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# the Montrose Mirror

## TRIP AROUND THE WORLD BEGINS IN MONTROSE

By Bob Cox

MONTROSE-In a small column in the *New Zealand Evening Post* in 1930 the writer described Elsie Lincoln Benedict as being "small in stature, but very large in the world of lecturing." By that time, Elsie Lincoln Benedict was well known in cities around the world, but her roots were in the fledgling town of Montrose Colorado.

Elsie was born in early November of 1885 in Osborne, Kansas. She was the eldest of six children in the William and Adella Vandegrift household and was approaching high school age when the family moved to Montrose. The Montrose High School was among the first institutions to recognize the amazing talents of this young lady. She easily became the editor of the high school newspaper and began a long career as an oratorical genius.

At about the same time she was starting her high school education, she met and became a friend and ex-officio student of a man who was already well-known for his use of the spoken word, Judge John Gray. In *The Memoirs of Judge John Gray*, compiled by Gray's daughter, Mary Olive Gray, the beginning of the relationship was described as follows:

*My father delighted in helping people in Oral Expression; to mention an instance, that of the distinguished lecturer, Mrs. Elsie Vandegrift Benedict, a Montrose girl, in her lectures*

**Continued pg 14**



Above, a grainy copy of the photo, which accompanied a letter to Judge John Gray in October of 1929. Photo courtesy of Lezlee Gray Cox. Inset: Elsie Lincoln Benedict is a post-humus inductee in the Osborne County, Kansas Hall of Fame. Osborne County is her place of birth. Photo courtesy Osborne County Hall of Fame.

## CEDAR POINT HEALTH WELCOMES PATIENTS TO NEW LOCATION IN MARCH



Cedar Point Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Cory Phillips, standing in the breakroom of the new medical center said, "This project was two years in the making. We are focused on direct patient care, and we have room to grow. The concept is Population Health, Value Based Care. Everything is done here." Photo by Gail Marvel.

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE-Cedar Point Health will soon move into the new Ambulatory Care Center (ACC), which was built by Montrose Regional Health (MRH) in cooperation with the NexCore Group.

The four-story, 80,000 square-foot facility south of town is located adjacent to Target and Hobby Lobby, and is near the intersection of South Townsend Avenue and Rio Grande.

At first glance the outside façade, constructed from perforated black metal, may look like modern art. However in the next few months, as the metal rusts in the elements, the depiction of the Black Canyon Painted Wall will become more pronounced.

Cedar Point Health had its beginnings in the 1970's and its origin can be traced back to the three founders of Internal Medicine, Dr. Robert Motley, Dr. John Lambert, and Dr. Thomas Chamberlain. Internal Medicine has since evolved into Cedar Point Health, which currently

**Continued pg 7**

# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## MONTROSE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS 'ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIGH' WAYS OF COLORADO

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The Montrose County Historical Society presents Barbara Kastellic with "Rocky Mountain High" ways of Colorado. Learn the history of the Million Dollar Highway, along with the Independence Pass and the other Highways in Colorado in this wonderful program. The program starts at 7 pm, Wednesday, March 6 in rooms 1 and 2 in Montrose County Events Center. Admission is free, and the public is invited. Light refreshments may be available. The public is encouraged to attend.

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Published every Monday since 2010 in Montrose, Colorado to a readership of over 20,000 residents of Western Colorado.

We encourage contributions and commentary. Submitted content may not necessarily reflect the opinion of the publisher.

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# Olathe Super Saturdays

March 9th

10-11 AM

Olathe  
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Join the Montrose Regional Library Outreach staff for fun activities, snacks, and free books every second Saturday (excluding holidays) at the Olathe Community Center.

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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### TOUR OF SHAVANO VALLEY ROCK ART

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Reserve a spot for the March 11th tour of Shavano Valley Rock Art Site with the Northern San Juan Great Old Broads. Located just outside of Montrose, the Shavano Valley is one of the most picturesque and important rock art sites in western Colorado. The site was used from at least 1000 BCE to 1900 CE by both the Archaic and Ute peoples. Our guide for the tour will be Russ Barr, a Ute Museum Docent for the site for many years. Reservations are needed in order to determine whether a second guide will be needed. Group size will be limited to allow better information sharing about the amazing art of this site. To see more detailed information about the site, check out this link <https://coloradoencyclopedia.org/article/shavano-valley-rock-art-site>  
The tour will be from 1 to 3 PM approximately. We will meet up at a parking area in Montrose on the south side of West Main St beside the Uncompahgre River at 12:45 and carpool to the site. Dress for the weather. Bring water, sun hat, sunscreen and wear sturdy shoes. Sturdy shoes or boots are ideal for the rough trail and steep slopes. No pets allowed. Suggested donation is \$10. Our guide/guides will be reimbursed by our donations. To make a reservation, please send an email to: [northernsanjuanbroadband@gmail.com](mailto:northernsanjuanbroadband@gmail.com) and please put "Reservation" in the heading. It's going to be fun and so interesting. (Thanks to Judith Lopez for organizing the event!)

# BEST Of The VALLEY

- Daily Press

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# WHO'S MOVING IN? WELCOME WESTERN COLORADO SHARES STATISTICS

*Mirror Staff Report*

MONTROSE-Business Owner Terri Leben of Welcome Western Colorado has released statistics from 2023, noting that last year the community welcoming service greeted 238 new households in Montrose.

"As I enter this twelfth year of owning Welcome Western Colorado, it is good to celebrate the impact I have made to help promote local business to new residents," Leben said. "I began tracking the detail of the greets in 2015; since then, we have greeted 2,209 households. Please note that more people move to our community then we actually greet--I only greet those who want the welcome package and will use the offers."

Of those greeted, 75 are retired, 118 are employed, and 45 new residents work from home.

Where are these new residents coming

from? According to Welcome Western Colorado, those greeted include:

- 84 new residents from other areas of Colorado, including 48 from the Front Range;
- 13 from Arizona;
- Eight from California;
- Seven from Florida;
- Six from Texas;
- Five each from Utah and Washington;
- Four each from Nevada and Ohio;
- Three each from Illinois, Montana, Oklahoma, Virginia, and Wyoming;
- Two each from Arkansas, Idaho, Indiana, Japan, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oregon, Tennessee and Wisconsin;
- One each from Alaska, Calgary Canada, England, Kansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, and Rhode



Courtesy photo Welcome Western Colorado.

Island.

-56 were new movers.

Those new residents bring with them 151 Young children, 191 Grown children who will visit, Shop, and go out to eat; 198 Dogs; 112 Cats--"No cats moved here in April," Leben said. "Not sure why." Finally, two new birds and one new hamster have also moved to Montrose.



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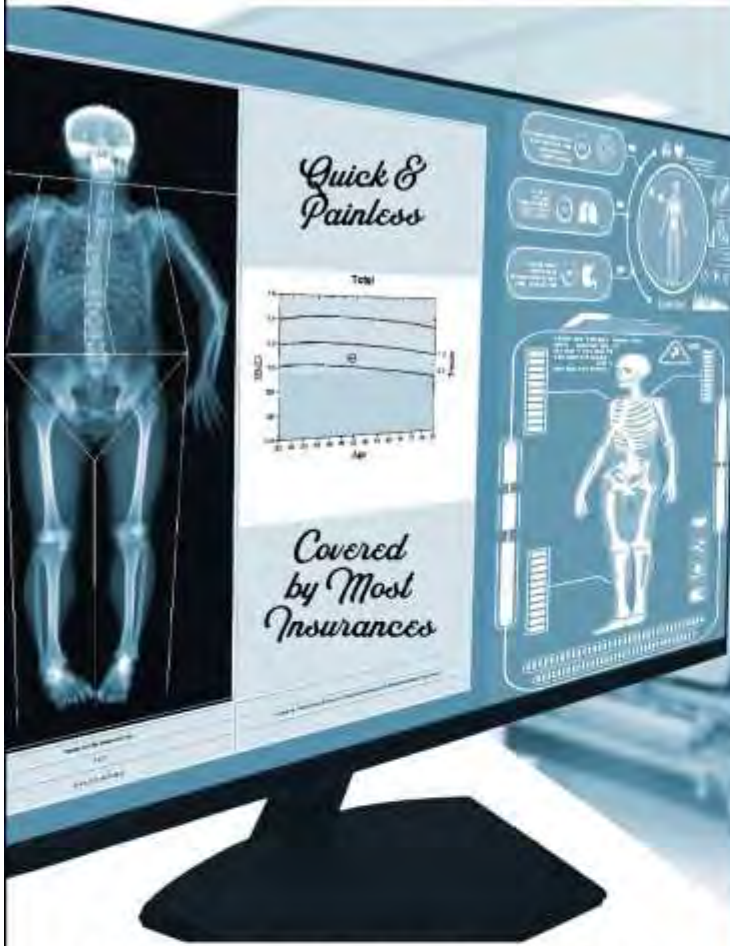


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**Dr. Frazzetta is a Certified Clinical Densitometrist** and was recognized at the Society's annual meeting for her research on bone improvement using testosterone in women. She has over **25 years experience** in bone health and testing and is an **expert** in her field.

# **CEDAR POINT HEALTH WELCOMES PATIENTS TO NEW LOCATION IN MARCH**

## **From pg 1**



*The expansive registration area at Cedar Point Health includes four distinct waiting areas which will be separated by dividers and greenery. Photo by Gail Marvel.*

has two primary locations at 300 South Nevada and 816 South 5<sup>th</sup> Street. It is noteworthy that Dr. Lambert continues to be a participant in this health care concept. In a telephone interview, Cedar Point Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Cory Phillips said, "We are consolidating the two primary locations and moving into the new ACC facility. We are taking over the entire third floor, which is 22,000 square feet. We'll move into the new facility on March 7-8, and start seeing patients on March 11 - 12." Phillips continued, "People don't understand that Cedar Point Health is physician-owned by 10 local, practicing doctors. We have 18 Primary Care Providers and four Behavioral Health (psychology) Providers. We've partnered with MRH and together are bringing state of the art medical care to Montrose. We will have labs, radiology, and integrated medical records. If you are seen in Urgent Care, our doctors will have access to your records and the process is seamless. We have all the same services; the product is one-stop-shop. It's like nothing this community has ever seen. We go way beyond Primary Care."

On Feb. 29 the *Mirror* toured the new Cedar Point Health facility, which has 50 exam rooms, three counseling (psychology) rooms, a conference room, four designated waiting room areas, shared doctor offices, and a staging area for medical teams.



*Work desks for Cedar Point Health's medical teams, located in the off-stage area away from patients, are flanked by doctor's offices on the left and workstations on the right. Photo by Gail Marvel.*

Cedar Point Health is accepting new patients, and the names of physicians are available on their website. Basic hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

#### **Services include:**

- Primary Care
- Care Management
- Behavioral Health
- Hospitalist Care
- COVID testing
- Urgent Care (remains at the South 5<sup>th</sup> location)
- Aesthetics (remains at the South 5<sup>th</sup> location)
- Physical Therapy (remains at the Penn Center Mall, 2301 South Townsend)

Cedar Point Health Administrative Offices will remain at the Penn Center Mall. In the future, the two vacated medical properties located at 300 South Nevada and 816 South 5<sup>th</sup> Street will be occupied by the hospital.

#### **Background**

As medical health services expand in Montrose, there has been some confusion as to which entities offer what services (a for-profit medical project, not affiliated with MRH, has been announced for the Montrose Urban Renewal Authority (MURA) area north of town). Montrose Regional Health (MRH), formally Montrose Regional Hospital, is a non-profit entity that reinvests in Montrose and the surrounding communities. Having outgrown the current hospital footprint, MRH built an Ambulatory Care Center (ACC) which they believe will decrease healthcare costs, increase access to care, and improve patient experience. The four-story, 80,000 square-foot ACC facility is located south of town. According to the MRH website, "Ambulatory care is a term for services performed on an outpatient basis – in other words, with no admission to the hospital. The ACC will focus on helping patients in a way that does not require an overnight stay."

# FLAG RALLY CONVOYS CONTINUE IN MONTROSE, PLANNED FOR SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE-The mission statement for Flag Rally Convoys is, "In Support of 2A, Our Troops, Our Veterans, Our Elected Officials, and the USA. Fly your Flags!"

Surprisingly, the convoys are not under the auspice of any organization, but rather the brainchild of Pam and Ron Brown.

Ron said, "We started them and then people kept asking us if they could join us. It's like a co-op."

On Saturdays, participants begin assembling in parade fashion at 10 a.m. in the north parking lot of the Montrose County Fairgrounds, and they roll out at 11a.m.

Pam said, "Depending on the weather, and people's schedules, we sometime have 20 vehicles."

When asked about the convey route Ron said, "We go out on the San Juan bypass, turn onto Townsend, and drive to Hobby Lobby. When we leave Hobby Lobby we go back to town, drive down Main Street and then back to the San Juan Avenue...then we make another loop."

Pam said, "It takes about two hours



Above left, Photo by Gail Marvel. At 10 a.m. on Saturday, March 2, 2024, the Flag Rally Convoy began to assemble in the north parking lot of the Montrose County Fairgrounds. Founder Pam Brown said, "We roll out at 11 and sometimes there are 20 vehicles." (L to R) top-dog Joy, Pam, and Ron Brown.

Above right, Convoy on the road. photo by Pam Brown.

max."

There is an invitation for others to decorate their vehicles and join the Flag Rally Convoys; however, there are guidelines — Conservative Patriotic Flags welcome, Trump Flags are welcome, but flags or signs with curse words are not permitted.

**Flag Rally Convoy schedule for Montrose:** March 2 and March 30

April 13 and April 27

May 11 and May 25

June 15

**Delta Rally:**

Sunday, March 17; line up at 1 p.m. and rollout at 2 p.m.

Location TBA

**Summer Parades:** dates in Delta, Hotchkiss, Montrose, and Ridgway TBA



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For  
MONTROSE COUNTY COMMISSIONER  
District #3

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### I Need Your Support!

The first step is going through the Montrose County Caucus and Assembly.

- Show up to the Republican Caucus** on Thursday, March 7, 2024 at 5:30-8:30PM at Montrose High School Cafeteria and become a delegate to the Republican County Assembly,
- All delegates need to be present for the County Assembly** on Saturday, March 23, 2024 at Centennial Middle School Gym at 8AM-3PM.
- Cast your vote for Rick Dunlap**, Montrose County Commissioner for District 3.

**NOTE:** All delegates will be voting for Districts #1 AND #3.

**Thank You!**

### Professional Service

- 28 years Law Enforcement, Retired (including 3 terms as the Montrose County Sheriff)
- Past President of County Sheriffs of Colorado
- 21 years U.S. Army, Retired - Awarded Bronze Star

### Volunteer Service to Montrose Community

- Current President of West Montrose Sanitation District
- Current Board Member for Welcome Home Alliance for Veterans
- Current Board Member of Grace Community Church
- Past Montrose County Fair Board Member
- Past Volunteer Firefighter - Montrose Fire Protection District
- Past Member of Montrose County Sheriff's Posse
- Past Board Member CASA of the 7<sup>th</sup> Judicial District

### More About Rick

- Associates Degree in Business Management
- Married to my wife, Karen, for 52 years
- Proud father of 3 sons, with 8 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren
- Resident of Montrose County for 42 years.

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# **SATURDAY, MARCH 9TH**

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# RED HAWKS GIRLS STATE CHAMPIONSHIP RUN ENDS

By Cliff Dodge

MONTROSE-The Montrose Red Hawks girls basketball team saw their dream of a state championship derailed by the tall and talented Roosevelt High School Roughriders 60-45 at the venerable Denver Coliseum on Friday evening. The game was a very close-knit affair for the first three quarters as the Red Hawks defense kept the two teams virtually even.

The Roughriders took a 4-0 lead right out of the gate but the Red Hawks tied things up at 6-6 before taking a 13-9 lead with about one minute to play in the first quarter. The Roughriders then outscored the Red Hawks 5 to 1 to tie the score at 14-14 after one period of play.

The Red Hawks opened up a 4-point lead midway through the period, but the Roughriders ran off the next 9 points to lead 29 to 25 with five seconds to play in

the quarter. The Red Hawks inbounded the basketball and raced to midcourt and let fly a desperation shot at the buzzer which touched nothing but net for a long, three-point basket. The buzzer beater narrowed the Roughriders lead to a single point, 29 to 28 at the half.

The third quarter mirrored the first two quarters with rugged defense played by the Red Hawks to keep the four six-foot-tall Roughrider forwards off of the backboards. The Red Hawks stayed right with the Roughriders as the third period ended. The Red Hawks tied the game at 40 with seconds to play and took a 2-point lead, 42-40 into the break.

Things got out of hand in the fourth and final quarter of the contest. The Red Hawks offense slowed and could not seem to keep up with the Roughriders as the number 2 ranked team in the state reeled

off a 7- point run to lead by 8 points, 52 to 44. At that point the Roughriders played keep-away and the Red Hawks were forced to foul in order to possess the basketball. The Roughriders sank all eight free throws down the stretch to make the final score 60 to 45.

Sophomore Maggie Legg led all Red Hawk scorers with 17 points. Another sophomore, Mayce Oberg, chipped in with 15 points and she also collected nine rebounds to keep the Red Hawks close through three quarters. The Red Hawks' highly successful season ended with a record of 19 wins and seven losses. The three seniors--Haven Johnson, Taygan Rocco, and Kenzie Bush--will be missed, but the returning players, three juniors and six sophomores along with several JV team members, will continue the tradition of winning basketball for the Red Hawks.

Your representative form of government starts at your County Caucus and then to the County Assembly. In this critical election year, sitting on the sidelines allows someone else to decide who represents you in County, State, and Federal Government.

**SUPER TUESDAY**  
 Tuesday, March 5, 2024 • Colorado Presidential Primary Election

**MONTROSE COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY CAUCUS**  
 Thursday, March 7, 2024 • Registration starting at 5:30 PM  
 Montrose High School Cafeteria for all Precincts except Precinct 1  
 Naturita Community Center for Precinct 1

**MONTROSE COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY ASSEMBLY**  
 Saturday, March 23, 2024 • Credentialing starts at 8:00 AM  
 Centennial Middle School Gym for all Montrose County

**Please attend the Caucus and Assembly to support Scott Riba.**

Pre-register for the Caucus at [Caucus.ColoGOP.org](http://Caucus.ColoGOP.org)

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# Montrose County REPUBLICAN

# CAUCUS

Caucus is the Colorado grassroots electoral process to become a delegate, to elect candidates to political offices, and become a member of the Republican Central Committee

## Thursday, March 7<sup>th</sup>

### Montrose High School Cafe

600 So Selig Ave - parking in stadium lot

**6:00p - 7:00p Registration**

**7:00p Precinct Caucus**

*Come meet Candidates and find out more*

- ◆ Pre-register, find your precinct, & find your caucus location

**[caucus.cologop.org](http://caucus.cologop.org)**

For more info: 970-596-5504



### West End Caucus for Precinct 1 only

Naturita Community Center - 411 W 2nd Ave., Naturita

For more info: 970-859-7201

**GOP COUNTY ASSEMBLY - Sat March 23<sup>rd</sup> - 8 am**

**Delegates must be registered by 8:45a**

**Or Alternate delegates will be assigned**

Centennial Middle School Gym - 1100 S. 5th Montrose

- ◆ Delegates/Alternates please bring \$25 cash or check

## ***TRIP AROUND THE WORLD BEGINS IN MONTROSE* From pg 1**

often made reference of her debt to my father for granting her request, as a girl, to "learn" her how to speak pieces. She claimed he gave her the best instruction she ever had.

Other documents from the Gray family indicated that the first encounter Elsie had with Judge Gray literally took place on the street. In the February 2021 of the *Uncompahgre Valley Chronicle*, a publication of the Fore-Kin Trails Genealogical Society, the description of that meeting read:

*One time Judge Gray met on the street a small and raggedly dressed girl. He asked her name and was told that it was Elsie Vandegrift, and the girl said: 'I always go to court when I know you are going to talk.' The judge became interested in the young lady and gave her a chance to study in his office. Today the lady is Elsie Lincoln Benedict, world famous psycho-analyst and lecturer. The judge received letters from her regularly.*

During her high school years in Montrose, Elsie Vandegrift began her career as an orator in a big way. When she entered the first oratorical contest between Western Slope high schools held in Montrose, she took first place honors for her speech, entitled *The Advantage of Difficulties*. Her speech that day was described by both Montrose newspapers as captivating the audience. That ability stayed with her for many years. From 1905 to 1907 she attended the University of Denver and studied psychology. She then returned to Montrose where she was featured with Myrtle Goodrich at the Montrose Opera House. Elsie performed, in oratory, the chariot scene from *Ben Hur*. The *Montrose Enterprise* described the performance in the September 3, 1907 edition:

*[The] great chariot race is the dramatist's idol and so true to life was the rendition given by Miss Vandegrift, that her hearers felt that they were actually members of the great throng in the amphitheater, experiencing the throb and passion of the friends of Ben Hur as the charioteers made their maddening race around the arena,*

*and it was several moments before the spell was broken and the audience broke forth in enthusiastic applause.*

The next year, at the age of 23, while attending the University of Colorado Boulder, Elsie became the first woman student to participate in the annual oratorical contest. She was competing against four male orators. She did not win the top prize, but her entry alone marked a significant change in women's roles in both academia and public life. The *Montrose Press* referred to the contest as a "trailblazing role."

In 1909 Elsie took on the task of being the official reporter of the Colorado Senate. She served at the pleasure of Governor John Shafroth for three years, then became Chief of the Advertising Department of the State Land Office. In 1912, according to the *Montrose Daily Press*, she had a major disagreement with Judge George Thorne, who was the chief clerk of the Land Office, largely due to her involvement in the early stages of the suffragette movement. The dispute resulted in her transfer to a lesser-known position in the state insurance commissioner's office. She went on to apply her oratory skills and gained national attention in the suffrage movement. She was chosen by Carrie Chapman Catt to address a rally in New York. The New York media described that she had such articulate abilities as to cause a somewhat reluctant audience to be won over.

Elsie's involvement in the suffrage movement gained her national attention. Alice Rohe, a columnist for the *New York Globe*, described an instance in New York:

*She dropped into a big debate at the Republican club of Brooklyn the other night...She was not on the program, but when the discussion was open to the house, she turned the tide of an anti-suffrage audience to a wild outburst of applause by the clear and concise manner in which she put the arguments of Miss Alice Chittenden, prize debater of the anties, to rout.*

On November 1, 1914, Elsie Vandegrift became the bride of Denver Newspaper man, Ralph P. Benedict. She spoke of their engagement in one of her lectures, saying that Mr. Benedict proposed to her over a long-distance phone call. She and her husband became world travelers and she wrote several books under the name, Elsie Lincoln Benedict; most were co-authored by Ralph Benedict. During her travels she became very popular in New Zealand and the New Zealand National Library has in its archives several of her writings. Sadly, none of those books or writings are available in Montrose, where it all began.

During her amazing popularity, she still wrote letters to her friend and mentor, Judge John Gray. She began a subscription-style organization whereby members would receive regular updates in her efforts encouraging self-evaluation on the part of her students and friends. In October of 1929, she was in Honolulu, Hawaii promoting the organization when she sent typewritten letters to the members. On the back of one the typewritten letter was a handwritten letter to Judge Gray. She included a photo of her and her entourage. The original letter is now in the possession of Gray's great-great granddaughter, Lezlee Gray Cox. In part, the letter reads:

*Dear Judge Gray. I thought you'd be interested to see the opposite side of this. You'll never recognize me in the picture, so I'll explain that your law student of thirty years ago is the shortest lady... Everything goes well with me - better than anyone can deserve - and I have you to thank for a good portion of it. Loving as always, Elsie.*

The next July, Elsie was in New Zealand where, according to the *New Zealand Evening Post*, she gave another of her series of 'around-the-world' lectures, entitled "Miracles You Can Perform" to members of the International Opportunity League.

Elsie Lincoln Benedict, having outlived her husband by nearly 30 years, died on February 5, 1970 in California.

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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## MONTROSE ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® DONATES \$500 TO LOCAL ANIMAL SHELTER



*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE – The Montrose Association of REALTORS® (MAR), a professional organization representing real estate agents and brokers in Montrose County, Ridgway, and Ouray is pleased to announce a donation of \$500 to the Montrose Animal Shelter. The donation was presented to the shelter on February 28th by a group of MAR members. The funds will be used to support the shelter's ongoing mission of caring for homeless animals and finding them forever homes.

The Montrose Animal Shelter plays a vital role in our community by providing care and shelter for lost, abandoned, and unwanted animals and we are proud to support their work and help ensure that all animals have a chance to find a loving home.

The Montrose Animal Shelter is a non-profit organization that relies on donations from the community to operate. They provide a variety of services to animals in need, including food, shelter, medical care, and adoption services.

**About the Montrose Association of REALTORS®**

The Montrose Association of REALTORS® is a professional organization representing over 260 real estate agents and brokers. The MAR is committed to promoting professionalism, ethics, and fair housing in the real estate industry. For more information about the MAR, please visit their website at <https://www.montroseassociationofrealtors.com/>.

*Presenting the check for Montrose Association of REALTORS® are from left to right; Andrew Reed, Pamela La Pointe, Melissa Miller, Dana Gleason, Donna Harville Justin, Andrea Johnson, Deborah Reed, and Marjorie Phelps. Accepting the check for the Montrose Animal Shelter are Kelly Madrid, Rocco and not pictured, Tomoko Vonseggern. Courtesy photo.*

*Where Wallflowers Grow* is the coming of age story of a shy, introverted, 12-year-old girl. A 1960's latch-key kid, Gail's mom agreed to let her leave her home-alone existence and live in her grandma's boarding house.

The Shelly Boarding House, located in rural southeastern Colorado, was home to male pensioners and Social Security recipients who themselves were loners and had nowhere else to go.

For three years Gail lived in this unconventional family environment where she comes of age, while the old-timers age in place.

**GAIL MARVEL**  
*Montrose Author & Reporter*

*Where Wallflowers Grow* is available online at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) and [wingedpublications.com](https://www.wingedpublications.com).

# COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

## JOIN VITALANT AND COLORADO STATE PATROL TO SAVE LIVES

*Special to the Mirror*

COLORADO – Donations of blood see a sharp decline during the winter months but this doesn't stop the need. According to Vitalant every two seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood. Whether an ongoing health condition like cancer or the need for a blood transfusion from a traumatic injury like a motor vehicle crash, the need for donations is still there!

The Colorado State Patrol is partnering with Vitalant for the fourth year to advance its shared mission of saving lives. Registration is now open to donate blood during the month of March 2024 for the Colorado State Patrol blood drive. Troop-

ers are asking you to join them in giving the gift of life! It's simple! Sign up to receive an email invitation to donate by visiting: [https://northeast.vitalant.org/LP=28?drive\\_code=March2024&division=MOUNTAIN®ion=DEN](https://northeast.vitalant.org/LP=28?drive_code=March2024&division=MOUNTAIN®ion=DEN)

The best part is that when your email arrives, click "Schedule Now," and you get to pick the location and time that works best for you! There are eleven permanent locations including communities such as Grand Junction, Colorado Springs, Greeley and Denver. Plus, there are regularly occurring mobile locations all across Colorado.

By using this special link, the donation records you as part of the Colorado State

Patrol blood drive team. Blood and platelets cannot be manufactured; they can only come from volunteer donors like you! Your single donation has the ability to save up to three lives! On behalf of the Colorado State Patrol: please join our virtual blood drive to help save your Colorado friends, family and loved ones. Thank you for being so willing to help in this life-saving cause. Col. Matthew C. Packard, Chief of the Colorado State Patrol, thanks you for this life-saving gift! For more information about the [this topic], please visit the [FAQ, website, article]. To learn more about the Colorado State Patrol follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.


## CHANGING NEEDS?

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## DISTRICT 1



**Water Management-** Very Simple. Water is vital to our area. The founders of our water system put in place a system that to this day is effective and successful. A war on water is coming. We cannot stand by and let it happen. We must protect and defend our water. KEEP IT HERE!

**Agriculture & Ranching-** We must preserve our agricultural traditions. If we cut away at our Ag Industry, we cut away at the identity of Montrose. Through our Ag culture we get our close nit community and self-sustainability. Lose our Ag Culture and we lose Montrose.

**Affordable Housing-** A growing community will always struggle with this. I do not like the idea of property values going so high, it pushes the middle class out of the community. At this point in time Affordable housing is very important. We need it. We need it NOW!

**Economic Development-** We must protect current business, grow Montrose's Economy in a positive way while balancing that growth with the preservation of our Culture and Ag community.

**Taxes-** The fewer the better. People put in hard work and long hours for their family's paycheck. A portion of that goes to the Government for the betterment of our community. It should be seen as an honor to manage and budget that money. Every penny should be accounted for. Not a single dime should be spent frivolously or wasted as if the blood, sweat, and tears of hard-working folk did not matter. Every penny matters!

**Public Safety-** Continuing to Enhance law enforcement, emergency response, and disaster preparedness is always a work in progress. The Thin Blue Line sometimes is all that protects us from Anarchy and Evil. Our First responders should always be well respected, well-funded, and well equipped.

**Land Use & Zoning-** It is important to Balance responsible development while preserving the county's Heritage, natural beauty, and rural character.

**Natural Resource Management-** As a people we should always strive to find a balance between utilizing local resources and environmental conservation.

**Mental Health Awareness-** Montrose has a healthy HealthCare System. However we can do better. We should work together towards a high level of excellence when it comes to Mental Health. We must also all make a stand for our children and appreciate social media is killing our kids and it has to stop.

**Second Amendment Rights-** Its very simple. Upholding and protecting citizens' right to bear arms in accordance with the Constitution matters.

*Lou Stark*

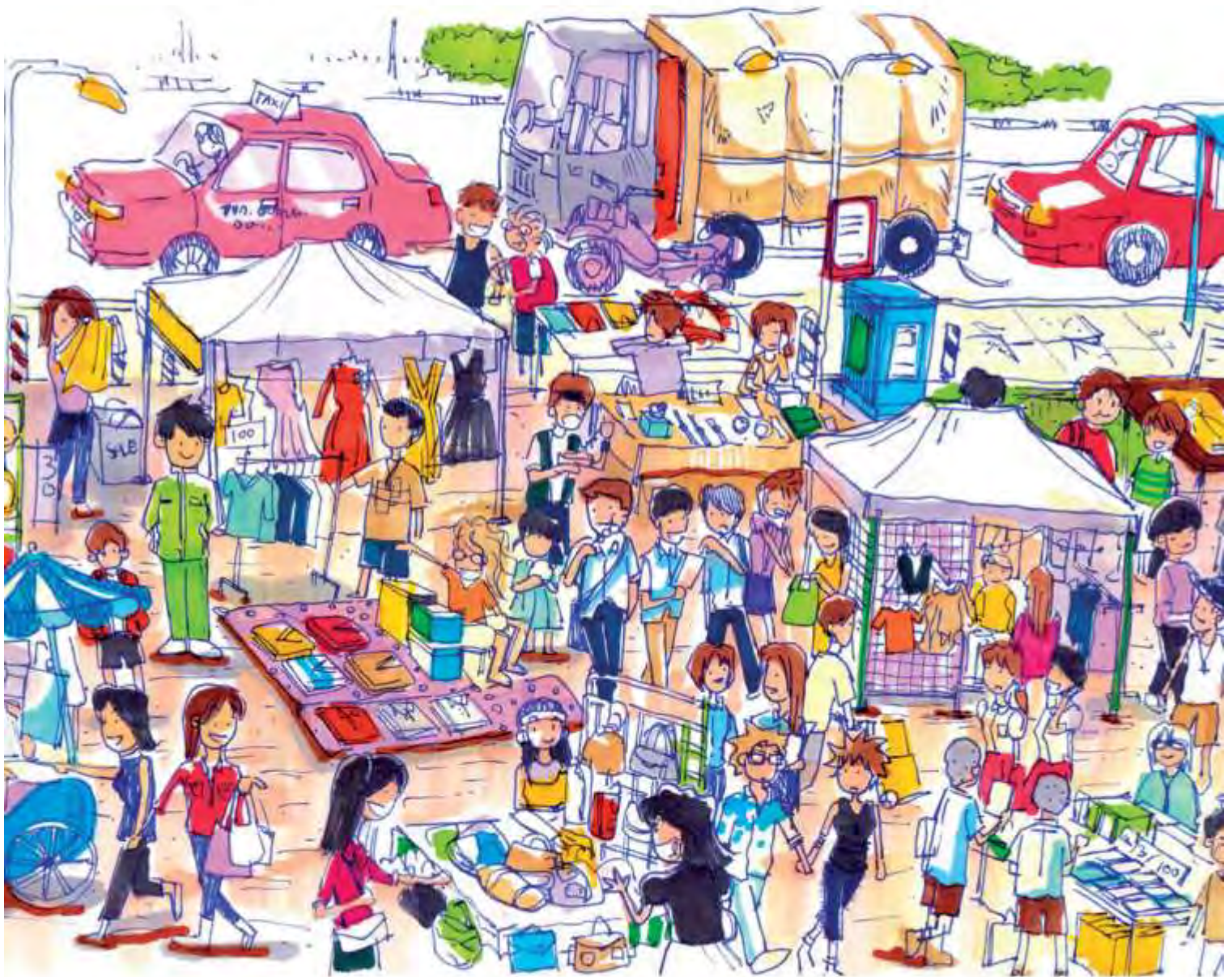
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# 2024 Flea Market Craft Show

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# CITY OF MONTROSE HOSTS FIRST STATE OF THE CITY



**On the evening of Monday, February 26, the City of Montrose held a State of the City event at the Montrose Pavilion. Following the presentation, the city hosted an open house where (L to R) Youth City Councilors Graysen Vidmar and Reign Icasiano engaged with City Councilmember Dave Frank. Photo by Gail Marvel.**

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE- The City of Montrose hosted its first State of the City presentation at the Montrose Pavilion on Feb. 26, 2024. An hour-long videography on the previous year, plus upcoming projects for 2024, were interspersed with personal testimony from department heads who presented their assessment of city operations. Apart from city staff, approximately 100 citizens attended the event, most of whom appeared to be over the age of 50.

Late in starting the meeting, City Manager Bill Bell announced, “We will start in about five minutes because people are still walking across the parking lot.” Laughter rippled through the audience when a woman shouted, “Why are we waiting for the late ones? We’re here!”

Bell said, “We’re in government and we like to be flexible...plus, some of those walking are my bosses!”

A common thread among the speakers was appreciation for their co-workers and staff who worked through difficulties, (i.e., short staffed, changes in departments).

Following the introduction of elected officials, City Engineer Scott Murphy was the first to speak. He said, “In 2023 I’m most proud of being on budget and mostly on time. The largest capital project for the year was 6700 Road.”

Deputy City Manager Ann Morgenthaler

said, “Moving into the new City Hall was one of our favorite projects. Operations did not cease during the move.”

City Manager Bill Bell said, “We hear out in the community that we’re proud of what happened this last year, but I’m proud of the last 10 years. We talk about growth that is coming; we move at the pace of growth. Financially

we’re healthy and there is almost no debt for a city of our size. The two biggest things are housing — How to keep up with construction, rentals--and business development. Why do we get involved in development? We’re not a government that gets in the way of development. We don’t create obstacles. Business development is what keeps things thriving. You might disagree with some things we are doing... please share [those thoughts] with me, the council, or our staff.”

Community Development Director Jace Hochwalt noted that historically, standard subdivisions [single houses] have been the housing development seen in Montrose; however, that is changing. He said, “We’re developing a new pattern, seeing a bit of a shift. With the affordability crunch, and interest rates going up, it’s now duplexes, triplexes, apartments, and townhouses. Duplexes are a growing trend.”

Human Resources Director Terri Wilcox said, “We are experiencing the same challenges as businesses — staffing and retention. In 2024 we are seeing more applications; that’s a good sign looking toward the future. It costs more to train employees than to retain qualified employees.” The salary for full-time city employees is now in the range of \$39,000.

Deputy Chief of Police Tim Cox said, “Over the last year we had 32,000 calls for

service, two homicides, and two house shootings. We added a fourth school resource officer this year, and two K9 officers. We’re proud of our community engagement.”

Public Works Manager Jim Scheid spoke about the new façade planned for the new City Hall. He said, “We plan to start in April and have it completed in November. We are also working on a new Public Works Department and the extension of Rio Grande. We’re beginning the process of design [on Rio Grande]. We’ll work on design through 2025.”

Referring to the Community Household Survey, Bell said, “We do one about every five years. In the most recent survey 83 percent were satisfied with the quality of life. We are dedicated to quality of life in Montrose. There are areas we need to work on. Sixty-eight percent are satisfied with the overall quality of police; 77 percent feel safe in the city overall. We need to work on park patrol and code enforcement. We’re going to team up with the county to clean-up pockets that are not in the city but are adjacent to the city.” The results of the Community Household Survey are available on the city website.

Murphy said, “Street maintenance always ranks low. For the most part, anything large we contract out and contractors are always busy.” Murphy joked, “This is the part of the program that is titled, *Where Not to Drive This Summer* — South of Main Street. The South Fifth overlay will be the most impactful. What would summer be without a couple of roundabouts? Hillcrest and Niagara, I know it was painful because we started early, but it should be done in June. We finally got the land needed for the Woodgate roundabout, and we should start that in October and finish in 2025. We have 30 other construction projects. Rio Grande is a \$12 - \$15 M job to get done. We’ll need federal grants.”

In closing remarks, Mayor Pro Tem David Reed recognized staff, fellow councilmembers, and citizens. He said, “Citizens in the community are the heart of the community. Life is good in Montrose and it’s going to get better!”

Following the presentation, attendees were invited to enjoy refreshments, mingle, and engage with staff from different city departments stationed throughout the large foyer.

## NOAH RICHMOND ACCEPTS GOLF SCHOLARSHIP TO COLORADO CHRISTIAN



Noah Richmond, with his mother Dana and his dad Jeff, signs on the dotted line to play golf at Colorado Christian University. Photo Cliff Dodge.

By Cliff Dodge

MONTROSE-Montrose High School Senior Noah Richmond, the winner of the CHSAA state golf championship last fall, has accepted a scholarship to play college golf at Colorado Christian University located in Lakewood, Colorado. Richmond was the top golfer for Coach Steve Skiff's Red Hawks golf team. Noah Richmond explained how he came to play golf. "I just always played golf. My dad played golf and he would take me with him. I probably was about six or seven when I started hitting balls. The golf pro (Tom) at Black Canyon also helped me. I enjoyed being around him and I kept improving and really fell in love with the game."

When asked about his choice of schools, Richmond said, "I always wanted to attend a Christian school and Colorado Christian has a good golf program. It is where I can grow my faith and my golf game. I visited the school, and the coaches were super nice. I am very fortunate to have received a scholarship offer and be able to play golf at the next level." Noah is undecided between a career in physical therapy or as a physician's assistant. Noah Richmond has always been supported by his dad, Jeff Richmond, the PAX administrator at Montrose Hospital, and his mother, Dana, who is a translator at the hospital. Noah is the youngest of four siblings with two older brothers and an older sister.

## JOEY KUBIN EARNS SOCCER SCHOLARSHIP



Montrose High School Senior Joey Kubin will attend Southwestern College in Winfield, Kansas. Photo by Cliff Dodge.

By Cliff Dodge

MONTROSE-Montrose High School Senior Joey Kubin signed the necessary paperwork on Monday, Feb. 26 to enroll and play soccer for the Southwestern College in Winfield, Kansas. The school is located about 40 miles west of Wichita and has a student body of about 1,500 students. The signing ceremony in the high school cafeteria was organized by Montrose Soccer Coach Cassie Snyder.

Kubin was put in touch with the coaches at Southwestern College and he visited the school and the campus and met with the athletic staff. After working out, the offer of a scholarship was made and accepted. Kubin will be majoring either in business or psychology. On the playing field, Kubin will play defense as a center-back, basically the last line of defense in front of the keeper.

Kubin's parents joined their son for the signing ceremony. Joey's dad is the produce manager at City Market, while his mom is a special needs teacher at Northside Elementary School. Kubin has five brothers, four older and one younger. As Kubin said, it was rough growing up in the back yard with four older brothers.

Kubin said he is prepared to report to fall training around the end of July, with the soccer season for the Southwestern College "builders" kicking off around the first of September.

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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

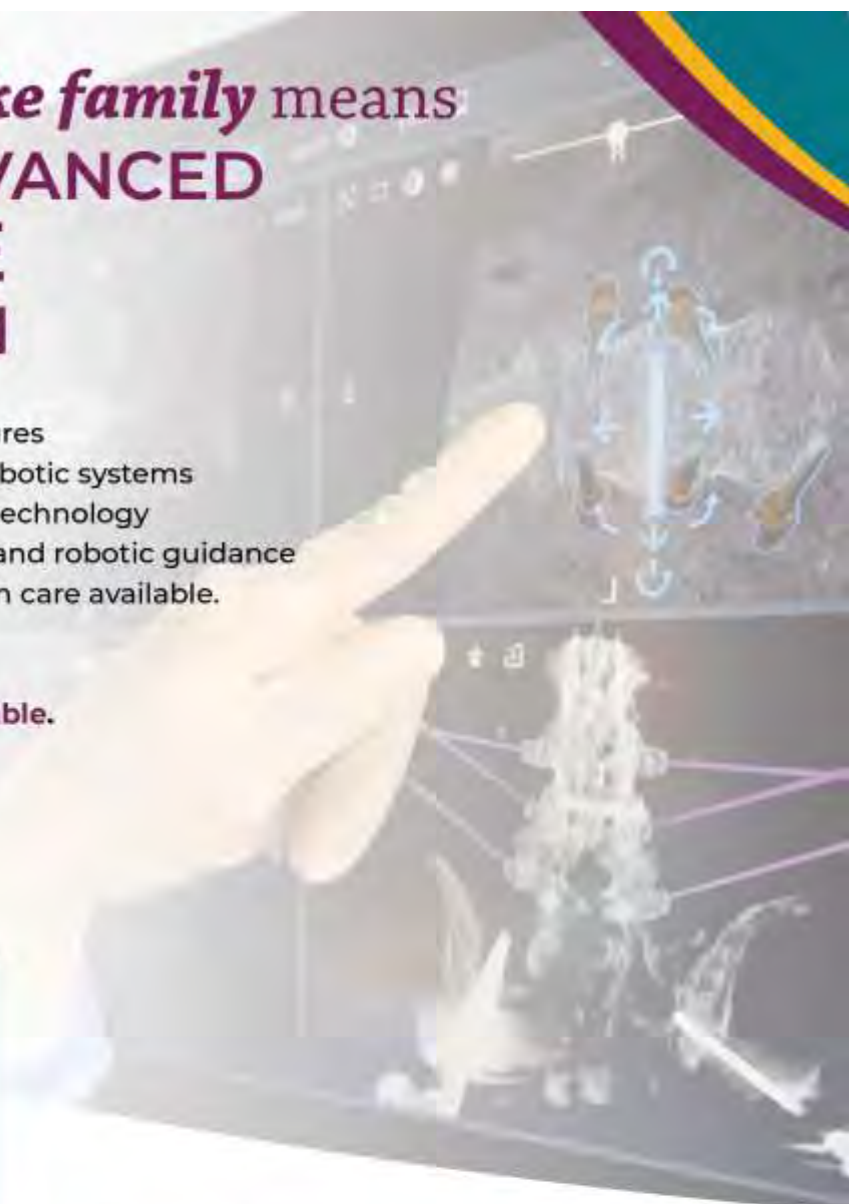
## CITIZENS' CLIMATE LOBBY MEETS MARCH 4

*Special to the Mirror*  
MONDAY-On Monday, March 4 Citizens' Climate Lobby will meet at 5pm at the safety complex mtg rm, 434 S 1st Street, to promote local environmental solutions to climate change. Non-partisan, national, All welcome.info at 970-765-9095.

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# FROM THE FIELD: IT'S NOT EASY BEING GREEN



**Billy Goat Hop Farm owners Audrey Gehlhausen and Chris DellaBianca announced earlier this year that the farm has won the @hopqualitygroup Cascade Cup for the second year in a row. Courtesy photo.**

By Steve Middendorp, *Agriculture Beat*  
**MONTROSE-** According to the USDA, 84.7 percent of U.S. farms are small family farms. More shocking is that these farmers "typically rely on off-farm sources for the majority of their household income." This data from the USDA suggests that family farms only operate these businesses as a "side gig" to their primary jobs. It is the one indicator that could change the farming landscape in the years to come, as the average age of a farmer in the U.S. is 57.5 years old. This is not an occupation that is calling out to young people entering the workforce.

The [latest USDA census data](#) compares 2022 data to 2017. In this 5-year time span, the number of family farms dropped by 141,227, a total of eight percent. In the same time frame, corporate farms increased by 10,808, a total increase of 9.25%.

The U.S. Senate committee on [Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry report](#) in September estimated a \$42 billion decline in U.S. net farm income, the largest drop in history. That is a 23 percent drop in net income for a single year, and the third highest when adjusted for inflation. Record inflation has also hit the country in the last several years. A report published in Center Square in October found that Colorado's inflation rate is 5.3 percent, significantly higher than the 3.7 percent national average. The report estimated that \$1,217

more was spent per household during the months of August and September.

Audrey Gehlhausen and Chris DellaBianca started the Billy Goat Hop farm in south Montrose in March of 2017. Gelhausen said that they have seen five hop farms go out of business since they decided to 'make a bet' on hops in a challenging market. "It was mostly market driven that they went out," Gelhausen said. "Some of them were contracted for the beer Colorado Native, and when that contract ended, they got out. Another was basically just tired of working so hard to earn so little--98 percent of hops are grown in the PNW, so most brewers buy from there because it's the norm, and is easier. It's really difficult to get folks to switch - or at least switch for some varieties. We have worked really hard to sell. We've visited over 800 breweries in the Southwest in person, newsletters, emails, phone calls. Other folks also did it as a retirement project, or a side business. We're in too deep at this point to get out if we wanted to!"

Gehlhausen and DellaBianca have noticed the increased cost of running a farm business along with the labor-intensive process of planting and harvesting hops. "The rising costs certainly have affected us," Gelhausen said. "We had to raise our prices, which can make it harder for breweries to buy from us. There's not a lot that we can change without affecting the quality of our product, which we aren't willing to do."

The quality of the product is often what drives and motivates new farmers to begin cultivating the soil, but the financial reality doesn't provide opportunities for new farmers to break into the field. As of 2017, 56 percent of farmers work a primary job off of the farm. Nearly two-thirds of young farmers need to work a primary job separate from their farming business. The new census data states that the total number of U.S. farmers is 2 million, and 1.3 million of those farmers are retirement age or older. Only 300,000 farmers are under the age of 35.

While family farms are going out of business, corporate farms are picking up the

slack. The market value of farmland around the country increased by 39.7 percent from 2017 to 2022. The market value of agricultural products has increased as well as the costs of machinery, fertilizer, pesticides, and fuel. Starting a first-generation family farm requires a hefty investment, which doesn't provide opportunity to young, aspiring farmers.

There are programs that aim to help young farmers get started, but it doesn't help young farmers with the capital to get a piece of farmland to start working the land. Valley Food Partnership in Montrose provides a program called [Cultivating Farmers and Ranchers that Thrive](#) (CFRT) as a program that offers learning opportunities for first generation farmers. (Reporter's Note-I was a student of this program for the 2023 year as my wife and I purchased a 6.8-acre piece of farmland to start our own small farm.)

The Billy Goat Hop Farm has managed to continue their business with a thorough marketing scheme and by visiting 800 breweries. Local farmers selling produce to feed the families of Montrose are not having as much luck competing with the grocery chains and corporate agriculture. Cody Masden and Justin Hansen have made the difficult decision to discontinue their farm operation Deep Roots Ag, which has been selling fresh produce to the community for the last three years.

"The small farmer cannot compete with the larger companies, City Market, WalMart, Natural Grocers," Hansen said. "There is some loyalty among the customers to the small farmer. But they always seem to go back to the bigger store for the conveniences, the big store is able to carry a larger selection, more variety which smaller farms may not always have ready at the time people want it."

Deep Roots Ag was another farm operation that started with the intent to change the community and provide a service. Hansen and Masden wanted to provide high-quality vegetables to the market—vegetables that aren't sitting for weeks on semi-trucks transported across the country, or even across multiple countries. The

# IT'S NOT EASY BEING GREEN *From previous pg*

small farmer has to invest money to get the farm operation going and countless hours of labor. At the end of the day, they are just not able to compete with the prices and convenience of main street grocery chains.

As inflation has been rising, small farm income is declining. A report by the Center Square in October said Colorado's inflation rate is 5.3 percent, while the national average is 3.7 percent. The agricultural land is diminishing as it is purchased, split, and converted into residential or commercial properties. Montrose has historically been an agricultural community, but the state of farming in the area is grim for new, aspiring farmers.

Zandon Bray, a Colorado Farm Bureau board member, responded to some questions about the state of family farms in Colorado. "I believe there has been a decrease in young people pursuing farming and ranching careers," Bray said. "Lifestyle, long working hours, lack of secure income all play a role in why people are not going into farming and ranching. It's hard for family farms and ranches to support multiple families without significant outside income streams. Lots of family farms and ranches will be sold out of production agriculture."

Bray also said one of the biggest concerns aside from rising costs for farmers in Colorado is "addressing radical points of view and public image issues." He also says that defeating burdensome regulations is nec-

essary for the successful future of family farms and agriculture. European farmers are protesting various regulations that increase costs and bureaucratic paperwork while diminishing yields.

An [Associated Press article](#) included comments from a Belgium farmer that describe the frustration with regulations that are intended to curb effects of climate change. Belgian farmer Bart Dochy said, "They also supervise us with satellite images and even with drones." He also details the requirements for meticulously documenting every fertilizer and pesticide that is received on the farm within seven days. "And it has to be done even at the busiest times on the field, of course...Then it has to be registered exactly how it is spread on every single little plot of land - how many kilos and how it is distributed."

In the United States, congress has been considering a bill called the [Agriculture Resilience Act of 2023](#). It has been introduced every year since 2020 but has not received bi-partisan support to pass. Democrats in the house and senate have overwhelmingly supported the measure while republicans have stood firm against the legislation. While the bill includes grants and incentives for changing practices to reduce greenhouse gas emissions within a certain time period, it does open the door to "include issuing regulations, providing incentives, carrying out research and development programs, and any other actions the Secretary determines are

necessary to achieve the national goals described in section 101." This bill would give sweeping authority to the Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack to implement any rule he deems necessary to reach the stated goals. That authority would also be passed on to any incoming Secretary of Agriculture in the next administration. The primary goals listed in the bill are to "achieve not less than a 50-percent reduction in net greenhouse gas emissions, as compared to those levels during calendar year 2010, by not later than December 31, 2030; and net zero emissions by not later than December 31, 2040." Last summer, the Biden administration [announced an investment of \\$300 million](#) to "improve Measurement, Monitoring, Reporting and Verification of Greenhouse Gas Emissions." That money is a portion of the \$20 billion that was authorized under the inflation reduction act to "advance climate-smart agriculture and forestry practices."

While there is a national disagreement between the two major parties regarding climate change and agricultural policy, there is a struggle for small family farms locally on the Western Slope. Policies regarding agriculture may help reduce greenhouse gases, but they may also further push smaller family farms out of the agricultural market.

The consensus among farmers on the Western Slope is to use the practices that provide the best quality product for the consumer.



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# COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

## COLORADO ENERGY & CARBON MANAGEMENT COMMISSION RELEASES CUMULATIVE IMPACTS ANNUAL REPORT

*Special to the mirror*

DENVER - The Colorado Energy and Carbon Management Commission (ECMC) [today](#) announced the Director delivered the 2023 ["Report on the Evaluation of Cumulative Impacts,"](#) as required by SB 19-181 to regulate oil and gas development in a manner that is protective of public health, safety, welfare, wildlife and environmental resources.

The annual report is intended to inform the Commission of data, trends, and considerations in the ongoing evaluation of cumulative impacts from oil and gas operations. The report uses the Cumulative Impacts Data Evaluation Repository (CIDER), which includes data from the same comparative number of Oil & Gas Development Plans (OGDPs) approved by the Commission in 2023 as prior years.

Additionally, the report includes the second year of Cumulative Impacts Data Evaluation Repository (CIDER) data associated with high priority habitats (HPHs), providing for the first time the ability to compare data sets. The report also now includes the comparison of initial estimated water use to actual water used.

The Director highlighted the trends seen in this report including: a reduction in overall well-counts and oil and gas locations across the state; reductions in per-well average emissions of NOx and VOC; and, a reduction in per-well averages of construction and post-interim reclamation disturbances within HPHs. The report discusses the collective work of multiple state agencies on the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Pollution Reduction Roadmap, and summarizes the biennial GHG inventory modeling showing that the Oil and Gas Sector is achieving and exceeding its GHG emission reduction goals.

This third report continues the progress and allows for insight into year over year data to understand how these impacts may be changing over time. This report is intended to evolve as the Commission undertakes the cumulative impacts rulemaking in April 2024.

Learn more about cumulative impacts rulemaking at the ECMC website, [ecmc.state.co.us](http://ecmc.state.co.us).



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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## GMUG SEEKS COMMENTS ON TOMICHI AND KEBLER ABANDONED MINE LANDS PROJECTS

*Special to the Mirror*

GUNNISON— The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests' Gunnison Ranger District, in partnership with the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety, is seeking public comment on the proposed Tomichi and Kebler Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) Physical Safety Closures Projects. These projects propose to physically close 24 abandoned, inactive mine sites (adits and shafts) that pose significant hazards to public safety and the environment. The projects are planned for the summer of 2024.

The Tomichi AML project proposes to close 20 sites in Colorado, with 15 located north of Whitepine and five south of Pitkin. The Kebler AML project proposes closing four openings west of Crested Butte, Colorado. All

sites are located on National Forest System lands in Gunnison County, except for two adits that extend eastward into Chaffee County on the San Isabel National Forest.

Closure methods for the projects may include backfill, bulkhead, cable net, corrugated steel pipe, polyurethane foam and metal grate installations.

The closures will eliminate safety hazards to the public while preserving natural and cultural resources. Bat-friendly ladders, slot gates, or exclusionary methods will be used at all sites with the potential for bat roosting habitat.

*Comments may be:*

-Submitted online at <https://cara.fs2c.usda.gov/Public/ReadingRoom?project=63911>

-Mailed to Gunnison Ranger District, Atten-

tion: Dayle Funka, 216 N. Colorado, Gunnison, Colorado, 81230.

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

For more information on the project, please contact Pam Leschak, Minerals Program Manager, at 970-549-6101 or [pamela.leschak@usda.gov](mailto:pamela.leschak@usda.gov). A full project description and how to comment on the project can be found at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=63911>. Comments will be accepted through April 1, 2024.

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 ([X \(Twitter\)](#) and [Facebook](#)).

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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## FATAL ACCIDENT NEAR MANITOU SPRINGS CLAIMS THE LIFE OF AN AIR FORCE CADET

*Colorado State Patrol*

MANITOU SPRINGS-On February 29th, at 3:22 PM the Colorado State Patrol was notified of a single vehicle accident involving a motorcycle at Hwy 24 milepost 296 near Manitou Springs in El Paso County, Colorado.

The rider, a 21 year old male student at the United States Air Force Academy (USAFA), was pronounced dead on scene. The early stages of the investigation indicate the rider and a second motorcycle were traveling together eastbound on Highway 24. They were approaching a left curve in the roadway when the USAFA student traveled out of the curve, onto right shoulder and collided with a guardrail. The second motorcyclist stopped and rendered aid. The exact cause of the crash is still being investigated at this time. The United States Air Force Academy Strategic Communications Team is working closely with the Colorado State Patrol. Further questions regarding the student can be directed to them at [media.rel@afacademy.af.edu](mailto:media.rel@afacademy.af.edu) or 719-339-5313.

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# COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

## FORENSIC PATHOLOGIST CONFIRMS REMAINS FOUND NEAR SMITH MOUNTAIN TRAILHEAD ON FEBRUARY 18TH TO BE MISSING FEMALE, SAMANTHA BARTOLO

### Delta County Sheriff's Office

DELTA-On February 27, 2024, the Delta County Sheriff's Office received notification from Dr. Havlik, a forensic pathologist in Grand Junction, regarding preliminary autopsy results and a positive identity on the remains of the adult female found near the Smith Mountain trailhead on February 18, 2024. Dr. Havlik's report along with findings from the Delta County Coroner's Office have positively identified the deceased female as Samantha Bartolo, age 40 of Delta.

Samantha Bartolo was reported missing by family members to the Sheriff's Office on November 12, 2023 after she had not been seen or heard from in several days in the area of H-75 Rd near the Gunnison Gorge National Conservation area east of Austin. Following the initial report, Search and Rescue Teams from Delta, Montrose, Mesa, Gunnison and San Miguel Counties performed an exhaustive search of the area but unfortunately, did not locate Ms. Bartolo. On February 18, 2024, a local sheep herder in the area of Smith Moun-

tain Trailhead east of Delta found the remains of an adult female and called the Sheriff's Office. Following the discovery, an autopsy was performed and Dr. Havlik's team used forensic pathology to positively identify the remains as Ms. Bartolo.

The Sheriff's Office is still awaiting a final autopsy report which lists the cause and manner of Ms. Bartolo's death but the Sheriff's Office Investigations Division is vigorously investigating the death of Ms. Bartolo and has classified her death as suspicious in nature until such time as additional information or new evidence is obtained.

Sheriff Taylor and the entire Sheriff's Office staff wish to extend our deepest condolences to the Bartolo family during this difficult time. Sheriff Taylor and Detectives are asking for anyone who may have information that could assist in the investigation into the death of Ms. Bartolo to please contact the Sheriff's Office Investigations Division at 970-874-2000 during business hours. To remain anonymous, individuals may also call the Delta County Crime Stoppers line at 970-874-8810,



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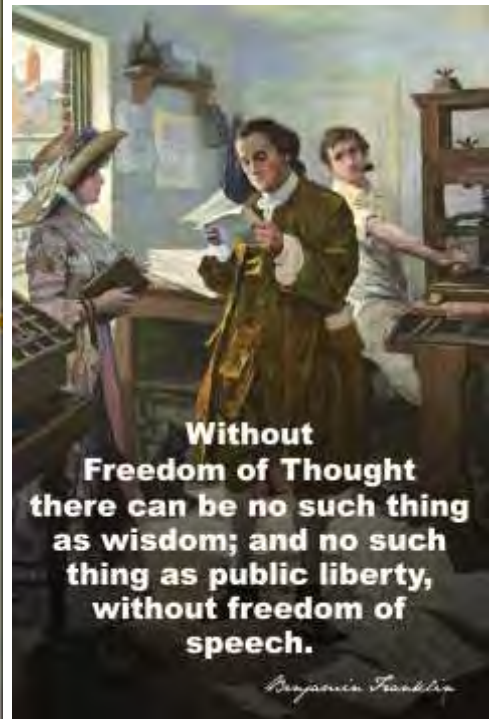
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*Benjamin Franklin*



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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

## HALT THE DOLORES MONUMENT

### *Locals have Monumental concerns about the monument*

By Doris Van Ness

NATURITA—On Saturday March 2, 2024, a public meeting was held in Naturita concerning the topic of the Dolores River National Monument. It was very well attended, with 400 to 500 people in attendance. Some of the concerns were all hunting, fishing, timber sales, grazing rights for ranchers, oil leases, water rights, mining claims, private right-aways, or easements, and utility infrastructure could all be negatively affected if this goes through. It would affect every rancher, farmer, property owner, miner in this area. As well as every oil and gas lease for future expansion. One of the terms the Monument Advocates are using is from river edge as far as the eye can see. With that alone, standing on the Dolores River in Bedrock that would take in to the top of the La Sal Mountains to the west, to the top of the Lone Cone to the east, top of the Uncompahgre Plateau to the North, and top of cliffs to the south. That is more than 700,000 acres, so the terminology the pro-advocates are using is even more scary to the residents of that area.

The Colorado Congressional delegation is saying they want to protect 68,000 acres in Montezuma, San Miguel, Montrose, Dolores, and Mesa counties. It is also designed to protect land in Montrose and Mesa counties, in the river region. Also, they are saying from the head waters of the San Juan Mountains to the Utah state line.

Monument Advocates have not talked to anyone in the area who will be or would be affected by this potential land grab. They have gone to Boulder, Longmont, and out of state to get their support. The list of organizations that are supporting this take over are as follows. Colorado Wildlands Project, Dolores River Boating Advocates, American Rivers, American Whitewater, Conservation Lands Foundation, San Juan Citizens Alliance, Sheep Mountain Alliance, The Conservation Alliance, The Wilderness Society, Mobilizing for Monuments, Conservation Colorado, EC Flight, and Western Slope Conservation



*There were 400 to 500 people in attendance for the March 2 meeting. Photos Doris Van Ness*

Center.

The communities that will be affected by this are as follows, Gateway, Naturita, Nucla, Paradox, and Bedrock. This will also put more pressure on Mesa and Montrose counties to deal with the added traffic, and crime rate. What effect would a national monument of the Dolores River have along state highways, county, BLM and Forest service roads regarding continued maintenance, preventative maintenance, upgrades to exploration/mines and bridge maintenance? Transportation of any industry including the mining/exploration industry could be restricted within a National Monument boundary. Area emergency, and search and rescue services are already stretched thin, most are staffed with volunteers or near close to volunteers and subpar equipment. Cell coverage is sparse at best, especially in the canyon in this area and the response time and pinpointing the location of the emergency is extremely delayed. Trespassing concerns have arisen regarding private property along the river and water right instability that a National Monument Proclamation would bring. Which will result in higher property taxes, to pay for

all of the added impact upon the counties.

The push seems to be coming from the rafting and boating industries. They did a phone survey from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Colorado Congressional District but only called 750 people. That is a very small amount of the people to call, when the population for that area in 2022 was 731,516 people, that is not even one percent. The It takes in most of the rural Western Slope in the state's western third portion, with a wing in the south taking in some of the southern portions of the Eastern Plains. It includes the cities of Grand Junction, Durango, Aspen, Glenwood Springs, Ignacio, and Pueblo. So, to call only 750 people on a phone survey is not doing their homework. Out of the 750 people called, proponents are stating they got a 75 percent approval.

Other concerns that have been raised include the possible effects of monument designation on fishing and grazing. Some proclamations have restricted such activities to protect monument resources, and monument management plans may impose additional restrictions. In many other cases, the proclamations

*Continued next pg*

## ***HALT THE DOLORES MONUMENT From previous pg***

the proclamations have implied, through a general prohibition against removing any "feature" of the monuments, that timber cutting is precluded. The increase of tourism can lead to a rise in property prices and property taxes.

According to the Colorado Parks and Wildlife very little sport fishing is available on the Lower Dolores River. The Dolores River is very salty. Past activities to remove the salt before its confluence with the Colorado River have been diminished. The Bedrock Salinity Plant is operating at around 20 percent capacity and current RFPs are soliciting new ideas to manage the salt in the Dolores River. Monument management plans may impose additional restrictions on hunting, which is an economic driver for local communities in the fall.

The ones trying to push this through should have started with the locals and worked up, but they didn't, they started in Washington DC and worked down. They didn't want our input, they want to force it upon us. One comment I have heard from them was "Look at all the jobs it will create for the area," The same group that is proposing this are the same ones who shut down our coal mine, shut down the Tri-State Plant in Nucla, and took away good paying jobs. Now they want to shut down the Western Uranium and Vanadium's/Pinon Ridge Sunday mine located in Gypsum Valley, which is already in operation and employs many locals. We have been good stewards of the land for at least 150 years we don't want or need them coming here and trying to take over our way of life. The locals are willing to work with them to do a conservation easement but not a National Monument.

Aimee Tooker stated that, "The Locals have worked very hard towards diversifying the economy in our area, so that we are no longer dependent on a single industry economy. We have been assisting those coal transition workers that wish to stay in the community in new jobs with similar wages and benefits. In working towards a more diversified economy, we have focused on expanding outdoor recreation with motorized and non-motorized

trail development, heritage tourism, supporting our agriculture and value-added agriculture producers, and assisting our small businesses with consulting and obtaining resources to support the growth of their businesses. Our diversification plans and process have been created very methodically."

The West End lies in the middle of the Uravan Mineral Belt (Uranium and Vanadium found in the same ore) and the Department of Energy's Uranium Reserve. Community support of the mining, oil and gas industry is probably why we are not being given sufficient consideration for our monumental concerns. With the growing positive market conditions, along with Federal and State support of nuclear power and Advanced Energy Solutions, the West End community is optimistic about finally being able to again use our mineral assets. We wish to provide excellent jobs and quality of life for workers and to contribute to energy independence for our nation. Technological advances and updated state and federal regulations will ensure protection for workers and the environment. The exploration and mining industry will bring residents and much-needed property taxes to our local tax districts and children to our new school. We are already seeing positive local job creation and sales tax generation from industry.

We (the locals) would like the freedom to watch these processes and plans grow naturally without the "help" of a Dolores River National Monument, and any special interest groups.

This national monument proclamation process is rushed, and the necessary National Environmental Protection Agency requirements for specifically Montrose and Mesa Counties of local collaboration, environmental and economic impact studies are sidestepped. The special interest groups that have come up with this plan have not done their homework on how it would affect the local area, they have only thought of themselves and what they might gain. We would like to have a seat at the table and be part of the process, not have it pushed down our throat.

Sean Pond from Gateway started a petition 12 days ago to Halt the Dolores and has gathered over 2,200 plus signatures. He said he believed this is an attack on each and every person's freedom. They are lying to us, they are saying nothing is going to change, you can keep doing things the way you have. His question to the group was "if nothing is going to change why do we need a National Monument?"

Montrose County Commissioner Roger Rash spoke how the Montrose County portion of the Dolores in the NCA proposal has been in a Wilderness Study Area since 1980. This area is much smaller than the proposed National Monument or NCA and would represent no change from current conditions. He also stated that Michael Bennett, and John Hickenlooper, are trying to push this through to put a feather in their own hat, and that they want President Biden to sign while he is still in office. Larry Dan Suckla, a rancher from Disappointment and Big Gypsum Valleys, stated that this will encumber his total ranch that his grandfather started over 100 years ago. It will change the way of life they have lived. His concerns were losing all their water rights, and not being able to use the roads they have to travel to haul water to their cattle or just check on their cattle.

Talking to people who have been affected by the Escalante Monument, they are telling us just how much their lives have changed in the short time it has been in place. Ranchers, can no longer drive on roads through their own property. No more firewood permits are available, and logging has stopped altogether. People are moving away from the area and are having trouble selling their property; they built a new school for 157 students and now they are down to 53. We CANNOT allow that to happen here.

Everyone in the room was in FULL SUPPORT of stopping this now. To help stop this send letters, and make phone calls to your representatives, Michael Bennet 970-241-6631 [WWW.bennet.senate.gov/public/](http://WWW.bennet.senate.gov/public/) John Hickenlooper 970-822-4530 [WWW.hickenlooper-senate.gov/](http://WWW.hickenlooper-senate.gov/)



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# COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

## BLM SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENTS ON PROPOSED RULE FOR TRES RIOS AND GUNNISON FIELD OFFICES

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE – The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is seeking public comments on a proposed supplementary rule affecting motorized and non-motorized vehicle use, day-use areas, seasonal wildlife habitat, and camping on public lands in the Tres Rios Field Office and the Silverton area of Gunnison Field Office. The rule restricts certain activities, defines allowable uses in special management areas, provides for visitor health and safety, and protects wildlife, natural, and cultural resources on BLM-managed lands in Archuleta, La Plata, Montezuma, Dolores, San Miguel, Montrose, Gunnison, San Juan, Ouray, and Hinsdale counties, Colorado. “The BLM works closely with the local communities we serve to develop land use plans with a shared vision for managing a wide range of resources and resource uses,” said **BLM Southwest District Manager Stephanie McCormick**. “The supplementary rule would allow the BLM to implement decisions that support the unique quality of life enjoyed by Southwest Colorado communities.” The BLM has recorded growing visitation to southwest Colorado, which increases pressure on public land resources such as critical winter wildlife habitat, recreation destinations, and archaeological sites. The rule would implement and make enforceable decisions related to rules of conduct issued in the Tres Rios Field Office Resource Management Plan, the Tres Rios Field Office Transportation and Access

Plan–Travel Area 1, the Dolores River Corridor Management Plan, the Alpine Triangle Recreation Area Management Plan, and the Silverton Travel Management Plan. To review the proposed rule, visit <https://public-inspection.federalregister.gov/2024-03732.pdf> Written comments must be received by April 29, 2024 to be considered.

Comments related to the Tres Rios Field Office should be directed to the BLM, Attn. Tyler Fouss, 29211 Highway 184, Dolores, CO 81323, or submitted electronically to [tfouss@blm.gov](mailto:tfouss@blm.gov). Comments related to the Gunnison Field Office should be directed to BLM, Attn. James Lovelace, 2500 E. New York Ave, Gunnison, CO 81230, or submitted electronically to [jlovelac@blm.gov](mailto:jlovelac@blm.gov).

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# COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

## COLORADO 2024-2025 FISHING LICENSES NOW AVAILABLE

COLORADO-The 2024-2025 fishing license is valid from March 1, 2024, through March 31, 2025. Regulations and pricing for annual, daily, and multi-day fishing licenses are in the 2024 Colorado Fishing Brochure (Pesca en Colorado (En Español)). For individuals ages 18 through 64, an \$11.50 Habitat Stamp is required with the first license purchase for the year. Youth under age 16 can fish with one rod for free, and CPW provides opportunities throughout the season to learn how to fish.

Coloradans and non-resident visitors can purchase fishing licenses online, by phone at 1-800-244-5613, at a local CPW office, or from authorized sales agents statewide. CPW does not receive general tax dollars, and fishing license sales support all statewide hatchery and fish-stocking operations.

CPW stocks 90 million fish annually into waters throughout Colorado to ensure quality angling opportunities. From warmer waters to mountain streams, Colorado angling opportunities are world-renowned. Funding from fishing license

sales may allow for additional public access, community angling grants, and habitat improvement projects that support state birds, fish, and other small game.

"CPW biologists and volunteers will soon be spawning fish to replenish our walleye and saugeye fisheries," said CPW Aquatic Section Manager Matt Nicholl. "Our hatcheries also stock front range waters with trout while water temperatures remain cool for added angling opportunities."

Whether you enjoy lure fishing, ice fishing, or fly fishing, Colorado provides 27,000 miles of streams and more than 1,300 lakes and reservoirs. Fishing in Colorado provides the possibility of catching 35 species of warm-water and cold-water fish.

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*Whether you enjoy lure fishing, ice fishing, or fly fishing, Colorado provides 27,000 miles of streams and more than 1,300 lakes and reservoirs. Photo by CPW/Ryan Jones.*

ing there are many classes offered around the state. Classes are available for new anglers, families, or seasoned anglers that want to learn a new technique like fly fishing."

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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## MONTROSE GOP COLLUSION AND CORRUPTION

*Editor:*

I just attended the Republican candidate meet and greet at the Wild horse Wine and Whiskey February 29<sup>th</sup> here in Montrose. The corruption and collusion within our local Republican party was on full display. The candidates at this event were Scott Riba running for commissioner district three. Scott Mijares running for commissioner district one. Stephen Varela candidate for congress CD3. Larry Don Suckla is a candidate for HD58.

The facility is owned by Scott Mijares and his wife. This is also the meeting place for the Montrose GOP social hour gatherings. So, I am certain Scott Riba talked Mijares into running for commissioner district one because he needed someone to collude with. Scott Mijares did not register as a republican until February 12<sup>th</sup> 2024 just barely under the wire to be allowed to run for office in the republican primary. I spoke to Mijares prior to the candidate speeches and let him know I would be asking about this. Thus, giving him the opportunity to be honest. But in his speech, he started it the same as he has in the past stating he is a lifelong republican. Wrong, he is a lifelong liar. Any man who will lie in front of a room full of people, especially about something that is easily proven by public records is someone not to be trusted at any level. He also stated that Scott Riba verified his affiliation. But Riba must have been tongue tide because he remained quiet during that statement by Mijares. In 1996 Mijares was living in Winter Park and was named in a lawsuit by the SEC (securities and exchange commission) for taking bribes (Tampa Bay Times published Sept 28<sup>th</sup>, 1996, updated September 16, 2005).

Leave it to Scott Riba to find someone as

corrupt as himself to collude with.

Scott Riba is currently the Montrose County Republican Chair.

The by-laws expressly forbid anyone on the executive committee to show bias during a primary.

And you cannot be unbiased while running for office in a contested primary. The chair sets the time and place for the caucus and assembly. He also sets the rules for the caucus and assembly. The chair takes part in allocating the number of delegates each precinct gets. In other words, the chair can stack the deck against his opponent. And Scott has been three years pushing people out of the central committee that he knew would not support him. Scott Riba said he did not have to resign because when Ken Buck was state party chair and ran for reelection to congress in 2020 that negated the preprimary neutrality clause. Which is total nonsense because Ken Buck was not in a contested primary. Scott Riba and Dave Williams (state party chair) are both corrupt to the core. And the last thing this county needs is two corrupt county commissioners on a rampage that will lead to lawsuits that the citizens will have to pay for. When asked about the PSST (public safety sales tax) that was passed by voter approval in 2007 or 8. Scott Riba did most of the elaborating on this subject saying that the funds were supposed to be used at the sheriff's discretion. And that is incorrect, those funds were intended for capital projects only. And if sheriff Lillard wants those funds redirected, he needs to ask the citizens for permission since it was the citizens who approved that tax. And asking the citizens to redirect those funds is a good way to lose those funds. Because the tax paying

citizens do not like being taxed in the first place let alone being asked twice how the money is to be spent. The real reason this PSST issue is getting so much lip service is because two corrupt wannabe politicians are trying to discredit the current board of county commissioners so they can be elected. When you cannot run on your good deeds you cast doubt on others. Gene Lillard should step away from these two before they drag him down to their level. I know all three current county commissioners to be reasonable people. I am sure this can be resolved without any more trash talking. Effective communication goes a long way toward resolving most issues.

And that brings us to Stephen Varela who is running for congress in CD3. Once again, I did a little research and found a couple issues that I thought needed clarification. The first issue is that he has changed his party affiliation multiple times. The other issue is that a recent story in the Denver Post stated that he was under investigation for misuse of Union funds. And there again I spoke to him in person before the question-and-answer session to let him know I would be mentioning these issues. Unlike Scott Mijares he answered the question about his party affiliation honestly, freely admitting that yes, he had changed party affiliation multiple times. On the issue of the misuse of union funds he said he spoke to the Post, and they said they would alter the piece slightly but would not retract it. So, this needs further clarification.

And that brings us to Larry Don Suckla. Totally paraphrasing here, he is going to go to Denver and solve all our problems. Lots of ambition but no real solutions.  
*Ray Langston, Montrose*

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# READER PHOTO SPOTLIGHT: DEB REIMANN



*Photographer Deb Reimann snapped this photo of Chimney Rock - Jackson Butte, located in southwest Colorado.*

An advertisement for The Montrose Mirror. On the left, a large black bear is shown from the chest up, looking towards the right. In the foreground, a person's hands are holding a tablet computer. The background is a scenic mountain landscape with green hills and snow-capped peaks under a blue sky with white clouds. The text "Save a tree - Read the Mirror!" is written in a white, cursive font across the middle. Below this, the logo for "THE MONTROSEMIRROR" is displayed in a bold, serif font, with the tagline "Your Source for Local Business News and Information" underneath. At the bottom right, the phone number "Call For Ad Rates: 970-275-0646" is written in a white, cursive font.

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## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

### A HUGE PROBLEM FOR THE DUNLAP CANDIDACY?

*Editor:*

The Republican Caucus convenes this Thursday to select delegates to the upcoming Assembly which will, among other things, be tasked with selecting two commissioner nominees from four candidates. In the third district Scott Riba and Rick Dunlap both are vying for the nomination for that commissioner seat.

Unfortunately, I foresee a huge problem for the Dunlap candidacy. Few people are aware of the fact that his daughter-in-law, Cindy Dunlap, is and has been Chief Financial Officer for the county for many years. If ultimately elected commissioner for District 3, Dunlap would immediately be confronted with a serious conflict of interest because of that family/county department head relationship, which will also raise concerns regarding nepotism. As a new commissioner he would have no choice but to declare that family conflict of interest and recuse himself from all county financial discussions and decisions. This unavoidable situation is certainly not in the best interest of Montrose taxpayers.

Those selected at the caucus Thursday night to participate in the Assembly will certainly want to consider this troubling possibility in their deliberations.

*Dee Laird, Montrose*

### VOTE BARBARA BYNUM FOR THE COLORADO 5<sup>TH</sup> SENATE DISTRICT

*Editor:*

We are fortunate to have our own Montrose Mayor Barbara Bynum running for the Colorado 5<sup>th</sup> Senate District. Besides having served as mayor for several sessions, she has served as chairman of the Montrose Recreation District, and been responsible for finally getting our state of the art recreation center, our River Park, and our recreation Fieldhouse established in Montrose.

Besides being very active right here in our local community, she has already been very active as well at the state level, having served on a variety of boards and advisory committees, as well as receiving various recognitions. Some of these distinctions include the Colorado State Land Board, the Department of Local Affairs and Mineral Impact Assistance Fund, and a COVID-19 Advisory Board. She has also been recognized as a Gates Fellow and attended the Harvard University's School of Government course for Senior Executives in State and Local Government.

So, as you can see, Barbara not only serves us well, but is well prepared and aptly recognized for her many accomplishments. Vote Barbara Bynum for the Colorado 5<sup>th</sup> Senate District.

*Wayne Quade, Montrose*

### CULTIVATED MEAT HAS FACED SOME OPPOSITION RECENTLY

*To the editor,*

Cultivated meat has faced some opposition recently. For those who don't know, cultivated meat is grown from animal cells, without slaughter. Strangely, opponents have argued both the new protein isn't technologically feasible and it should be banned. You would think, if these folks truly believed the former, the latter shouldn't be necessary.

The truth is cultivated meat faces a number of hurdles before it can be mass produced, but these can be overcome with increased public funding for research into the field. Given the potential animal-welfare, public-health, and environmental benefits of cellular agriculture, forward-thinking legislators should help nurture this nascent industry. It's the right thing to do.

*Jon Hochschartner, Granby, CT*



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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS & CARTOONS

**FROM WHERE I SIT:** *an opinion*

## AND SO IT IS THAT YET ANOTHER PRIVATELY OWNED KITCHEN IS BEING RENOVATED OR REBUILT AT PUBLIC EXPENSE

*Editor:*

The Montrose City Council and its Kitchen Finance Committee (MCCKFC) has struck again. I always thought KFC stood for Kentucky Fried Chicken but I checked with Colonel Sanders and found out that Kentucky Fried Chicken has ALWAYS paid for its own kitchens. NOT SOME OF THE ERSTWHILE RESTAURANTEURS.

How about we start financing garages and we could have a MCCMTF for Montrose City Council Mechanics Tool Fund to help fund garages in town; perhaps we could get the city to fund a grocery store under the guise of the Montrose City Council All Sustenance Store or MCCASS for short.

It has already begun that every prospective restaurateur is looking for kitchen finance from the Montrose version of KFC (which has nothing to do with chickens). So to be fair the MCCKFC should visit every pre-existing (prior to the MCCKFC) restaurant in Montrose and ask the owner's

permission to retrofit his business with a brand new kitchen at TAXPAYER expense, that way all the eateries would be competing on an equal footing. The MCCKFC would build the new kitchen and then provide a gift certificate from the MCCASS to fill his larder.

Seems like all this government funding is just gone on that new 'medical center' built down by our fancy new strip mall. Big building, no occupants, for sale and all because a person (or persons) who does not know his MCCASS from a hole in the ground pushed for it when there was no demand at the behest of an organization that our very own Montrose Hospital 'let go' because, so I heard, of administrative disagreements. Well now that it is there perhaps the founders of MCCKFC could reappoint it as a co-occupied warehouse for MCCMTF and MCCASS, rent free of course.

FREE ENTERPRISE is supposed to be what

America is.

How about we let free enterprise do what it is supposed to do and that is, find its own YENOM.

And get our city GOVERNMENT out of the banking business. In case you have not noticed there are several ex-bank buildings in town which should tell us that we don't need any more banks. Public funding of enterprises is communism, just in case you don't know that tidbit. While the folks who dole out the public funds might think of what they are doing as a wonderful business it is really only a stepping stone to higher being a higher commissar. May God forbid that to be so. They have become 'commissars' and are on their way to be crowned as 'OLIGARCHS'. Or so they think. What do you say, Montrose? LET'S KEEP MONTROSE ALL AMERICAN both by nationality and by our business practices.

*Bill Bennett, Montrose*

## JUDICIAL DISCRETION IN THE 7TH?



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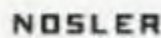
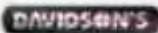
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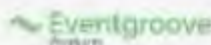
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## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

### MORE THAN 7.6 MILLION BORDER CROSSERS IN 36 MONTHS HAS SMASHED EVERY RECORD

*Editor;*

Who are these people? The Border Patrol has had to handle more than 7.6 million border crossers in 36 months---has smashed every record, with each year's numbers exceeding the previous year's record in leap-frogging fashion. Of the over 7.6 million illegals encountered by the Border Patrol since January 2021, the number allowed to stay in the U.S. is over five million.

But with the percentage of those allowed to stay now approaching 100 percent, the total allowed to remain under our despicable Commander in border invasion, Biden and his Democrat puppets, will reach 10 million by next January. Just in time for President Trump to stop the invasion, finish building the border wall and start deportations. Since January of 2024 apprehensions have averaged 12,000 to 15,000 per day. And they are only the ones who surrendered to Border Patrol agents. "Apprehensions" do not mean they were chased down and arrested. No, they know better than to run away from the tender loving care provided by the invasion-loving mindless Democrats. But then there are the "gotaways" who don't want to be caught for obvious reasons and those daily totals are in addition to the above totals. As if America isn't inflicted with enough crime from the invaders, recently 150 Democrats voted against a Bill to deport illegal immigrants convicted of DUIs. All Republicans voted for it. In 2020 Biden said illegals with DUI convictions should be allowed to stay in the United States

even though they are killing Americans! In fact, Biden issued an executive order preventing ICE agents from arresting an illegal DUI driver. The order said they can only arrest for a felony and he said he doesn't consider drunk driving as a felony. Oh yes Mr. Biden, you should know, drunk driving can easily be a felony when a person is killed or seriously injured in an accident. And illegals are causing plenty of those. But Biden apparently doesn't care about Americans.

Biden is finishing out Obama's promise to "fundamentally transform America" by diluting America's population with unknown foreign invaders and buying their votes with taxpayer money to buy everything they want because they can't win elections on truthful campaigns. And to continue to insult Americans Democrats are telling us the invasion is because of "climate change"! Isn't it strange how the climate changed so drastically for the worse after Biden stole the election? These people are sick! The whole world is watching and laughing at this Biden-Democrat operetta playing in America. No tickets are required to watch!

The whole world sees Biden in real time acting out his bragged about "prostituting" himself for money. Look at the tens of \$millions he's raking in from China, Iran, Ukraine, Russia and others. What is he giving them for those \$millions?? Why isn't anyone asking? Like....does Biden's insistence on feeding the war in Ukraine have anything to do with the \$millions he's received? After all,

he does nothing to secure our border under Obama's promise to transform America, but his number one priority is giving Ukraine anything they want to secure theirs. Bribery, prostitution maybe? And now China has their way with Biden with their EV cars. Bribery, prostitution maybe? \$Billions to Iran so they can produce a nuclear bomb? Bribery, prostitution maybe? The evidence for treason is everywhere!

Now since the murderous attack on Israli young concert goers from the skies, the house-to-house beheading of innocent children, infants, and entire families, setting innocent alive citizens on fire, kidnapping innocent civilians for hostage, torture, rape, and murder we have anti-Israeli Palestinian supporters on American streets who have been indoctrinated by Democrat Marxists chanting "death to America". This is far closer to "insurrection" against the United States than anything that happened on January 6, 2021.

Every sane American knows it. We've seen this before, the Black Lives Matter and Antifa groups funded by ACT BLUE and the Democrat Party responsible for destroying cities and attacking innocent citizens across the country. Where are the arrests and prosecutions? They are still arresting Jan. 6 citizens just for being at the capitol that day!

"An evil enemy will burn his own nation to the ground to rule over the ashes." --Sun Tzu--

*Jerry Bartholome, Montrose*



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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## TRUMP AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

### Editor:

Ever since WWI, the USA has been the world's preeminent democracy, the country that the rest of the world has looked up to as a model of stability, prosperity, and human progress. As a result, we host the world's reserve currency, the Dollar, which is the go-to safe haven for worldwide commerce. Our military is second to none, and has been a bulwark against dictatorship since the founding of our republic. These foundations of our freedom and prosperity are under threat as they've not been since the 1850's ... all because of one man and his cornucopia of lies. Right now, the consensus around the world is that the USA has lost its moorings, and most political and thought leaders around the world are seriously baffled at how we got to the point where Donald Trump, a well known huckster and con man, has somehow corralled so many followers, and actually has a chance to ascend to the presidency again. Nearly everyone overseas, from Europe to Ukraine, and Canada to Australia, are shaking their heads as they see such an obviously corrupt and disgusting man with so much support. As such, they have lost faith in our "shining city on a hill", as well as the citizens that are allowing this to happen. This is translating to talk of looking elsewhere for a stable currency to replace the Dollar.

The chaos that would result from a second Trump presidency would soon cause a large degree of regret, even amongst his greatest supporters, as the standard of living and security to which we've grown accustomed would soon start to fray. He would appoint cabinet and government officials whose only expertise would be public subservience to him. The resulting chaos sown by such a dearth of expertise in so many areas of our government would lead, among other corrupting influences, to the loss of the Dollar as the world's reserve currency. The resulting loss of confidence would, among other effects, shatter our economy here at home. Additionally, he is undermining that protector of the free world, NATO, which has looked to the USA as its leader since its inception in 1948. Trump puts more faith in Putin than in NATO. Putin, of course, also supports the destruction of NATO; hence his support for Trump. Of all of the leaders, foreign and domestic, that Trump has savaged,

there is one that Trump has never criticised: Putin. Instead, he praises this mortal enemy of our democracy as a "genius".

Personally, I am confident that Trump will lose in November, but the dangers he presents, not only to personal freedoms and safety we enjoy at home, but our alliances abroad, are reason enough to point out these dangers for the benefit of those who seem not to be aware.

Faith in the institutions that have long ensured our prosperity and freedoms are being worn away by agents of chaos. The most well known of these chaos agents, of course, is Trump himself. He has worked consistently to destroy faith in professional journalism, truth telling, science, fair business practices, proper behavior towards fellow men (and especially women), self sacrifice, our political structures, and good, honest leadership.

Aided by such sources of misinformation as Fox, he has sown doubt about professional expertise, including military leaders, scientists, economists, the legal system, educators, respected authors, honest politicians, and anyone with professional integrity that rubs him the wrong way. He does this so that he can insert himself as the only one who can fix the chaos he himself has created. According to himself, he, and he alone, has the knowledge and power to fix any and every problem that faces us! ... well ... except that he has neither knowledge or agency to do so... he simply complains full time about others, and how unfairly he is treated. He offers no realistic ideas on how to move us forward in the 21st Century. He is running for the presidency in order to stay out of jail.

Nonetheless, through the power of a degraded media ecosystem, and a weakened Republican Party, he has managed to sow his chaos in a way that appeals to the anger and frustration of his followers, who cannot adapt to a fast changing world, nor compete with workers from what was once called the "Third World". As the American worker's standard of living falls in comparison to workers in China and the rest of the world, he blames the very people who are working to fix these problems, i.e. Joe Biden, the Democrats, and the few remaining "traditional" Republicans. As the Party of Trump's glaring disfunction continues in Congress for all to see, Democrats have been

fixing healthcare, providing incentives for continued worldwide leadership in the 21st Century economy, standing up to China, repairing the damage done to our foreign policy apparatus by Trump, fighting back against Russia's murderous rape of Ukraine, addressing the economic repercussions of climate change, and presenting an example for honest leadership on the world stage. Meanwhile, Trump makes a spectacle of himself in the numerous criminal trials in which he's ensnared. As the whole world looks on, he maligns our 250 year old justice system; causing those who were once in awe of our solid justice system to shake their heads in disbelief. And what has he done for his followers? He takes money from them to spend on lawyers, to the tune of \$50 million so far from their campaign contributions, and has turned the Republican National Committee, the organization meant to assist Republican politicians nationwide, into his own exclusive legal piggybank. He has proposed his own daughter in law, Lara Trump, as the new RNC co-chair; and that's exactly what she is advocating!

Donald Trump's nationwide grift continues; powered by ever greater lies, and ever more outrageous claims, each one more disgusting than the last. This purposeful escalation of craziness is calculated to keep him in the news, and thus give him constant press. His unlimited cornucopia of lies, his degrading behavior towards women, the constant character assassination on anyone who gets in his way, his peddling of conspiracies, his ludicrous charges that Democrats are "socialists, communists, and Nazis", his decades of cheating at business, the lifelong string of con jobs, along with the numerous fines and judgments he has paid, and his open and blatant conspiracy to overthrow our democracy on January sixth, have all been catching up with him ... and these are the reasons I am confident that a large majority of the American People will have the sense to reject the Nation's Con Man in November of this year. Only then can we begin to repair the damage he has done to our reputation in the rest of the world, restore the strength of the Dollar, and hand off a strong and reliable USA in good standing to future generations of Americans.

*David Congour, Montrose*

# OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

## YOUR VOTE COUNTS!!

### **April 2<sup>nd</sup> Municipal Election Might Help (Partially) to Right the Ship**

By David White

I have had several people ask me about what can be done about the freewheeling spending that the City Manager (Bill Bell), the Assistant City Manager (Ann Morgenthaler) and the Manager of the Development & Revitalization Team (DART) (former City Councilor Anthony Russo) have continued to inflict upon the taxpayers of the City and County of Montrose in collusion with their City Council bosses. My answer is simple...vote in the City of Montrose Municipal Election on April 2, 2024. Your ballot will be sent to you in the next couple of weeks.

Here's a quick breakdown of whose running by seat:

#### **District 3:**

Unfortunately, there is only one contested race, and this is it – incumbent J. David Reed is challenged by Bart Larmouth for the District 3 seat. Reed (age 77) was appointed by the City Council to fill a vacancy created by the resignation of the District 3 Councilmember in 2021. Reed is a well-known local attorney, former Mayor (he previously served on Council from 2000-2004 and is in line to be Mayor this year should he win this election). Reed is staunch advocate for the giveaway spending policies of the City Manager, Bill Bell and his staff.

Larmouth (age 45) has been a member of our community for the last decade. He is a graduate of Colgate University. He has served on the Board of Directors for the Black Canyon Boys and Girls Club for 7 years, as well as is a Gunnison Gorge Trout Unlimited member. Larmouth has been working for the past 6 years at Montrose Regional Health and has been able to see and interact with a diverse swath of the community, sparking the desire to be more involved in helping at a higher level and help shape the City's growth in the coming years. Prior to this, he was the International Sales Manager for Ross Reels. He's an avid outdoorsman, a free thinker and father to a five-year-old daughter.

#### **District 4:**

Unopposed – Dave Frank (age 61) – going for his second 4-year term. As with J. David Reed, Mr. Frank is generally aligned with the City Manager on most issues not the least of which is the freewheeling spending by he and his colleagues on the “legal plunder” of the taxpayers treasure to benefit certain chosen businesses and causes for the receipt of public funds for private purposes ostensibly to level the free market playing field. Frank is a veteran and musician. His wife's family own TEI Rock Drills which headquartered in Montrose.

#### **At Large:**

Unopposed - Judy Ann Files (age 78) – Files is a retired schoolteacher. She was a member of the Montrose City Council from April 2012 to 2020. She served two terms as mayor. Files too is a staunch advocate of City Manager Bell and has participated in the spending of the public's treasure on such projects as the water sports park in Riverbottom Park, acquiring additional land along the river to expand the river trail system, supporting the dissolution of the Montrose County Sheriff's Office Dispatch Center and creating a duplicate 911 Center within the City as well as advocating for the Colorado Outdoors project. She worked with the Montrose Recreation District to achieve the \$30+M Community Recreation Center. She was involved with public bailout of the privately owned Black Canyon Golf Course and the construction of the Sunset Mesa baseball complex. Dedicated to the environment, she recreated the City of Montrose Recycling Program (where most of the “recyclable” material goes to the County landfill). During her previous years on Council, she states that she enjoyed working with the council, city staff, and the community. Relationships were gained to help the community grow in a healthy manner.

Other than Mr. Larmouth, the election of Mr. Reed, Mr. Frank and Ms. Files will most likely do nothing but solidify the continuing policy of advocating for giveaways to private and non-profit businesses.

City Council almost always rubber stamps these when the time comes for another hand-out.

**For the sake of our City as well as to bring in someone with a fresh perspective, I would encourage you to vote for Bart Larmouth. Leave the other seats blank on your ballot to show them your displeasure with their current and past performance!**

As the French economist, Fredric Bastiat (1801-1850) argued in his book “The Law,” “he coined the term ‘legal plunder’ to describe a form of government-sanctioned theft or exploitation. Bastiat argued that when the law is perverted to serve the interests of specific groups or individuals, often through government policies, it becomes a tool for legalizing the unjust acquisition of wealth or property at the expense of others.

Essentially, legal plunder occurs when the law is used to redistribute wealth or resources from some citizens to others through mechanisms like subsidies, tariffs, or regulations that favor certain industries or individuals.

Bastiat's key point was that such actions, while technically ‘legal,’ are morally and ethically wrong because they violate the principles of justice, equality, and individual rights. He believed that the government should exist to protect these rights rather than to enable legal plunder.”(<https://nccs.net/blogs/weekly-constitution/government-intervention-in-the-private-sector>)

Let's try to stop the “legal plunder” taking place in Montrose. One more voice on City Council will help tremendously with this issue.

*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 served on many boards and commissions during his career. He & his wife are the parents of six children and have 10 grandchildren & one great grandchild.*

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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

## IS THE CURTAIN COMING DOWN — CITY SPENDING LEADING TO FINANCIAL TROUBLE IN MONTROSE?

By David White

MONTROSE—Apparently, with the dawn of 2024, the Montrose City Manager (Bill Bell) and his City Council budgeted for another trailer load of lipstick to put on their various “pigs”, i.e. their “Government Stakeholder” projects such as new restaurants, commercial kitchens in old and new restaurants, boutique and higher end hotels, commercial office buildings, distilleries, medical buildings, apartment complexes, a new façade on the “new” City Hall building and more. These projects and others that haven’t been made public require the expenditure of millions of your tax dollars.

Why? is the question many concerned citizens have asked. All of these ventures are being foisted upon the public as **“economic development investments.”**

As I have written in several previous Montrose Mirror editorials, most, if not all of these are “investments” in private businesses, many of which are highly speculative in nature (restaurants are the most obvious). Most are dependent upon a person’s discretionary income for survival. Many cater to tourists not locals. Home grown owners of existing businesses are being forced to compete with these government backed and subsidized new businesses who have a distinct economic advantage that has played a role in the closure of some businesses, mostly in the downtown area as the sales tax money they collect on behalf of the City is used against them by the City to incentivize their competitors. This is plain wrong!

Regardless of these simple economic principles, our Mayor and Democratic candidate for the State Senate District 5 seat, Barbara Bynum, said in the Montrose Daily Press on February 6, 2024 that **...“there may be a point at which we have a nice saturation downtown of restaurants that are meeting the need, but we’re not anywhere close to that right now...”** Really?? Since when is that the job of our local government to pick what kinds of businesses we need as well as

how many of each and where they should operate their business from? The communists in Russia and China have tried this with their planned economies and both failed miserably. Will the City of Montrose fare any better? Probably not.

At the Montrose Urban Renewal Authority (also known as Colorado Outdoors) board meeting on February 14<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Bell (City Manager & Executive Director of MURA), who has spearheaded the development of this roughly 166 acre site together with investors Doug & David Drago, announced that the City is tapped out on their ability to continue to lend money to this quasi-public/private development. Money has been “borrowed” from the City’s water enterprise fund (this is the entity that provides City residents with their drinking water) as they’ve already loaned millions of dollars to MURA and now must seek further public financing through the issuance of revenue bonds to be collateralized by tax monies generated within the development.

As background, \$10,000,000 in Certificates of Participation, known as COPS, were sold in 2017 to finance the Colorado Outdoors project and the Hillcrest Drive extension from Niagara to Oak Grove Road. COPS are an alternative to municipal bonds in which an investor buys a share in the improvements or infrastructure the government entity intends to fund. These dollars were supplemented by monies borrowed from the City’s Water Fund reserve account. The City used the historic City Hall & the Montrose Pavilion as collateral for those later removing the historic City Hall and replacing it with the Montrose Animal Shelter and adjacent Brown Center as collateral in 2022. In the meantime, a progressive and incremental increase in water, sewer, trash and recycling fees went into effect on January 1<sup>st</sup> and will continue over the next couple of years or longer no doubt to partially refill the reserve account within the water department’s depleted savings account.

Prior to the disclosure of the above financial need to continue with this taxpayer funded project, a presentation to the MURA board about a new Hilton Hotel property (to be built and managed by the Lamont Companies of Aberdeen, SD – the same developer that built the yet to open Fairfield Inn by Marriott in Colorado Outdoors), was made. The developer has an initial “ask” of the MURA board in the amount of \$2,250,000 (which Mr. Bell expects to be reduced to “around” \$1,000,000). Mr. Bell claims we need this Hilton property because there aren’t any hotels where a Hilton Rewards Club member can use their points other than the outdated and old Hampton Inn by the airport. For reference, view the following MURA public presentation made on February 28<sup>th</sup> at the Montrose Forum here: (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lUOE3cg3oIQ>). Watch from the 15 to the 17 minute mark or the entire 1 hour video to understand the questionable arguments Mr. Bell is making for ongoing public investment in this development. The reasoning behind all of this is beyond the pale as to why our City government is manipulating the market for hotels to be built in the development to include a 3<sup>rd</sup>, high end boutique hotel that’s currently on the drawing board.

Pile this on top of the millions given for commercial kitchens, parking lots, sidewalks, waiving of or reducing the cost of permit fees, etc. to entities such as the Fairfield Inn, Mayfly Outdoors, Shelter Distillery, Basecamp Apartments (which is managed by Griffis-Blessing, a firm owned by an old friend of Mr. Drago’s out of Colorado Springs), Elderado Financial, the Towne Centre Mall (where Jimmy John’s is located), Pomona Brewing Company, Horsefly Brewing Company’s new eatery (Toasty), Trattoria Di Sofia, the new Stockman’s & Ruby June restaurants in the old Daily Bread building, the Telluride investor owned boutique Rathbone Hotel next to the Fox Theater, a new \$2.8M façade on the old downtown Wells Fargo Bank



## **CITY SPENDING LEADING TO FINANCIAL TROUBLE IN MONTROSE?**

**From previous pg**

building (now Montrose City Hall) and MANY others and you're talking some serious money, that we may, as taxpayers might yet eat if this wild spending spree doesn't stop. \$20M worth of spending (at least) is already in the books or will be over the next 2-3 years if Mr. Bell and City Council are not brought into line folks. In the meantime, our streets and other infrastructure fall further behind in needed repairs or replacement while the elected leaders focus on putting more lipstick on the weak façade that they have created through their economic manipulation.

In closing, I would like to point out the following excerpts from an article published by the National Center for Constitutional Studies. Both are worth your time to read them so that you might understand what the progressive agenda and their master's at Montrose City Hall are in fact doing to our once fiscally conservative community. Organic growth, as you will read, is far better than this artificially created growth.

***"In his book "The Law," Frederic Bastiat coined the term 'legal plunder' to describe a form of government-sanctioned theft or exploitation. Bastiat argued that when the law is perverted to serve the interests of specific groups or individuals, often through government policies, it becomes a tool for legalizing the unjust***

***acquisition of wealth or property at the expense of others. Essentially, legal plunder occurs when the law is used to redistribute wealth or resources from some citizens to others through mechanisms like subsidies, tariffs, or regulations that favor certain industries or individuals. Bastiat's key point was that such actions, while technically 'legal,' are morally and ethically wrong because they violate the principles of justice, equality, and individual rights. He believed that government should exist to protect these rights rather than to enable legal plunder."***

***"In numerous instances, government interference in the private sector has yielded numerous counterproductive outcomes. The distinction between market entrepreneurs and political entrepreneurs underscores the ramifications of government subsidies and interventions. Well-intentioned as they may be, these actions can inadvertently distort markets, infringe upon the principles of limited government, and culminate in what can be termed "legal plunder." Instead of coercing rapid transformations, fostering an environment where free enterprise can flourish offers a more organic and sustainable path to innovation and prosperity. Striking a balance that upholds the principles of individual liberty, economic freedom, and constitutional governance is impera-***

***tive for authentic societal progress. The ultimate aim of government should be the equitable application of laws to benefit all individuals uniformly, epitomizing equality under the law."***

***<https://nccs.net/blogs/weekly-constitution/government-intervention-in-the-private-sector>***

I am compelled to ask our illustrious leaders, who are being led around by their collective noses by City Manager Bell and his staff, what the heck are you thinking and why are you behaving as though you're entitled to pick the winners and losers in the private sector of our local businesses? Why are you continuing to plow our hard-earned money that you collect at an exponentially higher level thanks to inflation into areas that are not defined by City Charter or a vote of the people. This MUST stop before you run out of other people's money, namely ours!

*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 served on many boards and commissions during his career. He & his wife are the parents of six children and have 10 grandchildren & one great grandchild.*

*Now more than ever...*

*Thank you for reading*

**THE MONTROSE MIRROR**

# CENTENNIAL/COLUMBINE PLACE IN MIDDLE SCHOOL WRESTLING TOURNAMENT

By Cliff Dodge

MONTROSE-A total of 13 Middle Schools took part in the West Slope Middle School Wrestling tournament this past weekend with North Fork edging Centennial Middle School for the title. The Cowboys amassed 357.5 points as they scored 30 points more than the Bears of Centennial Middle School. Other schools in the order of finish were as follows: Delta, West Middle School, Olathe, Norwood, Columbine, Cedaredge, Grand Mesa, Nucla, Orchard Mesa, Mt. Garfield, and Bookcliff Middle School. Individual wrestlers finished as follows:

*Continued next pg*

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## **MIDDLE SCHOOL WRESTLING TOURNAMENT From previous pg**

75 lbs	2nd place:	Garyn Espinoza, Centennial
80 lbs	4th place:	James Henson, Columbine
70-80 Girls	1st place:	Aniyah Garcia, Centennial'
	2nd place:	Megan Morford, Centennial
	4th place:	Sheela Culver, Columbine
85 lbs	6th place:	Garrett Kay, Centennial
90 lbs	4th place:	Tre Hardin, Columbine
	5th place:	Braden Tobler, Centennial
95 lbs	1st place:	Davis Lopez, Centennial
	4th place:	Colter Vincent, Olathe
100-110 Girls	2nd place:	Saydee Lujan, Olathe
	3rd place:	Khloe Gonzales, Centennial
	4 <sup>th</sup> place:	Paige Pantoja, Centennial
100 lbs	3rd place:	Devon Hins, Olathe
	4th place:	C.J. Bolton, Centennial
105 lbs	3rd place:	Uriah Tonar, Columbine
	6th place:	Wm. Townsend, Centennial
	8th place:	Zurich Casselberry, Cent.
110lbs	1st place:	Matteo Hernandez, Columbine
	4th place:	Jesse Mortensen, Centennial
	6th place:	J. Spreangelberg, Centennial
115 lbs	3rd place:	Brayson Garrison, Centennial
110-120 Girls	1st place:	Nevaeh Cortez, Columbine
	4th place:	Ava Martinez, Centennial
120 lbs	3rd Place:	Bridger Vincent, Olathe
	4th place:	Connor Quaid, Coluimbmn
	6th place:	Wyatt Campbell, Centennial
125 lbs	5th place:	Liam Evans, Centennial
130 lbs	5th place:	Sam Luskin, Columbine
	6th place:	Bentley Carr, Centennial
135 lbs	6th place:	Fred Lopez, Centennial
140 lbs	4th place:	Hayden Pelham, Centennial
	5th place:	Zach Knight, Centennial
130-145 Girls	2nd place:	Isabella Lopez, Olathe
145 lbs	4th place:	Bryson Corn, Olathe
152 lbs	2nd place:	Hunter Lynch, Olathe
	4th place:	Griffin Standish, Olathe
	5th place:	Andy Landen, Columbine
160 lbs	2nd place:	Rush Galvan, Centennial
171 lbs	1st place:	Dylan Myers, Centennial
	2nd place:	Aiden Mock, Centennial
	3rd place:	Canon Thomas, Olathe
	4th place:	Juan Ramirez, Columbine
198 lbs	2nd place:	JJ Herrera, Centennial
	4th place:	Joel Najar, Columbine
	5th place:	A. DeLa Rosa, Olathe
285 lbs	2nd place:	Josh Hernandez, Centennial
	3rd place:	Tannon Mondell, Centennial

# CARTOON BY TIM JONES

WEEKLY CARTOON

## SOUR GRAPES

by Tim Jones



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# COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

## REBATE OFFERS RELIEF FOR SENIOR, LOW-INCOME RESIDENTS

*Special to the Mirror*

LAKEWOOD - Tuesday, Feb. 27, 2024 — Coloradans eligible for a Property Tax, Rent, Heat (PTC) Rebate should apply before April 15 to ensure they also receive a TABOR refund. With the passage of the **Identical TABOR Refund Act** in December, Coloradans who do not plan to file a state income tax return can still receive the refund if they apply for a PTC Rebate by April 15.

The Property Tax, Rent, Heat (PTC) Rebate is available to Colorado residents to help with their property tax, rent, and/or heat expenses. The rebate is based on income, and includes people with disabilities and older adults.

For tax year 2023, the rebate amount can be up to \$1,112 for applicants. If applications are

received by April 15, 2024, applicants can also receive a TABOR refund, which equates to \$800 for single filers and \$1,600 for married couples filing jointly.

Eligible Coloradans include seniors (age 65 or older, or surviving spouse age 58 or older), Coloradans with disabilities, and individuals with a total income of less than \$18,026 or a married couple with total combined income of less than \$24,345.

“It’s important to support all Coloradans, especially those in underserved and underrepresented communities,” said Brendon Reese, Department of Revenue Division of Taxation director. “We want Coloradans experiencing hardship to know that there are resources out there to help and PTC rebates are one of them.

With the flattened TABOR refund, you can receive a refund even if you didn’t file a state income tax return for 2023 – you just need to submit a PTC Rebate application.”

The PTC Rebate has provided relief to about 15,000 Coloradans since 2019. This program ensures seniors and Coloradans with disabilities can remain occupied in their heated homes year after year.

The PTC Rebate application is also available in Spanish, and to provide better customer service to non-English speaking Coloradans, Taxation Division call centers can now assist non-English speaking PTC applicants through a translation service.

More information, including qualifications, is available on the [PTC Rebate web page](#).

### HAVE YOU MISSED MORTGAGE PAYMENTS AND NEED HELP?

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# COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

## WILLIAM HARRISON SHIPLEY

**January 28, 1962- February 17, 2024**



Bill Shipley passed away peacefully at home surrounded by loved ones on Febru-

ary 17, 2024 after a long battle with cancer. Bill was born January 28, 1962 in Van Buren, Maine to Thomas and Darlene Shipley (Cowell).

Being a child of a military father, Bill lived all over the United States: Sandy Hook New Jersey, Parowan Utah, Anchorage Alaska, Boston Massachusetts, Fort Carson, Colorado, Sandy Utah. Bill graduated from Olathe High School where he met the love of his life Letha Shipley (Moore) they dated all through high school. They got married on August 6, 1983 and spent 40 years of marriage together. Bill and Letha had one child, Tia Gipe (Shipley). Bill had one grandchild, Willow Shipley, his

pride and joy. Bill worked as a mechanic at Valley Lanes bowling alley in Delta, Colorado and at the Co-op in Olathe, Colorado. He spent his later years working at Olathe High School as Custodial supervisor. Bill had many hobbies; he enjoyed hunting, fishing, and rock Hounding. Bill was preceded in death by brother Roger D. Shipley, his sister Letitia (Tisha) E. Barber, (Shipley). Survived by his wife Letha Shipley (Moore), daughter Tia Gipe (Shipley) husband Todd Gipe. Granddaughter Willow Shipley. Mother Darlene Shipley (Cowell) Father Thomas Shipley. Sister Darla Shipley, and many Nieces and nephews.

## KELLY DON BALDWIN

**April 2, 1952-February 24, 2024**

Kelly went his final round in the ring of life on February 24, 2024, surrounded by the mountains he loved. Born to Nadine and Jess Baldwin on April 2, 1952, in Grand Junction Co. Kelly spent most of his life on the Western Slope of Colorado. Kelly loved to go mudding, hunting, and was always drawn to the great outdoors. Kelly wore many hats in his life, from construction, to truck driving, to cowboying. His favorite hat was always his good ol' black cowboy hat, it was always the first thing he reached for when he woke up. His smile would make a friend out of anyone, and his laughter will always echo through the mountains he loved. He loved with everything he had and lived the same way. His favorite thing to say was, "Powder River Let Her Buck," and that's what he did most of the time, life was an adventure for Kelly and when you were along for the ride it was a new adventure for you too. Kelly will be missed by all who had the pleasure to know him, he is survived by his loving mother Nadine Baldwin, sisters Tammy (Kevin) Lee, Debi (Larry) Roberts, brother Ty (Jesse) Baldwin, daughters Cheyanne Baldwin, Darcy Brady, a granddaughter, and many nieces, nephews, and cousins. Kelly is riding high on the mountain with his dad Jess Baldwin, brother Micheal Baldwin, and nephew Levi Roberts. A celebration of life TBD later by the family . The family would like to thank everyone who has reached out.



## COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

### LUANNA GALLOWAY JONES *April 12, 1933-February 17, 2024*

LUANNA GALLOWAY JONES passed away on February 17, 2024, at the age of 90, in Mesquite, Nevada. She was born in Montrose, Colorado on April 12, 1933 to Harry Donald Galloway and Esta Sarah Hinton.

She grew up in Montrose and graduated from Montrose High School. She worked for the telephone company as a service representative. She enjoyed golfing, reading and playing cards. She loved her family and enjoyed spending time with them. She also enjoyed traveling.

She is survived by her children, Bill (Lori) Stites, Steve (Lynne) Stites, David (Glenda) Stites, Donna (Terry) Austin, Danny (Rhonda) Stites, as well as 17 grandchildren, 45 great grandchildren, two great-great grandchildren, and her sister Doris Kessler. She was preceded in death by her husband Jay Jones, parents and five siblings.

### VICKI RAE JOHNSON

VICKI RAE KOCAN JOHNSON had a hot glue gun – and she wasn't afraid to use it. Born in Berwyn, Illinois, Vicki grew up in La Grange with her parents, Victor and Carol Kocan and her sister, Cheryl. The Kocans moved to Colorado in 1969 where they built their dream home in Ouray. Vicki graduated Summa Cum Laude from Fort Lewis College in 1973 with a degree in History and Summa Cum Laude from the University of Colorado in 1976 with a master's degree in American History.

In 1976, Vicki married K. Michael Johnson (Mike) and the couple lived in Ouray. Vicki volunteered at the Ouray County Historical Society where she managed acquisitions and collections for the county Museum. In 1978, they moved to Evergreen, Colorado where Vicki began a lifetime of community service. She was a Colorado Master Gardener, worked on the Bergen Elementary Accountability Committee, volunteered as a school aide and curator at the Hiwan Homestead Museum, worked as a Jefferson County volunteer naturalist, served as a P.T.A board member for several years,

was a volunteer staff assistant to the conservation department at the Denver Art Museum, worked on a 5- year effort to create a nature study area at Bergen elementary school, volunteered with the Evergreen Animal Protective League, and volunteered at Colorado Children's Hospital.

Vicki cared deeply not only for her own children but for countless other children in her community. She served as a co-leader for both of her daughter's girl scout troops, taking them from little Daisies in first grade to amazing women in high school. She often volunteered to be the "room mom" at school, painted sets for plays, planned barn dances, and constructed awe-inspiring after-prom parties and Madrigal Balls.

Vicki was known for her hand-crafted cards and gifts and always going above and beyond to let everyone around her know just how much she loved them.

On February 16, 2024, Vicki succumbed to a two-year battle with heart disease. She is survived by her husband, K. Michael



Johnson, and her two daughters, Heather McFadden, and Syd Johnson.

A garden party celebrating her life will be held in Evergreen in early May and a second celebration will be held in Ouray in late July.

CELEBRATING LOCAL BEAUTY.



ISSUE 459 March 4, 2024

# ART & SOL

## YOUR BRAIN ON NATURE – TEENAGE RESILIENCE



By Lauren Hall Ruddell, Ph.D.

### Greetings Mirrorites!

The old bromide about ‘when life hands you lemons, make lemonade,’ refers to an adaptive response to life’s adversities, and is unfortunately even more relevant today than before the pandemic. That ability is in especially short supply among America’s teens. This important trait is called resiliency and the pandemic kicked this aptitude in the teeth for the majority of teens.

In a spirit of full disclosure, some teens’ mental health improved during the pandemic. They got more sleep, more quality time with family, experienced less bullying, and enjoyed more relaxation. But in general, surveys conducted this year indicate that most teens became less capable of emotional self-regulation and less resilient. Teachers, counselors, and mental



*Time spent above timberline really enhances resilience, because it isn’t easy. Courtesy photo.*

health care professionals assumed that by 2023, a type of equilibrium that resembled 2018 would have been achieved. They were wrong.

Resilience refers to a person’s capacity to change or modify behavior in direct response to adversity, either physical or social. High levels of resilience are positively correlated with reduced vulnerability in the face of stress. In plain English, high resilience is a keen ability to make lemonade even when buried under a bushel of lemons. During the pandemic, lemonade

teens who were highly resilient, either by trait or state, experienced less of a sense of danger and distress. By trait or state, I mean that some kids are just born that way (nature/trait), while others were helped along by supporting social networks and family (nurture/state).

Less resilient teenagers and their parents reported more severe symptoms of depression and anxiety, and even more severe suicidal ideation. Developing resilience-building interventions for youngsters in this age group to efficiently promote

**Continued next pg**



## YOUR BRAIN ON NATURE – TEENAGE RESILIENCE *From previous pg*

mental health recovery during pandemics is becoming a consensus among professionals, as targeted psychological resilience training is found to improve their mental health and enhance overall coping ability. But professionals are in short supply and many interventions are beyond the affordability of parents. And the need is real and urgent.

North American parents have consistently reported deterioration in at least one of six mental health domains assessed by research teams. The domains most often measured are depression, anxiety, irritability, attention, hyperactivity, and obsessions/compulsions. They report that 70.2 percent of children and adolescents ages 6–18 were faring worse in at least one domain. Many aspects of the pandemic can be considered childhood trauma. Repeated, prolonged, or severe childhood trauma can lead to an increased risk for disease throughout the life course through the dysregulation of the threat response system, a process that has been termed “toxic stress.” Almost half (47.9 percent) of the nation's children were exposed to at least one or more serious childhood traumas *before* the pandemic. Overwhelmed pediatricians are beginning to prescribe park visits as an intervention. “Park prescription” may serve as a means for pediatricians to help parents alleviate toxic stress and bolster pediatric resilience. It is known that weekly park jaunts

of a reasonable duration (1.5 – 2 hours) increase the brain's homeostasis.

Homeostasis refers to biological systems maintaining balance in the face of major life stressors through promoting the ability of individual proteins, hormones, and neurologic peptides to stay within an ideal range. Allostasis is defined as the process of maintaining homeostasis through the adaptive change to stress. Good allostasis is a function of good resiliency. Any experience that improves physiologic adaptation to stress has the potential to improve resilience by promoting a rapid and appropriate response to stress and furthering a child's ability to “bounce back” (Read and Grundy, 2012). In short, it takes the brain to train the brain. This is a form of emotional intelligence that helps teens cope, especially with social situations in school settings. The pandemic retarded many young people's emotional intelligence and self-control, hence the rise in [schoolyard violence](#).

Unstructured nature interventions alone are enough for some teens, but for others, a more structured format may be more beneficial and even faster. For instance, The [RULER program](#) crafted by the Yale Institute for Emotional Intelligence could help parents, teachers, and counselors enhance the resiliency quotient of the outdoor experience.

RULER is an acronym for the five skills of emotional intelligence (recognizing, un-

derstanding, labeling, expressing, and regulating). Evaluation research shows that RULER indeed fosters beneficial shifts in school climate that are essential to positive youth development, including resiliency.

One outdoor adventurous teen who considers himself to be very resilient reflected on the activities that he normally participates in outdoors, and which were somewhat curtailed during quarantine. In reflecting upon lockdown restrictions and how they limited his nature-based activities, he expressed a very philosophical attitude.

*“I do these things because it helps me not to think or it helps me to control my brain. I don't think it's a bad thing for both of those things. I think it is okay for us as humans to decide what outlets help us be more calm or be more consistent as people. It's interesting to be in a situation where I can't do any of them.”*

Now that's what I call making lemonade! Instead of worrying about the reading material on school shelves, parents might want to be more concerned about the amount of time teachers and administrators are getting students outdoors, how deeply engaged the kids are, and how frequently they partake.

Their resiliency quotient will make them happier and more confident and will make schools and communities safer and more cohesive.

**SEE SOMETHING - SAY SOMETHING**



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ANONYMOUS CALL

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# COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

## DIVAS 3 COMES TO DELTA PERFORMING ARTS CENTER



house voices who will sing the biggest hits of the greatest divas in music history.

This vibrant show spans four decades covering the 1960s through the 1990s with hits by Aretha Franklin, Carole King, Celine Dion, Whitney Houston, Cher, Dolly Parton, Donna Summer, ABBA, and many more! Individual members of the group have all starred in shows on the Las Vegas Strip. Since its inception in 2013, the group has gone on to perform at performing arts centers across the United States, and internationally as a headlining entertainer act aboard luxury cruise ships.

Their unique three part arrangements are blended with solid, top notch vocals honoring the iconic hits of the era of the great divas.

You won't want to miss it! Single admission tickets will be available at the door on the night of the performance, \$25 for adults and \$5 for students.

For more information please contact Connie at 970-249-4308 or Bob at 970-835-4480 or visit our website at [www.deltamontroseconcerts.com](http://www.deltamontroseconcerts.com).

Courtesy photo Delta Montrose Community Concert Association.

Special to the Mirror

DELTA-The Delta Montrose Community Concert Association is pleased to present the all female act Divas 3 on Tuesday,

March 5, at 7 p.m. at the Delta Performing Arts Center, 822 Grand Avenue in Delta, Colorado.

Divas 3 is an amazing group with power-

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[WWW.HEALTHYRHYTHM.NET](http://WWW.HEALTHYRHYTHM.NET)

# 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-<br/>
  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](http://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, Mont-  
 rose, CO 81401

**Office Hours:** By appointment

**Phone:** (970) 497-4925

**Email:** [celebrationmontrose@gmail.com](mailto:celebrationmontrose@gmail.com)

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

**Worship Service Times:** 9am and 10:45am

**Senior Pastor:**

Pastor Brandon Mathis

**Church Description/Mission:** Celebration  
 Church makes disciples that make disci-  
 ples. Our core values include the Scrip-

ture, discipleship, community, service,  
 prayer, love, and unity.

**Demographics:** Multi-generational

**Celebration Kids:** (age birth to 5<sup>th</sup> grade)  
 programs offered both services.

**Student** (middle & high school) at 9am.

**Adult** -Discipleship classes 8am and  
 10:45am.

## 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](http://www.montroselutheran.org)

**Email:** [montroselutheran@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:mncfirst@gmail.com),  
[www.montrosenazarenechurch.org](http://www.montrosenazarenechurch.org)

**Pastor:** Buddy Cook

**Services** Sunday: Worship 10 AM, Adult  
 Bible Study 11:30 AM Worship includes age-  
 appropriate children's ministry during  
 adult worship.

Wednesday: Prayer Boot Camp - 7 PM

Mission Statement: *Montrose First Church  
 of the Nazarene exists to make Christlike*

*disciples in Montrose Colorado and around  
 the world.*

**Demographics:** Our church consists of 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-](mailto:in-<br/>
  form@fpcmontrose.com)

[form@fpcmontrose.com](mailto:form@fpcmontrose.com),

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

**Pastor:** Jesse Mabanglo

**Worship Service times:** 9:30AM,

Student Worship at 6PM. *We strive to en-  
 courage, challenge and support one anoth-*

*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](mailto:office@montroseucc.org)  
 Website: [montroseucc.org](http://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](mailto:office@montroseumc.org), [mont-](http://montroseumc.org)

[roseumc.org](http://roseumc.org)  
**Current Senior Pastor:** Rev. Kevin Young  
**Worship service times:**  
 8:30 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual  
 9:45 a.m. Christian Education & Fellowship  
 11 a.m. Sanctuary  
 Montrose UMC is a leader in being fully inclusive, loving, and just servants of

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

## ROSEMONT BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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

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

## SPIRITUAL AWARENESS CENTER

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

**Name of current pastor:** Rev. Dr. Arlyn Macdonald, Senior minister; Rev. Ruby Salaz, Assistant 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

welcome. *The Spiritual Awareness Center is an interfaith spiritual community welcoming spiritual seekers and people of all faiths, providing a safe place to explore and nurture the individual's unique connection to the Divine through Unity services, classes, family and community projects, including the Great Community Giveaway and Wellness Fair.* 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](mailto:rose@yahoo.com)  
[www.ststephensmontrose.com](http://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](mailto:summitchurchmontrose@gmail.com)

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

**Current Pastor:** Roland Kassales

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

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

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

### Church Directory

#### Mirror Editorial Staff

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

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

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[telluridemaintenancesolutions@gmail.com](mailto:telluridemaintenancesolutions@gmail.com)

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SURROUNDING COUNTIES



# COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

## STOKE EXCITEMENT FOR FLY FISHING, SUPPORT UNCOMPAGRE RIVER RESTORATION WORK



*"I'll Wait Here Forever," courtesy photo F3T.*

### *Special to Art & Sol*

**RIDGWAY** – The Uncompahgre River delivers the natural habitat surrounded by a photogenic landscape that is popular with anglers, and yet segments of the river and many of its tributaries are not populated by fish or aquatic bugs due to high levels of metal pollution. To fund projects that improve the water quality in and around the Uncompahgre River, RIGS Fly Shop & Guide Service and partners are holding a showing of the national Fly Fishing Film Tour for the eighth year.

The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Benefit for the Uncompahgre River and 18th Annual F3T Fly Fishing Film Tour will be on Saturday, March 16 at 5:30 p.m. at the Ouray County's 4H Events Center in Ridgway. The event is a celebration of all things fly fishing with an array of short films from destinations worldwide, as well as prizes, pizza, drinks, and a bit of local river ecology education. "We believe folks should support this event with the knowledge that a lot of hard work still needs to be done in the Uncompahgre River basin towards improving the quality of our watershed

through protection and improvements. By supporting the event, we show our local municipalities, legislators, and water users that we value these resources and want to protect them for future generations to enjoy," said Tim Patterson, who co-organizes the event and co-owns RIGS Fly Shop with his wife, Heather Patterson. Proceeds from the event go to the Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership, a Ouray County-based nonprofit that protects and restores the natural, scenic, and economic assets of the headwaters area of the Uncompahgre River watershed. Donations from RIGS, Telluride Angler, Alpine Bank, Colorado Boy Southwest Pub, and The Liquor Store increase the fundraising impact of the evening.

"When RIGS decided to host an F3T in Ridgway over eight years ago, we immediately knew we wanted 100% of event proceeds and sponsorship to benefit the local watershed directly. Our goal in sponsoring has always been to help foster solidarity within the river community by supporting a benefactor who could advocate for river and fishery health, improve access for

river recreation, and protect our river and stream assets at a local level. UWP was the obvious choice to take the lead in achieving this objective and to help effectuate positive change within the community," Patterson explained.

F3T is an internationally touring short film festival with an all new official selection of films in 2024. The two-hour program features diverse locations, people, rivers, lakes, and oceans around the world.

"There's no better way to stoke excitement for the fly-fishing season than to explore it through the lens of travel and exotic fishing destinations around the world! Our region is also a fly-fishing mecca and destination known among fly anglers worldwide. These films give us great insight into our common thread as anglers, how much fun our sport is, the people we connect with, the battles we fight, and the role we all play in protecting the resource," he added.

On March 16, doors at the Ouray County 4H Event Center, 22739 US-550, Ridgway, Colo., open at 5:30 p.m. and films start at 6:30 p.m. Get information and the ticket link at <https://fishrigs.com/blog/>. Questions can be directed to Tanya at [tanya@uncompahgrewatershed.org](mailto:tanya@uncompahgrewatershed.org).

### **Information about event organizers:**

Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership, <https://www.uncompahgrewatershed.org/>, P.O. Box 392, Ridgway, CO 81432, 970-325-3010, [info@uncompahgrewatershed.org](mailto:info@uncompahgrewatershed.org)  
Rigs Fly Shop & Guide Service, <https://fishrigs.com>, 1075 Sherman St., Unit 101, Ridgway, 970-626-4460, [info@fishrigs.com](mailto:info@fishrigs.com)  
Telluride Angler, <https://tellurideangler.com/>, 221 W. Colorado Ave., Telluride, Colorado, 970-728-3895, [orders@tellurideangler.com](mailto:orders@tellurideangler.com)



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



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# SAVE THE DATE! LOCAL EVENTS CALENDAR

## ONGOING-

**MONTROSE FARMERS MARKET** (970) 249 0705 Centennial Plaza, 433 S. 1st St. Montrose, CO 81401  
www.valleyfoodpartnership.org. Year-Round Farmers Market, Saturdays 9am-1pm (Summer), every other Saturday 10am-1pm (Winter). Accepts SNAP and Double Up Food Bucks.

**MONTROSE CENTER FOR ARTS FIRST FRIDAY**-New Art Exhibit opening with featured artists.4:30 - 7 pm First Friday of every month. 11 S Park Ave., Montrose. Free Admission. For more information: 970-787-9428 or [info@mc4arts.com](mailto:info@mc4arts.com)

**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.

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

**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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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

**Feb. 1-April 12**-AARP Foundation Tax-aid in Montrose – Feb. 1 - April 12, Tue, Thu, Fri 9am - 2pm at the Montrose Pavilion Senior Center. Free income tax preparation for anyone, free of charge, focused on individuals over 50 or low/moderate income. Appointments are required, call 970-252-4889, M-F 9-2. More information about the program is available at: [taxaide.aarpfoundation.org](http://taxaide.aarpfoundation.org)

**March 4**-On Monday, March 4 Citizens' Climate Lobby will meet at 5pm at the safety complex mtg rm, 434 S 1st Street, to promote local environmental solutions to climate change. Non-partisan, national, All [welcome.info](http://welcome.info) at 970-765-9095.

**March 5**--The Delta Montrose Community Concert Association is pleased to present the all female act Divas 3 on Tuesday, March 5, at 7 p.m. at the Delta Performing Arts Center, 822 Grand Avenue in Delta, Colorado. Single admission tickets will be available at the door on the night of the performance, \$25 for adults and \$5 for students. For more information please contact Connie at 970-249-4308 or Bob at 970-835-4480 or visit our website at [www.deltamontroseconcerts.com](http://www.deltamontroseconcerts.com).

**March 9**-The Museums of Western Colorado presents our Annual Speakeasy Fundraiser: Night on the Barbary Coast on Saturday March 9, 2024. Come join us for a night of debauchery honoring Grand Junction's historic red-light district, the Barbary Coast. The event is a fundraiser that supports the Museums of Western Colorado, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Tickets are available on our website now! Be sure to bring a form of ID, as this event is for folks 21 and older only. **For more information visit:** [www.mowc.co](http://www.mowc.co) Instagram: @museumsowesternco Facebook: @crossorchards Twitter: @museumsowc You Tube: Museums of Western Colorado

**March 16**-8th Annual Benefit for the Uncompahgre River and 18th Annual F3T Fly Fishing Film Tour at Ouray County's 4H Events Center, 22739 US-550, Ridgway, CO. Come out and celebrate all things fly fishing with an array of short films from destinations worldwide, all while raising awareness for the Uncompahgre River Watershed. Enjoy Pizza, Prizes, Brews and more. Doors open at 5:30 pm. Films start at 6:30 pm. Info and ticket link: <https://fishrigs.com/blog/>

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# READER PHOTO SPOTLIGHT: SNOW DAY!



From left, "March came in like a lion," by Lesley Hallenberg; two more Sunday snow day photos by B. Switzer.

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