on the Colorado Plateau encompass parts of Utah, Colorado (the largest), Arizona, and New Mexico—an area with five national parks, eight national monuments, eight Scenic Byways, two National Recreation Areas, one National Historic site, and two Tribal Parks. The "Big Five"—Zion, Bryce Canyon, Capitol Reef, Arches, and Canyonlands National Parks—are the most visited National Parks.

Zion, the first National Park, was established in 1909 as Mukuntuweap National Monument, then renamed Zion National Park 10 years later. Landscape Arch, in Arches National Park, is the longest natural arch in the world—it spans 290 feet and is only seven feet thick! The park also has the greatest density of arches (over 2000). Bryce Canyon isn't a canyon, it's a collection of giant natural amphitheaters. Bryce is also distinctive due to its large collection of geological structures called hoodoos.

The Grand Staircase National Monument



is the largest national monument in the U.S. encompassing 1,880,461 acres. It is also among the most remote land in the U.S. It was the last to be mapped in the contiguous United States. There are three main regions: the Grand Staircase, the Kaiparowits Plateau, and the Canyons of the Escalante (Escalante River). What makes the Grand Staircase unique is that it preserves more Earth history than any other place on Earth.

The Trail of the Ancients, a National Scenic Byway, is approximately 480 miles long and traverses both Colorado and Utah. In Utah, it goes from Hovenweep, through Blanding to Natural Bridges, and on to Monument Valley, ending at Mexican Hat in the Four Corners. Arizona is not a part of the Byway. If you have not visited Utah or any of its wonders, this is a good place to start. You'll explore geologic and cultural history, encounter and view some of the most spectacular country in the United States. Take a camera and make sure your phone is fully charged. You're going to take a lot of pictures.

Utah's 27 state and national scenic byways are a geologic wonder traversing 2,200 miles of magnificent red rock canyons and towering rock formations. From dinosaur footprints to ancient heritage sites to ghost towns, to vibrant modern cities, you'll experience a landscape shaped by time.

Five cultures have inhabited the area since Pre-Columbian times: Ancestral

Puebloans (Anasazi) around 1300 BC; Fremont. AD-1301; Spanish, 1500s; Uto-Aztec and Navajo, 1700s; Mormon settlers. They have all left traces of their time here. At Dinosaur National Monument, The Uinta Fremont Indian petroglyphs are more than 1,000 years old. Newspaper Rock contains petroglyphs and pictographs from four different indigenous peoples.

If you're fascinated by dinosaurs, at Jurassic National Monument, a complete, 28-foot long Allosaurus skeleton has been excavated. Dinosaur National Monument, which spans the border of Utah and Colorado, contains over 800 paleontological sites and has a wide range of fossils. If you haven't visited it, do. You will be enthralled.

If you're like me, the first time you traverse the walkway past the enormous creatures, still partially embedded in rock, it will be a jaw-dropping experience. These things were huge!

There's lots more to share about the history and geology of this magnificent part of the U.S. right here in our own backyard, a place that preserves more of Earth's history than anywhere else in the world! Learn a little more when Kate Burke presents Utah's Parks and Monuments as part of her popular Western History series, March 13, 1 pm at the Montrose Senior Center. During her presentation, Kate will distribute maps and pictorial material provided by the Utah Dept. of Tourism.

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Get your flex on working out on the Rig! Stations include a wide variety of exercises aimed at helping you reach your training goals.



LOCATION

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MARCH 16, 4:00-7:00 PM
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1309 Mayfly Drive
(970)497-8590
www.montroserec.com



Local Immunization Providers

PEAK PROFESSIONALS

1550 Niagara Road Montrose
(970) 497-4921
peakpros.org

PEDIATRIC ASSOCIATES

947 South Fifth Street Montrose
(970) 249-2421 **VFC PROVIDER**
thepediatricassociates.com

NORTHSIDE HEALTH CENTER

528 North Uncompahgre Ave Montrose
(970) 240-6438 **VFC PROVIDER**
pfb.com/northsidechildhealthcenter

CEDAR POINT HEALTH

300 South Nevada Ave Montrose
(970) 249-7751
cedarpointthehealth.com

BASIN CLINIC

421 Adams Street Naturita
(970) 865-2665 **VFC PROVIDER (RHC)**
basinclinic.org

UNCOMPAHGRE MEDICAL CENTER

1350 South Aspen Street Norwood
(970) 327-4233 **VFC PROVIDER (FQHC)**
umclinic.org **340B PARTICIPANT**

DELTA COUNTY HEALTH DEPT

255 West Sixth Street Delta
(970) 874-2165 **VFC PROVIDER**
deltacounty.com/8/personal-health-services

RIVER VALLEY FAMILY HEALTH CENTERS

1010 Rio Grande Montrose
(970) 497-3333
308 Main Street Olathe
(970) 323-6141
rivervalleyfhc.com
340B PARTICIPANT & VFC PROVIDER (FQHC)

THE PIC PLACE

87 Merchant Drive Montrose
(970) 252-8896
pic.place

MESA COUNTY HEALTH DEPT

510 29 1/2 Rd Grand Junction
(970) 248-6900 **VFC PROVIDER**
health.mesacounty.us/services/family/immunizations

VFC (VACCINES FOR CHILDREN)

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).

340b

The 340b Drug Pricing Program is a US federal government program created in 1992 that requires drug manufacturers to provide outpatient drugs to eligible health care organizations and covered entities at significantly reduced prices.

CITY MARKET SOUTH

16400 South Townsend Ave Montrose
(970) 240-1994 **340B PARTICIPANT**
Register Online

Flu	Shingles
Pneumonia	MMR
Tdap	Rabies
Meningococcus	Polio
Chickenpox	Japanese Encephalitis
Hep A	Hep B
	COVID-19

WALGREENS

2351 South Townsend Ave Montrose
(970) 252-1743
Register Online

Flu	Shingles
Pneumonia	HPV
Tdap	MMR
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
(970) 497-8981
Register online

Flu	MMR
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
(970) 249-2064 **340B PARTICIPANT**
Register Online

Flu	Shingles
Pneumonia	MMR
Tdap	Rabies
Meningococcus	Polio
Chickenpox	Japanese Encephalitis
Hep A	Hep B
	COVID-19

SAFEWAY

1329 South Townsend Ave Montrose
(970) 249-1160 **340B PARTICIPANT**
Register online

Flu	Shingles
Pneumonia	Tetanus
HPV	Pertussis
MMR	Meningitis
Hep A	Hep B
	COVID-19

WALMART

16750 South Townsend Ave Montrose
(970) 249-7742
Walk-in's welcome

Flu	Hep A & Hep B
Shingles	IPV
Tdap	Varicella
Td	Pneumococcal
MMR	Meningococcal
	COVID-19 (Moderna & J)

STACIE'S APOTHECARY SHOPPE

112 Village Square West Ridgway
(970) 626-7100

Flu	Pneumonia
Shingles	Tdap



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.

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

CHRIST IN THE PASSOVER: AN INTERACTIVE EXPERIENCE

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE--On Sunday, March 26 at 6PM, Victory Baptist Church will host "Christ in

the Passover: An Interactive Experience." This powerful, interactive experience, led by David Garrett of Jews for Jesus, will

illustrate the link between the Jewish feast of Passover and the last supper Jesus shared with His disciples. Join us for a sensory exploration of the beautiful Jewish ceremony called a seder. As we taste the traditional symbolic foods, we'll weave the story of the exodus and freedom from slavery together with the messianic hope realized in Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. The words "do this in remembrance of me" will take on an even deeper meaning to Christians as we learn the significance of the tradition Jesus observed the night before He died and give us a closer look at the very Jewish life He led. Jewish or not, religious or not—all are welcome for this unforgettable, thought-provoking experience.

Have questions? Call Victory Baptist Church at 970-249-6874.

DineOutMontrose.com

Camp Robber
970-240-1590

Jimmer's Steak & BBQ
970-252-1227

Stone House
970-240-8899

Fiesta Guadalajara
970-249-2460

Mimo's
970-249-0616

Alpen Confections
970-648-0609

Pahgre's
970-249-6442

Remington's at the Bridges
970-252-1119

My Favorite Muffin
970-765-0076

Rib City
970-249-7427



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970-249-5550

SKEES GRADUATED, LOCALS ON DEAN'S LIST @ FORT LEWIS COLLEGE

Special to Art & Sol

DURANGO-- Katelyn Skees, of Montrose graduated from Fort Lewis College on Dec. 16, 2022. Skees graduated with a degree (s) in Psychology. Graduates in the 2022 Fall Commencement ceremony received Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, and Master of Arts in Education degrees, as well as certificates in Pre-Health, Geographic Information System, Regenerative Food Systems, and Digital Marketing. Also, more than 400 students were named to Fort Lewis College's Dean's List for the Fall 2022 semester. These students took at least 15 credits of gradable hours and achieved a 3.60 or higher grade point average.

Edelawit Hoag of Montrose
Lily Burton of Montrose

BETHE *Belle* of the *Ball!*



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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

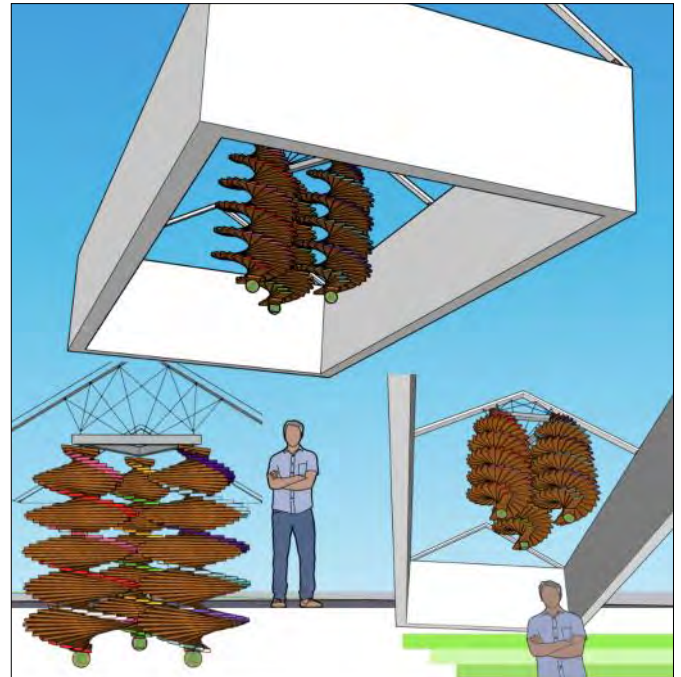
LOCAL ARTIST CIE HOOVER SELECTED FOR ART INSTALLATION AT NASHVILLE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IN CONJUNCTION WITH BONNAROO MUSIC & ARTS FESTIVAL

Special to Art & Sol

OURAY— Nashville International Airport® (BNA®), Arts at the Airport, the Bonnaroo Works Fund (BWF), and the Bonnaroo Music and Arts Festival® are proud to announce the 10th annual Bonnaroo-themed skylight exhibition at BNA. The exhibition will feature four works of art from artists around the country through April 7, 2024, including Cie Hoover of Ouray, Colorado.

The exhibition is funded by Arts at the Airport and the Bonnaroo Works Fund, the charitable arm of the festival. The winning entries are suspended from the ceiling in four skylights located in Concourses B and C and will be on display through April 7, 2024. The four winning entries are selected by a jury composed of members of the Bonnaroo team and Arts at the Airport Board of Directors. The winners are selected based on artistic quality and communication of the Bonnaroo brand to both new and familiar audiences.

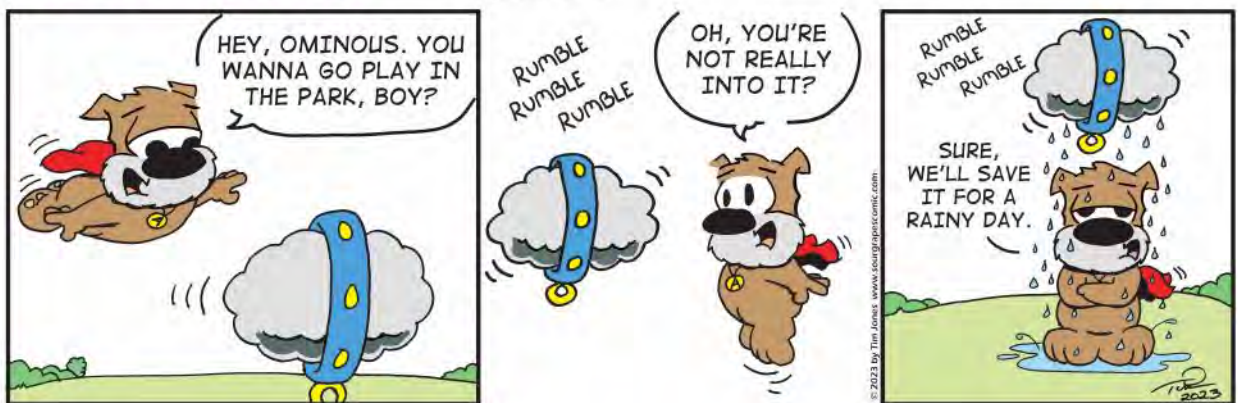
Shown here is a rendering of Cie's winning installation titled "Infinite Crescendos" which will be installed at the end of May of this year.



WEEKLY CARTOONS

SOUR GRAPES

by Tim Jones

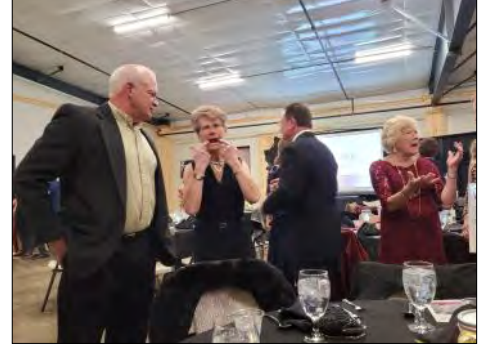


Just in thyme for spring ...

The Mirror

Homegrown content with flavor.

JOEY MONTTOYA BOESE NAMED WOMAN OF THE YEAR IN 2023 WOMEN OF DISTINCTION AWARDS



Clockwise-Nominees this year included Kathy Heavers, a Colorado teacher of the Year, and Montrose County Clerk and Recorder Tressa Guynes; Dr. Mary Vader hams it up for the camera prior to becoming the 2023 Lifetime Achievement Award Winner (L to R) Brad Hitt, Dr. Mary Vader, and Doris Chamberlin; Below right, (L to R) Montrose Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) Executive Director Sandy Head and Tonya Maddox, owner of Our Town Matters — a full-service marketing, public relations, and events firm. Maddox, the creator and host of the Annual Women of Distinction Awards, is in her seventh year of honoring local women for the role they play in society; Local business owner and husband of a Previous Woman of Distinction honoree David Fishing, Photos by Gail Marvel.



By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE-Celebrating its seventh year, the 2023 Annual Women of Distinction Awards was held at the Montrose County Events Center on March 3, 2023.

Tonya Maddox, owner of Our Town Matters, created the annual event as a way to spotlight and recognize the important role women play locally in the economy and in society. The honorees represent the most distinctive women in business, government, education, and not-for profit fields.

More than 200 people attended the three-hour sold-out gala, which included cocktails, dinner catered by the Stone House, awards, presentations, dessert and photographs. Maddox said, "As we celebrate Women's History Month, Our Town Matters is proud to introduce 20 remarkable women."

The 2023 Women of Distinction are:
Sarah Abbott- Ireland Stapleton

Joey Boese - Peer Kindness

Nathalie Bouchard - SOM Footwear

Abbie Brewer - Hilltop Family Resource Ctr.

Dr. Joanna Daly - Eye Care for Montrose

Dr. Lindsay Greenfield - Cedar Point Health

Tressa Guynes - Montrose County

Kathy Heavers - The Forum Montrose

Tessa Imus - Timberline Bank

Leanna Johnson - Mosaic

Lisa Kuczmarski - City of Montrose

Randilyn Madison - Miss Rodeo Colorado

Danielle Musser - Musser Adapted P.E.

Jennifer Pelligra - Community Options

Ashley Pietak - Tempest

Davina Pope- San Juan Brews

Jamie Saff - Alpine Bank

Caitlin Switzer - Montrose Mirror

Christina Van Vleet - Phoenix Fitness

Ellena Wenger - Luxe Designs Boutique

Prior to the event, the nominees were given the opportunity to vote for the one

woman most deserving of the title "Woman of the Year 2023". The winner, Joey Boese (Peer Kindness) was unable to attend the event. However, when notified by phone about the recognition bestowed on her, she was honored.

The 2023 Lifetime Achievement Award went to Dr. Mary Vader. According to Maddox, "Nominations are now open for the 2024 Women of Distinction."

SPRING HIKES TO GET YOUR KIDS OUTSIDE



Courtesy photo Christine Freed.

by Abram Herman,
via Friends of Youth and Nature

REGIONAL—Every day the weather seems to be gradually getting a little warmer (in between those spontaneous Colorado snowstorms, at least), and that can only mean one thing—spring is near! The transition from winter to summer activities will be here before you know it, and it's time to start planning some excursions with your little ones as the trails dry and the warm sun comes out. The benefits of getting outside are numerous, from mental health, to physical health, to just having fun together as a family. Here are a few quick and easy hiking trails that you can enjoy with your whole crew:

The Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park offers five easy to moderate hikes along the South Rim that vary in length from 2/3 mile to two miles round trip. Because it is a national park, there is an entrance fee required. Start with **Warner Point Nature Trail**, a 1.5-mile out-and-back trail starting at the parking area at the end of the South Rim road. Generally considered an easy route with only a 406-foot elevation gain, it takes an average of 52 min to complete this out and back trail. The trail should be snow free by April or early May. You will need to leave pups at home — dogs aren't allowed on this trail. The **Rim Rock Nature Trail** is another 1.5-mile out-and-back trail with 187-foot elevation gain. Generally considered a moderately challenging route, it takes an average of 37 min to complete. This trail should be snow free by early April. Dogs are allowed but must be on a leash. Both of these trails are very popular

for birding, hiking, and walking, so you will likely encounter other people while exploring.

Ridgway State Park, 21 miles southeast of Montrose, offers over 14 miles of marked, well-maintained *trails* inviting for the novice to expert *trail* users. **Because it is a state park**, there is an entrance fee required. Wide concrete trails provide easy hiking, and biking while gravel trails meander through a variety of natural settings, from open grasslands, through pinyon/juniper forests and along the rivers. Fabulous mountain views will delight trail users at many points along the way. Explore **the Wapiti Trail**, a 1.1-mile out-and-back trail near the Visitor Center. Generally considered an easy route with a 147-foot elevation gain at 7,000 feet, which is park elevation. The trail takes an average of 28 min to complete. The best times to visit this trail are April through May. Dogs are welcome, but must be on a leash. **The Oak Leaf Trail** is another short 1.1-mile loop trail along the Uncompahgre River. It starts near the Pa-Co-Chu-Puk Campground. Expect beautiful views of the surrounding Sneffels and Cimarron ranges of the San Juan Mountains! Generally considered an easy route, it takes an average of 24 min to complete. The trail is open year-round and is beautiful to visit anytime. Dogs are welcome, but must be on a leash. If you are enjoying these easy hikes and want to explore more, stop off at the visitor center for a hiking brochure along with information on the park's natural history.

The **Dominguez Canyon** trails can offer a real wilderness experience. About 44 miles north of Montrose, the trails here offer a long, flat hike that will take you as far as you'd like to go. The entire Big Dominguez and Little Dominguez Canyon Loop stretches for an astonishing 39 miles, but the vast majority of hikers just travel in as far as they want to go for the day, and then head back out. Little Dominguez Canyon has some very cool historical features, if you're willing to do about 7 miles of hiking in total. Around 3.5 miles in, a homestead from 1911 has been preserved by the BLM and offers a fascinating look at

life over 110 years ago. The house is remarkably well preserved, and the skeletons of old farming equipment are still dotted around the property. It's really something worth seeing! The whole of Little Dominguez Canyon is beautiful, with astounding rock formations throughout, and it's not at all uncommon to see desert bighorn sheep roaming along the hillsides.

Venturing a little further afield and potentially a little drier for early spring hikes, the **Lunch Loops** are always a crowd favorite. Less than 10 minutes from downtown Grand Junction, the most accessible trail is of course the paved one—the Monument Trail runs alongside Monument Road all the way from the intersection with Broadway up to the Lunch Loops parking lot, and in 2024 it will be extended all the way up to South Camp Road.

If you'd rather get off the pavement and onto dirt trails instead, there are numerous possibilities at the Lunch Loops. For the very easiest hikes stick close to the parking lot on trails like Short and Cranky or the Kids Meal Loop. For a more strenuous hike head up Tabeguache for an out and back, or take Hop Skip and Jump to Big Sister for a short loop, with a few steeper parts, but rewarding views. Wherever you hike at Lunch Loops just be sure to keep an eye out for mountain bikers and dogs, as there are always a fair number of both on these well-loved local trails.

Heading up towards the Colorado National Monument, a very popular option for a short hike is the **Devils Kitchen Trail**. Note that there is an entrance fee required, since this is within the Colorado National Monument. The trail is just under two miles, and it's an out and back; there is some mild elevation gain, but it is very approachable for most casual hikers. If you make it up the full length of the trail, you will be rewarded with beautiful views and some really cool rock formations!

If you're looking for a hike with a big payoff for your mileage, the **Mica Mines Trail** should rank high on your list of must-dos. Another out and back trail, this starts at the Bangs Canyon Trailhead up Little Park Road, and takes you about 1.3 miles in

Continued next pg

SPRING HIKES TO GET YOUR KIDS OUTSIDE

From previous pg

and quartz mine. The glittering, shimmering mica in the rock amphitheater formed by the long-closed mining operation is sure to be a huge hit with the kids! The trail is pretty flat the whole way, so it's a very easy hike for anyone to enjoy. By the time you've reached the mine and made it back to the car, you'll have hiked about 2.6 miles on flat terrain, which should be approachable for most families.

The mine was operated up until the 1950s, and the mica that they were mining at the time was used for manufacturing paints and electrical insulation, so you can build a little history lesson into your excursion!

One of the coolest hikes in the Grand Junction area is the **Monument Canyon Trail**, with the added benefit of getting to experience the Colorado National Monument without having to pay the entry fee (remember to leave the dogs at home since they aren't allowed in the Monument). The parking lot for accessing this

trail can be found by searching for Monument Canyon Trailhead, as it enters the Colorado National Monument interior, rather than taking you along the upper rim of the Monument. This one can be a bit of a step up in difficulty, being quite a bit longer than the other options, but you can always turn around part way if you don't want to hike the whole five-mile loop. If you do make it all the way, though, the payoff is huge—literally! Aside from a high likelihood of getting to see some desert bighorn sheep, this trail leads, you right up to the incredible Independence Monument rock formation, which towers 450 feet above the desert floor. This formation was first climbed all the way back in 1911 by John Otto, founder of the Colorado National Monument, and shortly thereafter by Beatrice Farnham, to whom Otto was briefly married. If you look for a large, slightly sloping flat rock a few hundred yards northeast of the rock tower, you can still faintly see a giant inscription of the

first line of the Declaration of Independence, which was carved into the rock by Farnham.

From the very easiest of hikes, to something a little more adventurous, but still approachable, this should give you a good start as you begin planning for some warm spring days hiking and enjoying nature with your family. Start with something easy and work your way up to the longer hikes, and before you know it you and your kids will be skipping up the most beautiful and rewarding trails on the Western Slope. Get out there and explore, spring is almost here!

Abram Herman is a board member of the Friends of Youth and Nature - a non-profit that promotes opportunities for youth and families to get outside, experience outdoor activities, and explore nature. Follow our outdoor news blog and receive monthly tips on connecting your children to nature. Learn more, visit www.friendsofyouthandnature.org



Rosemont BAPTIST CHURCH

Easter

SUNDAY SERVICE
APRIL 9TH @ 10:45 am

There will be a special
Children's Easter Service
held at this same time!

Sunday School Classes available for all ages at 9:15am

1598 E. Niagara Rd. Montrose, CO 81401 (970)249-4887 Visit us at RosemontBaptist.org

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

DELTA MONTROSE COMMUNITY CONCERT ASSOCIATION PRESENTS THE HALL SISTERS



Special to the Mirror

DELTA-The Delta Montrose Community Concert Association is pleased to present The Hall Sisters, a classic sister ensemble. The concert is scheduled for Friday, March 17th 2023 at 7 P.M. at the Delta Performing Arts Center, 822 Grand Avenue in Delta, CO. Doors open at 6 p.m.

The Hall Sisters have established themselves as one of the up-and-coming acts in the country pop genre. While releasing multiple CDs over the last few years their performance schedule has brought them to notable venues such as The Grand Ole Opry, Carnegie Hall and the Country Music Hall of Fame. The sound of The Hall Sisters is best described as a combination of the harmonic prowess of the Eagles and the soulful blend of the Carpenters mixed with the energy of country pop! The word synergy defines the quartet in that the combined output of their talents and musicality is greater than the sum of each individual part. A vocal/instrumental foursome of talented siblings, the Hall Sisters marry stunning harmonies along with a brilliance and excellence on their instruments to create an entirely unique sound.

Single admission tickets will be available at the door the night of the performance. \$20 for adults and \$5 for students.

LOWER TEMPERATURES, BIGGER ADVENTURES

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE-About 150 Scouts BSA from 10 different Western Slope communities enjoyed a weekend of fun this last week at Sylvan Lake State Park. Many activities were conducted with the theme being Klondikathon (combination of the traditional Klondike Derby and a Biathlon). The

Klondike Derby being many camping skill stations representing Alaskan gold rush towns and the Biathlon has shooting stations for the Scouts to try their shooting skills. Scouts use snowshoes and home-made dog sleds to traverse the course of skill stations. Several Cub Scout packs were there as well during the day to learn

and compete with the older Scouts.

The Scouts of the Western Slope are enjoying our winter weather, learning outdoor skills, and becoming resourceful citizens.

Ready, Set, Scout!

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SAVE THE DATE! LOCAL EVENTS CALENDAR

ONGOING-

GROUP MINDFUL MEDITATION SESSION to help you sustain and grow your practice with others. Every Wednesday from 6:30-7:30pm at New Leaf Studio 220 N Stough Ave in Montrose.

Month of March: SOLES4SOULS PROJECT collecting new, single, and gently worn shoes at Lions Park Community Building, 602 N. Nevada, Sundays only from 9:00 am to Noon; 525 N. 5th Street, Weekdays; and Geek Coffee, 2305 S. Townsend Avenue, next to DMV, Weekdays, 7 am to 3 pm. Sponsored by the Spiritual Awareness Center, 970-252-0908.

MONTROSE HISTORICAL SOCIETY meets 1st Wednesday of the month @ Montrose Events Center, 1036 No 7th Street 7 pm (970) 249-2085 www.montrosehistory.org

MONTROSE AREA WOODTURNERS second Saturdays 9 am. 17800 - 6400 Rd in Montrose. Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners. Information: Al Head 970-209-0981 or aheadaviation@outlook.com

GREATER MONTROSE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BUSINESS AFTER HOURS – Mar. 23, Apr. 27, May 25.

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

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. We gather at 10-11:30 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. An infant scale will also be available to check your baby's weight. Breastfeeding Support Group (Bring your questions and your family!) Montrose County Event Center (1036 North 7th Street Room 3) 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 welcomes local practitioners, who focus on healing the whole being. Meetings are on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month and both are from Noon-1 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 -The market will be open every other Saturday from 10-1 inside the Centennial Meeting Room and on Centennial Plaza from January through April.

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

Feb. 27-Monday, Feb. 27--1 p.m.--Local archaeologist Charlie Seevers will speak on "Foraging to Farming, 2500 BCE to 600 AD, in the American Southwest" at the Warrior Resource Center, 4 Hillcrest Plaza Way. All are welcome to this event sponsored by the Montrose Genealogy Center.

March 3— Annual Women of Distinction Awards Gala. Montrose County Event Center from 5:30 – 8:30pm

March 11-Day long mindful communication workshop teaching deep listening, compassionate understanding, and authentic speech so that we can all be heard. 9am-4pm and lunch is included. \$100

March 13-On Monday March 13 at 4:30 Citizens Climate Lobby.org will meet at Montrose library meeting rm. nonpartisan, national environmental group progressing on local actions, All Welcome. Info at 970-765-9095

March 15-16-Housing Resources of Western Colorado invites Montrose and Delta County residents to a free two-hour educational night entitled "Homebuyer 101" at MADA (17 N 6th St, Montrose, CO 81401), co-sponsored by NuVista Federal Credit Union, the Hispanic Affairs Project and MADA. There will be two sessions, one in English and one in Spanish. The English session will be held on March 15 at 5:30 PM and Spanish session will be held on March 16 at 6:45 PM. Childcare and refreshments will be provided at both sessions. The course will provide an introduction on preparing for homeownership, community homebuyer resources and programs, and what homeownership entails after purchase.

March 16-Montrose County will host an open house on March 16 about proposed changes to the county's junk ordinance. The open house is at 6pm at the Montrose County Public Works Conference Room (63160 LaSalle Road). Please note that the proposed junk ordinance DOES NOT apply to properties zoned as General Agricultural, Commercial, Business or Industrial. The ordinance is limited to properties zoned as General Residential, Manufactured Home Park Residential and Multiple Family Residential.

March 18-Come watch the Fly Fishing Film Tour, eat, drink, and win prizes. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Show starts at 6:30 p.m. \$25 in advance/\$30 at the door. Ticket link: <https://flyfilmtour.myeventscenter.com/event/A-Benefit-For-The-Uncompahgre-River-73751>

Contact the Montrose Mirror:
970-275-0646

Editor@montrosemirror.com

www.montrosemirror.com

READER PHOTO SPOTLIGHT: DEB REIMANN



Photographer Deb Reimann captured these images at the beautiful Colorado National Monument, from top left of Bighorn Sheep, Balanced Rock and Rock Cairns.

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