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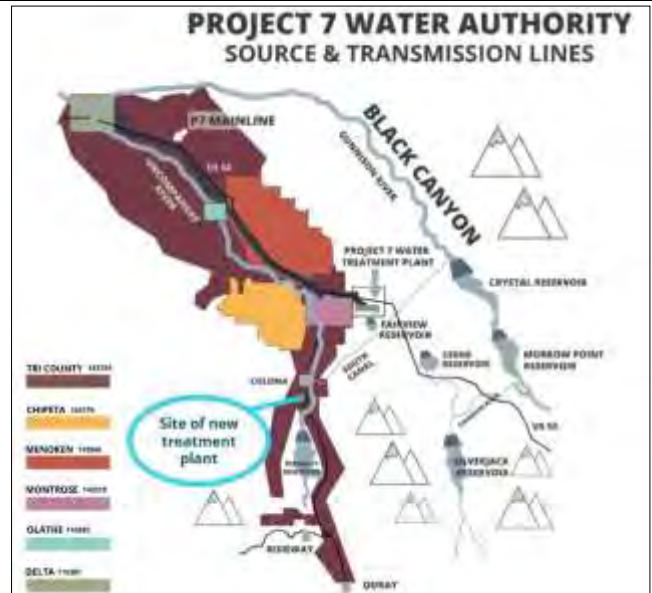
© Issue No. 552 Sept. 25 2023

PROJECT 7'S PROPOSED NEW \$160 MILLION WATER TREATMENT PLANT RAISES CONCERNS ABOUT AFFORDABILITY, TIMING

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-On Tuesday, Sept. 26 the Project 7 Water Authority, which encompasses seven local water entities, will host an Open House from 5 -7 p.m. at the location of their proposed new water treatment plant, 35679 US-550. The plant is still in the design phase, as Project 7 moves toward implementation of its Regional Water Supply and Resiliency Program. The rationale for the program has been brought forward in numerous meetings with local municipalities, and is stated on the Project 7 web site:

"The Regional Water Supply Program is expected to produce water for the Uncompahgre Valley by 2026. The new water treatment plant will be designed so additional capacity can be added in the future, which would result in up to



Above, courtesy graphic from the Project 7 Water Authority.

Continued pg 21

ULIBARRI VOTES 'NO' AS MURA APPROVES \$403K IN INCENTIVES TO 'PROJECT LOLLIPOP' FOR HORIZONTAL SITE IMPROVEMENTS

"We're about bringing business into the community -- the Dragoo's, me, and Anthony Russo,"
-Montrose City Manager Bill Bell



The Montrose Urban Renewal Authority (MURA) Board meeting was held on Sept. 20, 2023. During the Call for Public Comment former Montrose County Commissioner Ron Henderson addressed the board. Photo by Gail Marvel.

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE-The Sept. 20 Montrose Urban Renewal Authority (MURA) board meeting was held at 2p.m. in the City Council Chambers of the Elks Civic Building. Chair Barbara Bynum opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call. All board members were present, Mayor Pro Tem David Reed attended by Zoom.

The 10-member MURA board is made up of Montrose City Council (five members), City Manager Bill Bell (Executive Director), Brad Hughes (Montrose County), Tad Rowan (Montrose Fire Protection District), Steve Bush (Montrose County School District RE-1J) and Allison Howe (Special Districts Representative). The six-member city constituency hold the controlling interest and actions of the MURA Board.

About two dozen audience members participated in the three-hour long meeting, which included

Continued pg 28

Red Hawks Football Cruises Past
Parker Lutheran 36-14:
High School Sports by Cliff Dodge!

David White Op-Ed on pedestrian
safety in City of Montrose

Reader Photo Spotlight: Deb
Reimann!

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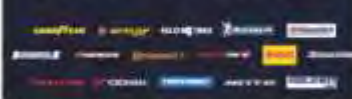
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GREAT COMMUNITY GIVEAWAY!

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The annual Great Community Giveaway returns on Saturday, September 30, from 10 a.m. to noon, at Lions Park Community Building, 602 N. Nevada, in Montrose. "It's a neighbor helping neighbor program where people with items they want to recycle donate to people who are in need," said Rev. Dr. Arlyn Macdonald of the Spiritual Awareness Center, sponsor of the event. Everything is free. Donations of clothing for all ages, toys, books, household items, blankets, coats, shoes, and more are set out on tables for easy access. Donations of items will be accepted starting at 8 a.m. and the doors will open at 10 a.m. Items not taken by the end of the Giveaway will be passed on to other charitable organizations. People are encouraged to bring their own bags or boxes to pack up their items to take home. "So many people have been helped through this program," added Rev. Macdonald. "One year we were able to help two teenage boys start their own business with free lawn mowers. Another time we were able to send several boxes of leftover t-shirts to a relief program in the Philippines. A single father was able to help furnish his new apartment so his children would have a home. And one year all the remaining clothing and shoes were delivered to an Indian reservation."

Only good, clean items are accepted. No electronics, large furniture items, large tools, TV's, or items that are difficult to recycle are accepted. Volunteers are always welcome. For more information call 970-252-0908.

THE MONTROSE MIRROR

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CITIZENS' CLIMATE LOBBY TO MEET SEPT. 28

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-On Thursday, Sept. 28 from 5:45-6:45pm, Citizens' Climate Lobby presents West Slope Energy Tour at Blue Corn Café 1842 S. Townsend Montrose, followed by tabling and music. Local/national energy trends and the future, info 970-765-9095.



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INVESTIGATION CONTINUES INTO VEHICLE-PEDESTRIAN ACCIDENT NEAR HIGH SCHOOL

By Caitlin Switzer

Photo by David White

MONTROSE—On Monday, Sept. 18, a juvenile pedestrian was hit by a juvenile driver while crossing the street in the 200 Block of South 5th Street around 3:45pm. The pedestrian was transported from the scene. Sgt. Chris Valesquez of Montrose Police Department said that the call came in at 3:46 pm. The department is still in the process of collecting evidence and the investigation remains ongoing.

"We are really concerned for everyone involved--our sympathy goes out to everyone affected by this accident," Valesquez said. He urged both drivers and pedestrians to be aware while traveling local roadways. "Traffic and pedestrian safety is a major concern," Valesquez said. "Drivers should maintain hyper vigilance any time you are on the roadway. Pedestrians, don't let your guard down, and always use the crosswalk."



REGIONALNEWS BRIEFS

UPCOMING KINIKIN ROAD CLOSURE

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— Montrose County Road and Bridge will close Kinikin Road on Tuesday, Sept. 26 for drilling core samples. The road will be closed to through traffic, and a hard closure on Kinikin Road from Q72 Road to R71 Road. The closure will only last for the day from approximately 8am to 6pm. Motorists are asked to use an alternate route during this time. For more information on road closures, please visit montrosecounty.net.



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RED HAWKS FOOTBALL CRUISES PAST PARKER LUTHERAN 36-14



Running Back Blake Griffin set to take a handoff and score from four yards out. Photo by Cliff Dodge.

By Cliff Dodge

MONTROSE-The Sept. 22nd edition of Friday Night Lights did not go well for the top ranked Parker Lutheran Lions as the Montrose Red Hawks dismantled the visitors 36 - 14 at the Montrose stadium before a sell-out Homecoming crowd. The Red Hawks improved their overall record to three wins and two losses, while the Lions suffered their first defeat of the young season. Parker Lutheran was ranked second in the 3A classification behind the Roosevelt Rough Riders while the Red Hawks continue to be ranked 3rd in the 4A classification.

The Red Hawks took the opening kickoff and in workman like fashion marched 60 yards for the first score of the game. Blake Griffin scored from the 5-yard line, and the Red Hawks added a two point conversion to take the 8-0 lead.

The Lions, after a penalty on the kickoff, began their first drive at their 7-yard line. The visitors drove to the Red Hawks 45-yard line before an improving defense forced the Lions to punt, turning the football over on downs.

The Red Hawks were unable to move the ball and were forced to punt. The Lions put together a 16 play drive and scored from the 4-yard line making the score 8-7 in favor of the Red Hawks. With 5:32 remaining in the first half the Red Hawks drove 78 yards for their second touchdown. The drive was kept alive by a pass

completion from senior quarterback Gage Wareham to junior Hunter Gurule for a 36 -yard gain. Blake Griffin then took a handoff and ran up the middle for a 36-yard touchdown. The two point conversion made the score Red Hawks 16, Parker Lutheran 7 at half time.

The Lions, unable to move the ball, punted to the Red Hawks who put together another long drive of 82 yards. Quarterback Gage Wareham kept the drive alive with a keeper that picked up 16 yards and another first down. Blake Griffin polished off the drive from 4 yards out making the score 22-7. The Red Hawks defense came up big in the third quarter as they denied the Lions any running room and forced the visitors to turn the ball over on downs twice in the frame. The 4th quarter saw the Red Hawks and the Lions exchange scoring drives. The Red Hawks Blake Griffin scored on a one-yard run, while the Lions completed two passes for 80 yards and the touchdown from 10 yards out.

The 29-14 score stood up deep into the 4th quarter. A Montrose fumble late turned the ball over to the Lions but the fast improving Red Hawk defense rose up and turned the Lions away once again. The fourth down pass was broken up by senior Dylan Jessup. One of the most exciting plays occurred when Gage Wareham handed the football off to junior running back Aiden Grijalva, who broke contain and rambled just under 60 yards for



Members of the Montrose Marching Band as they prepare for the Homecoming half time show. Photo by Cliff Dodge.

the final score of the evening, 36-14. A last-ditch effort by the Lions with just under a minute to play was disrupted as the defense intercepted the Lions long pass and ended any chance the Lions had.

The Red Hawks played a complete game vs the Lions. The offense scored early and often, while the defense continued to shine as they forced the visitors to turn the ball over on downs several times not allowing their passing offense to get untracked. This was a fitting Homecoming victory for the thousands of fans who showed up to support the Red Hawks and their school. The Red Hawks hit the road for their next contest as they go to Grand Junction and take on the Central Warriors on Thursday evening, Sept. 28. Kickoff is slated for 7 PM.

MONTROSE RED HAWKS SPORTS ROUNDUP

RED HAWKS GIRLS AND BOYS TAKE THIRD AND FIFTH AT GUNNISON CROSS-COUNTRY MEET

By Cliff Dodge

MONTROSE-The Montrose High School girls' and boys' cross country teams acquitted themselves quite well at the Mountaineer/Cowboy Cross Country Meet last Wednesday at the Gunnison Community School course with Third and Fifth Place finishes.

The girls' cross country was led by senior Kenzie Bush who finished in a strong Fifth place as she posted a 20:25.90 second time for the 5,000 meter run. Two other Red Hawks finished in the top 20. Sophomore Millie Crane placed 10th in the competition while sophomore Jaden Bresett finished clocked in with a 19th place finish.

The rest of the Red Hawks team finished as follows: freshman Naomi McGarru, senior Olivia Cook, senior Annabelle Hawkins, junior Georgia Ficco and sophomore Emmy Maxwell. A total of seven high school cross country teams competed in the Mountaineer/Cowboy Meet.

The Montrose boys' cross country team finished in Fifth Place with senior Elijah Echols finishing a very close Second with a posted time of 16:39.50 seconds. The competition was won by junior Ezekiel Wilcox of Salida High School. The Salida team also took First place in the team competition.

The Red Hawks were well represented by the following: Sophomore Phin Howe, Sophomore Vash Veatch, Sophomore Deklan Wooden, Freshman Diego Renteria, Sophomore Tyler Surles, Freshman Zach Quad and Junior Jake Pfifer.

The order of finish for the boys saw Salida on top, followed by Woodland Park, Crested Butte Community School, Gunnison, Montrose, Olathe, Rye and Buena Vista High School.

Canon City and Colorado Springs Christian School are the next two opponents for the Red Hawks.

RED HAWKS VOLLEYBALL RED HOT

By Cliff Dodge

MONTROSE-It took a while for the Montrose Red Hawks to get warmed up and playing the kind of volleyball head coach Shane Forrest both wanted and expected. The Red Hawks started slowly and posted a 2-4 record in their first six outings. The next five matches were wins and pushed the Red Hawks overall record to seven wins and four losses and 4-0 in league action.

In taking a look at the last two contests the Red Hawks handled both the Durango Demons and the Fruita-Monument Wildcats with little trouble. The Red Hawks shut down the Durango Demons three matches to zero. The match scores showed that the Red Hawks controlled the play with sophomore Maggie Legg leading the way with 15 kills. Senior Jadyn Hall chipped in with five. Senior Taygen Rocco led the Red Hawks with 25 assists.

The Red Hawks hit the road for a match with the Fruita-Monument Wildcats on Tuesday, Sept. 19. The visiting Red Hawks won the first game by the score of 25-20 and then followed up with a defensive gem besting the Wildcats by the score of 25-9. Fruita came back to capture the third match 25-15 and the Red Hawks closed out the proceeding with a 25-20 victory in the fourth and final match.

The Red Hawks next play host to the Grand Junction Tigers on Tuesday, Sept. 26. The Red Hawks defeated the Tigers 3-0 back on Sept. 5 up in Grand Junction.

RED HAWKS SOCCER HITS THE WIN COLUMN

By Cliff Dodge

MONTROSE-The young soccer season did not get off to a great beginning as the Red Hawks dropped their first three games. Varsity soccer coach Cassie Snyder knew her team was better than the 0-3 start.

The Red Hawks travelled to Grand Junction and took on the Warriors of Grand Junction Central High School in early September and hit the win column, outscoring the Warriors 4-1. Goal scorers for the Red Hawks included Christopher Gonzalez-Muniz, Tommy Montoya-Ornelas, Bowden Vigil and Thomas Chandler. The Red Hawks offense has been slow in starting this season but the four goal outburst against the Warriors was a confidence builder.

The Red Hawks used the victory to continue their turn-around and won their second win at the expense of the Canon City Tigers by the score of 6-2. The Hawks dropped a 3-0 match to the Cheyenne Mountain Red Tailed Hawks and then traveled to Grand Junction and tied the Tigers 3-3.

The Red Hawks hosted the Demons of Durango on Thursday, Sept. 21 and dropped a close match by the score of 2-0. The next action for the Red Hawks will be another road trip, this time to Fruita-Monument to tackle the Wildcats on Tuesday, Sept. 26.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

BOSOM BUDDIES 31ST ANNUAL WALK/RUN October 14th Marks 31 Years Of Helping



Photos courtesy Bosom Buddies Breast Cancer Support Group of Southwestern Colorado

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-October 14th is a big day for Bosom Buddies Breast Cancer Support Group of Southwestern Colorado. Saturday, Oct. 14, 2023 marks the 31st year the organization will commemorate October as Breast Cancer Awareness month with its annual Walk/Run fundraiser.

Walk Chairperson Denise Distel emphasized the annual Walk/Run has become a tradition. "For 31 years, residents of Montrose, Ouray, and San Miguel Counties have come to show support to those with a current diagnosis, to salute survivors,

and to remember those who were lost to breast cancer," she said. "Our event is a positive, uplifting way of helping with a serious reality."

According to Bosom Buddies President Phyllis Wiesner, one out of every eight women and one of every 100 men are diagnosed with breast cancer sometime in their lifetime in the United States.

"In today's economy, many people are postponing seeing a doctor to check out potential symptoms of breast cancer," said Wiesner. "This is how Bosom Buddies can help by providing financial assistance to those who qualify for diagnostic procedures because early detection is key in beating this disease."

"We are so grateful to have had 31 years of support from everyone in our service area," said Wiesner. "Many small-town non-profits don't make it this long, but Bosom Buddies is a survivor just like many

of our members." Wiesner is herself a 26-year survivor. Distel added, "We are hoping for a big turnout on Walk Day, so we are encouraging everyone to pre-register online or download and mail in a registration form from our website www.BosomBuddiesSWC.org. The donation to participate is \$35 for those who pre-register and \$40 the day of the event. Also, there's no such thing as too much pink on Walk day!"

Bosom Buddies also is doing something different this year, according to Distel. "Our participants have told us how much they like the quality of our Walk shirts but it's difficult to order enough for those who register late or on Walk Day itself," she said. "This year, to receive the official 2023 Walk shirt, we are asking everyone to register by October 3rd. Those who register after this date will receive the same quality shirt, but it will be a generic Bosom Buddies design."

Wiesner emphasized, "It is important for everyone to know that all funds raised by Bosom Buddies are spent locally to help locals affected by breast cancer – that's your family, friends, and neighbors. We offer medical financial assistance to those who qualify and weekly support group meetings on Wednesdays at noon along with free wigs, scarves, hats, and prosthetics. We also award educational scholarships to survivors and to the children of a parent or guardian who has ever been diagnosed with breast cancer."

To register for the 31st Annual Walk/Run on Oct. 14 and for more information on the services offered by Bosom Buddies, visit their website at www.BosomBuddiesSWC.org.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

EAST END MASTER PLAN DRAFT RELEASED

Special to the Mirror

SAN MIGUEL COUNTY--- San Miguel County Planning Department officials and planning consultants, Design Workshop, have announced the release of the latest draft of the East End Master Plan, the newest iteration of a planning and vision document that has undergone an inclusive and open public process that has been underway since last fall.

The East End Master Plan will replace the 34-year-old Telluride Regional Master Plan (TRAMP), a document that lacks modern planning elements, such as sustainability and resilience. Additionally, since TRAMP's adoption in 1989, the east end of the county has seen significant develop-

ment, including the advent of the Telluride Regional Airport, the Lawson Hill deed restricted subdivision, and the incorporation of Mountain Village.

The release of the latest draft comes after nearly a year of not only meetings of the County Planning Commission, but a host of public outreach events, a survey, and results from focus group discussions on topics that included tourism, housing, environmental stewardship, inclusion and livability, among others.

"This plan is the culmination of extensive community outreach and participation," said San Miguel County's Planning Director, Kaye Simonson. "Since last fall, over 1,000 people have participated, attending

focus group meetings, pop-up events, and community open houses, and completing our survey. The community's input was invaluable and helped us to create a plan that reflects the community's concerns and wishes for the future."

The draft East End Master Plan can be viewed at bit.ly/48i1j4G. Public comments are welcome. Feedback can be sent to planning@sanmiguelcountyco.gov.

Further comments can be submitted during a pair of community open houses scheduled for Tuesday, October 3 at Wilkinson Public Library, 100 West Pacific Avenue. Open house hours will be from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. and from 4-6:45 p.m. The public is encouraged to drop by.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

PUBLIC WELCOME AT CITY BUDGET OPEN HOUSE

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE — Receive information and give feedback regarding the City of Montrose's 2024 budget, at an open house planned for Tuesday, October 17, in the City Council Chambers located at 107 S. Cascade Avenue. The event will begin at 4:30 p.m. with an overview of the budget, followed by informal, one-on-one discussions with city officials who will take comments and provide additional information.

The [city budgets](#) on an annual basis for a fiscal year that begins Jan. 1. The City Charter (Article V - Finance, Appropriations, and Taxation) outlines the basic procedure that is used to create, approve, and implement the annual budget.

The city manager is required to prepare a recommended annual budget for the upcoming fiscal year and provide it to the City Council in

mid-October. The budget development process begins in early summer with each department preparing a preliminary budget estimate based on an analysis of its operational needs for the coming year. Departmental budget estimates are carefully reviewed and adjusted by the city manager and are then combined into a draft budget for the entire city organization. The draft budget is then provided to the City Council for review.

Following the open house, the budget is reviewed and drafted into a city ordinance and placed before the City Council for a formal vote of adoption. As with any city ordinance, the council must vote on a first and second reading of the ordinance in a public hearing and take public comment. The public hearings and vote to approve the budget and appropriation ordi-

nance are scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 7, and Tuesday, Nov. 14.

Residents who are unable to attend the open house are encouraged to view the proposed budget at CityofMontrose.org/Budget. Following the open house on Oct. 17, the website will include an electronic version of the proposed budget, a link to submit comments, documents related to past and current budgets, and more information about how the public can actively participate in the budget process.

Copies of the proposed budget are also available at City Hall (400 East Main Street) from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Thursday. All interested citizens are encouraged to accept the opportunity to give written and verbal comments. For information about the City of Montrose visit CityofMontrose.org.

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By Cedar Point Health

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE 16TH WORD OF THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Editor:

I know most people know our Pledge of Allegiance but, here's a reminder just in case; "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the RE-PUBLIC for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all. Note; we do NOT pledge our allegiance to the Democracy of the United States of America. Does it make you wonder why the Democrats posted a picture in the Mirror, a while back, of their gathering of a messily 250 individuals that partially and purposely said. "Showing up to protect our Democracy?" Shouldn't every political party and leader be defending and protecting our Republic instead? It makes one ponder what type of Democracy the Democrat party think they're defending? And more importantly what type of Democracy do they want to turn the United States into? Also, I would like to point out, if the Democrats are talking about the democracy pertaining to voting, then their Democrat Party watered down everyone's vote in Colorado by welcoming in and championing ballot harvesting. I wrote an extensive opinion piece on their ballot harvesting scheme a while back in the Mirror, and not one Democrat debated or refuted me on the issue.

What IS the definition of a Republic? A **REPUBLIC** is defined in the Oxford dictionary as "a state in which supreme power is held by the people and their elected representatives, and which has an elected or nominated president rather **than** a monarch." The Cambridge dictionary definition defines it as. "A form of government where there is no queen or king. A country that is governed by elected representatives and an elected leader." And the U.S. embassy describes a **REPUBLIC** as a country where the power is held by the people or the representatives they elect."

The United States is often miscategorized by uneducated or nefarious people as a Democracy when in fact it is verifiably a Republic. Just read the pledge of allegiance again. Technically it is a Constitutional Federal REPUBLIC. What does this

mean?

"Constitutional" refers to the fact that the federal government of the United States is based and bound by a constitution which is the supreme law of the land. The very law that Democrat president Biden is currently trying to skirt regarding student loans and other issues.

The key difference between a Democracy and a Republic lies in the limits placed on government by law, which has implications for minority rights. Both forms of government tend to use a representative system—i.e., citizens vote to elect politicians to represent their interest to form government. However, in a constitutional Federal Republic a constitution of charter of rights protects its citizen's certain inalienable rights that are NOT to be taken away by government, even if it has been elected by a majority of voters. In a pure Democracy which seems to be what some Democrats want; the majority is NOT restrained in this way and can impose its will on the minority.

Democracies are organized more like kingdoms of old days. There is a coronated individual that typically lives far removed from the people, with that individual making important decisions for the people while expecting its citizens to labor and pay taxes that benefit their leadership and their friends the most. And there are few limits on spending. It's easy to assume that certain politicians or political parties defending Democracy, would be working towards a Pure or perfect Democracy. That is only logical because it would be ignorant to labor towards a flawed or unrefined democracy. For this reason, you might want to ask your candidates or political party of choice whether they think the United States, first of all, is a Democracy and secondly what type of Democracy do they think we are and what type do they think they're truly defending or will be defending? Also do they think the 16th word of our pledge of allegiance should be changed? And if so, what word should replace the word "Republic"? And something you might want to ask yourself be-

fore giving money or voting for any political party or individual is the following.

"Will my candidate or this political party consistently work to defend and restore our Constitutional Federal Republic or do they have nefarious plans to change the United States into some alternate form? If they're saying that they are defending the Democracy, that the United States is not, then they very well could have nefarious plans in mind. One more question you might want to ask any political candidate is the following. "What is the 16th word in our pledge of allegiance and can you define it plus answer if it should be replaced with another word? And what word would that be.?" If they can't give a proficient answer then by all means, beware!!!

What are the inalienable rights that United States citizens hold? And what does inalienable mean? The Legal Information Institute defines 'inalienable' as follows; "Something that is nontransferable or impossible to take away." U.S. citizens are supposed to be guaranteed three inalienable rights, life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness in all lawful ways. The right to Life or survival has to be number one for every human being otherwise, you don't even need the other two inalienable rights found in Article 3 of the Bill of Rights and mentioned within the constitution at Article 1, Section 9 and the Declaration of Independence (1776); "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights." There is a very important reason why our founders put the word "**Republic**" instead of Democracy in our Pledge of allegiance and why it should permanently remain there. It's time to examine individuals and political parties that are not defending the **Republic** that we pledge our allegiance to. **The 16th word of the pledge of allegiance of the United States of America is and always will have great importance as long as we can keep, restoring and absolutely defending our great Republic!!**

Kelly Ray, Montrose

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

PRESENTATION OF DATA TO UNIFY MONTROSE DELEGATES IS CLEARLY SLOPPY AND PERHAPS PURPOSELY MISLEADING

Editor:

Unify Montrose (UM) has come to town to help solve our alleged childcare problem. They are using a 2021 Assessment, available on the Unify Montrose website, to convince us that we need a solution. The Assessment admits (Section II, page 1) that 'the nature of the survey (used to generate the Assessment) prevents the collection of a true random sample.' I have been unable to obtain from UM a copy of the survey and its raw data. When I consider who may have completed the survey which was used to produce the Assessment, I believe that those families who use childcare were much more likely to complete it than families who choose to raise their children in their own homes. The first three pages of the Assessment have a glaring error. It states that it 'reflects about half (i.e., 50%) of all children 6 and younger' (Executive Summary, page 3). On page 1 of the Executive Summary, it states that 'Montrose is home to... 2,641 children under age 6.' Therefore the number of children 6 and younger would be 3081. Since the survey represents '817 children aged 6 and younger,' (Executive Summary, page 3) that only represents 26.5% of the 3081 children 6 and younger, not 50% as stated. If their '50% figure is essentially a false doubling of the true 26.5% calculation, what other figures can we believe?

When the delegates meet weekly, we are shown videos produced by UM, and we are quizzed on them. UM stated in their 9/19 video that '87% of parents in Montrose had challenges in finding or using childcare.' The actual quote from the Assessment was '87% of the respondents...'. Remember that the respondents only accounted for 26.5% of the children in Montrose, not all Montrose parents. So UM is not always presenting data from the Assessment correctly.

The Assessment shows that 'the proportion of children living in Montrose County declined between 2000 and 2019' (Section I, page 4) and that enrollment in the Montrose Public Schools Pre-K, K, and 1st grade has decreased both in percentages of population and in raw numbers between 2009 and 2020. Yet UM says that by 2028 we will need more childcare slots. Why should we believe this projection?

We have been told that there is \$6.5 million of missed income in Montrose. UM has not given us the source of that data, but we saw that figure in the video we watched and had to answer a question in a quiz to demonstrate that we knew that figure.

The data in the Assessment is mind numbing. Over the next few weeks, the delegates will be deliberating 'over the 8 actions that could achieve the shared

goal,' which is that 'every parent and guardian in Montrose shall have dependable access to safe, affordable, enriching childcare so they can work, attend school, or otherwise contribute to our community.'

You can view the 8 recommendations in the Assessment, Section III, pages 7-11. To the best of my knowledge, all of the recommendations would have a cost.

According to www.saletaxhandbook.com/colorado/rates/montrose, Montrose has higher sales tax than 81% of Colorado localities, so we should not ask for any taxes. Our high taxes are one reason families have a difficult time affording childcare.

Grants come with strings attached, such as forcing childcare facilities to implement comprehensive sex education or critical race theory. If a religious facility that has a Biblical worldview wants to provide childcare, it may not be eligible.

I hope that all delegates study the Assessment and its limited supporting data before coming up with a 'solution.' Einstein is quoted as saying 'Whoever is careless with the truth in small matters cannot be trusted with important matters.' I find that the data in the Assessment and the presentation of that data to the delegates is clearly sloppy and perhaps purposely misleading.

Carol Antolovich, Unify Montrose Delegate

PERHAPS THE MURA BOARD AND THE CITY COUNCIL SHOULD PUT A STIPULATION ON APPROVAL OF NEW MEDICAL FACILITY

Dear Editor:

I would add to Bill Bennet's piece about the new medical facilities to be part of MURA.

Perhaps the MURA Board and the City Council should put a stipulation on their approval that the facility should put in an Emergency Department with the same trauma certification level as Montrose Regional Health has, and that they shall provide a full obstetrics and gynecology department including a birthing center. In addition, they should be required to pro-

vide as much charity care, as a percentage, as our Hospital. If at any time, should their services fall below that required, the facility would have a short amount of time to correct the deficiencies or the whole facility would be shut down and all patients be transferred to other providers in Montrose or Delta counties. The new provider would be left to write their whole investment off. I suspect that the proposers would find those conditions sufficiently rigorous that they would run with their tails between their legs. We have those

services and don't need someone coming in and ruining our already wonderful services.

If the backer of the facility is Quorum Health, they managed our hospital for many years.

They would know the plans of the hospital in depth, as they helped develop them. And they would know just which services are the most lucrative for the hospital and which are not and are supported by other departments.

Rick Bleier, Montrose



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

MONTROSE COUNTY RESIDENTS RAISE THEIR HANDS TO HELP SOLVE CHILDCARE SHORTAGE, HELP SHAPE POTENTIAL ACTIONS



Tonya Maddox.

By *Tonya Maddox*
MONTROSE-

Montrose County has a shortage of childcare options, which impacts everything from education and public safety to healthcare and

economic development. But what if we could solve it together as Montrose neighbors?

That's the driving question behind the Unify Montrose project, which was created with Montrose residents, business leaders, experts, and officials starting in February 2023.

Thanks to collaboration with the City of Montrose, Montrose County, Montrose Recreation District, and dozens of organizations and businesses this summer, 222 Montrose County residents raised their hands to help solve the childcare shortage and help shape potential actions.

Last month, the Assembly of community members was chosen by random lottery during a live, public event on August 2, 2023, using a system called Panelot designed to select a random and representative sample. A total of 64 people were chosen as official "Delegates" with demographics that broadly represent the population of Montrose County from the 2020 Census.

To ensure that each Delegate can be as private or public as they each choose, Unify Montrose isn't releasing the names of all Delegates publicly but is sharing the demographic makeup of the initial randomly selected Assembly.

Who was chosen for the Assembly?

Age

18-24 years old: 5%
25-34 years old: 19%
35-44 years old: 19%
45-54 years old: 13%
55-64 years old: 17%
65 years old and above: 28%

Household Income

Under \$25k: 22%
\$25k-\$50k: 22%
\$50k-\$75k: 19%
\$75-\$100k: 13%
Over \$100k: 17%
Rather not say: 8%

Gender

Female: 61%
Male: 39%

Race and Ethnicity

White: 69%
Hispanic: 23%
Black: 6%
Native American: 2%

Political Party Registration

Unaffiliated: 41%
Republican: 39%
Democrat: 11%
Third-Party: 2%
Not registered to vote or unsure of registration:

Geography

Lives within the City of Montrose: 56%
Lives within the County of Montrose, but not in the City boundaries: 44%

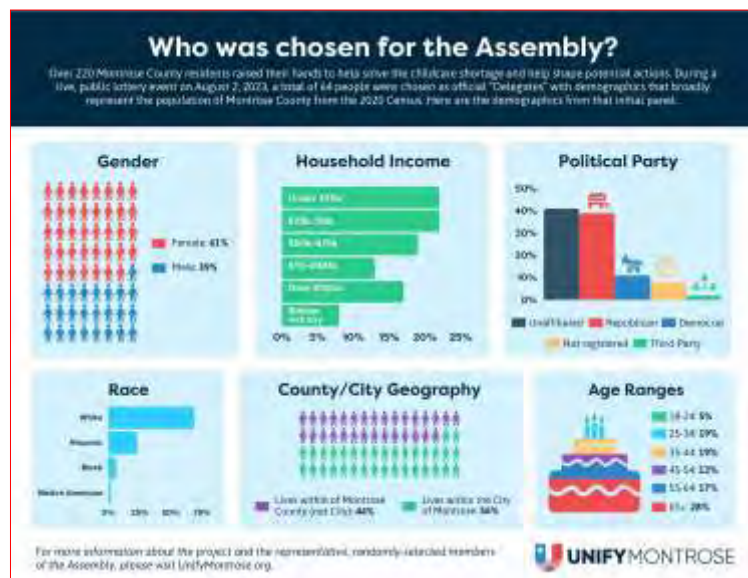
Unify Montrose anticipated a certain amount of attrition, given the commitment of time required of Delegates. So the demographic mix of the Assembly will also change somewhat, but the above was the starting point. A public report will be shared for the final demographic numbers, as well.

The Assembly has officially started its weekly meetings. The Delegates are meeting as a large Assembly, and in small facilitated groups, and they will continue to meet weekly through Thanksgiving 2023.

In the first three weeks, the Delegates met each other and their small group facilitators, who are professional facilitators and not from Montrose, to ensure impartiality. The Delegates also created and voted on ground rules for the Assembly to follow as they continue to meet.

The Delegates also dove into the current state of childcare in Montrose and are learning more about both the resources available today and the facts of the problem, relying on insights and data from local childcare experts, business leaders, nonprofit leaders, and the Montrose County Needs Assessment, which was completed in October 2021 thanks to the Uncompahgre Valley Alliance, Bright Futures for Early Childhood and Families, Montrose County, and the City of Montrose.

The Delegates will deliberate, weighing the pros and cons of a variety of actions, and



their costs, that could help achieve the goal. For the Assembly to succeed, later this year, the Delegates must converge on an overall strategy that they collectively believe will best achieve the shared goal.

This final plan of action will require the support of two-thirds of the representative Delegates.

If at least two-thirds of the Delegates do support the plan, it will be presented by Delegates to elected officials, local leaders, and the public. If all goes as planned, that presentation will take place this January.

Delegates are compensated for their time over the 12-week deliberation period with a stipend of \$15 per hour, and support with internet, computer equipment, childcare, or other caregiving if needed.

This compensation, the Unify Montrose project, and its staff from Unify America, a nonprofit nonpartisan that helps communities solve problems through collaboration, are funded by Colorado-based foundations like the El Pomar Foundation and the Boettcher Foundation, and through pilot funding from Unify's founder Harry Nathan Gottlieb.

For more information about Unify Montrose, please visit unifymontrose.org.

Tonya Maddox is the CEO of Our Town Matters, a local marketing, public relations, and events firm and the local agency of record for Unify Montrose.

She can be reached via email at tonya.maddox@ourtownmatters.net or by calling 970-765-0913.

LOCALS CONCERNED ABOUT PROJECT 7'S \$160 MILLION PROJECT

From pg 1



Above, graphic from Project 7 website shows proposed new water treatment plant. Courtesy image.

15 million gallons per day – a more than 40 percent increase in drinking water supply for the region. Currently all drinking water supplied by Project 7 in the Uncompahgre Valley comes from one treatment plant and one source, the Gunnison River. Wildfire, pipeline or tunnel failure could impact drinking water for over 50,000 people. The Authority's water resiliency program will reduce risk to the regional water system by adding a second treatment plant and second water source, the Ridgway Reservoir."

Still, as the Regional Water Supply and Resiliency Program moves forward, some local residents are concerned about significant cost increases. Under the current scenario, the Resiliency Program would be by far the most expensive project ever undertaken in the valley, they say.

Chipeta Water District Board Members Kathy Calkins and John McCollum are among those who feel that it might be best to take a step back until skyrocketing costs and ongoing supply chain issues sub-

side.

While the Preliminary Project Planning and Definition report stated the overall cost to be between \$37M and \$59M, page 29 of the CDMSmith-McCarthy and Garver Engineering proposal notes the current overall cost of the project to be \$158,897,979—in addition to \$3M included in Project 7's 2023 Operating Budget for Garver Engineering.

"We can't afford it," Calkins told *the Mirror* last week. She compared the cost of the project to that of other large-scale recent construction projects including the Montrose County Event Center (\$9M); City of Montrose Public safety Complex (\$18M); Montrose Rec Center (\$29M); new medical center (\$37M) and Airport Expansion (\$40M).

"This small back-up water treatment plant costs more than all of those combined," Calkins said. "We've got to step back and wait for more reasonable rates." The population served by Project 7 is 50,000, she said, "This will cost \$3,200 for

every member of your household--and that is before any of the interest costs or cost of operating that plant."

The pricing is inflated, McCollum said. He advised stepping away when the design phase is 35-percent complete and soliciting bids. If construction costs can be pared down and grant funds obtained, "We could probably swing it."

If the project moves forward as is, the costs will be passed on to the end user.

"It would be wonderful to have the redundancy," Calkins said of Project 7's Regional Water Supply and Resiliency Program.

"But with \$160 Million, a 30-year bond at 5.5 percent interest would cost \$908,462 per month. Currently Project 7's average monthly income is \$400,000. This means water rates need to triple just to service the debt—that is before any of the costs to operate the new plant."

"Eventually, we will all have to pay for it," she said. "Something this expensive should be put to a vote of the taxpayers."

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BOCC APPROVES WAYPOINT WEST RV PARK SPECIAL USE

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-All commissioners were present as Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) Chair Sue Hansen welcomed everyone to the regular meeting of Wednesday, Sept. 20. BOCC Vice Chair Roger Rash led in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Pastor Ben Garate of Calvary Chapel delivered the invocation. "...We are grateful that we have an opportunity to discuss county business...we pray Lord that you would bring our minds together, that you would give us wisdom from above..."

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

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

COUNTY MANAGER

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda items were unanimously approved.

GENERAL BUSINESS & ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Commissioners voted unanimously to approve Resolution 48 -2023, "regarding the approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement between Montrose County and the State of Colorado Department of Transportation for the adoption of the North Montrose County U.S. Highways 50 and 550 Access Control Plan prepared by Stolfus & Associates dated August 25, 2023, as reviewed by counsel. The Access Control Plan is for the coordinated regulation of vehicular access to U.S. Highways 50 and 550 between the Montrose-Delta County Line and N 9th Street in the City of Montrose. The purpose of the Access Control Plan is to provide the governmental agencies a common, comprehensive roadway access control plan that will enable a more efficient and smooth flow of traffic along this corridor."

County Engineer Keith Laube said the plan will allow the county to better plan for development when it happens.

With Stolfus & Associates and CDOT representatives present, BOCC Vice Chair Roger Rash asked about any plans to look at Hwy 50 Eastbound to Gunnison. "...Could we possibly look at a potential

bypass sometime in the future to redirect some of this traffic out of Downtown Montrose and get some of this traffic off our streets...we have not looked at that corridor, and it is an extremely busy corridor as well. We know that intersection with 550 and the Bypass is one of the busiest intersections in the area...from what we're seeing with growth it would make sense to at least think about it."

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Commissioners considered an item continued from the Aug. 16 meeting, the Waypoint West RV Park Special Use [SU23-005] proposal to establish an RV Park at Parcel 399326108001, 20121 6720 Lane.

Hansen re-opened the continued public hearing. She said that public comment in the form of letters has been received since the closure of public comment and would not be considered.

The proposal first came before the BOCC during the regular meeting of Aug. 16, but was continued at the request of Commissioner Keith Caddy, who said that he wanted to hear from Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) officials before voting.

During the Aug. 16 meeting public comment was taken, with a number of speakers raising concerns over traffic; loss of agricultural land and viewsheds; the fact that there is a county moratorium in place on new RV parks (the Waypoint West RV Park special use application preceded the moratorium); and a perception of preference toward the applicant, who is a former county planning director.

During the Sept. 20 meeting, County Planning Director Tallmadge Richmond said nothing has changed since the first meeting. He clarified CDOT's response, noting the traffic study in the meeting packet. Comments from CDOT are included. The proposal will not increase traffic by more than 20 percent so the applicants do not need an access permit. Correspondence with CDOT is also included in the meeting packet, Richmond said. He updated the 15th condition because the Junk & Rubbish ordinance has been updated. The zoning will remain general agricultural.

Caddy said he was concerned that in 2019 a commercial application for the same piece of property was denied. "In my opinion a special use permit and a trailer park is still commercial," Caddy said. "That does concern me a little...we did say at one time that it would be left in agriculture, and now we we're turning part of it into commercial..."

Rash said, "...there is not an issue with the traffic according to CDOT, and they're the professionals...I also believe that things change. I guess the concern I keep having is do we force industry into one area...I think the conditions of approval...are good conditions. I would want the 250-foot fence...good fences make good neighbors...I'm not finding a reason not to approve this."

Applicant Steve White spoke, discussing specific conditions including fencing and water.

"...I don't want to get personal...there are issues going on in that area, to me that are very concerning...I'm asked to get a permit and other people are not. We have tons of additional traffic on Trout Road because people are running illegal businesses, nobody complains about it, I'm not complaining about it...that's just the way it is...I feel that I can be a good neighbor...it's really going to be much less impact than my neighbors think...thank you for your time and energy reviewing this, I know that you are very precise..."

Hansen noted that conditions for approval are extensive. "I think this has been sufficiently mitigated."

Commissioners voted to approve the Waypoint West RV Park Special Use.

MONTROSE COUNTY BOARD OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Commissioners left regular session to reconvene as the Montrose County Board of Public Health. Jim Austin of Montrose County Public Health and Erika Stoerkel of Gunnison County Public Health presented the Community Health Assessment. Read the full Community Health Assessment here.

The Board reconvened as the BOCC.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

DAVE BOWMAN WAS FULLY EXONERATED BY TWO STATE INVESTIGATIVE BODIES

Dear Editor,

I find the article published in The Montrose Mirror regarding the ethics investigation into Mr. Bowman on September 18th,

2023 lacking substance. Your article leaned heavily in favor of Ms. Culver and her cohort Scott Dammon. When you quote the Independent Ethics Committee as saying

the allegations against Mr. Bowman are non-frivolous you try and imply there is guilt. Non-frivolous as used by the IEC simply means the allegations were worthy of investigation.

Culver and Dammon accused Bowman of alleged various ethical violations surrounding his dual roles as mayor and president of the Montrose Summer Music Series ("MSMS"). The IEC held two hearings, July 18 and August 1, 2023 and considered evidence presented by both parties. Their findings were there were no ethical violations by Mr. Bowman as Mayor or Chairman of the Montrose summer Music Series.

Ms. Culver and Mr. Dammon alleged Bowman had influence over the issuance of her Liquor License and Contract with the City for operation of her restaurant – Divots. Well, the evidence shows Mr. Bowman was out of town when it came to vote on renewal of her liquor license, no influence whatsoever. Mr. Bowman as Mayor had no influence over the contract between the City and the operation of Divots.

Prior to the charges being filed with the Ethics Commission the Colorado Bureau of Investigation looked into the matter and determined there was nothing there. After a thorough investigation by the Ethics Committee they determined there is nothing there. Dave Bowman was fully exonerated by two State investigative bodies.

Dave Stockton, Montrose

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

THERE IS A PORTION OF THE POPULATION WHO LOVE AN RV

Dear Editor:

Let me start with a disclaimer: I have owned a motor home since 1981. I have never lived in it except for trips I have taken to warmer climes in the winter.

If Ms. Van Dyke considers these to be affordable housing, she has not priced one lately.

Not only is the resident paying a per month fee plus a tax just to park it and hook it up, that person probably has to pay a mortgage on the home and do all the upkeep and repairs himself or pay to have them done.

She looks at what the person contributes as taxes. Perhaps she needs to look at what the park pays in relation to what a single homeowner on the same space pays. And if it is put on Ag land, the difference is even greater. Then she needs to look at the density. I have been in parks where I barely had room to put out my awning because it would hit the unit next door. So, the housing density can be greater than in affordable housing, other than apartments. Other places have con-

siderably more space, and their rates are also much higher.

She talks of a resident who has lived in his unit, full time, for 20 years. I suspect that person is a registered Montrose resident with a Montrose mail address. But that person is not representative. She mentions that some of the parks cater to transient workers. Those workers are unlikely to walk to work, so they drive either their rig or a toad vehicle to work. So, they do pay highway taxes, the same as each of us do. Even my much smaller unit only gets about 8-10 miles per gallon. So, if they drive it to work, think how much is being paid in highway tax. They have the luxury of, when their job moves them, they move their home with them. Besides, like the rest of us, they shop in our stores, eat in our restaurants, and go to our movies, etc., all of which are revenue producing. I don't think Ms. Van Dyke has owned and spent time in a motor home. She shows no understanding of having a dwelling that goes with her, whether it is for a vacation or as a temporary home away from fami-

ly. Having to move when one's job changes or one's residence changes is a major endeavor. Those who spend part of their lives in a motor home are very fortunate.

She does have a point, though, that perhaps the appropriate enforcement unit should occasionally cruise through the parks and notice how long the out-of-state vehicles have been here. But then, I wonder, if they drive to Utah and have lunch, they would have proof that their clock was reset! They would only have to do that about 4 times a year to be legal.

Yes, housing in Montrose is a problem we need to address. But there is a portion of the population who love an RV and it is a way of life, not an alternative to a cheap rental or bottom tier house. Let's not discourage those who would like to live and shop in Montrose, and perhaps take what is expected to be a short-term job here or near here, from enjoying our fine county.

Rick Bleier, Montrose

PS: The motorhome community calls a vehicle which is towed behind our unit a toad. It is not a misspelling.

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ULIBARRI VOTES 'NO' AS MURA APPROVES \$403K IN INCENTIVES

From pg 1

Project Lollipop (pediatric clinic) Representatives, Colorado Outdoors Developers and staff, and citizens. Citizens were divided between those who support the proposed medical center slated for the MURA, those who oppose the project, and those with unanswered questions.

Call for Public Comment

Instructions for Public Comment include, *"Please be aware that neither the MURA Board nor staff are expected to respond or engage in discussion or debate."* Call for Public Comment is limited to non-agenda items and speakers have a three-minute time limit.

Ron Henderson, former Montrose County Commissioner, said, "First thing, I really don't have any idea of what is going on. I didn't imagine that anyone would live in a flood plain [the MURA area] and there will be a flood there. It's a liability thing. I wonder if MURA has accomplished its purpose." Henderson noted that Montrose Regional Health (MRH) is invaluable to the community and has been supported by an estimated \$64M in taxpayer dollars. He said, "You [the MURA Board] are becoming involved in competition."

Citizen Sue Kroll, retired teacher, said, "I totally oppose you underwriting a medical facility in competition. This is direct competition with our non-profit hospital. You are using taxpayer funds to underwrite businesses in Montrose that are already here. If I don't have the money to sustain a business, I shouldn't start a business. The city and MURA have made investments in restaurants located in the MURA and in the city. Kroll said, "Fifty percent of restaurants fail. This [what you are doing] undermines the nature of our community."

Citizen Rick Bleier said, "I sat as a director at the hospital. One of the questions I'd like answered. Does MURA have any involvement and know what services are profitable? Draining the profitable parts [from MRH] creates a problem in our community. You need to require that they [project Lollipop] do OBGYN Emergency Services. Make them be equal players and take on those [services] that are not profitable."

Citizen Joel Evans said, "I support the pediatrics expansion. I've raised kids and I now have grandkids. It's a good thing to add this kind of thing, especially for young children."

Board Chair Mayor Barbara Bynum said that the upcoming agenda item concerned the proposed pediatrics office, which would not be in direct competition with the new MRH Ambulatory Care Center.

In previously published information the Lollipop Project was described: **"Project Type:** Pediatrics Facility and Medical Office Building (MOB) capable of serving several hundred patients per day for well visits, sick visits, and specialized urgent care services."

Board Packet description: "Project Lollipop will add a new, high-end medical office building to the Colorado Outdoors project. The building location is along Grand Avenue near the main entrance at Mountaineer Street. Lollipop will offer comprehensive pediatrics and medical care services, including retail sales."

Consideration of Minutes – City Clerk Lisa DelPiccolo.

Minutes from the July 19, 2023 MURA board meeting were approved unanimously.

MURA (TIF) Expenditure Update - City Engineer Scott Murphy

Murphy gave an update on the three outstanding reimbursement projects:
-Fairfield Hotel Horizontal Site Improvements – Total Anticipated Out of Pocket Expense - \$600,000. Expenses to Date - \$499,075.74. Balance remaining - \$100,924.26.

-Basecamp Apartment Horizontal Site Improvements – Total Anticipated Out of Pocket Expense - \$1,367,000. Expenses to Date - \$1,354,880.60. Balance remaining - \$12,119.40.

-Shelter Distilling Horizontal Site Improvements – Total Anticipated Out of Pocket Expense - \$700,000. Expenses to Date - \$159,687.64. Balance remaining - \$540,312.36.

Reviewing the spreadsheet Murphy said, "This encapsulates all expenditures, not just the TIF [Tax Increment Finance]. The Fairfield is paved, they have signage, and

the work is essentially done. The Basecamp [apartments] has \$12,000 for landscape. It should be closed out in three to four weeks. Three of the four buildings have a CO [certificate of occupancy]. Shelter is progressing. The foundation is complete, the steel is all there on 15 semi-trailers. This is not like the hotel modulars. This is like building a giant steel erector set."

On multiple occasions MURA board members have requested that the revenue from the TIF be included on the financial spreadsheet. Tad Rowan said, "True revenue against expenditures. [It's hard to discuss] without seeing the full picture."

Speaking to Murphy, Montrose County Assessor Brad Hughes said, "Explain how you put the revenues on this list. The TIF fund balance is not here. We need to know how much has accumulated in the fund in the last few years."

Murphy said, "That's not here [on the spreadsheet]."

Since there were more attendees than usual at this meeting, Bynum asked Executive Director/City Manager Bill Bell to talk about the history of the URA.

Bell said, "URA's are used for underutilized properties or blighted properties. We [the city] partnered with the Dragoo's that this was underutilized property and to work with them. Eleven taxing entities together negotiated agreements. The URA can bond and borrow [money] on their own. There are no private landowners on the board who can make decisions on a private side. The URA expires in 2042. The lowest revenue benefits to the URA is housing."

Bell continued, "The URA does not run any of those businesses in the MURA. We do not recruit for businesses. We didn't provide any incentives for the medical facilities. [In the beginning] we borrowed \$13M from the city and the city water fund using promissory notes with four-percent interest."

Councilman Ed Ulibarri said, "When does the \$13M get paid back?"

Bell said, "For the time being we [the city] will defer payments. We are forbearing right now and for several years out."

Continued next pg

ULIBARRI VOTES 'NO' AS MURA APPROVES INCENTIVES *From previous pg*

Lollipop Principal Peter Strogov gave a brief background on the project and responded to board questions.

Bynum said, "How do you define urgent care?"

Strogov said, "Not the urgent care you see on the corner street. We are not a Rural Health Clinic. That will be a several year process, but we will be going for that designation."

Anderson Analytics

Via Zoom Graham Anderson of Anderson Analytic gave a lengthy explanation of the process of analyzing this project and projecting revenue.

Note: The City of Montrose has already waived permit fees (\$123,362) and provided infrastructure improvements on the property (\$331,000) for Project Lollipop.

The Lollipop principals now request incentive funds for horizontal site improvements in the amount of \$843,362.

Through 2042 the estimated revenues from property tax and sales tax from Project Lollipop are estimated to be \$837,500.

Bynum said, "This is the 'ask' [from the principals], not our recommendation."

Hughes said, "My own analysis is about \$30,000 difference [from Anderson Analytics]. Land valuation for the property is really a subdivision discount, vacant lots are discounted."

During the meeting Bell received an email from the city finance department. He said, "We have \$398,000 collected so far this year; property taxes that have gone to the URA. The fund balance for next year is projected to be \$700,000. We have \$450,000 to use this year."

Steve Bush said, "On the agenda we need revenues [listed] going forward".

Bell said, "The 'ask' is more than the cash flow generated on service-based businesses. I don't think we can recommend the approval of this entire amount."

Councilman Dave Frank said, "At \$450,000 we would be tapped out if other projects come along. I don't want to borrow more money."

Bell said, "If a big project comes along, we will have to borrow money."

Ulibarri said, "Where does the borrowed money come from?"

Bynum said, "We have options; the bank, the city, we have options."

Mayor Pro Tem David Reed on Zoom said, "The applicant paid \$900,000 for the

property. Did he negotiate the price with the developer? Did the developer receive compensation?"

Strogov said, "Incentives have become a little more important with the project's increased costs. It started as a \$2.5M project. It's now a \$6M project."

The audience was invited to comment on the agenda item, **Project Lollipop Economic Incentives Request**. Although comments on agenda items differ from the non-agenda items in Call for Public Comment, Bynum imposed the rules for Call for Public Comment, meaning constituents could comment, but if they asked questions, they would not get a response from the board or the principals.

Citizen Jim Anderson said, "Taxpayer funds always have pluses and minuses. I'm wondering, I can imagine a medical practice is very expensive."

Rather than comments, Anderson asked three questions.

- 1). Are all the services already provided in the community? Looking at existing services, existing businesses, how will it impact existing businesses?
- 2). Does this cause a loss of revenue for existing businesses?
- 3). In the name of transparency, have any board members received comments from existing businesses?

Bethany Maher, Executive Director of the Mexican American Development Association (MADA), said, "I speak in support. I can't see any negatives. More development on the north side of town is needed. Having competition is a good thing. It's not like they are getting special treatment over the hospital. They [the hospital] could build there also and receive incentives."

Citizen Darlene Mora echoed Maher's comments and added, "They [pediatrics office] also need a sliding scale fee for the community."

Former Mayor and County Commissioner David White questioned whether an economic impact study had been done, if there were assessments of other pediatric practices, and the impact to other practices from Kids First Pediatrics (known as Project Lollipop) in Colorado.

Colorado Outdoors Developer David Dragoo said, "I support the project and the job creation. The annual income for jobs is \$74,000. These are good jobs."

With no further public comment the chair moved to the board discussion. Bynum noted there were written comments available to the board and that the hospital CEO and a couple of pediatricians are not supportive.

Ulibarri said, "I am concerned we have \$400,000 in funds now. We will not be able to help others. I'm not in the habit of spending next year's money today. Look at what the city has already done. These are taxpayer's funds that are deferred until 2042."

Rowan said, "We manage TIF of the URA. Manage this piece — is the juice worth the squeeze? I don't think in the long run the juice is worth the squeeze."

Hughes said, "My concern is the request amount is way too much. The requested amount is far different for horizontal site improvements. We create parking lots, light posts, trees."

Bush said, "It doesn't make sense. We can't reasonably do site work expenses on all the properties."

Allison Howe said, "I think we should find a number that we can come together to support the project."

Councilman Doug Glaspell said, "I agree, we should not give the full amount."

Frank said, "We are not picking winners and losers. The ask is more than project revenue."

Reed expressed concern about the potential impact on rural health care in Montrose. He said, "We have a small non-profit hospital that's an important part of our region. We can't afford to lose the hospital, the provider we have today. My concerns outweigh the need to go beyond where we have already gone."

Rowan suggested the board table the request and have the applicant come back with a different request; however, others preferred to move forward.

Bell respectfully disagreed with Reed. He said, "We [MURA] are part of economic development."

Reed said, "I don't doubt what you are saying, but we've already provided some incentives."

Since the board was in the decision-making process, Bynum hesitated to entertain further comments from the floor; however, she allowed Colorado Outdoors Developer Doug Dragoo to speak.

Continued next pg

ULIBARRI VOTES 'NO' AS MURA APPROVES INCENTIVES

From previous pg

Applying pressure to the board Doug Dragoo said, "This [MURA] was set up as an economic development program. [Proposed projects] were told if they came in, they would get some incentives. If we are having a problem with \$400,000, we should stop what we are doing."

Bynum said, "No one but the board has the authority to give incentives. We only met [principals] at the last meeting [July 19]."

Bell said, "We're about bringing business into the community. The Dragoo's, me, and Anthony Russo. They [developers] are not promising incentives, it's salesmanship. I'm a proponent of helping with site improvements. I'm also in-the-know about millions of dollars' worth of projects in the

future. We don't want to get in the pattern of denying projects. We're investing. It's an investment in the community. We don't just hand them the cash."

Glaspell said, "The success of the program is to keep businesses coming in."

Hughes said, "Is the \$400,000 going to keep the company from investing in the community?" Speaking to Strogov, Hughes said, "If you don't get the incentives will you pull out?"

Strogov said, "We're on the fence. A big reason is the incentives. Are we going to move forward without incentives? Doubtful."

Howe moved to give \$403,000 in incentives to Project Lollipop for horizontal site improvements. The motion was seconded.

In a nine to one vote, with Ulibarri voting 'no', the motion passed.

Future meeting date to be announced.

Background: The Montrose Urban Renewal Authority (MURA) was formed in late 2016 by a resolution of the Montrose City Council. Generally speaking, the MURA Board oversees the Colorado Outdoors Urban Renewal Area and administers the Tax Increment Financing (TIF), the funding mechanism to finance public infrastructure in the MURA. The property, which covers 158 acres along the river corridor between the Justice Center on the north and West Main on the South, is being developed by the Dragoo's Mayfly Outdoors. The Dragoo Developers are son David Dragoo and father Doug Dragoo.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE HATE FOR REP. LAUREN BOEBERT

Editor:

She knows that she's a target, and she loves it. Exuberantly. They HATE that.

She's beautiful. They HATE that, hysterically.

She knows all about pregnancy, she's done it four times--they HATE that--and never murdered a baby in her womb. They HATE that.

All the boys have the same father. They HATE that. And she was married to the father. They HATE that.

She earned her GED -- they DESPISE -- that. And made something of herself. They HATE that.

Her intellect far exceeds her detractors. They HATE that. She sees through the standard WDC lies; packaging 98 pounds of Evil with 2 pounds of good, votes against it because she was elected for her character. They HATE that. Then they lie that she voted against veterans. They love that.

She disobeys Authority. They HATE that.

She disregards a--holes and has no regard for a--holes. I salute her.

It's all about the HATE.

Charles Zimmerman, Montrose

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

A 'NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR' PROGRAM WHERE EVERYTHING IS FREE: SEPT. 30

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-September 30, 10 a.m. to Noon, the annual Great Community Giveaway, Lions Park Community Building, 602 N. Nevada. A "neighbor to neighbor" program where everything is free. Donations are accepted beginning at 8 a.m. and doors open at 10 a.m. Clothing, shoes, household items, books, toys, and more, all free. Bring your own bags or boxes. No electronics, TV's, large furniture, or tool donations. Items donated should be clean and in good repair. Volunteers are always welcome. Sponsored by the Spiritual Awareness Center – 970-252-0908.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

ALPINE BANK REMINDS ALL COLORADANS TO BE AWARE OF TEXT AND EMAIL FRAUD

Special to the Mirror

GLENWOOD SPRINGS— Alpine Bank is warning customers of all banking institutions to be vigilant as cyber-thieves are sending out large amounts of fake texts and emails designed to fool people into disclosing their confidential bank account login information and passwords.

Alpine Bank customer bank accounts are perfectly secure and under no threat if they do not click on the link or provide their login information.

Here's how the identity scam works: Unsuspecting victims receive a text or email saying that there has been suspicious ac-

tivity or that they've been locked out of their account. The fraud text or email asks people to click on a link that connects them to a fake bank website, where they're asked to enter their login name and password — in effect giving that confidential information to the cyber-thieves.

Other times the fraud text or email will ask people to call a fake bank phone number where a cyber-thief, posing as a bank customer service employee, asks for the login and password information.

Alpine Bank customers should remember that a legitimate bank will never ask them to reveal their login information and pass-

word. Alpine Bank respects your privacy and security and will not call or text you to ask you for User IDs, passcodes, PIN numbers, security codes, card numbers or anything similar.

If you receive an email or text you did not expect telling you something is wrong with your account, and asking you to click on a link or call a number — report it as fraud and delete it. Then connect with Alpine Bank using the bank's main number, and log into your account using the main bank website that you always use. Please remember to keep your private information private to protect against fraud.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR RIPARIAN RESTORATION AT CHIPETA LAKE PARK

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE—On Saturday, September 30, 9AM – Noon Friends of the River Uncompahgre is sponsoring a riparian restoration project along the Uncompahgre River at Chipeta Lake Park and needs volunteers to help. The site is adjacent to the Chipeta Lake river boat launch. The event will involve caging cottonwoods that beaver have been eating, and planting native shrubs. It should take about two hours with time after to enjoy refreshments and camaraderie.

Snacks will be provided. Ages 8+ are welcome! Bring:

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CITY INTERACTS WITH CITIZEN, HEARS TWO COMMERCIAL KITCHEN APPLICATIONS

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-On Monday, Sept. 18, Montrose City Officials held two separate work sessions:

CITIZEN INTERACTIVE WORK SESSION- LYNN STOCKTON

City officials and staff welcomed Citizen Lynn Stockton for the second Citizen Interactive Work Session at 9am on Monday, Sept. 18. Stockton brought up the issue of oversized vehicles driving on Main Street, rather than on the bypass as designated. Drivers do not appear to be heeding the signage, it does not appear to be enforced. "The entire Main Street has an obscene noise level," she said.

Stockton suggested using blockades to keep out overweight vehicles. "There needs to be a way for enforcement of the weight limit, so Main Street can be a relatively nice experience."

Council and staff engaged with the issue, brainstorming ideas. Councilor Doug Glaspell said that West Main is a state highway and controlled by CDOT, unlike East Main, over which the City has control.

Councilor Ed Ulibarri said that the City does have a noise ordinance. Also, "I was on Main Street over the weekend, and I was disappointed that I almost got ran over by bicyclists heading East." He said that Montrose does not lend itself to a Main Street redesign such as Grand Junction's, and more and more county residents are using Main Street to get to the Highway going East.

Councilor J. David Reed said that the Bypass was put in for a purpose.

Police Chief Blaine Hall spoke about enforcement. To listen to the [entire citizen interactive work session click here.](#)

REGULAR WORK SESSION

Mayor Barbara Bynum opened the regular [Montrose City Council work session](#) of Monday, Sept. 18 at 10am. All councilors were present.

Introduction of new city employees

Mayor Bynum discussed the purpose of work sessions, that work sessions are for Council review of upcoming items and that no public comment is taken. Also,



Above, Citizen Lynn Stockton spoke to City Council during the second Citizen Interactive Work Session on Monday, Sept. 18. Meeting screenshot.

"...the first work session of each month, we are so excited because it's an opportunity for Council to meet our new city employees, who are probably in all day, all week, onboarding with the Human resources Department..."

Human Resources Director Terri Wilcox introduced department heads and new staff members. Joining the City team are:

- Parks & Special Projects Worker Deno Scott and Streets Division Worker Ashley Chambers, who have been seasonal workers, and are now full-time;
- Court Clerk Jody Moreland;
- Utilities Worker Nicolas Carmona;
- Streets Division Worker Ashley Chambers;
- Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator Karl Steinkopf;
- Accountant/Customer Service Supervisor Anabel Diaz.

HR Generalist Jackey Vroman is also joining City staff but was unable to attend the work session.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Planner II William Reis presented the Osprey Addition Annexation application and associated zoning.

Background- A memo from Reis to Council notes, "The Pallante Addition is a proposed annexation approximately 9.53 acres in size. The property is divided into two tracts, both located on the north side

of E Oak Grove Rd. Tract 1 is a residential property, currently addressed as 1665 E Oak Grove Rd. Tract 2 is a small sliver of right-of-way. It is within the City's Urban Growth Boundary, City of Montrose Sewer Service Area, and the City of Montrose Water Service Area. An Annexation Agreement is required."

Council also considered a Commercial Kitchen Grant Application for Toasty - All Day Eatery. If approved as requested, the applicant will receive \$176,283.46 to support the purchase of a kitchen to be used by the Toasty - All Day Eatery, owned by Phil and Melanie Freismuth (also owners of Horsefly Brewing Company and Phe-lanies) who will rent the space with intent to buy from Doug and David Dragoo of Colorado Outdoors. Toasty will be located next to Trattoria de Sofia, at 1341 Mayfly Drive in the Colorado Outdoors project.

City Manager Bill Bell said, "...We knew that we needed more restaurants, more night life, more breweries, distilleries, those types of things, for the new people moving into our community, especially young people moving to our community..."

Phil Freismuth and Miguel Lopez of Toasty's were present for the discussion and answered questions. Toasty's will be an all-day eatery. Applicants expect to employ 18-22 staff for the kitchen and for

CITY INTERACTS WITH CITIZEN, HEARS COMMERCIAL KITCHEN APPLICATIONS *From previous pg*

for the front of the house. Freismuth said that within three to six months they hope to open in the evenings as well and offer cocktails similar to Phelanies.

Councilor Dave Frank said that the listed equipment includes non-built-in items, despite a city policy to fund only items that will remain in the space. "Has it changed in our program, that we're now authorizing a more broad scope?"

Bell said that a number of "tabletop" items were removed from the list. Everything stays with the building, he said. The intent of the eatery owners is to purchase the physical location from the Dragoo's.

Mayor Bynum asked about return on the investment of tax dollars; Bell said that it would take around five years to return the community's investment. Bynum asked who will keep track of equipment purchased with city funds. Freismuth said he will take a videotape of everything that is in place when he takes over the space and agreed to share a copy with the city.

Also seeking a commercial kitchen grant from Council were Spencer and Katie Graves, owners of Ridgway's Eatery 66. The Graves hope to open a new eatery early next year in Montrose, located in the former television station building at 614 N 1st Street. After some discussion, Katie Graves said that she and Spencer intend to ask for funds to build out the bar as

well. The owner of the building is located out of state; the goal would be to ultimately purchase the property.

City Manager Bill Bell said, "That would be a different program...this grant is strictly for establishment of commercial kitchens." Details on both applications are included in the work session packet.

City Attorney Ben Morris led an in-depth review of proposed changes to the City Charter. A red-lined version of proposed changes is included in the work session packet. During the discussion, Councilor Ed Ulibarri voiced objections to deletion of a requirement that meeting notices be published in the local newspaper. "I don't believe it costs us that much...I think it's right that we serve all the community, not just the computer literate."

Councilor Doug Glaspell said, "Some people don't like to take the paper in today's world...I have no problem putting (information) online."

Morris said that he will create an ordinance that incorporates the changes; Council will consider the ordinance in a future work session.

Background- A memo from Morris to Council states, "Several months ago, the City Council directed two of its members (the Mayor and Mayor pro tem) to meet with City staff to review the Charter and make recommendations. This group has

now convened several times and has reviewed the Charter in its entirety. It identified certain sections of the Charter to be forwarded to the full City Council with its recommendations for revision. These are sections the group found to be in need of updates or clarification, due to changes in the law and best practices. Please find attached a redline compilation of those sections of the Charter. It is expected that these changes will be discussed section by section with the full City Council in a public work session. Changes that are agreed upon by a majority of the City Council will be compiled into an ordinance and referred to the voters for their consideration at the April 2024 election, likely as a single ballot measure.

City Manager Bill Bell said that the idea came up of having Rep. Lauren Boebert write a letter of support for the City to purchase railroad right-of-way, something that will not take place immediately. Bell asked Council to support asking Rep. Boebert's office for support when the time is right.

STAFF COMMENTS

City Attorney Ben Morris discussed placing a notice in the newspaper regarding the timeline for adoption of the budget. Bell suggested putting a news item on the City's web site and circulating a news release.

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see something, say something



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[1] In order to be reimbursed you must have an existing account or open a new account with Alpine Bank and currently be employed as a teacher with the Montrose or Delta County School Districts. Reimbursement will be made within two weeks of presentation of valid receipts dated between 7/1/2023 – 10/1/2023.



OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

A FATAL TRAGEDY AVOIDED THIS TIME...LETS HOPE THERE'S NOT ANOTHER *Where is the City of Montrose's Traffic Management Plan?*



Busy Montrose intersection, above, during aftermath of tragic vehicle-pedestrian accident on Sept. 18. Photos by David White.

By David White

MONTROSE-A young, 18-year-old female Montrose High School student by the name of Samantha Freel is lucky to be alive today after being struck, run over and dragged by a pickup truck on South 5th Street last Monday afternoon, September 18th. The heavy traffic on South 5th Street between South Townsend Avenue and Rio Grande as well as in the immediate area of the high school is worse than ever before and undoubtedly contributed to this accident.

A GoFundMe account has been set up for Samantha as she has many injuries that will take multiple surgeries and many months of recovery and rehabilitation to walk again. Here's an excerpt from the GoFundMe page her family has established ([Fundraiser by Odessicy Freel : Hope for Samantha #helpSamwalkagain \(gofundme.com\)](https://www.gofundme.com/helpSamwalkagain)) that fully explains what she and her family are going through and why help from our community is so very much needed:

"Samantha suffered terrible injuries which were so severe that neither the hospital in Montrose, nor any hospital in Grand Junction, which are the two closest cities, felt that they were able to manage her recovery. She was flown by fixed wing air ambulance to Denver where she was accepted as a patient at Swedish Medical Center. Many of her bones are shattered and broken and a great number of her joints are dislocated. She also is suffering from many other conditions related to the trauma in addition to the broken and dislocated

bones. Because of the extent of her injuries, Sammy needs numerous surgical procedures in order for her to recover and she will be hospitalized for a currently undetermined amount of time. It will certainly be a very long hospitalization with a painful and difficult recovery. She has already undergone one operation with another planned for today. That will not be the end of them though, and the surgeons say that many more are going to be necessary."

As a result of this terrible accident, I am hopeful that the City of Montrose and the Montrose RE1-J School District will sit down together and come up with a solution to the awful traffic conditions that plague this area around the high school every morning and afternoon during the school year. Intersections blocked. Students walking back and forth from the eateries in the shopping plaza on South 5th and Townsend. Long holds at the South 5th and Townsend traffic light that impede the flow of traffic. Jaywalking by pedestrians, etc.

Personally speaking, I've witnessed firsthand this traffic mess for 24 years as my own children and now my grandchildren have gone to school there and have dealt with these issues on most school days. All of them have relied on me to take them to and pick them up from the high school these many years, so I've dealt with it daily throughout the school year. Solving the traffic issues in this area isn't going to be easy and plans to do so have been made but never fully put into action. In 2005, the City of Montrose was award-

ed \$4.86 million dollars in a federal earmark obtained after then City Manager Mary Watt, Mayor Pro-Tem Noelle Hagan and I met with our Congressional Delegation (Sen. Ken Salazar and Rep. John Salazar and their staffs) in Washington, D.C. for the purpose of turning Rio Grande Avenue from the junction with East Oak Grove on the south to West Main Street on the north and then from Grand Avenue north from West Main Street to North 9th Street into a minor arterial bypass to take traffic off of Townsend Avenue and redirect it to this Westside Arterial.

With a match of \$1.22 million dollars remaining from the sale of City of Montrose revenue bonds received in 1998, the City had a combined \$6.08 million dollars to solve what was even then a major traffic problem that included the area around Montrose High School. (see pages 5 & 14 of the 2005 City of Montrose Annual Report - [2005 Annual Report16Pages \(cityofmontrose.org\)](https://www.cityofmontrose.org/2005AnnualReport16Pages)) NOTE: The City has not had an annual report of this type since 2010.)

The city built a portion of the Westside Arterial using these dollars, from South 3rd Street north to North 9th Street completing work in 2017. Since that time, the remaining portion of the needed improvements from South 3rd Street south to East Oak Grove have been put aside either due to issues with obtaining the railroad rights of way needed for the road or simply because projects that involve closing off streets in the core of the City and other wasteful, non-public corporate welfare

Continued next pg

A FATAL TRAGEDY AVOIDED THIS TIME...LETS HOPE THERE'S NOT ANOTHER *From previous pg*

giveaways have taken precedence over improving and alleviating choke points around highly trafficked and congested streets like those around Montrose High School. Perhaps if the City had remained focused on finishing the Westside Arterial project over these last six years, the tragic incident last week might have been avoided. (See photos of a recent permanent street closure as well as the narrowing of City streets which impede traffic flow through the City. I must ask...where's the traffic management plan folks?

Examples of a seeming mis prioritization of the necessary spending on the public health, safety and welfare needs of our community by our City Manager and City Council include the Colorado Outdoors project, buying commercial kitchens for private businesses, replacing windows, facades and other giveaways to private businesses or contractors and many others. Isn't it time to stop these and focus on our community's critical needs?

None of us want to see another student injured or potentially killed when the dollars and manpower exist to prevent another incident. I encourage the reader to call City Hall (970-240-1400) and the Montrose RE1-J School District offices (970-252-7920) to request that they come together and solve this problem around Montrose High School as well as a similar situation in front of Centennial Middle School on South 5th Street near the San Juan Avenue intersection.

In the meantime, please keep Samantha Freel in your thoughts and prayers as she recovers from last week's accident. I know the family would appreciate all the assistance that can be offered.

Mr. White is an active citizen & community servant as well as a business owner, entrepreneur, former Montrose City Councilmember and Mayor as well as a two term County Commissioner and has firsthand many boards and commissions during his career. He & his wife are the parents of six children and have 10 grandchildren & 1 great grandchild.





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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

TAXPAYERS SHOULD HAVE THE FREEDOM TO CHOOSE WHERE THEIR CHILDREN ATTEND SCHOOL

Editor:

Great letter by Jennifer Gregg on our library board being unwilling to address parents' concerns about protecting their young children from sexually explicit material in the Montrose library (MM 9/11). Many people have yet to grasp how radically different today's public institutions are from a decade ago. They still think the FBI is a non-political crime-fighting organization seeking justice for you and me, that public schools are *run* by hard-working teachers who love kids, and that newspapers are actively seeking the truth and exposing corruption.

Not too many years ago, it would have sounded insane that our library would not actively cooperate with parents in protecting their children from inappropriate material. A decade ago if you had said that the American Library Association (ALA) was run by a Marxist (Emily Drabinski) who is using libraries as a place to organize socialists, you would have been labeled a conspiracy theorist.

Today Drabinski, in the largest socialist conference in the country, over Labor Day weekend, explicitly said that libraries need to be sites of socialist organizing. Drabinski's election was not some random fluke. It's not that difficult to place inappropriate material for minors in a secure location with procedures to only allow parents to check out such materials for their own children --- but that might offend the library's masters at the ALA. That's the same ALA that is tracking anti-pornography legislation in an effort to kill the bills, arguing that bills that prevent librarians from providing minors with sexually explicit material are "adverse" to a librarian's success. The ALA tells members to plan opposition to such legislation "quietly or behind the scenes." Shame on

the Montrose Library Board and employees. And shame on the Montrose County commissioners for acting like they can't get involved.

We can choose to not take our children to the library. Choosing to not have our kids attend public schools is much more challenging. In America's public schools, children are often taught to despise themselves and their country. Our history is distorted. Our heritage is ignored or painted ugly. Students are taught whites are inherently evil and racist and blacks are victims. And, most concerning, teachers are discussing sexual matters with minor children and even encouraging gender transition. In our own state of Colorado, the Jefferson County teacher's union is insisting that adults discuss sexual matters with children, and then break the law by using tricks to keep it all a secret. Just a few years ago, that would have been considered an indication of child molestation. Not so today. Student surveys about gender identity are not permitted by law in Jefferson County, but the teachers' union is encouraging teachers to do it anyway and hide the evidence. In most schools, parental consent is needed for students to take a field trip --- or ingest a Tylenol. In some of those same schools, 8- or 9-year-olds are allowed to "change" their names and genders without the schools informing the parents. Also remember, our great state of Colorado is where the state teachers' union adopted a bizarre anti-capitalist resolution committing their organization to fight capitalism as a fundamentally exploitative economic system.

The president of Chicago's teacher's union has referred to private schools as "segregation academies," stating specifically that school choice is "the choice of racists." It is also her choice. She sends her

son to a \$15,000-per-year private school. Why can she send her kid to a private school and get him out of a lousy school? Because she has the money that other parents in the city don't. The Democrats who control our public school systems, particularly in our inner cities, are beholden to the teachers' unions, who fear school choice. It is no secret that those unions only care about their power, not the students or the public.

Taxpayers should have the freedom to choose where their children attend school --- regardless of their economic status --- whether that be a public school, a private school, or a home school. If parents choose options other than public schools, those parents should be able to take their tax money out of public schools they have no interest in and apply those dollars toward the cost of alternatives --- thereby "funding students rather than systems." It is time to make "educational savings accounts" (ESAs) available to all Americans. ESAs provide tax monies to parents who opt out of the public school system for private school tuition or homeschooling. School choice is the only way to save our children from a failed education system.

Teachers' unions and the Democratic party are 'all in' on the idea that the State owns your children and can indoctrinate them (and even physically modify them) as they see fit --- without your consent or knowledge. It is absolutely abhorrent that Americans pay astronomical sums to finance a failed public education system whose purpose is to indoctrinate rather than educate. Like the Chicago teachers' union president, rich elite Democrats sing in chorus: "Private education for me, but not for thee." It is time for that to change.

Chanda Quimet, Montrose

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

FREE 2023 FAMILY CAREGIVER SUMMIT SET FOR OCTOBER 6

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE—Ask any family caregiver what their most devastating issue is and they will tell you it is loneliness. When you are providing 24/7 care for a loved one, there is a disconnect with the rest of the world created by the patient's disease leaving the caregiver in an environment resembling solitary confinement.

The goal of the free 2023 Family Caregiver Summit, set for October 6, is to "spring" the prisoner, if only for an afternoon, and provide a connection with other caregivers and folks who can provide guidance and real emotional support.

"The early response to the Region 10 and Family-Caregiver.org website signups has been exciting," says Caregiver Support Foundation Chair, Laird Landon. "Having a connection to other people besides their patient is something we encourage in all of our groups and video productions. The isolation that caregivers endure is devastating and time away from the job is important. So, we expect a good crowd."

The Family Caregiver Summit was con-

ceived and designed to provide the caregiver a safe and comfortable environment where they can recharge through a gentle connection with their brothers and sisters in arms.

"One of the most common comments from caregivers in our regular groups is that just getting out of the house and talking to someone who understands what they are going through is virtually lifesaving," says Landon who conducts several in-person and on-line caregiver groups every month. The 2023 Family Caregiver Summit will be a three-and-a-half-hour event, commencing at 1 PM on Friday, October 6. The agenda includes three key speakers, each covering topics aimed at enhanced understanding of the demon devastating their loved one and what they can do to help without losing their own sanity.

Region 10 Community Living Services Director, Eva Veitch, says the Summit is about all caregivers. "The Summit is about all diseases, as well as those caring for an aging parent."

"I will speak briefly about the caregiver's

journey," says Dr. Landon. "There will be help for both rookie caregivers and those who have already led the life."

Following Landon's talk, Sandy Walker, Region 10 Ombudsman, will offer a detailed road map to resources. One of the resources Walker recommends is social contact. Isolation and a poor quality of life can lead to a caregiver not surviving their loved one. "While family caregiving can be rewarding and personally satisfying, it often comes at a significant personal cost to the caregiver." In her presentation at the Family Caregiver Summit, Walker will share details and provide the location of sources, such as the Region 10 system.

Capping the afternoon of information sharing, Dr. Michael Hehmann, a 35-year veteran of Neurological disorder diagnosis and treatment, will do a deep review of the diagnosis and treatment of progressive neurologic disease and how iHt affects the brain and the rest of the body. For those new to the brain disease scene, Hehmann will explain the neurologic exam and what is done in your physician's office when exploring how the brain and memory work and the different testing available for dementia and Parkinson's. "I am excited to be sharing the dais with Sandy and Dr. Hehmann," Landon says. The speakers will be available to Summit attendees for one-on-one questions and answers. "We know caregivers always have questions and puzzles to workout. We want to provide as much information as we can." Caregivers are encouraged to bring their loved ones to the Summit if they are ambulatory. The summit environment will be pleasant and safe. More information is available at Region10.net or at family-caregiver.org. Caregiver may pre-register to attend at either site. Attendees may also register at the door. The Family Caregiver Summit, which is free to the public, is presented by the Caregiver Support Foundation and Region 10 League for Economic Assistance & Planning, Inc. The event is supported as well by these generous sponsors, Hope West, Volunteers of America, The Beacon, Four Season's Investment, US Bank, Eldorado Financial, Copycats, ASEDD, Alpine Bank, Colorow, Montrose Regional Health, Timberline Bank, David Mize Family, Sinner Family, Ciel Bottomly, In Memory of Ellen Smith, James Jennings Family, Donald Sorenson Family and an Anonymous Family.



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You are invited to four free events.

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Watershed Restoration in the Upper Unc

Friday, September 29, 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.

A free guided field trip to view and learn about watershed conditions along Camp Bird Road in Ouray County



Water Quality Monitoring in the Upper Unc

Saturday, Sept. 30, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

A free guided field trip to view and learn about water quality monitoring around Ouray County



Watershed Restoration in the Ironton Park Area

Saturday, October 7, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

A free guided field trip to view and learn about watershed conditions along Highway 550 above Ouray



The Next 10 Years of the Upper Uncompahgre River

Watershed – Tuesday, Oct. 17, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

A free community event at the Ouray Community Center to share UWP's history, goals and plans while gathering input about future projects and activities



More info:

<https://www.uncompahgrewatershed.org/events/>

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REED ANNOUNCES CMU PROMISE OF FREE TUITION AND FEES FOR QUALIFIED LOCAL GRADUATES

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-All councilors were present as Mayor Barbara Bynum called the [regular meeting](#) of the Montrose City Council to order on Tuesday, Sept. 19.

"This is Tuesday, September 19, 6pm, and this is the regularly scheduled City Council meeting," Bynum said. "We are going to start our meeting tonight with the Pledge of Allegiance, so please stand up and join us."

Mayor Pro Tem J. David Reed had no changes to the meeting agenda.

Council issued two proclamations, on behalf of the Culture Fest Celebration and on behalf of Constitution Week (Sept. 17-23).

Ricardo Perez, Executive Director of Hispanic Affairs Project, accepted the Culture Fest proclamation. Karen Sherman Perez, also of Hispanic Affairs Project, invited community members to the Culture Fest on Sept. 23.

Cherie Stock Collins of the local chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution was present to accept the Constitution Week proclamation.

CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT FOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Bynum said, "This is the time set aside, if there are members of the public here who wish to make a comment, and it's not about something coming up on our agenda, but it's something unrelated to the agenda but related to City business."

There were no comments heard from the public.

CONSENT AGENDA

Bynum read each Consent Agenda item into the record. Council voted unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda.

RESOLUTION 2023-17

Bynum introduced Resolution 2023-17, entering into an intergovernmental agreement with the State of Colorado Department of Transportation and adopting the associated US Highways 50 and 550 - North Montrose County Access Control Plan.

City Attorney Scott Murphy presented information on the IGA. Maps and Plans will be published on the Planning Department's web site, Murphy said.

Bynum thanked the City's partners for working with them. The item was discussed extensively in work session, she noted. "If anyone from the public is watching, or listening to this recording, there's great information in tonight's packet, but there's even more information in maps if you go back to the work session packet or the work session recording if you're really interested... 'Access Control Plan' is one way of saying how you get in and out of the lots on the road. Good deal."

Council voted unanimously to adopt Resolution 2023-17.

Bynum told those present at the meeting that it is not considered rude to leave once your item is passed.

TOWNSEND AVENUE MISSING LINK SIDEWALK EXPENSE AUTHORIZATION

As discussed previously in work session, Council voted unanimously to approve \$70,000 in expenditures for construction of a missing link sidewalk on the western side of Townsend Avenue between Odelle and Ogden Roads.

Council approved two ordinances on second reading:

ORDINANCE 2639 - SECOND READING

Council voted to adopt Ordinance 2639 on Second Reading, "extending the temporary moratorium to prohibit the establishment of any new or relocation of any existing adult gaming arcade uses within the city limits of the City of Montrose; providing that the moratorium shall be in effect for a period which shall terminate at the earliest of the City's adoption of an amendment to Title 11, Chapter 12 Adult Business Regulations, or the expiration of five hundred forty-seven (547) days from date of passage of Ordinance 2594; providing for legislative findings, intent, and purpose; providing repealing clauses; and providing an effective date."

ORDINANCE 2640 - SECOND READING

Council voted to adopt Ordinance 2640 on second reading, "amending the zoning district designation of Lot 1 of the Parks & Wheeler Subdivision from R-2, Low Density District to R-3A, Medium High Density District."

STAFF REPORTS

City Finance Director Shani Wittenberg presented the Sales, Use & Excise Tax Report for July.

Mayor Bynum thanked city staff and said that the City is in the business of collecting sales tax. "It's our primary revenue that we use to run the city...my hat goes off to every city staff member that's part of the team that makes this happen."

City Engineer Scott Murphy said Miami Road is open. Odelle is being paved and should open in the next few days. Bridges is being milled and ready to be paved; South 10th will be next after that. The week of Oct. 10th is the pave date for 6700 Road, which should be open by year's end.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Pro Tem J. David Reed said he attended two important functions last week. CMU has promised to offer free tuition and fees to any high school graduate within the 22-county service area for families earning less



City of Montrose Meeting screenshot.

than \$65,000 per year. "We hope that a lot of students will take advantage of that."

The Western Colorado Law Enforcement Academy run by the Montrose Police Department has graduated the second class, with 12 cadets. Montrose Police Sgt. Courtney Jones was given a commendation for running the academy, Reed said. Also, "Congratulations Chief Hall for a job well done."

Mayor Bynum said the Western Colorado Law Enforcement Academy will present at the CMU Forum, including the academy graduate who recently joined the Montrose Police Force.

Councilor Dave Frank said he went to the Dolphin House Barn Dance, a fund raiser for Dolphin House. "Look up what they do and get involved."

Frank said he also attended the Peer Kindness Kind and Dine, which raised more than \$100K for the non-profit.

Mayor Doug Glaspell commended the motorcycle gathering in Centennial Plaza Monday night.

Councilor Ed Ullibari said he presented a proclamation to the Black Canyon Square Dance group, and thanked Mayor Bynum for allowing him to present. "It was a lot of fun, there was a lot of energy. I had the privilege of speaking to 90-year-old partners who have been dancing for over 20 years."

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council voted unanimously to enter Executive Session for a conference with the City Attorney, to consider matters that could be subject to negotiations, in this case a discussion of Oak Grove title issue. "This is probably the time for anyone that is not part of the executive session to start gathering their belongings and leaving us to do this," Mayor Bynum said prior to the vote.

CARTOON BY TIM JONES

WEEKLY CARTOON

SOUR GRAPES

by Tim Jones



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

COW CREEK PRESCRIBED BURN PLANNED

Special to the Mirror

GRAND JUNCTION— Fire Management Officials from the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests' Grand Valley Ranger District plan to conduct the Cow Creek prescribed burn Sept. 24, depending upon weather and appropriate ground and vegetation conditions. The Cow Creek prescribed burn project area is ap-

proximately 9 miles east of Gateway, Colorado and 25 miles southwest of Grand Junction, Colorado. If conditions are appropriate, about 7,000 acres with the potential of up to 15,000 acres are planned to be burned over multiple days, reducing the threat of catastrophic wildfire and improving wildlife habitat. The project area includes Cow Creek, Calamity Creek and Indi-

an Creek.

Prescribed burning is a tool that re-introduces fire into the ecosystem to promote and regenerate healthy trees and habitat conditions. Before conducting a prescribed burn, extensive planning takes place to establish proper parameters such as weather, fuel conditions, smoke dispersion, staffing and other agency coordination.

Significant coordinating efforts occur with local landowners, protection partners and other cooperating agencies to ensure the burn is conducted safely. The safety of firefighters and the public are the most important factors considered when planning prescribed fires.

The prescribed burns will be accomplished using joint-agency fire resources utilizing aerial and hand ignitions and will be closely monitored to ensure that they remain within the designated boundaries. Smoke from the prescribed fire will be managed to have minimal impact on neighboring communities. Smoke may be visible in several communities, including Grand Junction, White-water, Gateway, Fruita, Delta, Montrose, and Norwood for multiple days. The public is advised not to call 911.

Dispersed recreation in the prescribed fire project areas may be impacted. Staff will be making personal contact with recreationists regarding any temporary closures. Signs will be placed on adjacent roads, notifying the public of the project areas as necessary.

The prescribed fire will aid in decreasing longer duration, unpredictable and hazardous volumes of smoke from wildfires. Fire managers have obtained smoke permits from the State of Colorado and will comply with Colorado State air quality regulations. For more information on how prescribed fire smoke may affect your health, please visit <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/wood-smoke-and-health>.

Prescribed burn updates will be posted on the [GMUG Fire Info page](#). For information on prescribed burns, pile burns, wildfires and fire restrictions on National Forest System lands, visit

www.westslopefireinformation.com.

For information and updates on current fire restrictions, conditions, and recreation opportunities on the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests, visit the [forest website](#). Connect with us on social media ([Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)).

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

WHY IS UNIFY MONTROSE REALLY HERE?

Editor:

Every day I hear more and more people questioning why Unify America aka Unify Montrose has taken center stage in our town? To have a better understanding we need to review events from 2021. The Uncompahgre Valley Alliance, Bright Beginnings and Montrose County, contracted with Root Policy to the tune of \$38,500 to conduct an extensive assessment of child care needs in Montrose. It is important to keep in mind that the entire assessment was conducted during the height of Covid lockdowns. If you search the Root Policy website you will see that they proudly state their focus is on “affordable housing and social justice”, so they tip their hand at having a particular “woke” bias in their decisions.

In October 2021, Root Policy completed their 61-page assessment, identifying Montrose a “child care desert”, completing their assessment as quoted below:

Recommendations

This report utilizes the best data available to project future demand for childcare. However, unknown variables—economic fluctuations, choices of residents (continuing to work/reside in Montrose County, form families) and housing availability and affordability—will all influence future demand for childcare to some extent. Based on the current circumstances and projects, Root Policy Research offers the following recommendations to address childcare needs and monitor demand in Montrose County. These recommendations are based on Root Policy’s expertise and experience in other communities as well as input from the UVA Child-care Caucus and Bright Futures.

Continue to proactively track the key metrics for child care demand: Tracking demand and capacity can help target future investments and needs in the county’s child care infrastructure and ensure efficient deployment of subsequent strategies.

2. Evaluate the potential for publicly funded child care resources.

3. Develop and fund a scholarship program for income constrained households (exceeding state support through CCCAP) to increase affordability of childcare services.

4. Develop a pipeline of childcare professionals and support current professionals in the child care industry. Consistently low wages

5. Consider options for expanding licensed childcare in the region, with a focus on infant/toddler care. As indicated by the demand anal

6. Encourage large employers to provide on-site childcare facilities.

7. Identify and offer support to non-licensed childcare providers in Montrose County. Child care options that do not require licensing will inevitably

8. Provide more easily accessible information about CCCAP and available care options. The Colorado Department of Human Services .

Interestingly, after almost two years, I verified last week that none of the recommendations have been implemented. With Montrose County paying \$15,000 and the city paying \$18,500 of the total bill, we all might begin to question that expenditure.

The Montrose of 2023 is entirely different from the Montrose of 2021 during Covid. According to none other than Unify Montrose, there were in August 2023, a total of 26 licensed child care facilities in Montrose with 912 spots available for child care. Again, according to Unify Montrose, “as of 2021, there was a demand for 1,060 spots, which would be occupied by an estimated 933 children”. Estimated need for child care slots by 2028 was 1100, an increase of only 40 slots over a seven year period. Assuming those estimates to be accurate, that means that Montrose is short only 148 child care spots. Consequently Montrose is already meeting 86% of today’s demand for child care, not even considering services by small providers! This small shortage seems to be an excellent opportunity for an enterprising entrepreneur.

A random check of only three facilities showed immediate openings, so it certainly seems disingenuous at best for Unify Montrose to proceed on the false premiss that Montrose is a “child care desert”! Any concerns about a “child care shortage” is but a subterfuge, since the stated goal of the whole child care issue is to brainwash us all into believing that affordable child care for anyone is a RIGHT! Adopting that position certainly will lead to more centralized government and yet more entitlement!

Experience has taught me to be skeptical of and question all presentations and “statements of fact” by any organization with a “critical issue” and ultimate focus on the public coffers to resolve it. In today’s upside down world always look for a hidden socialist agenda disguised as “we are doing this for you”. Make no mistake, if this issue is allowed to come to fruition and our elected leaders are not astute enough to see through the facade, we are facing the real possibility of more taxes! Now that it’s clear that Montrose is anything but a “child Care desert”, is any one wondering why Unify Montrose is REALLY here?

Dee Laird, Montrose

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS



JACK FLOWER EARNS NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP COMMENDATION

Montrose High School Student Body President Jack Flower has been selected as a National Merit Scholarship Program Commended Student. Courtesy photo.

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



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

YES JUDY, ILLINOIS HOUSE BILL 3751 DOES ALLOW ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS TO BECOME POLICE OFFICERS

Editor;

Since Judy Kittson was so generous in her opinion that I "offered false and inflammatory information" in my letter on Sept. 4, I need to offer more information so she can understand it better. She said Illinois Democrat-passed House Bill 3751 does NOT allow illegal immigrants to become police officers. Oh yes it does! A non-American citizen legally authorized to work in the U.S. does not make him an American CITIZEN. He/she is still an illegal immigrant! And someone categorized as a "legal resident" (or green card holder) does not make him an American CITIZEN either. So by being labeled as being "authorized to work" or "legal resident", or "permanent resident", or "resident alien" (or any other Democrat word salad) doesn't make he/she an American CITIZEN. This Bill was passed with votes from 29 Democrats and only 7 Republicans. Democrats with their hate police attitude are so busy chasing off American police officers with their defunding of police departments, maliciously prosecuting police officers with made-up crimes, and tying their hands so they can't arrest anyone if they're Antifa or Black Lives Matter, but whoa to the Jan. 6 protesters!! They have the whole Marxist/Obama/Biden regime rounding them up and throwing them in jail. Most of the thousand of arrestees were never charged with any crime, but are rotting away in Democrat gulags and denied bail because the Democrat-controlled justice system in Washington D.C. know they did nothing illegal and therefore can't be charged with anything, so there is no bail when there is no crime!! They're being denied all their Constitutional rights because Democrats can get by with it and it's part of their revenge for Donald Trump defeating Hillary fair and square. One was convicted and sentenced to 20 years in prison when he wasn't even there on Jan. 6!! That usually only happens in Communist countries. Where's cacklin' Kamala when she's needed the most??? If police departments are made up of illegal invaders then that will fulfill ideal candidates for Marxist/

Democrat envisioned U.N. police officers of the future to finish off the American dream of American citizens.

Start with reading the Summary of House Bill 3751. The Bill amends the Illinois Municipal Code and provides that an individual WHO IS NOT an American CITIZEN, but is legally authorized to work in the United States under silly word salad federal laws, is authorized to apply for the position of police officer, subject to requirements and limitations OTHER THAN BEING AN AMERICAN CITIZEN, to which American citizens are subjected. Effective January 1, 2024 this law takes effect. So then what is the federal authorization that allows illegal immigrants to stay and work in America? It's DACA! It was an Obama Executive Order trick to encourage and make this invasion legal. Obama un-constitutionally signed that executive order allowing children brought in by their parents to stay in America. A judge overturned that on appeal, but then let the illegal process continue! The DACA process requires them to obtain, carry, or purchase or otherwise possess a firearm to become police officers, but current federal law prohibits firearm ownership for non-citizens and drug addicts! But you can bet your bottom dollar Biden and his Marxist comrades will rescind that prohibitive firearm restriction and the background check for illegals in order to obtain their dream of foreign cops. How can they check their backgrounds when they won't give officials any truthful information about their selves?

It's all planned out to assimilate foreigners from over 140 countries to obtain U.N. armed foreign police officers who will not have any American allegiance to American citizens or our Constitution whatsoever. And of course any violation of the laws of arrest by illegals will quietly be ignored.

Dozens of federal agencies have been buying up massive amounts of weapons and ammunition INCLUDING THE IRS for their 87,000 IRS agents who are in addition to their current force! And their additional recruits are going to receive regular police officers training including firearms,

use of force, and all the laws of arrest.

That doesn't sound like they will be too interested in the Biden crime family's tax cheating on their tens of \$millions of bribe money does it? By the way, most of their massive ammo. cache are hollow point bullets! They kill quicker by causing massive destruction to the body.

It's too bad Kittson has labeled my information as "false and inflammatory" when it is her statement and lack of knowledge that is inflammatory and dangerous implying House bill 3751 doesn't allow non-U.S. citizens to become police officers. It's right there in Senate Adopted Amendment 001 that DACA people can apply for the position of police officer, deputy sheriff or special policeman. (I remind you DACA people are not U.S. citizens!) House Amendment 002 "provides that an individual who IS NOT A U.S. CITIZEN but is "legally authorized" to work in the United States under the silly word salad laws is authorized to apply for the position of police officer or sheriff and shall also be SUBJECT TO FEDERAL APPROVAL to obtain, carry, or purchase or otherwise possess a firearm. Rest assured that "federal firearm approval" for Biden's illegals will be easy and in secrecy and arrive at the right time! This is the beginning of a federal police force made up of foreign fighters. Biden and his comrades are bringing them in now at the southern border. House Amendment 001 also provides that a deputy sheriff or special policeman may be an individual WHO IS NOT A U.S. CITIZEN BUT IS LEGALLY AUTHORIZED TO WORK IN THE UNITED STATES UNDER FEDERAL LAW. So it's spelled out in many places that "U.S. citizenship" is NOT required! Now, the information that IS "inflammatory" and dangerous because it's true is the attempted subversion of our constitutional right to vote for the candidate of our choice by burying President Trump in court litigation because of Democrat made-up lies with the goal of locking Trump up in prison for life. An MSNBC spokesperson said that Trump needs to die in prison! Let that sink in!!

Jerry Bartholome, Montrose

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COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

RAMONA PAULINE GOOD

September 27, 1929- September 6, 2023

Psalms 19:14 NIV "May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer."

RAMONA PAULINE GOOD passed away on September 6, 2023, at the age of 93.

Ramona Pauline Larabee was born in Eastland, TX on September 27, 1929, the only child of Dennis T and Irene (Patterson) Larabee. She was raised in Anderson, Indiana. Both parents attended Anderson College, a Bible training school. There was never any doubt that Ramona would also attend Anderson College, the headquarters for the Church of God. It was there that Ramona met Phil Good, a Church of God boy from Merino, Colorado. The couple married in 1949 and moved to Greeley, Colorado where Phil completed his teaching degree in science.

In the fall of 1954, Phil applied for a teaching position at Montrose High School, where he taught for the next 36 years.

Phil and Ramona had five children, Janice, Carol, Jeanine, Paul, and Neil.

Music played a special role in Ramona's life and as a child, she played the accordion for solos and in a little band that performed for PTA's and other community events. She contributed to the Valley Symphony Orchestra where her children, Paul, and Carol, were part of the orchestra for many years.

Ramona was a homemaker, putting her own education on hold until she learned that she was about to lose her credits. She began picking up credits here and there and 1970, at age 40, she finally got her degree.

Phil and Ramona belonged to the Montrose Christian Church and celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary there in September of 1994, just weeks before Phil passed away from multiple myeloma. Over



the years, Ramona taught Sunday School, VBS and participated in prayer chains and helped with funeral dinners. Her other ministry was to the elderly. She was a caregiver and was pleased that her daughters followed her example by serving others. Ramona was a 24/7 nurse to Phil for 4 ½ years after his cancer diagnosis. Following that, she moved her mother to Montrose from Florida and cared for her until her death, 10 years later, at age 98. Ramona was a Montrose County resident for 69 years.

Ramona was predeceased by her parents, her husband, Phil, her son-in-law, Tom Franklin, and two grandsons, Pierre Gagnon and Ryan Paul Good.

Ramona is survived by her five children, Janice (Christian) Gagnon-AU, Carol Franklin-CO, Jeanine (Tom) Chinn-CO, Paul (Christine) Good-OH, and Neil (Cindy) Good-OK. Grandchildren; Joe (Jodie) Chinn-CO, Eric Chinn-CO, Priscilla (Tom) Stevens-AU, Aquila (Donna) Gagnon-AU, John Gagnon-AU, Andrew Gagnon-AU, Susanna Gagnon-AU, Marianne Gagnon (Lloyd Thomas)-AU, Joanna Gagnon-AU, Christina Werner-CO, TJ (Melissa) Franklin-WY, Tammy (Lee) Marks-KY, Amber (Aaron) Miller-MT, Tahnee Warf (Jeromy Wilhelm)-OH, Andrea (Chris) Sonntag-AR, Arlisa Good-OK and Tanner (Trinity) Good-OK, 18 great-grandchildren, 2 great-great granddaughters and three great-great grandsons, and one sister-in-law, Sue Jo Good of Oklahoma.

Deepest appreciation to HopeWest for their compassionate care in the last few days of Ramona's life.

Services will be postponed until a future time when the family can gather to honor Ramona's life, though memorial contributions may be made to the Valley Symphony Orchestra in Montrose Colorado, or HopeWest Hospice Care.

Memorial Gifts - HopeWest
(hopewestco.org)
Donate - Valley Symphony Association

ISSUE 437 Sept. 25, 2023

ART & SOL

BLACK CANYON AUDUBON TO ASSIST BIRD MIGRATION SCIENCE



Figure 1. Piping Plover, Image from motus.org.

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE-The Black Canyon Audubon Society (BCAS) is looking to set up a Motus Wildlife Tracking System (Motus) receiving tower in western Colorado to assist in global research on small animals, such as birds, bats, and insects. Did you know that the small western slope hummingbirds, weighing only 3 ½ grams (less than a Hershey's kiss), fly as far as almost 4000 miles to and from Central America each year? Many types of animals move seasonally (migration) during the year. Until very recently, our understanding of migra-

tion in small animals was limited by the weight of the technology. Most tracking devices were attached to animals by using collars or backpacks, which were much too large to use without harming those animals. Think of an elementary school child carrying a large backpack of heavy books all day and all night without being able to take it off. This limitation has reduced our knowledge of where many species of small animals go during migration. The technology has shrunk in size, allowing the study of small animal movements. Motus "is an international collaborative research network ... to facilitate research and education on the ecology and conservation of migratory animals. Motus is a program of Birds Canada in partnership with collaborating researchers and organizations" around the world.

Motus simultaneously tracks hundreds of individual animals that have been fitted with very small tags that communicate with Motus towers to log their locations and time as they pass by. The system enables a community of researchers, educators, organizations, and citizens to under-

take impactful research and education on the ecology and conservation of migratory animals. When compared to other technologies, Motus currently allows for the tracking of the smallest animals possible across great distances. Go to motus.org for more information.

Currently there are very few Motus towers in western Colorado and eastern Utah. BCAS has earmarked \$3000 for the project and is seeking an additional \$5000 for installation. By joining the Motus Network, BCAS can provide additional migration data to existing research projects who have tagged individual birds, bats and even insects that pass through the area. In the future, BCAS hopes to expand the project to include additional towers, and may even be able to add Modus tagging to their existing annual bird banding efforts with Ridgway State Park.

How can you help? Donate to this project through GoFundMe at <https://gofund.me/f3621a2d> For additional information on BCAS Motus efforts, contact David Sinton of Black Canyon Audubon Society, david.sinton@gmail.com

CELEBRATING LOCAL BEAUTY.



CELEBRATING MHS HOMECOMING 2023



Montrose High School students head for the high school after the Homecoming Parade on Main Street on Friday, Sept. 22



MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY

ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH

Address: 2057 S. Townsend, Montrose, CO 81401.

Office Hours: By appointment.

Contact Information: (970) 249-2451
[https:// www.allsaintsmontrose.org/](https://www.allsaintsmontrose.org/) Rec-
 tor: The Rev Preston Gordon, [don@allsaintsmontrose.org](mailto:pgor-

 don@allsaintsmontrose.org)

Worship Service Times: Sundays 9AM,

Sunday Worship. Wednesdays 11AM, Mid-
 week prayer and communion, Wednes-
 day, Noon, Multi-denominational Commu-
 nity Prayer Hour.

All Saints Anglican Church is an Evangelical
 Anglican Church committed to the minis-
 try of Word, Sacrament, and Spirit. Our
 music is a combination of traditional
 hymns, contemporary, and modern songs.

We invite kids preschool and up to join
 our kids worship time during the 9am Sun-
 day service. We would love to welcome
 you here. Following the service, join us for
 snacks and conversation. On the third Sun-
 day of the month we celebrate a potluck
 meal together.

Vision: We see Jesus Christ restoring
 hope: in us and in our world.

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH

Independent Baptist
 112Main 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.

CELEBRATION CHURCH

Denomination: Southern Baptist Church
 (SBC – Southern Baptist Convention)
Address: 2900 Sunnyside Road, Montrose,
 CO 81401

Office Hours: By appointment

Phone: (970) 497-4925

Email: celebrationmontrose@gmail.com

Website: [https://
 celebrationmontrose.org/](https://celebrationmontrose.org/)

Senior Pastor:

Pastor Brandon Mathis

Church Description/Mission: Celebration
 Church makes disciples that make disci-
 ples. Our core values include the Scripture,
 discipleship, community, service, prayer,
 love, and unity.

Demographics: Multi-generational
Celebration Kids: Nursery (Birth-4 years
 old) 8am, 9:30am & 11am
 Celebration Kids (Ages 5 – 10) 9:30am &
 11am

Discipleship: Students (Ages 11-
 18) 9:30am Sundays

Adult D2 Classes: 9:30am & 11am Sun-
 days

Other Discipleship Opportunities:

Youth Night: First & Third Wednesdays of
 month 6pm

Celebration Groups (all ages): Sundays –
 Fridays various times & locations

Seasons Young Adult (Ages 18-26) Celebra-
 tion Group: Thursdays @ 5:30pm off cam-
 pus location

Celebrate Recovery: Friday nights @
 6:30pm

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Denomination: Christ Lutheran Montrose
Affiliation: Lutheran Church Missouri Syn-
 od

Address: 1980 N. Townsend Ave., Mont-
 rose, 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 welcom-
 ing environment being comforted and en-
 couraged 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 old-
 er 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, in-

form@fpcmontrose.com,

www.fpcmontrose.com

Pastor: Jesse Mabanglo

Worship Service times: 9:30AM,
 Student Worship at 6PM. *We strive to en-
 courage, challenge and support one another*

*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 minis-
 tries.*

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY From previous pg

HILLCREST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Denomination affiliation: United Church of Christ

Address: 611 South Hillcrest Drive, Montrose, CO 81401

Office hours: By appointment

Contact information:

Phone number: (970) 249-9047

Email address: office@montroseucc.org

Website: montroseucc.org

Current Pastor: Rev. Wendy Kidd

Worship service times: Sunday, 10 a.m.

Hillcrest Congregational UCC is a welcoming, open and affirming church, open to all no matter who you are or where you are

on life's journey.

Church demographics: HCUCC welcomes all ages to worship with us. (predominately family, youth, seniors, singles)

We offer inter-generational worship with a children's "prayer-ground" and activity packets. A cry room is also available.

MONTROSE 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 den-

tures. 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-Thurs, 9am-4pm

Contact information:

Phone: 970.249.4887

website: www.RosemontBaptist.org

email: office@rosemontbaptist.org

Senior Pastor: Rolland Kenneson

Worship Service Times: Our engaging and relevant Sunday Worship Service is at

10:45 AM. We also have Bible Study for All Ages Sunday mornings at 9:15 AM. We provide a professionally-staffed nursery throughout both.

Rosemont Baptist's desire is to passionately bring people face-to-face with the life-changing power of Jesus Christ.

We are a multigenerational church from different walks of life who love Jesus, love each other, and love our community. Everyone comes dressed in whatever is comfortable. We love meeting new people no

matter what stage of life they are in.

Children's services: We have a fun Sunday School for children from four years old through youth. We provide Children's Church during the Sunday Worship Services where children four years old through 9 years can learn to be worshipers 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.

ST. STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

Denomination: Anglican-Reformed Episcopal Church (REC)

Address: 2405 Sunnyside Road, Montrose 970-249-4868

Contact: [ststephensmont-](http://ststephensmontrose.com)

rose@yahoo.com

www.ststephensmontrose.com

Rev. Dec. Garrett Agajanian

St. Stephen's is a community of caring Christians rooted in the godly traditions of the past, focused on the challenges of the

present, hopeful for the future, continuing in the Faith once delivered to the saints, using the 1928 Book of Common Prayer.

Sunday: Holy Communion 10 am.

Fellowship following service.

Children's nursery available (unstaffed).

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY From previous pg

SUMMIT CHURCH OF MONTROSE:

Denomination affiliation:

Southern Baptist

Address: 10977 60.75 Rd. Montrose, CO 81403

Office hours: Varies

Contact information:

phone number: 970-275-7026

email: summitchurchmontrose@gmail.com

website: www.summitchurchmontrose.org

Senior Pastor: John DeSario

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) up to retired individuals. During the Sunday sermon we offer teaching for children ages birth to Kindergarten, in a kid friendly room called Base Camp. We also have a children's activity during our Monday night adult Bible study. We meet for prayer at the church every Wed. at 6:30.

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?

Local Immunization Providers



Visit www.montrosecounty.net/immunizations for updated information on immunization providers.
Questions? Call (970) 252-5011



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Hidden Lake

62650 LaSalle Road • Montrose, CO 81401
www.TheHiddenLakeCommunity.com



WHAT IS HYPERPHAGIA? BE BEAR AWARE!

By Anita Evans,
Friends of Youth and Nature

Fall is a beautiful time of year to get outside—trees are starting to change colors and there is a pleasant bite in the air, a welcome change from the warm summer temperatures. With fall comes preparation for winter such as cleaning up the yard and garden, and stockpiling wood for the fireplace or wood stove.

Animals are also preparing for winter, and educating the public about being 'Bear Aware' is a focus this time of year for the United States Forest Service, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Park Service. Fall is an especially important time to be cautious around bears as they are entering a biologically driven phase called hyperphagia.

Hyperphagia is the name given to the drive in bears that increases their feeding activity. This builds up the fat reserves necessary to get them through five to seven months of hibernation. Black bears, the only bear species in Colorado, eat as much as 20,000 calories a day during this time, sometimes foraging for 20 hours a day! Eating and drinking non-stop, bears rely on fruits, berries, acorns, and insects to satiate their appetite during this hyperphagia phase. They are opportunistic feeders and will also raid garbage cans, local honey producers, and orchards in more populated areas if given the chance.

Bear encounters in Colorado can be opportunities to observe them, with caution. What do we need to do to keep ourselves and the bears safe during this time of year? Some things you can do at your home for bear safety are to make sure your garbage is in a bear resistant garbage can or dumpster, and bring bird feeders in at night. If camping, make sure all food and garbage is in a bear canister or airtight container and locked in your trunk, or hung from a tree away from your tent, car, or camper. Always lock your car or camper when you leave your campsite and at night; bears are very smart, and

have been known to open door latches! Once a bear associates people with food, they become what is known as a nuisance bear and may have to be relocated, or if they are involved in repeated human-bear encounters they may have to be put down by Colorado Parks and Wildlife officials. If they come into your yard or camp, yell, bang pots, blow a whistle, or honk your car horn to chase them away – and always make sure they have a clear escape route.

While hiking in bear country, it is a good idea to wear a bear bell on your pack or talk to your hiking partner while on the trail. These noises will usually let the bear know you are there, and they will move away on their own before you even see them. Be alert, keep your dog on a leash, and pick a camp spot away from signs of bear activity such as bear scat or overturned and shredded logs. An unleashed dog can bring an irritated bear directly back to you, increasing the chance of an unwanted bear encounter. It is a good idea to carry a can of bear spray, and know how to use it.

If you see a bear while hiking, experts say the first thing to do is to stay calm, face the bear, stand your ground, and talk to the bear in a calm voice to let them know you are human. Say things like, "Hey bear," and make sure the bear has an escape route, stepping downhill off the trail if necessary and backing away slowly. Never run or climb a tree! If you see cubs, you should leave the area immediately as the mother will be close by—never approach a bear or bear cubs! If the bear stands up, they are trying to identify you by seeing and smelling you. Wave your arms slowly over your head. If the bear huffs, stomps, or pops its jaw, they want more space. Keep backing away slowly until you can't see it anymore.



This healthy bear has been in a feeding frenzy called hyperphagia, storing up fat to get through the long winter ahead (photo credit: Shutterstock.com\Brett Welcher)

If the bear approaches you, it could be food-conditioned, or rarely, an aggressive bear. Stand your ground, keep backing away, and yell or throw small rocks towards the bear. Now is the time you will want to get your bear spray out, but do not use it until the bear is about 40 feet away. If the worst-case scenario occurs and the bear attacks, fight back with everything you've got – a pocket knife, hiking poles, or even your bare hands. People have successfully fought off a black bear by convincing them that they are not worth the trouble. Keep in mind that this scenario is extremely rare.

If you see a bear in the distance, enjoy the sight and count yourself lucky to have seen such a beautiful animal. Don't try to get closer—just enjoy this rare moment and move on to enjoy the rest of your day. Know that you are in bear country and be Bear Aware! More information can be found on the internet by searching "Be Bear Aware" or "Bearwise".

For more outdoor safety tips, trail game ideas, and hiking trails, visit the Friends of Youth and Nature website at friendsofyouthandnature.org. FOYAN is a non-profit that promotes opportunities for youth and families to go outside, experiencing outdoor activities and exploring nature.



Annual Holiday Crafts & Bazaar

**FRIDAY, NOV. 3RD
9:30AM TO 6PM**

**SATURDAY, NOV. 4TH
9AM TO 4PM**

**MONTROSE COUNTY
FAIRGROUNDS
FRIENDSHIP HALL**

FREE ENTRY

**HOURLY
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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

HEALING COLLECTIVE OF WESTERN COLORADO PRESENTS PANEL DISCUSSION

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE—For the last two years the Healing Collective of Western Colorado hosted the Whole Being Health and Wellness Expo in collaboration with the Montrose Recreation District. The event was meant to educate the community on their local complementary health care options and connect local practitioners to the people that needed their support. It was well received by the community and offered many people a new perspective on their healing journey along with resources on how to be well. Attendance grew to thirty-five practitioners and around 200 participants in 2022. In response to the request for more directed teachings in a less overwhelming format the collective has decided to scale down the event this year. Instead of hosting all of the practitioners in one place on one day, they have selected a panel of five who will present on one specific health concern of our community. Erin Easton, the founder of the Healing Collective, says “I am very excited about this new format. It feels less overwhelming and more intentional. I think we can speak directly to the people with this specific need and offer them some really good insights and support.”

The first panel discussion will be held on Sunday, Oct 15th from 3-5pm at the Montrose Flex Rec and is free for the public to attend. This panel will address chronic pain as this is one of the main health concerns that many of our practitioners are seeing. The panel will begin with an introduction of each panel member followed by a 15-minute talk by each one explaining their perspective on the condition and the approach they would take to treating it. The audience will then be given time to ask questions to any of the panel members. We will end with a meet and greet during which the audience can meet the panel members as well as other collective members to learn more about their individual practices.

The panel members include Erin Easton owner of New Leaf Mindfulness Coaching and founder of the Healing Collective, James Damman of Acubalance Acupuncture, Deborah Barber licensed massage therapist, and Bri Lafferty of BriOnic guided imagery. Each panel will always include one conventional practitioner to help provide a well-rounded

perspective on the topic. For this first chronic pain panel Melinda Marzolf, a family physician with Peak Medical, will be offering her input. Our goal is to open conversations between practitioners of varying modalities so that we can start looking at these health concerns from many angles. The health topics that we have chosen tend to be ones that don't have a quick fix or easy solution. They challenge both traditional and complementary practitioners to think outside the box and treat more than just the symptom. Often conventional treatments aren't sufficient in solving the ailment and leave both doctors and patients frustrated and hopeless. James Damman is excited to participate in the panel saying, “I have unique and helpful perspectives on chronic pain that I think can help people heal.”

In 2021 the CDC found that 20.9% of the US population suffered from chronic pain. Chronic pain has negative affects on daily work and life activities and has been linked with depression, Alzheimer disease and related dementias, higher suicide risk, and substance use and misuse. (Rickard, 2021) Chronic pain is highly persistent, with almost two-thirds (61.4%) of those who reported chronic pain in 2019 still reporting chronic pain a year later. (NIH) The failure to manage chronic pain, as well as the opioid dependence associated with chronic pain, can result in significant morbidity and mortality. Research has shown the lifetime prevalence for chronic pain patients attempting suicide between 5% and 14%; suicidal ideation was approximately 20%. Of the chronic patient patients who commit suicide, 16.2% do so by opioid overdose. (Dydyk, 2023) We can see that individuals who suffer from chronic pain need a lot of support that addresses more than just their physical body which is why we are dedicated to helping them build a healing team to take care of their whole-being.

The Healing Collective is dedicated to working collaboratively to help heal the community. We know that health and well-being require more than just symptom treating. We know that when we are sick or in pain that it affects every area of our life and we require support in our emotional, mental, physical, and spiritual world. We also know that none of us can do it alone. Every indi-

vidual will require a different approach to their healing and will respond differently to each treatment type. That's why we are committed to learning about each of our unique approaches to health so that we can understand what services are offered in our area and how they may help our patients. We do this by hosting bi-monthly meetings open to anyone in which we educate one another on our unique practices, share ideas on business ownership and marketing, and discuss local health concerns. We support one another so that we can support the community. Mindy Miller, a local MD with her own membership based private practice joined the collective this year and says, “I joined the Healing Collective driven by the positive experiences my patients have shared regarding the benefits of complementary practices, which were largely absent from my conventional medical education. My journey here is fueled by a sincere desire to expand my knowledge and embrace a holistic approach to healthcare. Within this collective, I've discovered an incredible community of dedicated practitioners whose support and wisdom have truly enriched my professional path.”

The collective will hold four discussion panels throughout the year. The next one will be in January of 2024 and will address stress. The following topics will include autoimmune diseases and insomnia. If you would like to join the collective or find out more about our community offerings you can visit the website www.healingcollectiveco.com. We are also on facebook and instagram.

References

Rikard SM, Strahan AE, Schmit KM, Guy GP Jr.. *Chronic Pain Among Adults — United States, 2019–2021*. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep* 2023;72:379–385. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm7215a1>. NIH, NIH study finds high rates of persistent chronic pain among U.S. adults, May 16, 2023 <https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/nih-study-finds-high-rates-persistent-chronic-pain-among-us-adults> Dydyk AM, Conermann T. *Chronic Pain*. [Updated 2023 Jul 21]. In: StatPearls [Internet]. Treasure Island (FL): StatPearls Publishing; 2023 Jan-. Available from: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK553030/>

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE VOLUNTEERS LAUNCH GLOBAL CAMPAIGN WITH MESSAGE OF HOPE



Jehovah's Witnesses worldwide will be engaged in a special campaign bringing a much-needed message of hope to their communities. Courtesy images.

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE—At a time when the desire for better government is on the minds of people the world over, Jehovah's Witnesses will launch an international campaign to bring attention to a universal solution. The Witnesses will feature a special edition of *The Watchtower* magazine, available in more than 780 languages in print and online, with the theme "What Is God's Kingdom?"

Local volunteers from Montrose, Colorado, will distribute this special-edition magazine during the month of September.

"I am excited to share in this campaign because there is no greater privilege than to represent God's Kingdom," said Gretchen Greene, a local resident of Montrose.

"It's thrilling to talk about those promises with my neighbors."

Throughout the centuries, millions of Jesus' followers have prayed the words "thy Kingdom come" but wonder what that Kingdom is, what it will accomplish and when it will come. To answer those age-old questions, the Witnesses' special-edition magazine will reference key Bible passages. The clear and simple explanations have been designed to appeal to both new and experienced Bible readers.

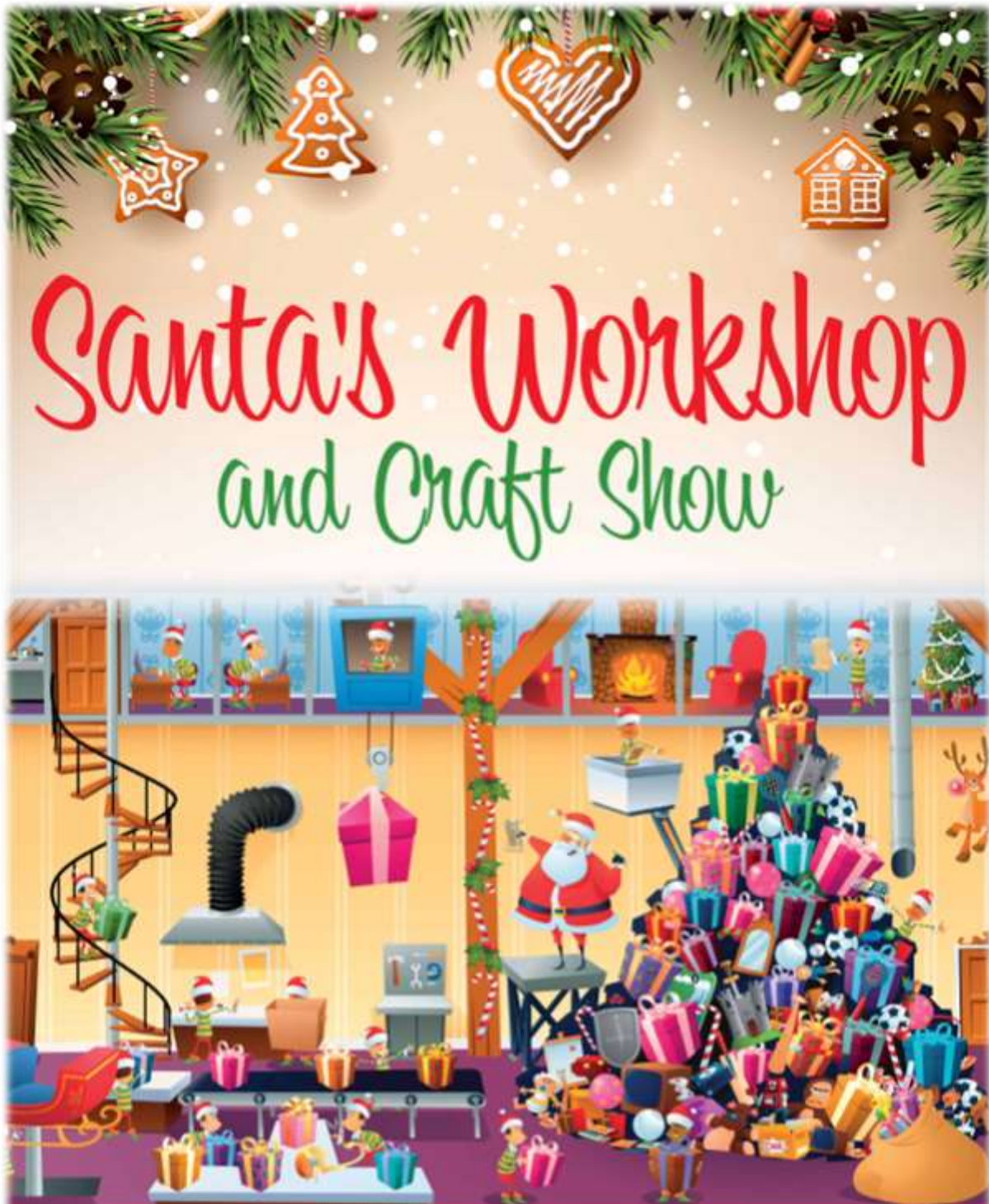
"People are facing problems that cannot be solved without God," said Jason Davault, spokesperson for Jehovah's Witnesses. "This message brings hope to people in our communities."

During the height of the COVID-19 pan-

demic, Jehovah's Witnesses distributed millions of this special-edition magazine through letters, even sending copies to thousands of government officials worldwide. Now that they have returned to their door-to-door public ministry post-pandemic, this will be the first in-person campaign where they will have the opportunity to discuss the important and very timely subject with their neighbors. A free digital copy of this special issue of *The Watchtower*, as well as information about the activities of Jehovah's Witnesses, is available at jw.org. The Witnesses' site offers practical Bible-based content for people of all ages and beliefs in 1,081 languages.

For more information call, 718-560-5600





Friday, Dec. 1st • 9:30am to 6pm
Saturday, Dec. 2nd • 9am to 4pm
Sunday, Dec. 3rd • 11am to 4pm

Montrose County Fairgrounds Friendship Hall

For Vendor Information call
Debbie 970.531.2438 or email montrosefootwear@aol.com

SAVE THE DATE! LOCAL EVENTS CALENDAR

ONGOING-

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 Field House on the corner of Colorado Avenue and Rio Grande Avenue at Noon.

GRIEFSHARE SUPPORT GROUP For anyone who has lost a loved one. Join at any time. Meets every Tuesday from 6:30-8:30pm for 13 weeks beginning Aug. 1st. (Aug. 1 thru Oct. 24) at Rosemont Baptist Church 1598 E. Niagara Rd. Montrose, CO 81401 Register at: RosemontBaptist.org/events/griefshare or call at (970)249-4887

FREE THINKERS meet 1st Sunday of the month for information call 970 417-4183

RIDGWAY FARMERS MARKET at Hartwell Park, May 26-Oct. 13-Fridays from 10am to 2pm.

RIDGWAY TRUE GRIT WALKING TOUR

Re-live the exciting days in 1968 when Ridgway was transformed into Fort Smith, Arkansas and John Wayne, Henry Hathaway, Robert Duval and Glen Campbell came for the filming of True Grit. A guide will escort you to downtown filming locations and share insights about Ridgway's film history and little-known facts and anecdotes about the Duke. The tour was recognized by True West as Readers Choice for Best Historic Town Tour. Meet at Ridgway's Hartwell Park gazebo. **FREE!** Details: 469.682.9710 (Donations are welcome.) **12 pm and 2 pm Saturday, September 23, 2023**

SATURDAY: FREE TRAIN RIDES: Free rides every Saturday through mid-October, 9 am - 3 pm, at the Ridgway Railroad Museum, 200 N. Railroad St, Ridgway.

BOSOM BUDDIES BREAST CANCER SUPPORT GROUP, Wednesdays noon-12:45, 645 S. 5th Street

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

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. More info call Tom 970 260 8298.

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.)

MONTHLY

Sept. 28--On Thursday, Sept. 28 from 5:45-6:45pm, Citizens' Climate Lobby presents West Slope Energy Tour at Blue Corn Café 1842 S. Townsend Montrose, followed by tabling and music. Local/national energy trends and the future, info 970-765-9095.

Sept. 30-The annual Great Community Giveaway returns on Saturday, Sept. 30, from 10 a.m. to noon, at Lions Park Community Building, 602 N. Nevada, in Montrose. Everything is free. Donations of clothing for all ages, toys, books, household items, blankets, coats, shoes, and more are set out on tables for easy access. Donations of items will be accepted starting at 8 a.m. and the doors will open at 10 a.m. People are encouraged to bring their own bags or boxes to pack up their items to take home. Only good, clean items are accepted. No electronics, large furniture items, large tools, TV's, or items that are difficult to recycle are accepted. Volunteers are always welcome. For more information call 970-252-0908.

Sept. 30-Benefit for All Points Transit-Montrose Oktoberfest at Montrose Rotary Amphitheater. 1-5pm. For tickets visit montrose-beerfest.com

Sept. 30-Back to the Old Spanish Trail Field Trip. FREE Saturday, September 30, 2023, 9 am – NOON. Transportation will be provided by the Interpretive Association of Western Colorado. Please plan to meet at the parking lot located just west of Fort Uncompahgre no later than 9 am and return no later than 12:00 noon. We will be using a School Bus; seating is limited to the first 46 folks that sign up. Wear comfortable shoes and bring water. RSVP is required please call 970 640-7076.

Oct. 6-2023 Family Caregiver Summit 1-4:30pm at the Montrose Pavilion, Friday, October 6. The agenda includes three key speakers, each covering topics aimed at enhanced understanding of the demon devastating their loved one and what they can do to help without losing their own sanity. More information is available at Region10.net or at family-caregiver.org. Caregiver may pre-register to attend at either site. Attendees may also register at the door. The Family Caregiver Summit, which is free to the public, is presented by the Caregiver Support Foundation and Region 10 League for Economic Assistance & Planning, Inc.

Oct. 14-Saturday, Oct. 14, marks the 31st year that Bosom Buddies Breast Cancer Support Group of Southwestern Colorado. will commemorate October as Breast Cancer Awareness month with its annual Walk/Run fundraiser. To register for the 31st Annual Walk/Run on Oct. 14 and for more information on the services offered by Bosom Buddies, visit the website at www.BosomBuddiesSWC.org.

READER PHOTO SPOTLIGHT: BY DEB REIMANN



Deb Reimann snapped the above photos, of a large herd of elk near Ridgway, and a recent full moon in Aspen.

Below, The ColoradoCast is a short-term economic forecast for the Colorado economy developed by the Colorado Futures Center. [Click to read.](#)

ColoradoCast

ECONOMIC FORECAST Q3 2023

A STATEWIDE 6-MONTH ECONOMIC FORECAST
FROM THE COLORADO FUTURES CENTER

