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the Montrose Mirror

LOCAL DENTIST URGES MONTROSE CITY COUNCIL TO RECONSIDER DECISION TO END WATER FLUORIDATION



Speaking during the time for public comment was Marisa Borchardt, a dentist at River Valley Health. Meeting screenshot.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-Mayor J. David Reed called the regular meeting of the Montrose City Council to order on Tuesday, May 7, and asked all to please join him in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

All Councilors were present, as well as Youth City Councilors Maggie Kusar, Hunter Barton, and Jordan Simo. Mayor Reed took a moment to welcome the Youth City Councilors to the meeting.

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

PROCLAMATIONS

Council issued two proclamations, one in support of

[Municipal Clerk's Week](#) and one in support of [Mental Health Month](#).

CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Speaking during the time for public comment was Marisa Borchardt, a dentist at River Valley Health Center. Borchardt expressed concern about the city's decision 10 years ago to eliminate the fluoridation of city water, calling it, "A decision that has drastically affected the oral health of this community...access to care can be a true challenge in the dental field due to socioeconomic status...as a town we can choose to help those in this community, and the way to do that is by reintroducing a water fluoridation program. By adjusting our community water to contain .7 parts per million of fluoride,

Continued pg 27

RED HAWKS TUNE UP FOR PLAYOFFS WITH TWO HOME WINS

By Cliff Dodge

MONTROSE-The Montrose Red Hawks baseball team closed out their regular season with a pair of wins at their home diamond as playoff season approaches. The Red Hawks defeated the Palisade Bulldogs 7-6 on Tuesday and then took down the Delta Panthers 3-2 on Thursday. The Red Hawks season record ended up 13 wins and 9 losses overall, and 4-4 in league action.

Red Hawks 7, Palisade Bulldogs 6 (8 innings)

The Montrose Red Hawks and the Palisade Bulldogs had to go extra innings to settle their game on Tuesday in what turned out to be a glove tight affair. The Bulldogs pushed across a pair of runs in the top of the second inning to take the lead. The Red Hawks put together three singles, a base on balls and a ringing double to plate 3 runs and take the lead after two innings.



Cooper Ross (#10) prepares to step into the batter's box vs the Palisade Bulldogs. Photo by Cliff Dodge.

Continued pg 2

RED HAWKS TUNE UP FOR PLAYOFFS WITH TWO HOME WINS From pg 1

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Palisade scored two runs in the top of the 4th inning and the Red Hawks tied the game in their half of the 5th inning. Both teams scored a run in the 7th inning, knotting the score at 5-5 heading into extra innings. The Bulldogs took the lead in the top of the 8th inning. The game took a strange twist as the Bulldogs pitcher hit the first three batters to face him in the bottom of the 8th inning to load the bases with no one out. Senior Cooper Ross stepped into the batter's box and bashed a towering double off the left-center field wall to drive in the tying and the winning runs and secure the victory for the Red Hawks.

Red Hawks 3, Delta Panthers 2

The final game of the regular season for the Red Hawks was played on Thursday afternoon as the Delta Panthers provided the opposition. This was another stem-winder of a game with the Panthers taking a 2-0 lead into the bottom of the 7th inning. Senior Gage Wareham led the charge for the Red Hawks with a sharp single. Senior Jaxon Kattner worked a walk to put two base runners on. Senior Titus Weese then stroked a single to load the bases. Junior Brekin Hutto then executed a suicide squeeze bunt to score Gage Wareham. This brought junior Jack Pankey to the plate who ripped a long double scoring the tying and the winning run to ice the win for the Red Hawks.

According to head baseball coach Landon Wareham, the Red Hawks will learn their playoff fate on Wednesday when the Colorado High School Activities Association announces the final season ranking and the matchups for the first round of the playoffs.

Stay tuned.

THE MONTROSE MIRROR

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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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS TOUR OF GRANDVIEW CEMETERY MAY 18

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The Montrose County Historical Museum will be hosting a one time Grandview Historical Cemetery Tour on May 18, starting at 4 pm. Please meet at the Grandview Cemetery on Sunset Mesa to learn about some of the Pioneers and their stories, plus the history of Cemeteries. Please call 970- 249-2085 or email info@montroshistory.org for RSVP, and the cost is \$10 per person. Therefore, call early space is limited.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT

Editor:

The Montrose County Republican Executive Committee has been informed of various rumors and accusations as to the honesty, integrity and supposed misuse of funds belonging to the Montrose County Republican Committee by the officers of the Executive Committee and the treasurer.

A main goal of the Committee is to assist in the election of Republican candidates for office starting with the office of President of the United States all the way down to the election of local officials.

The party procedure is to present information on the party's website and thru

local media for any candidate who provides their information regarding forums, debates and meet and greets to the appropriate contact in the party so that it may be included in a timely manner on any platform that the committee utilizes. These options are not limited to any specific individual or candidate, only that they are running as Republicans.

To be specific, Meet and Greets are sponsored by private individuals. The private individuals determine the time and location and issue invitations to the candidates of their choosing. The cost of such events is strictly the responsibility of the private individuals and is in no way con-

nected to the Montrose County Republican Party or the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee as a whole and as individuals has no intention of participating in any mud-slinging contest with Mr. Ray Langston or any other individual. We all have more productive things to do with our time and energy. But we do feel the need to stand up and say to the public to "consider the source." We stand behind our actions. We have made a very diligent effort during this election season to act appropriately and within the rules. We welcome questions and conversation.

Deb Lillard, Treasurer

Montrose County Republican Committee



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for DMEA Board

This DMEA Board Qualification Summary lists some of my qualifications for the DMEA District 2 Board position. By listing past accomplishments it will hopefully, give you insight into why I am the most qualified candidate for the DMEA Board Member position in District 2 and would serve you well. My goals are to provide a **low-cost, very reliable power supply, and a low-cost very reliable internet**. Here are a few of my **qualifications**:

- Montrose County Manager**—CEO of Montrose County for **seven years**
- Responsible for Design and Construction of Montrose County Event Center, Montrose County Public Works Campus, Montrose County Justice Center Annex—Cost \$24 Million.
- Vice President, DMEA Board**
- Acting President, Colorado-Ute Electric Association** (Former power supplier to DMEA and 13 other similar Colorado electric distribution coops.) Montrose.
- Project Engineer**—Design and Construction of Craig and Hayden electrical generating stations—cost \$1 Billion
- Vice President, Western Resources Independent Power Company, Rifle, Colorado
- DMEA Director**, Four consecutive three-year terms, for a total of 12 years
- Director on 17 other Boards of Directors
- Director, Montrose Emergency Telephone Service Authority (METSA)
- Public Service Company of Colorado—Engineer--Denver
- Alternate member, Inland Power Pool
- Engineering Manager, Russell Stove Candies**, Montrose
- Licensed Colorado Professional Engineer 13521**
- MBA degree from the University of Colorado** (Masters of Business Administration)
- BS degree in Mechanical Engineering from Colorado State University
- Paonia High School graduate, President of Junior Class and Senior Class
- Chairman, Engineering and Operating Committee, Craig Electrical Generating Station
- Chairman, Engineering and Operating Committee, Hayden Electrical Generating Station
- Task force member, Electric Power Research Institute—Renewable Resources—Palo Alto, Ca.
- Advisor, Solar One Generating Project**—Barstow, California
- Advisor, Southwest Solar Re-powering Project**, El Paso, Texas
- Advisor, Raft River Geothermal Project**, Raft River, Idaho
- Finalist for the top job at NREL (National Renewable Energy Labs) Golden, Co.
- Third generation North Fork Native**
- Director, MEDC (Montrose Economic Development Corporation)
- Director, WEEDC (West End Economic Development Corporation)

Please give me your vote in the upcoming DMEA Election! Ballots will be mailed on May 3rd. I would very much appreciate your vote!

Ken Norris, Montrose, Colorado, Native of Paonia, Colorado

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CONSTRUCTION PROJECT TO START MAY 14 AT SWEITZER LAKE STATE PARK



Above, CPW courtesy photo.

Special to the Mirror

DELTA – The day use area on the south side of Sweetzer Lake State Park will be under construction beginning May 14. The project is scheduled to last roughly 90 days.

The area will be closed to the public during construction. Plans are in place to upgrade shelters, build new bathrooms and to improve landscaping.

“We are bringing this area of the park up to modern standards,” said Park Manager Scott Rist. “Once completed, this will be a big upgrade our visitors will really enjoy.”

The main recreational area of the park will be open during construction, and the boat ramp is open for the season.

Sweetzer Lake State Park features a 137-surface acre reservoir for day-use recreation, and the park is an excellent location for bird observation.

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REGION 10'S AAA GIVES INFORMATIVE PROGRAM UPDATE



Program presenters for a monthly potluck lunch at Christ's Church of the Valley were (L to R) Eva Veitch, Area Agency on Aging Director, and Claudette Nicholas, Senior Companion Program Manager. Photo by Gail Marvel.

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE—On May 10, the Christ's Church of the Valley Lunch Bunch met for their monthly potluck. Program presenters for the gathering were the Region 10 League for Economic Assistance & Planning's Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Director Eva Veitch and Senior Companion Program Manager Claudette Nicholas.

Background:

In 1965, as part of President Johnson's "Great Society" initiative, the Older Americans Act was passed. The goal of the initiative was to support older Americans to live in their homes and communities for as long as possible.

In 1973, the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) was established and became the boots-on-the-ground to help vulnerable and aging adults.

With one of more than 600 AAA's across the nation, Region 10 is responsible for services to six counties — Montrose, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Ouray, Delta, and San Miguel.

Veitch said, "That's six counties and 10,000 square miles. We are here to protect older Americans and help them maintain living in their homes for as long as they can. We offer services and support to help them age as well as they can."

Funding for the AAA comes from State and Federal sources. Veitch said, "People here [Montrose] look different from people in Nucla and Marble and different ser-



The Region 10 is a partner with CASA's Tiny House Village project located on the San Juan bypass. The houses are built for youth between the ages of 18-25 who are transitioning from foster care, as well as 15 homes for those 62 and older who are homeless, about to be homeless, or struggling with mental issues. The project is scheduled to open in August. Photo by Gail Marvel.

vices are needed. Here we have 23 percent of the population over the age of 65. In Delta it's 26 percent of the population over the age of 65. All of our funding has to be spent on that group."

Veitch, who has worked with the AAA for 11 years, said, "I thought about retirement, but there are some projects I want to see through. Have you noticed the Tiny House Village [located] on the San Juan Bypass? It's houses that are built for youth between the ages of 18-25 who are transitioning from foster care, as well as 15 homes for those 62 and older who are homeless, about to be homeless, or struggling with mental issues. It should open in August. I want to see how the youth and the elderly interact with each other."

Referring to changing demographics she said, "Today a lot of grandparents are raising grandchildren. They were living on Social Security and suddenly they have one to four grandkids living with them. People 55 and older can qualify [for services] if they are helping with grandkids;

all other programs are for people 65 and older."

Some services offered are Life Alert, in-home respite care, meals, online programs, and support groups. Veitch said, "We have a lot of people in the role of caregiver, and we offer them support."

Transportation can be a huge obstacle for seniors. Veitch said, "All Points Transit has a white bus [Dial-a-Ride] and a blue bus [public transportation]. Older adults can ride the blue bus at no cost to them. We appreciate donations, but we don't charge for any service we provide. We encourage seniors to ride the blue buses."

On June 7, 2024, a Senior Transportation Fair is planned from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Veitch said, "If you live close to a bus stop, All Points will take you on a route that ends up at Target. We will have food, music, and door prizes."

Currently Montrose does not have a senior meal site; however, there are some meal programs available. In the area of

Continued next pg

REGION 10'S AAA GIVES INFORMATIVE PROGRAM UPDATE *From previous pg*

of home maintenance, handyman helpers work on small projects such as putting up grab bars and changing light bulbs. Veitch said, "Legal assistance is available, but not assistance of the criminal nature; rather something like landlord/tenant disputes. Legal assistance may be able to help you with medical debt and credit card debt."

Audience question: Does a bus go to Grand Junction?

Answer: Not on a regular basis, but about once a month. We now have transportation to the [Montrose] airport, the blue bus. It was a huge missing link.

Audience Question: What about cats and basements? If volunteers are allergic to cats, or they have to go down basement stairs?

Answer: We try to match people up. Caregivers are able bodied and can go up and down stairs if they need to help with your laundry.

Audience question: Do you build ramps?

Answer: We have some portable ramps. Ramps can be long. It takes one foot of ramp for every inch of step.

Audience question: Is a person's income figured in? Do they have to provide financial documents?

Answer: We are not allowed to means test, but we do need to know if the person is at or above the poverty level. We

serve lower income and there is now a waiting list.

New clients start with a complete assessment in their home, which is called "Get Set Up". Veitch said, "We take those with the greatest need; those who are at or below poverty level. Most of the people we help are trying to survive on \$900 to \$1,200 a month. The poverty level in Montrose is \$1,250 a month or less."

AAA has a health assessment program, and helps seniors navigate Medicare billing.

Veitch said, "We do see some [Medicaid] fraud, but not a lot. October 15th through December 7th is open enrollment for Medicare. I strongly encourage everyone to check your Part D benefit. Prescription formularies change every year." AAA also offers ombudsmen for people in long-term care. She said, "Our ombudsman goes into nursing facilities to advocate for clients."

The Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) is an integral part of Region 10. Veitch said, "Our biggest volunteer groups are for Shepherd's Hand, Sharing Ministries, and Hospice. We have lots of opportunities for people to volunteer. There is a mileage reimbursement for those who drive for the elderly, as well as supplemental auto insurance. We offer a num-

ber of benefits [to volunteers]. Some folks are housebound and can't get out and volunteers call [on the phone] every four to six weeks just to check in with caregivers."

The Senior Companion Program, spearheaded by Manager Claudette Nicholas, is for volunteers 55 and older. These volunteers go into homes and give respite care for caregivers, offer transportation to doctor appointments, and even attend appointments where a second pair of ears is needed. Studies show there is a physical and emotional cost to isolation, i.e. blood pressure, depression.

Nicholas said, "It fills in the gaps when we have more volunteers. It's amazing how many people volunteer in five or six places. This is their life, and they are selfless in their life. This is the key to creating community — volunteering and good will. We are building toward a better volunteer program."

Beyond helping aging adults, Region 10 offers a variety of services such as small business support, small business loans, and networking with other agencies.

Senior citizens in need are encouraged to call AAA and see what help is available. Community organizations who would like to schedule a presentation can contact Veitch directly at 970-765-3127.

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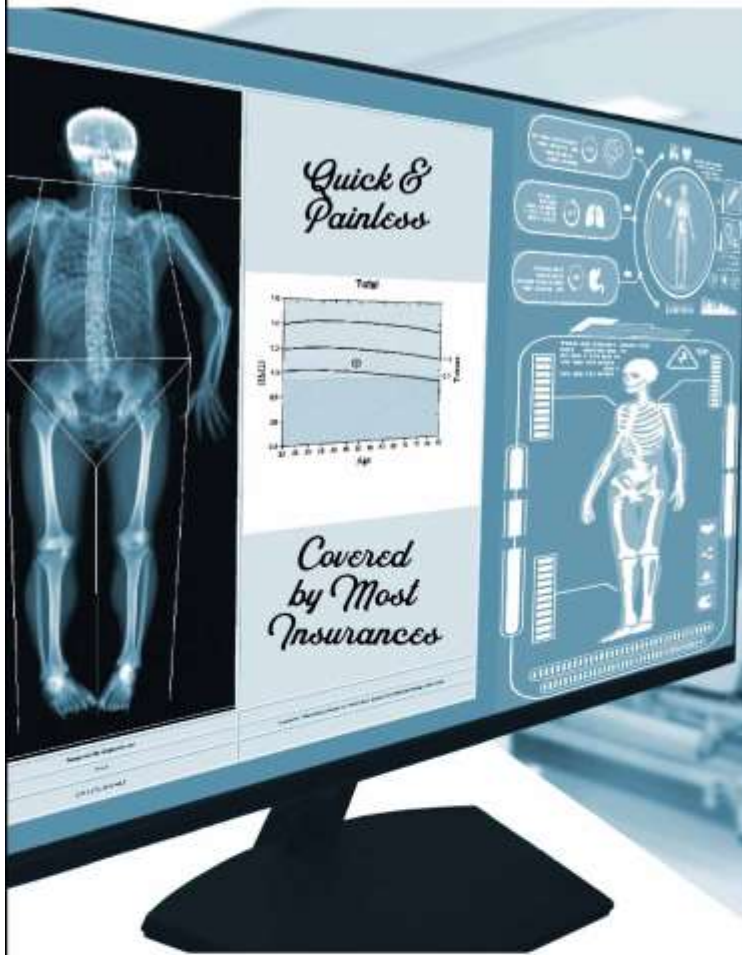
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DELTA POLICE DEPARTMENT INVESTIGATING JUVENILE INVOLVED SHOOTING

Special to the Mirror

DELTA — On Friday, May 3rd, at approximately 6:07pm, officers with the Delta Police Department were dispatched to an area within the City of Delta, located on US Highway 50, on reports of a gunshot victim. Upon arrival, one juvenile victim was found with a gunshot wound to the head, and transported to Delta Health Hospital.

Parties involved in this incident are juveniles, or young adults. This investigation remains open, and ongoing. There is no further information available at this time.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE REGIONAL AIRPORT ANNOUNCES CONSTRUCTION OF TEMPORARY TRAFFIC SIGNAL

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE—Montrose Regional Airport is pleased to announce the start of construction for a temporary traffic signal at the intersection of US 50 and Airport Access Road. Morton Construction Inc. has been awarded the contract to complete the project, which is expected to be finished by June 24th, 2024. Drivers can expect intermittent lane closures as crews work on painting and electrical components. Please reduce speeds and use caution when traveling through the construction zone.

There will be no changes to the entrance or exit of the airport during construction.

The temporary traffic signal is planned to operate for three years or until a permanent solution is implemented. This initiative is designed to improve traffic flow and safety for motorists traveling to and from the airport.

"We're excited to begin this project and address the concerns raised by the public regarding exiting the airport onto Highway 50," said Montrose Regional Airport Director of Aviation, Lloyd Arnold. "This temporary signal will significantly improve the flow of traffic, particularly for those turning south onto the highway."

Montrose Regional Airport thanks the community for their patience and cooperation as this project progresses. [Learn more about Montrose Regional Airport and airport improvements.](#) *At right, courtesy photo.*



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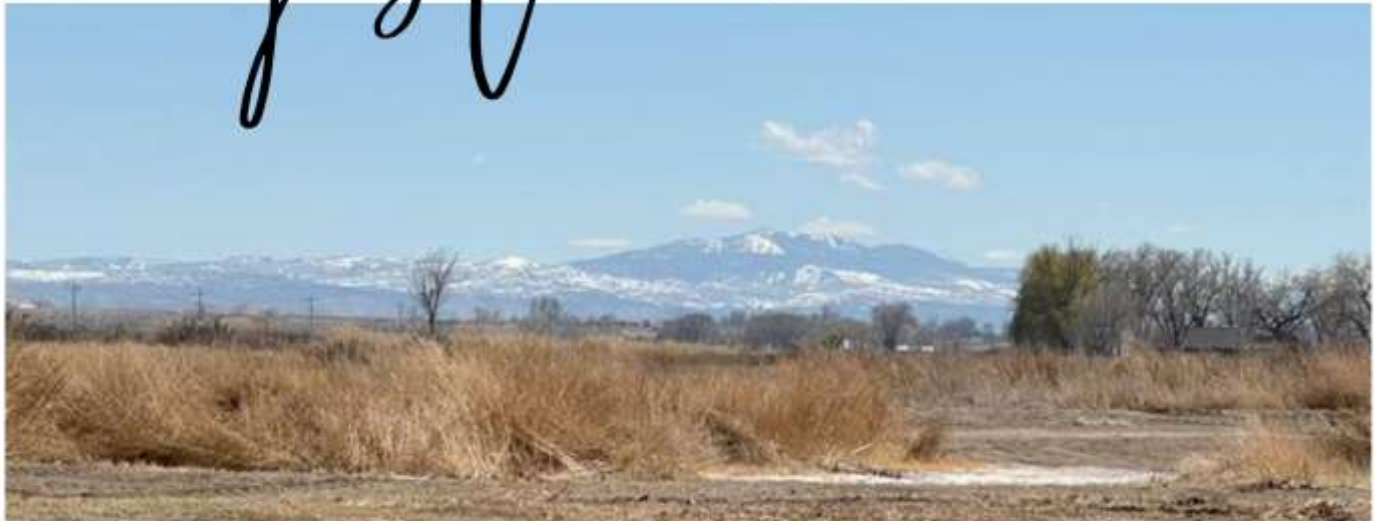
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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

CSFS AWARDS FUNDS TO INCREASE OUTREACH ABOUT WILDFIRE RISK

Special to the Mirror

FORT COLLINS – Just under half of all Coloradans live in the wildland-urban interface and are at risk from wildfires. To increase outreach to Coloradans about wildfire risk, the Colorado State Forest Service awarded \$300,000 to organizations that serve 24 counties through a new grant program.

The Colorado Legislature created the Wildfire Mitigation Outreach grant program in 2022 to support outreach among residents in high wildfire hazard areas. The CSFS administers the grant program, awarding funds to 12 projects during the 2024 grant cycle. Recipients of the grant funds include cities, counties, nonprofits and a fire protection district, all of which educate residents about how to live wildfire ready.

Organizations awarded grant funding serve these counties: Archuleta, Boulder, Clear Creek, Costilla, Custer, Delta, Dolores, Douglas, Eagle, Fremont, Jefferson, Garfield, Grand, Gunnison, Huerfano, La Plata, Larimer, Las Animas, Montezuma, Park, Pitkin, Pueblo, San Juan and Teller. Learn more about the [applicants and funded projects](#).



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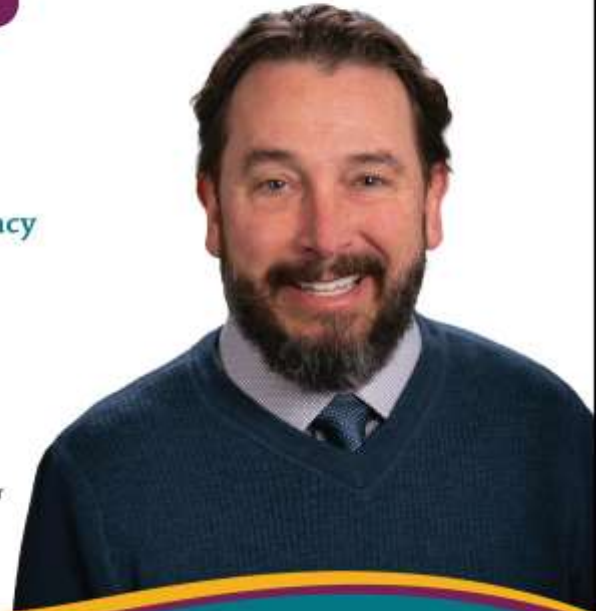
University of New Mexico
School of Medicine
Albuquerque, NM

Fellowship

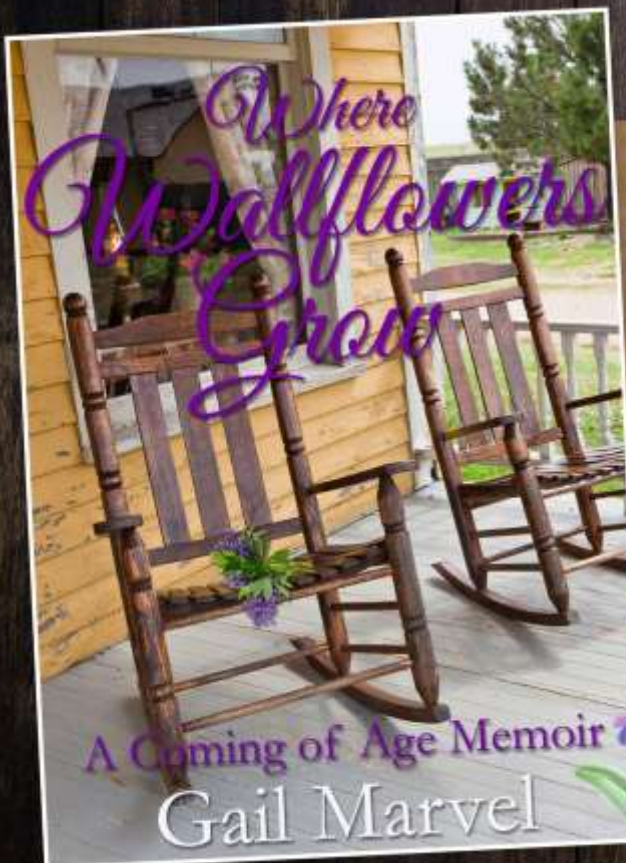
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GAIL MARVEL

Montrose Author & Reporter

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

KARAOKE AT THE MAGIC CIRCLE THEATRE

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Karaoke at the Theatre, what's that? Come check it out, May 19 and June 8, 7 PM at Magic Circle Theatre, 420 S 12th St, Montrose, behind Safeway. If you have family in town for graduation festivities, bring them all to celebrate in song! Only \$5 cover charge! Snacks and alcoholic/nonalcoholic beverages are for sale in the lobby. Hope to see you there!

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DR. JOSHUA BAGLEY AND MONTROSE REGIONAL HEALTH SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE FIRST TOTAL ANKLE REPLACEMENT SURGERY IN MONTROSE

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— Orthopaedic Surgeon Dr. Joshua Bagley and the Surgical Services team at Montrose Regional Health recently completed the first total ankle replacement surgery in Montrose.

"I'm very excited at the opportunity to provide Total Ankle Replacements to residents of the Western Slope. I am hopeful that this will help patients suffering from debilitating ankle pain return to what they

love doing," said Dr. Joshua Bagley, orthopaedic surgeon at Western Slope Orthopaedics. "Being able to perform this procedure in a small town like Montrose is a great honor, and I hope that this will be the first of many."

"Montrose Regional Health is proud to facilitate the first Total Ankle Replacement in Montrose history," said Jeff Mengenhausen, CEO of Montrose Regional Health. "This is yet another confirmation that

Montrose is home to some of the most advanced care in the region."

Total ankle surgery, also known as total ankle arthroplasty, involves the replacement of the existing joint with prosthetic parts specifically designed for the patient. This differs from ankle fusion (ankle arthrodesis), which involves fusing the bones that make up the ankle joint in order to alleviate the pain from the movement of the arthritic joint. Total ankle procedures offer an alternative surgery for some patients, as the prosthetic parts allow for greater range of motion and more natural movement. This provides similar pain relief while maintaining ankle motion, ultimately allowing patients to maintain active, healthy lifestyles.

Dr. Bagley uses the Stryker Prophecy® Surgical Planning System to prepare for total ankle



*Orthopaedic Surgeon Dr. Joshua Bagley .
Courtesy photo.*

replacements.

This system employs x-ray and computed tomography (CT) technology to take a comprehensive three-dimensional visualization of the area before the operation, indicating where to make bony resections and which implant is right for the patient. These images guide the surgeon in pre-operations, leading to less time in the operating room, quicker recovery time, and a well-balanced, functional ankle replacement.

Montrose Regional Health has a reputation for offering advanced care often associated with large cities.

In April, the hospital announced it had completed the first Inspire Therapy procedure in Montrose for patients with obstructive sleep apnea.

To learn more about total ankle replacements and if this procedure might be right for you and your lifestyle, contact Western Slope Orthopaedics at (970) 249-6641.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

SAN MIGUEL COUNTY WEBSITE HAS A FRESH LOOK, UPDATED FEATURES

Special to the Mirror

SAN MIGUEL COUNTY --- San Miguel County's website has a new look and updated features as of 10 a.m. Friday, May 3. County officials have been working with the website platform, CivicPlus, since last summer with the goal of giving the site a fresh look, better navigation and functionality, and bringing it into improved accessibility compliance.

"This has been an exciting process," said Communications Coordinator, Suzanne Cheavens.

"Various county departments such as accessibility, communications, Sheriff's and GIS-Mapping worked hand-in-hand with CivicPlus on elements of design and functionality. First and foremost, we wanted to make navigating the website easier

for county residents and visitors."

In addition to style and design changes, the refreshed website features added quick link buttons, a new, separate page for the Sheriff's office, and technical upgrades that bring the site into mandated accessibility standards. Numerous photos by Ryan Bonneau, provided by Telluride Tourism Board, further enhance the site's visual appeal.


"CivicPlus is built on designing innovative solutions for local governments," said Jennifer Elliott, CivicPlus Director of Product Marketing. "We continually invest in our products to strengthen and transform the way local governments work and communicate with their residents and are proud to partner with San Miguel County to help them accomplish their goals."

Looking forward, Cheavens says that the county's refreshed CivicPlus website will be a tool that will continue to grow and evolve to meet the needs of the community.

"One of the goals of the Board of County Commissioners is to increase community engagement. This project helps achieve that objective," Cheavens said. "Our website is a nexus for county news, information and helpful resources. We aim to ensure it continues to be dynamic and the go-to source for county residents. And, we welcome your input, always."

Visit sanmiguelcountyco.gov and explore the new features.

While you're there, sign up for meeting notifications, emergency updates, bid postings and job opportunities, and more.



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Tuesday, June 4

6:00-7:00 PM


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No RSVP required. Light snacks and refreshments provided.

For more information, call (970) 497-5979

Dr. Michael McCann

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

‘YOU ARE THE COMPANY YOU KEEP’

Editor,

“You are the company you keep.” I do not keep company with individuals who do not share my values. My friends are all hard-working, law-abiding citizens who treat others with respect. With the County Commissioner races quickly approaching, I would like to ask **“Why has candidate Rick Dunlap as so closely aligned his campaign with Ray Langston?”** For those who do not know, Mr. Langston has twice been removed from Montrose County Republicans for violating both the party by-laws and the code of conduct. Mr. Langston is a well-known bully amongst those of us who have previ-

ously worked with him on party business. Langston has repeatedly published false and slanderous statements about the Montrose Republican Party and Scott Riba in the Daily Press and the Montrose Mirror, as an attempt to influence and mislead voters. On two occasions Langston disrupted meetings for candidates he does not support. When given an opportunity to disassociate himself and condemn Langston’s behavior and false statements, Rick Dunlap is silent. While there is no love lost between myself and Mr. Langston, an overwhelming number of active party members agree that we are tired of his harass-

ment and abusive behavior. At a time when our future county government is likely to be more important than ever before, I would urge voters to consider the ramifications of choosing candidate Dunlap who so closely aligns himself with a trouble-maker like Langston. We need a commissioner that is an independent thinker whose leadership will represent and work for the citizens of Montrose County. I would like to urge all voters to support Scott Riba in the coming June primary. I can personally attest to Scott’s honesty, leadership, and fair-mindedness. **Vote for Scott Riba!**

Lois Hogan, Montrose County



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

“NON-PARTISAN” ELECTIONS – THE FOUNDATION TO CULTURAL CHANGE

DMEA, City Council, Rec District, School District and other Boards moving Montrose City & County from Red to Blue to???

By David White

In the **July 23, 2018** issue of The Montrose Mirror, Connie Pittenger, the then Montrose County Democratic Party Chairperson, stated the following when asked why they don't have any local Democrats holding higher profile elected offices found in Montrose County such as County Commissioner, Sheriff, Clerk & Recorder, etc.:

As far as local leadership, “We are very involved,” Pittenger said. “We have progressives on the board of Delta-Montrose Electric Association, the Rec District, on City Council, and on a lot of other boards around town that are critical—and they are being successful.

“We have to take our successes where we can find them,” Pittenger said. “We are working in places where we can succeed.”

While many local citizens as well as those around the State of Colorado see the Montrose area as a bastion of conservatism floating in a sea of Republican red, the reality is something quite different and credit must be given to the Montrose County and State Democratic Parties for their concerted effort to, at a minimum, backdoor the local and State GOP to effect cultural change at the grassroots level in order to bring about their desired “progressive” change at an institutional level (examples include the previously cited City of Montrose City Council, DMEA, Library Board, School Board, Recreation District, Fire District and most others). While the Republican/GOP (**Grand OLD Party**) muddles along and is plagued with infighting, the Montrose County Democratic party boasts, accurately, the following on their website's “Gold Member” page (<https://montrosedemocrats.org/gold>):

We're working hard to build the most successful local Democratic Party in Montrose County history. 2020 and 2022 were amazing years for us, and Montrose County may be turning purple, but it's not quite blue yet. We have gone from Democrats at the top of the ballot getting 26%

of the vote in 2016, to 37% in 2022. **Now, more than ever, we need your engagement and support to permanently change the political landscape and turn our beloved Western Slope “blue” in 2024 and beyond.**

The latest example of turning Montrose County “blue” can be found in this year's electioneering for the Delta-Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) Board of Director's open seats. As most reading this article know, DMEA is our local, member owned, electric utility & internet service provider. Seats for DMEA Districts 1, 2 & 5 are currently in play with only the District 5 seat uncontested.

Looking back on Ms. Pittenger's statement from 2018, this article is focused on those aligned with the “progressive” elements in our community and outside of it as well as the ties to local Democratic Party leadership. Progressive candidates have been identified as follows: District 1 – Ryan Sedgeley; District 2 – Steve Metheny & District 5 – Kevin Williams.

In support of the above statement, one can usually find that those with whom the candidates align (ideologically speaking) often times come out in support of those candidates without much public fanfare. One such group supporting the three candidates mentioned above is the Western Colorado Alliance (WCA). Formerly known as the Western Colorado Congress (<https://westerncoloradoalliance.org/dmea-election-2024/>). They are a community organizing group involved in many aspects of Western Colorado grassroots politics. According to their website:

“Community organizing brings people together – first to see that they're not alone, and then to learn how to effectively join with others to make change happen. Our organizers provide our members with leadership and skills training, then support them as they identify issue campaigns with clear goals, plan strategies and deliver on those plans. In this way, we seek to make positive change, strengthen democracy and develop lead-

ers who will become the decision-makers of the future.” Western Colorado Alliance's work includes Grassroots Democracy, Just Transition, Public Lands, Food and Ag, Oil and Gas and Renewable Energy.

Western Colorado Alliance is working with a team of passionate residents across the region to get our neighbors engaged in co-op elections – and in working with elected co-op directors to build community dialogues about our future. In recent years, we have seen a host of new, utility-scale clean and renewable energy projects pop up on the Western Slope and this is no accident; our work to elect board members with a vision towards a clean and renewable energy future have made this possible but our work is not done yet. (<https://westerncoloradoalliance.org/campaigns/clean-energy/>)

In general, this organization is very well aligned with the Democratic Party and, at the end of the day, is willing to eliminate fossil fuels and the fossil fuels industry from our landscape. It's all about renewable energy and the ultimate shutdown of the oil and gas industry as well as the nuclear power industry through multiple layers of regulations. By reading through their website, you will gain a better understanding of where these candidates would like to see our local utility go as they most certainly have similar beliefs, or they wouldn't have received the endorsement of the WCA.

District 5 candidate Williams (running uncontested) retired from the Western Organization of Resource Councils (WORC) in 2019 after serving as the Regional Organizer for them among other positions within the organization. WCA was a member of the WORC and Mr. Williams was, for a time, the Executive Director of the WCA.

To give you an idea of the philosophy behind the WORC organization, read the following article as it relates to rural electric cooperatives and the necessity for

Continued next pg

“NON-PARTISAN” ELECTIONS – THE FOUNDATION TO CULTURAL CHANGE From previous pg

them to switch to “renewables” to fight climate change. (<https://www.worc.org/rural-electric-co-ops-are-critical-to-fighting-climate-change-heres-why/>) Interestingly enough, according to records filed with the IRS, unopposed District 5 candidate Kevin Williams’ wife, Brenda, was listed as the Secretary to the WCA in the year 2021. Local Democrat Party Chair Kevin Kuns was, until recently, listed as the Vice Chair of the WCA. Mr. & Mrs. Williams are both members of the WCA and presumably supportive of the goals of this organization.

Moving on, in support of the above statements, I offer you some background on Ryan Sedgeley, a candidate for DMEA District 1 seat. A recent newcomer to Montrose who was born in Denver, Mr. Sedgeley moved here in 2023 with his wife Nicole from Wyoming where he worked for the Wyoming Outdoor Council. He was also a candidate for the Wyoming House of Representatives District 23 seat in 2022 which is one of Wyoming’s most “progressive” House districts and includes both the southern half of Yellowstone National Park and the Grand Tetons National Park. Furthermore, Mr. Sedgeley, an attorney with a J.D. and M.A. in Environment & Natural Resources from the University of Wyoming, is listed as a staff member for the Endangered Species Coalition ([Staff - Endangered Species Coalition](#)) His bio there states that ***“Ryan has also worked on federal judicial nominations, union organizing within Yellowstone for government employees, a responsible mining campaign, the Equal Rights Amendment, and has experience working on election campaigns.”***

Following are some interesting public comments from Mr. Sedgeley who apparently has some goals that he’d like to bring to the DMEA board:

“Sedgeley, a Teton County Democratic Party committeeman, wants all coal production in Wyoming and plans to develop the nuclear plant in Kemmerer immediately stopped.” “We need to think big,” he said. “In Wyoming, we are in an unmatched position where we would be climate change heroes, heroes for ending carbon emissions.” ([https://cowboystatedaily.com/2022/07/27/candidate-profile-teton-county-house-](https://cowboystatedaily.com/2022/07/27/candidate-profile-teton-county-house-district-23-one-of-wyomings-few-blue-districts/)

[district-23-one-of-wyomings-few-blue-districts/](https://cowboystatedaily.com/2022/07/27/candidate-profile-teton-county-house-district-23-one-of-wyomings-few-blue-districts/))

From the strategic plan of Mr. Sedgeley’s previous employer (Wyoming Outdoor Council) we find the following statement: ***“Advocate for transition from fossil fuel-based energy. Advance strong statewide energy efficiency and Wyoming-specific renewable energy policies as part of broader climate change and greenhouse gas reduction work. Support initiatives that offer socioeconomic support to Wyoming communities affected by the transition from fossil fuel-based energy.”*** (2022 [StrategicPlan-FINAL.pdf](#) (wyomingoutdoorcouncil.org))

Mr. Sedgeley, an apparent proponent of most environmental causes to include the reintroduction of the gray wolf into Wyoming and Colorado (which has not made the ranching community very happy), was behind the recent passage of Colorado Senate Bill 24-171 which will bring us the reintroduction of the carnivorous wolverine, an animal that will take down and eat an animal as large as a deer (or for our ranching friends, sheep, goats, calves and other similarly sized animals). The bill was signed into law by Governor Polis on May 10, 2024. ([SB24-171: Restoration of Wolverines | CCW](#) (coloradocapitolwatch.com))

As quoted in the Denver Gazette on May 3rd:

Ryan Sedgeley, the Colorado Representative for the Endangered Species Coalition praised the move, issuing the following message:

“With the passage of SB24-171, we celebrate another historic victory for wildlife conservation in Colorado and another step towards healing our relationship with the lands that we inhabit. This step complements Canada lynx reintroduction in the 1990s and the more recent gray wolf reintroduction in December 2023, and it puts Colorado at the cutting edge of wildlife restoration.” ([Effort to reintroduce wolverine to Colorado passes key milestone | outtherecolorado.com](#) (denvergazette.com))

Finally, on the DMEA website’s candidate page, Mr. Sedgeley states the follow as a reason for running for the DMEA District 1 seat:

I would like to see DMEA reach 100%

renewable energy as quickly as possible. Every day that DMEA purchases power being made from the burning of fossil fuels we rob our children and grandchildren of their future. We also subject them to the immediate hazards of fossil fuel pollution including toxic exhaust gases, particulate matter, fly ash, and the destruction and abuse of our public lands and resources. These things result in kids with asthma, early death, and a host of cancers and other diseases. Our kids and grandkids deserve better. (<https://www.dmea.com/board-candidates>)

Last up for discussion is WCA endorsed candidate Steve Metheny. Mr. Metheny is, by all accounts, a solid candidate and a longtime former DMEA employee. While very experienced and a strong member of our community, Mr. Metheny’s endorsement by the WCA does raise eyebrows. His sister, longtime community activist, school board member, City of Montrose Public Safety Sales & Rec District sales tax proponent, Planning Commission member and Democratic Party Gold Club Member Phoebe Benziger, has no doubt played a role in forming some of his views. Of course, Mr. Metheny, as an engineer, has stated in his DMEA candidate biography that he is supportive of the renewable energy agenda and has personally utilized solar and ground sourced heat pumps for his own residence. Knowing how the technology works is certainly a benefit to any DMEA board position, however the cost of “going green” isn’t to be discounted. DMEA’s contract with their power broker Guzman Energy will expire before you know it and then what? If things go south with Guzman, we could see huge increases in electric rates as the true cost of the “green agenda” take hold. Vote carefully. Cultural change begins at the grassroots level as evidenced by just this one organization that has an elected board. As a politically conservative member of the Montrose community, I must say that it is beyond time for those of us on the conservative side of the aisle to stand up and say that enough is enough. While there is certainly room enough for both sides of the political coin to live together harmoniously, keeping Montrose an affordable place to live is becoming less and less possible as the economic choices that are related

"NON-PARTISAN" ELECTIONS – THE FOUNDATION TO CULTURAL CHANGE *From previous pg*

to those holding public office come down to we the citizenry bearing the cost of those choices in the way of rising taxes on the purchases of every item bought locally to include our electric bills, property taxes, paying for questionable "urban renewal" projects and other "progressive" agenda items.

Wake up people and look around you. We are fast becoming a haven for the likes of Mr. Sedgeley and his ilk, and it won't end well if we don't stand up to them.

The R's vs. the D's question falls to the U's (Unaffiliated voters). In 2014 there were 4,120 registered Democrats. In 2024, there are 3,874. Republicans in 2014 numbered 10,679.

Today, there are 12,141 – only 1,462 more than 10 years ago.

Unaffiliated in 2014 were 7,458. Today, there are 14,137...a 52% increase. It's quite apparent where this is all taking us and the stated goal by the local Democratic Party, even though they're small in "registered" numbers, is all too evident as the color purple is looking pretty blue.

As the saying goes, elections have consequences. Inform yourselves and vote accordingly. Start with the DMEA ballots sitting on your kitchen table. If it's in the waste basket, pull it out and vote. Romero, Norris or Haywood are the only clear-thinking individuals without a

"green agenda" at the forefront of why they're running this year. They deserve your vote. Your vote will potentially bring some balance back to the DMEA board, otherwise, get your checkbook out for what's coming ain't gonna be pretty.

Mr. White is an active citizen & community leader 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 & 1 great grandchild.

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DENTIST URGES CITY TO RECONSIDER DECISION TO END WATER FLUORIDATION

From pg 1

water fluoridation program. By adjusting our community water to contain .7 parts per million of fluoride, we have the power to reduce tooth decay as high as 25 percent."

Since 2014, studies have continued to prove the efficacy of fluoridation, Borchartt said, and that water fluoridation is a cost-effective program. "By doing so, not only are we helping the oral health, but we're also having positive implications on people's medical health and their behavioral health as well...it helps all of our population regardless of your age, your income, or your access to dental care...I see higher rates of decay in the Montrose area compared to areas where I've worked where they do have water fluoridation programs. Not only that, but the decay is progressing at an incredibly fast rate, where we're having to extract more teeth than I ever would like to do...water fluoridation...is a fundamental public health intervention that can improve the quality of life for everyone in our community... as a dentist, I urge City Council to prioritize the health and well-being of its residents...let's give Montrose a brighter smile, and a healthy, cavity-free future as well."

CONSENT AGENDA

Council voted unanimously to approve Consent Agenda items.

NEW HOTEL AND RESTAURANT LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATION

Also approved was a new hotel and liquor license application on behalf of Urban Hip E, LLC, located at 1541 Oxbow Drive, 1000a.

BLOWERS ADDITION ANNEXATION

Council voted to approve the Blowers Addition Annexation, including Resolution 2024-07, Findings of Fact for the Blowers Addition annexation; Ordinance 2663 on first reading for the annexation of the Blowers Addition; and Ordinance 2664 on first reading for the zoning of the Blowers Addition as an R-L, Rural Living District.

ORDINANCE 2661 - SECOND READING

As previously discussed in work session and upon first reading, Council voted unanimously to approve Ordinance 2661 on second reading, granting and authoriz-

ing the conveyance of an interest in City-owned real estate pursuant to § 1-9-2 of the official Code of the City of Montrose (West South First Street Right of Way).

WOODGATE-EAST OAK GROVE ROUNDABOUT RIGHT OF WAY CLEANUP MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

Council voted unanimously to approve an agreement with RDMJK Woodgate Investments to facilitate cleanup of rights of way and easements along the southern side of the proposed roundabout at Woodgate and East Oak Grove Roads.

ORDINANCE 2662 - FIRST READING

Following a public hearing, Council voted to approve Ordinance 2662 on first reading, granting and authorizing the conveyance of an interest in City-owned real estate pursuant to Section 1-9-2 of the Official Code of the City of Montrose.

STAFF REPORTS

With no official staff reports, City Engineer Scott Murphy gave a brief update. Murphy said that the City's Facebook page and the Moving Montrose Forward website will post weekly updates on construction activities that will be taking place, on routine maintenance, and on the location of crews and where they will be going next.

"Definitely a moving target," Murphy.

Assistant City Manager Ann Morgenthaler said that while work on the façade for the new City Hall Building is taking place, City Hall is still open to the public.

City Clerk Lisa DelPiccolo said City staff would honor the traditional Montrose Day ordinance for cleaning up surroundings on May 8.

Councilor Ed Ulibarri thanked staff and the city for their participation in the Cinco de Mayo Celebration at Colorado Outdoors, "I think it turned out quite nicely."

Mayor Pro Tem Dave Frank thanked City Engineer Scott Murphy for presenting a water runoff forecast at the work session, "That is a lot of work...we have one of the best city engineers out there, unless you're trying to poach him; in that case we're going to have a different conversation."

Councilor Judy Ann Files said that the following week would be National Police Week, with a focus on Wednesday May

15. She thanked Montrose Police and all law enforcement agencies. "I can remember all of the ceremonies that we used to have in Centennial Plaza, with the riderless horse and the bagpipes...it was just amazing," Files said.

Council Ed Ulibarri asked if there was a place on the city web site dedicated to roundabout safety, as he had encountered several dangerous motorists recently in local roundabouts.

Murphy said that if people do not follow basic rules of the road they may not be going to the city web site to learn them. Still, the city has made efforts to get the information out to the public wherever possible, he said.

Mayor J. David Reed said that City Council will continue to work on the things that it is presently working on, including revisions to the land use code, street maintenance and improvement, childcare, and housing, but will also focus on citizens. He declared this to be the "Year of our Citizens." From time to time the city will recognize one or more citizens who make a difference with a certificate. "I think it's important that we recognize all of them," Reed said.

YOUTH CITY COUNCIL REPORT

Youth City Councilor Hunter Barton gave an update on recent Youth Council activities, including the legislative trip to Denver and the Youth Council Street Cleanup. "Right now...we're trying to plan our end of the year retreat, have one last get together before our term ends," Barton said. Mayor Reed thanked Youth Councilors for attending the meeting.

GENERAL COMMENTS

Councilor Doug Glaspell said that "fencing" around City Hall is going up during National Mental Health Month. "I was a little concerned at first."

Councilor Ulibarri asked for an extra handicapped spot to be added on Cascade Avenue while construction on the City Hall façade is going on. Morgenthaler said there will be two accessible spaces on Cascade, and parking stops will be in place.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

PAONIA STATE PARK NOW WAKELESS ON TUESDAYS; HAND-LAUNCHED VESSELS STILL ALLOWED



The boat ramp at Paonia State Park will be closed to motorized vessels on Tuesdays this summer. CPW Courtesy photo.

Special to the Mirror

PAONIA—The boat ramp at Paonia State Park will open for the season May 25, but Colorado Parks and Wildlife reminds the public that a “wakeless” day on Tuesdays has been enacted for 2024.

On Tuesdays, motorized boats will not be permitted on the reservoir. Hand-launched vessels will still be allowed to access the lake, however CPW staff will not be on site

to assist visitors at the boat ramp.

“There is excitement from paddlers,” said Park Manager Scott Rist. “They feel safer on the open water on that wakeless day, and we expect to see increased visitation on Tuesdays as a result of this action.”

Last winter, CPW conducted outreach and listened to public comment regarding the proposal to introduce a wakeless day. During the comment period, 94% of the public

was in support of going wakeless on Tuesdays.

Tuesdays were selected because data revealed that two or fewer motorized boats launched on 92% of Tuesdays from 2021-23.

Exceptions will be made to the wakeless rule when holidays such as the Fourth of July fall on a Tuesday, but that is not the case in 2024.

“When we reached out to get public input on the proposal for a wakeless Tuesday, the overwhelming feedback was positive and in support of closing the boat ramp to motorized craft for one weekday,” Rist said.

“We are excited to offer this to our surrounding communities and visitors but understand that it will take a bit of an adjustment until everyone is aware of the boat ramp closure on those Tuesdays.”

Rist said paddlers on Tuesdays should be aware of decreased staff at the boat ramp and that visitors recreating on the water should always remember to have a personal flotation device with them and be prepared to self rescue.

Located in the shadow of Colorado’s Ragged Mountains, the reservoir at Paonia State Park offers 334-surface acres for boating and paddling.

All boaters must follow current Colorado boating statutes and regulations. All motorboats, sailboats and personal watercraft must have a current year registration.



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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

REPS. CATLIN, TAGGART SCORE BIG FOR WEST SLOPE HIGHER ED

Special to the Mirror

DENVER— State Representatives Marc Catlin (R-HD58) and Rick Taggart (R-HD55) deliver big funding wins for two Western Slope Colleges.

Both Colorado Mesa University and Western Colorado University will receive increased funding for projects set in the state's budget. Colorado Mesa University will receive \$13.6 million for Performing Arts Center Expansion and Renovation. Western Colorado University will receive \$4 million for Crawford Hall Renovation. Governor Jared Polis has signed HB24-1430 which is the 2024-25 Long Appropriations Bill.

Catlin, who sits on the Capital Development Committee (CDC) was able to move

both CMU and WCU's projects up the recommended funding list. Taggart, who sits on the Joint Budget Committee (JBC), was able to keep these projects in the appropriations bills.

Representative Catlin says, "I am happy to see the funding for these two institutions signed. These universities have served as a good indicator for the vibrancy of the Western Slope. Our kids are our number one export. It is critical that we ensure our youth do not need to leave, but have a place to study and learn here on the Western Slope."

Representative Taggart says, "I am pleased we were able to secure the dollars to complete this very important asset for

the university, and the region as a whole."

Colorado State Representative Marc Catlin represents the eight counties of Dolores, Delta, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montezuma, Montrose, Ouray, and San Miguel. Representative Catlin is the Vice Chair of Agriculture, Water, & Natural Resources Committee, is a member of the Capital Development Committee, and is Ranking member of the Transportation, Housing & Local Government Committee.

Colorado State Representative Rick Taggart Represents the city limits of Grand Junction, in Mesa County. Representative Taggart sits on the Joint Budget Committee and is the Ranking member of the House Appropriations Committee.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

SCOTT MIJARES AND SCOTT RIBA FULLY SUPPORT THE SHERIFF DEPT

The PSST began accumulating in 2008 and to date has accrued well over \$55 million to the benefit of our Sheriff Department. It was, however not until Gene Lillard assumed Sheriff duties that concerns began to arise regarding accounting procedures relative to the PSST.

For 12 years as Sheriff, Rick Dunlap never realized that over the years the county was charging questionable items to his PSST fund. Those initial concerns by Sheriff Lillard led several taxpayers as well as myself to begin extensive research into the history of the tax, the original intention of the ballot issued, Sheriff Department budgets, and in particular the methods used by the County commissioners and Finance Department in allocating specific charges against the PSST fund. Any citizen willing to take the time and do the research can verify for themselves the information I will share below.

Members of the MC4FF committee that developed the proposal and former commissioners who handled the ballot issue have noted that the PSST was for the PSST to be a stand alone enhancement fund completely separate from the General fund for the Sheriff Department. Research of county audits shows that was not adhered to. With no ballot instructions to the contrary, in practice the County Commissioners and Finance Department has co-mingled the Sheriff Department General Fund with PSST funds making it impossible for citizens to track monies moved in or out of the PSST fund.

As it is with every county department, all but the Sheriff Department, any citizen can go to the county finance records and compare budget vs actual expenses. Making such a budget vs actual comparison of the Sheriff Department is impossible because of the co-mingling of accounts and the reporting method used for the audit. To me it is so convoluted that I doubt a forensic accountant could unravel what seems to be a financial Gordian Knot. So much for full transparency with dollars specifically allocated to our Sheriff! The PSST ballot clearly indicated that the Sheriff is to be the sole authorizing authority for all PSST expenditures for the

MCSO and not the County Commissioners or the Finance Department. It has been documented that the county has acted outside their responsibility by using the PSST fund as an offset to the General Fund thereby greatly reducing the PSST by 2025 and beyond.

As I dug deeper into PSST concerns over the last two years it became clearer to me that the county did not appreciate my efforts. That in itself seemed to indicate I was on the right track regarding irregularities in PSST administration. Then late last year my questions to the Finance Department brought a response from a county employee questioning my comprehension. Certainly an inappropriate comment from a county employee to a taxpayer! To be fair I got a belated apology, but that response convinced me the county had something to hide regarding the PSST. Then in January I filed a CORA request regarding Sheriff Department budgets vs actual expenses and got 28 documents I did not ask for and were totally useless to me.

Based on my research and experiences there is no further doubt in my mind that the county has been expending PSST funds as a General Fund offset. Commissioners have stated that the PSST fund is now the primary source of funding for the Sheriff Department in clear violation of what the Montrose County voted in when passing the PSST ballot for the Sheriff office.

The PSST question came to a head at a BOCC meeting last December the BOCC admitted publicly that the original ballot language was unclear and that the Sheriff was solely responsible for approving PSST expenditures. Former State Representative Ben Alexander suggested that the best resolution to alleviate concerns would be a special ballot question to simply clarify once and for all the types of expenditures that qualified as public safety expenditures so there would never be any doubt about accounting procedures. Subsequently Sheriff Lillard announced his intention to develop a committee to consider necessary ballot language to that effect. That process is well under way.

It is disappointing to me and unfortunate for taxpayers funding the PSST that our current commissioners have not shown either a recognition of the problem or any indication of a willingness to consider such a ballot issue.

Rather they seem to have supported two recruited candidates [Stark & Dunlap] for the primary, neither of whom have shown any comprehension of PSST problems. Obviously the commissioners have chosen to back Stark and Dunlap in order to maintain the county status quo in regard to the PSST.

In the last few months the Sheriff Department has lost quite a few employees and deputies due to an inability to compete for qualified personnel. Last week David White noted in The Mirror that the Montrose Police Department had substantially raised their salary scale, which certainly places our Sheriff Department at an even greater disadvantage in attracting qualified applicants.

Considering all of the above, the June primary for two commissioner seats makes this primary race the most critical in my 20 years in Montrose. The men and women of the MCSO know full well what has been going on and they and their families have sadly been faced with making a decision regarding the future viability of the Sheriff Department. By not having their FPPA retirement fund option and not having a competitive pay scale they will continue to leave the MCSO at an alarming rate. Of the four primary candidates for two commissioner seats, only Scott Mijares and Scott Riba fully support the Sheriff Department and have a clear understanding of PSST problems and the need for the FPPA retirement program and increased oversight of the PSST fund.

Voters should pay particular note of the fact that Sheriff Lillard is strongly supporting the candidacy of both Riba and Mijares. As far as I'm concerned a vote for either Stark or Dunlap is a vote against our having a strong and competitive Sheriff Department, putting our county and all its citizens at risk.

Dee Laird, Montrose

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

'INVITE FPPA OVER TO MONTROSE FOR A PUBLIC MEETING'

Editor:

During the county budget sessions for 2024 last fall, Sheriff Lillard his department facing recruitment and retention problems, requested an 8% salary adjustment as well as the ability to switch the retirement program to FPPA, which was designed strictly for fire and police.

The 8% increase was cut to 4% and that decision is proving costly now as the MCSO has begun to lose employees for better paying positions.

When considering the Sheriff's request to transition from the current retirement program to FPPA the commissioners

made it clear they were not interested.

The initial reason for rejection first given was that "it's not fair to other county employees". Frankly that seemed a pretty lame reason since the FPPA was designed ONLY for fire and police. Then the BOCC had their attorney devise an opinion contrary to the FPPA attorney citing concerns about a questionable long term commitment.

Taxpayers should be aware that the Montrose City Police adopted the FPPA retirement program and Chief Blaine Hall confirmed to me that is working as expected. As critical as this seems to be for

the sheriff in recruitment and retention for the MCSO, the real question of the BOCC flatly saying NO, should be "how can we make this work for benefit of Sheriff Department personnel"?

The BOCC has shown that it is intractable in its questionable decision and had declared the FPPA issue dead.

The simple solution to moving this question forward is for Sheriff Lillard to now take the bull by the horns and invite the FPPA over to Montrose for a public meeting to educate the public regarding the real facts.

Dee Laird, Montrose

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CITY ENGINEER PRESENTS H2O RESOURCE UPDATE, FILES SHARES CMU CAMPUS INFORMATION



At this week's City work session, Councilor Judy Ann Files said, "...CMU Montrose is probably going to have to look at buying that whole building; I think in two years we will have some big decisions to make." Montrose Regional Library, which owns the CMU building (above), is considering a move and would construct a new building, Files said.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-The Montrose City Council gathered for a regular work session on Monday, May 6, all councilors were present.

Mayor J. David Reed gave a brief introduction, "Good morning everyone, and welcome to the city council work session...the purpose of our work sessions is for council to meet with our staff and discuss various topics that will be coming before council, normally within the next couple of weeks. We take no action nor do we take public comment, but of course the public is welcome to attend these meetings always."

DISCUSSION ITEMS

"It is officially water resource day," City Engineer Scott Murphy said, as he introduced the Spruce Point Utility Service Agreement, followed by his annual update, the 2024 Water Supply and Runoff Forecast.

Spruce Point Utility Service Agreement

Murphy gave an overview of the Spruce Point Utility Service Agreement, discussing terms of the agreement and a review of overall resource usage, noting, "...We can modify service area boundaries...this is the same agreement we used for Cobble Creek West...we don't want to just give away the city's water resources on speculation....we want to make sure that development that is occurring is kind of in support of the overall city's goals and the

neighborhood's goals...we have language to make sure that they're actually developing, it's in line with what we're talking about here...elderly housing is a big need for our community...we also get to put conditions on the water use...the water is available..."

Background-A memo from Murphy to Council states that council will consider entering into a utility service agreement with Chipeta Water District and Spruce Point Development Company, LLC to provide City of Montrose water service to currently undeveloped portions of the Spruce Point Subdivision. The memo states, "The Spruce Point Subdivision is situated between 6400 and 6450 Roads, immediately north of the Cobble Creek Golf Course...The subdivision's eastern end has been developed as single-family residential lots (Subdivision Filings 1 through 3) on Chipeta's water system. Current development plans for remaining undeveloped areas of Spruce Point call for a higher-density development pattern to include single-family housing, multifamily housing, independent living, assisted living, and senior apartments. The area is currently within Chipeta's water service area; however, as part of recent design efforts performed for the proposed future development, it became apparent that Chipeta's water system would not be able to support the proposed density without substantial, cost-prohibitive system upgrades. As a

result, the developer has requested the City consider servicing the area...City staff have prepared the attached utility service agreement in cooperation with Chipeta Water and the developer. An overview of the proposed development and project-specific conditions are outlined in the agreement..."

2024 Water Supply and Runoff Forecast

Murphy presented the 2024 annual report on water resources. Supporting documentation is included in the work session packet; to view the full presentation visit the City's public meetings portal.

Councilor David Frank thanked Murphy for his efforts, as did Mayor Reed.

Councilor Ed Ulibarri said that the city is doing a great job of informing the public about road maintenance and construction.

GENERAL CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION/STAFF COMMENTS

Councilor Judy Ann Files said that construction on the airport traffic signal has begun. MRCOG met recently and Files attended, she gave an overview of the meeting.

Reed said that he and City Manager Bill Bell discussed changes to the portion of meetings dedicated to council discussion.

Bell shared some ideas for changing the format of the council comments portion of the agenda. "...If the community really wants to see how the sausage is made, they need to attend a work session," he said, "...sometimes each of you or staff will have an idea that might be a little controversial and we don't necessarily want to shock the rest of our team here at a public meeting. Of course, we always have internal dialogue separately over in the office on an individual basis but of course when we have a quorum it's a public dialog. Individually we still want to have that opportunity to vet things out, talk about pros and cons, how that might affect from the staff side, operations...good communication is going to be very important."

Mayor Pro Tem Dave Frank discussed the Colorado Municipal League and issues at the state level that could impact self-determination on the local level. "There were a number of issues that I had filed testimony on behalf of...it was frustrating but productive..."

Frank said that the Region 10 League for Economic Assistance & Planning (Region

Continued next pg

CITY ENGINEER PRESENTS H2O RESOURCE UPDATE, FILES SHARES CMU CAMPUS INFORMATION

From previous pg

10)'s Area Agency on Aging (AAA) program has lost funding due to changes at the state level. Region 10 will be looking at changes to its funding mechanism, Frank said. The broadband program has grown to the point where it has become difficult for Region 10 to oversee.

Councilor Files gave an update on the recent Colorado Mesa University (CMU) Montrose Advisory Meeting. "The big issue with CMU Montrose right now...is that the library is thinking about getting out of the building and they own the whole building...CMU Montrose is probably going to have to look at buying that whole building, I think in two years we will have some big decisions to make..."

The library would construct a new building, Files said. "They're also thinking...about putting their own housing units there too...wherever their annex building is they're going to build four or

five dwelling units..."

Mayor Reed said he has decided to create a Citizens Award called "You Make a Difference." Council spent time talking about the award, possible awardees, and how to nominate them.

Murphy reminded all to check the City's Facebook site and the [Move.Mt](https://www.move.mt) web site for information on construction projects. The city is targeting a late June opening for the new roundabout, he said.

City Manager Bill Bell said that the city had a "really awesome" Montrose Mudder event the previous weekend. There were about 150 racers, he said, down from just over 200 the previous year. "...Still a great success," Bell said, "and the Public Works crews and Parks crews all get together and make that a great event, and add elements to the mud run obstacle course every year...we had great photography, we're compiling all the photos into

a database...finish that out with a free concert which had 200-300 people show up...thanks to all the staff and community that came together to make that a success."

Mayor Reed said that the Cinco de Mayo Festival at Colorado Outdoors was a huge success. "There was a real cross section of the community there, which I thought was really neat," Reed said, thanking the entities that put the festival on.

Mayor Pro Tem David Frank said there was a Cinco de Mayo Festival at Centennial Plaza as well.


Mayor Reed thanked city staff who attended the Cinco de Mayo Festivals over the weekend.

Deputy City Manager Ann Morgenthaler invited council to attend upcoming Baldrige Regional Park Master Plan meetings. "We want to know what people think of Baldrige Park..."

City Hall remains open to the public during construction of the new façade, Morgenthaler said.

Councilor Ed Ulibarri asked about adding additional handicapped parking on Cascade Avenue during construction of the façade.

Morgenthaler said the city is working to extend available parking.



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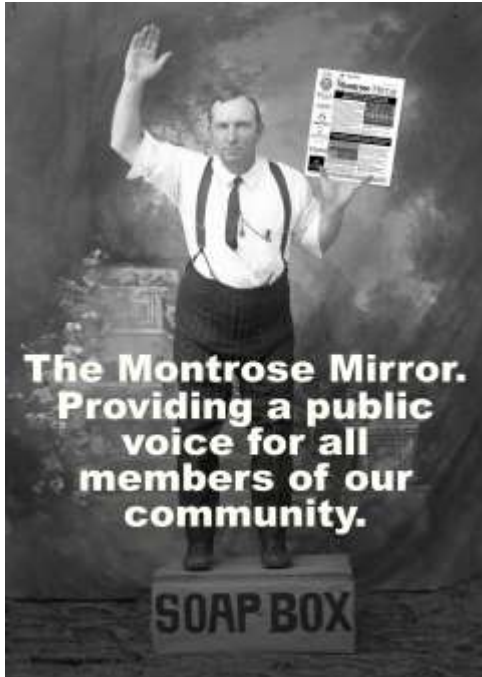
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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

WHEN REPUBLICANS START ACTING LIKE DEMOCRATS

Editor:

When republicans start acting like democrats its time to rebuild the party. Having two dishonest candidates running as republicans for county commissioner is a slap in the face to every republican in this county. I attended the central committee meeting on Thursday May 9th, Scott Riba, the dishonest self-serving chair of the Montrose central committee. Started his chairman's report by launching into a tirade about an article that appeared in the mirror. This article (written by yours truly), according to him stated that the central committee funded a private meet and greet that did not invite all the candidates running for stated offices. This was a dishonest statement. The statement I wrote said that the party advertised the meet and greet using party assets and because they used party assets and did

not invite all the candidates, they violated the by-laws. After he finished, I raised my hand to speak. He immediately looked at me and said the chair does not recognize you, I did not say your name. Despite his refusal to acknowledge me I spoke anyway. Saying everyone in here knows who you are talking about. And if you are going to criticize something I said at least be honest as to what I said. This is typical Riba, he hates being confronted and he hates people that refuse to show him any respect. And he does his best to not allow any rebuttal to anything he says. I have known Riba for about eight years and at no time in those eight years has he ever done anything that would cause me to respect him. He has done several things to cause me to have nothing but contempt for him. Such as push good loyal republicans out of the central committee because he knew

they would never support him in his attempt to run for office in a contested primary. Which is a violation of the party by-laws. And when he and Dave Williams say that they are not violating the by-laws that is a lie.

And now to Scott Mijares, I refer to him as a pathological liar. He tells so many boldfaced and provable lies that I cannot believe he thinks no one would ever call him on it. He first launched his campaign February 9th, 2024, when he filed his affidavit with the Secretary of state's office. His affidavit shows his party affiliation as republican. Which is incorrect because he did not become a republican until February 12th, 2024. That affidavit is a legal document (perjury?). He on several occasions has stated that he is a lifelong republican, even though he became a republican for the first time in his life February 12th, 2024. In 2020 while he lived in Ouray County, he voted the Democrat ballot in the presidential primary. So, he voted for Joe Biden? In his recent lie filed article he tried to say that sometimes people vote the democrat ballot to pick an easy opponent to beat. Is any self-respecting republican buying that?

So, who is supporting these two dishonest men? David White writes some very long-winded articles supporting these two and referencing the PSST that he over saw for eight years. He did not see any problems with the public safety sales tax while he was a county commissioner even though it was being run the same as it is today. But back then he was pre-occupied by some lawsuits that he got the county in to. Those lawsuits cost this county millions. And if the PSST funds are redirected without voter approval it will cause another lawsuit, imagine that. David White, getting this county in another lawsuit.

Who else is supporting these two? Gene Lillard the county sheriff. I understand that Lillard is trying to support his deputies and give them a better retirement so he can better retain them. But to do so by redirecting those funds without voter approval will cause another lawsuit. Having the current sheriff officially support two liars could be a career ender.

I am asking the voters of Montrose County to show up and vote June 25th for Rick Dunlap County commissioner district three. And vote Louis Stark County commissioner district one these men are honest and will never lie to the voters of Montrose County. And they do not lie about their party affiliation. Nor will either of them use their position to silence a concerned citizen.

Ray Langston, Montrose



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

INFORMATION: TRUE, FALSE, OR SOMEWHERE IN BETWEEN?

"The fight against misinformation cannot be won through top-down interventions alone"

Editor:

In the digital age, the line between truth and fiction has become increasingly blurred.

With the 2024 election looming, there is an uptick in mis- and dis-information on many news platforms. Decline of newspapers across the country, whose work is based on fact-checking and validating sources, has led to more social media designed to persuade voters and to gain revenue, rather than provide objective information.

The magnitude of the problem cannot be underestimated. As early as 2016, research by Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS) issued a warning that "massive digital misinformation is becoming pervasive in online social media to the extent that it has been listed by the World Economic Forum (WEF) as one of the main threats to our society".

World Economic Forum's Global Risks Report 2024 states that disinformation is the world's top risk in the next two years, and the fifth global risk in the next ten years. It undermines people's trust in the integrity of our government institutions and threatens our democratic processes which rely on transparency and accountability. Dis- and misinformation misleads, manipulates, agitates, confuses and divides us.

It's hard to know what is true and what is

not. Sometimes it's hard to accept what is true and what is not. It is important that you, as a voter, become "news literate" – to recognize "news" or media sources that are not trustworthy or credible and then expand your critical thinking skills to get the facts you need to make informed decisions.

The League of Women Voters of Larimer County identified a range of resources from tools for adults and teens on fact checking and sponsored a program by Fort Lewis College professor and researcher, Dr. Justin McBrayer, titled "Fake News Marketplace: How it Works and Why it Matters." The video, as well as other resources mentioned above, are available on our League of Women Voters of the Uncompahgre (LWV-UV) website at www.lwv-uv.org.

Governments have a critical role to play in safeguarding the integrity of democratic processes, by enacting legislation to combat online misinformation and investing in media literacy programs to empower citizens to critically evaluate information sources. The Colorado General Assembly just passed SB24-084, Attorney General Duties to Prevent Mis- and Dis-Information. The Attorney General (AG) would be required develop and share a curriculum to facilitate productive and honest conversations regarding statewide and national issues to help people find common ground. The AG is also required

to study how the internet and other media channels, including social media platforms, are used to share and spread misinformation and disinformation. In addition, the AG is required to review relevant state and federal constitutional provisions, federal laws and regulations. The fight against misinformation cannot be won through top-down interventions alone.

We must work together throughout all information channels to promote a culture of truth-seeking where facts matter and critical thinking is valued. The League has always believed that informed citizens remain the cornerstone of a free and open society.

As a reminder, check out the April **Voter** on lwv-uv.org for more information on mis- and dis-information. Also, the League-sponsored www.Vote411.org and www.factcheck.org are trusted sources for non-partisan, factual information on candidates, politics, policy and ballot issues. Now is the time to get together with your family and friends to look closely at the news you consume each day.

Question what is fact and what is not. It's the only way to make decisions that will truly impact your lives, your city, county, state and the country for generations to come.

*Janine Reid and Patrice Schell
Montrose County League of
Women Voters*



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Colorado-ology



RED HAWKS SOCCER PLAYOFFS FALL JUST SHORT

By Cliff Dodge

MONTROSE-The Montrose Red Hawks girls' soccer team jumped into the Colorado High School Activities Association (CHSAA) state playoffs in a big way on Wednesday, May 8, as the Eagle Valley Devils attempted to rain on the Red Hawk's parade but came up on the short end of a 3-0 score.

Montrose Red Hawks 3, Eagle Valley Devils 0

The Red Hawks spent much of the first half of action in the Devil's end of the pitch but led by only one goal at the half-way point. The Devils' defense was stout and the Red Hawks managed just a single goal during the first 40 minutes of action. Ellie Duncan scored the Red Hawk goal with an assist from sister Mia, a junior. The Devils had several good scoring chances in that initial half, but Senior Rachel Robuck stood tall in goal. Robuck made several difficult saves in addition to at least two of the Devil's shots hitting the cross bar and bouncing away. The best save of the day occurred when the referee called for a penalty shot from the 10-yard mark. Robuck dove to her left and stopped the point blank shot to preserve the shutout.

The second half saw the Red Hawks continue putting on the pressure and scored two additional goals which made the final score 3-0. Ellie Duncan scored both of the goals in the second stanza to go with her first period goal. Assists were credited to Sierra Tafoya and to Goaltender Rachel Robuck.

Head coach Matt Imus suggested that the Red Hawks did not play their best game but it was certainly good enough to take care of business. Imus credited Rachel Robuck for an outstanding effort. He was pleased with the defense and singled out Kenzie Bush, Addison Shipley, Gabrielle Parkison, and Scarlet Mora for their defensive play.

Imus shared an interesting statistic re-



The Red Hawks and the Jaguars battle for position.

garding the field in the 4A playoffs. Sixteen games were played this week and seven of the teams with lower seeds beat those teams with the higher seeds. Imus said, "It's playoff time and you had better bring your A game if you want to continue playing. Almost half the field saw lower seeds triumph."

D'Evelyn School 3, Montrose Red Hawks 2

The Montrose Red Hawks undefeated season came to an end on Saturday afternoon when the D'Evelyn Jaguars invaded the Montrose pitch and escaped with a hard-fought 3-2 victory and a place in the Colorado High School Activities Association 4A girls' quarter final round.

The visitors, displaying speed and agility jumped out to a 2-goal lead in the first half of action. The Red Hawks scored their first goal late in the period after a shot and a rebound in front of the Jaguars net.

The Red Hawks tied things up in the second half. Action took place at both ends

of the field as the game moved down the stretch. The Jaguars took the lead in the second half and withstood heavy Red Hawks pressure but were able to fend off the Red Hawks attempts to tie the score as time expired on the Red Hawks undefeated season.

The Red Hawks ended their season with a record of 14 wins, one loss and two ties, a season for the ages.

This season gave true meaning to a "team effort."

The senior leadership this year was outstanding. The entire roster pitched in and contributed time and again to the success of the season from game one through the playoff run.

The coaching staff, the administration, and the entire student body got behind the effort of these players and honor them for their accomplishments. An undefeated season, a league title, a number one ranking in 4A and a playoff victory will go down in Montrose history as a job well done.

RARE SOLAR STORM BRINGS NORTHERN LIGHTS TO COLORADO



Photos by Gunnison Clamp

Friday's light show was caused by the solar storm reaching a G5 intensity. Rated from G1 to G5, the earth has not seen a G5 occurrence since October 2003.

Although the aurora is common near the poles, the closer to the equator you get, the lower the chance of seeing them. Hence, much of the lower 48 almost never gets any significant view of them, making Friday night a special treat for viewers around the world, with visibility reaching as far south as Florida. Though Friday was likely the best viewing opportunity, there may be more chances to catch a glimpse if you missed it. Solar activity is predicted to continue to be intense for at least a few days, so, though dimmer than before, on clear nights this week, you may be able to get a look at the aurora on the northern horizon!

By Gunnison Clamp

MONTROSE-Onlookers in Colorado and across the country saw a rare spectacle Friday night, as the Aurora Borealis, or "Northern Lights" lit up the northern horizon with an eerie glow. The aurora happened because of an ongoing solar storm. Storms like this lead to ejections of elec-

tronically charged particles from the sun, which in turn lead to interactions with the atmosphere which cause the aurorae. Although the term "solar storm" sounds intimidating, this mainly refers to activity on the sun's surface. This activity can cause disruptions to radio communications and power grids, but causes no physical harm.



REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE WOMEN'S GIVING CLUB WILL MEET AT THE BRIDGES MAY 16

Special to the Mirror

MONDAY-On May 16, the Montrose Women's Giving Club will meet at the Bridges, 5:30pm. Visit <https://www.montrosegivingclub.com> for information.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

SECOND SCANDAL HITS THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS?

Editor:

FROM WHERE I SIT: An opinion article: Last week I reported to you in the OPINION page of the Montrose Mirror regarding the topic of "WHO notices, WHOO cares and WHOOO should determine when changes are made.

Well, Mr. Chuck Bell, a former long-time employee of our county Road and Bridge Department gave us all an answer. He is definitely one WHO notices; WHOO cares and WHOO tried to have changes made.

Based on the historical performance of the BOCC regarding the "ROAD TO NOWHERE" incident (during the eight years prior County Commission) this BOCC's reaction to observed waste is déjà vu all over again! Except in the first case a 'head or two' apparently rolled for their treatment of the 'whistle blowers!'"

It should surprise none of us that the ultimate responsibility for the expenditure of the county's funds lays with the BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS---and their supervision of those intermediate managers that they hire, to get the county the best bang for the county's bucks. I ask, "Why, in the ROAD TO NOWHERE debacle

AND the present WATER TUNNEL TRAVELTY is the solution to concerned citizens/employees 'waste' reports to criticize the messengers and DO NOTHING?"

Is it because the BOCC attitude is that they and their snoopervisors are always right?

All of us should all be privy to what has transpired (or not transpired) over this apparent WASTE. And after the below listed questions are answered in public forum (maybe in the Montrose Mirror) so those of us WHOOO CARE can know that our BOCC's actions were correct and proper and that their treatment of ALL employees was/is equitable and proper. Mr. Bell deserves and is encouraged to continue to publically respond and to be fully heard. Questions to be answered:

1. Why did Mr. Chuck Bell leave the employ of the County Road and Bridge Department after 12 years of service?
2. How many Road and Bridge employees left prior to Mr. Bell's departure?
3. Did the employees who left R&B Dept. leave because of adverse management actions?
4. Have any lawsuits been brought by for-


mer employees based on this issue? How many?

5. How many of these suits have been settled under 'seal of non-disclosure'?
6. Were employees ever threatened directly or indirectly that if they complained their positions would be eliminated?
7. Was a specific Commissioner involved with or charged with over-seeing the R&B Dept?
8. Were there any reports of concern or specific incidents brought to the BOCC or the county HR department? If so, what were they and what were the outcomes?
9. Have any R&B employees ever reported incidents of harassment and/or intimidation for any of the reasons mentioned herein?

As a side issue (or maybe it is the main one): From 2008 in addition to the General Fund allocations, the separate R&B 1% sales tax fund has received more than \$100,000,000.

Could this large bankroll contribute to an atmosphere among the hierarchy of carelessness/wastefulness in their management policies?


Bill Bennett, Montrose



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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

SEATBELTS AND GRADUATED DRIVER'S LAWS-WHAT YOUNG DRIVERS NEED TO KNOW

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO – We were all young once. Even the most seasoned Colorado State Trooper had their first day behind the wheel. Teens driving today face a myriad of obstacles and hazards that may be much different from what their parents did. In addition to teenagers having the lowest usage of seatbelts, distracted driving has become a sign of the times. Even car manufacturers have tried to offset the hazards of distraction with driver assist features like lane assist and adaptive cruise control.

Troopers want to offer a note of caution: Don't let part of the solution further perpetuate the problem. These technological advances are not there to allow you to be distracted. And parents need to step in to provide boundaries on the number of passengers in their teen's car and where to store technology while their teen drives. Colorado statute prohibits drivers under 18 from picking up their device while in the driver's seat, even to change the music or check directions. New drivers with less than six months are prohibited from having any passengers unless a licensed



Colorado State Patrol courtesy image

21-year-old passenger is present. After the first six months, teens are allowed one passenger, and everyone in the vehicle, regardless of age or location, must be properly buckled. These laws solved a serious problem in Colorado. Data shows a nearly 50% reduction in teen driving fatalities from the inception of these laws in 1999 to 2019. Fast forward to today, in 2023, 81% of occupants, regardless of age,

who survived a fatal crash wore their seatbelts. Only 19% of those who were not buckled in those same crashes survived. In addition, teen drivers can also be pulled over if they or any of their passengers are seen without a seatbelt. Over a three-year period (2021-2023), the Colorado State Patrol has issued just under 1000 seat belt citations to young drivers under age 18 (993 citations).

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ANONYMOUS CALL

MONTROSE REGIONAL CRIME STOPPERS

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

PROPOSED 390,000-ACRE DOLORES CANYON NATIONAL MONUMENT ENCOMPASSES MOST OF THE HISTORIC URAVAN MINERAL BELT

Editor:

There is enough potential uranium within the boundaries of the proposed Dolores Canyon National Monument to provide all the electricity that Colorado consumes for 6.8 years.

During these exceptionally trying times there is no room for false modesty or for shrinking from one's moral obligations. Those obligations, include, not letting wrongs go unchallenged or to sit by and

watch as our country is slowly being destroyed from within. It seems, sometime, that we are all inmates in an asylum where the insane are the ones in charge. Keeping those thoughts in mind, I am a uranium geologist and I have been for the last 49 years. I am a practical geologist, rather than a theoretical one, since I have worked in the exploration, developmental and production phases of uranium mining for that entire period. I like to think that I

was very good at what I did and what I do. Of that forty nine years, 46 have been focused exclusively in the Uravan mineral belt. If there is anyone more knowledgeable of this area, I would certainly like to meet them. I cannot say that I know where all the uranium deposits are but I know a good many of them. Also, I do not know where the undiscovered uranium deposits are, but I know where to look. It is true, I have been retired for some time, but one never stops being a geologist and I have never stopped being a uranium geologist. One of my favorite pastimes, since retiring, has been exploring old historical mining sites that have, up until then, eluded me.

There is a proposed 390,000-acre Dolores Canyon National Monument that encompasses most of the historic Uravan mineral belt.

The Uravan mineral belt mines produced almost 14 million tons of ore averaging 0.24 percent U₃O₈ and over 356 million pounds of vanadium oxide. (Colorado Geological Survey)

Based on my experience, conservatively, there is enough uranium remaining within the boundaries of the proposed monument to provide all the electricity, that Colorado consumes, for 6.8 years. That number is based on the total current Colorado consumption of 56 million MWh per year.

There has been significant mining in that area and there remains significant potential for, yet to be discovered, ore deposits.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

SHERIFF LILLARD GIVES CANDIDATE SCOTT MIJARES THE NOD

Editor:

I am proud to announce that my campaign has the support of our Montrose County Sheriff, Gene Lillard. My unyielding support of the MSCO and the men and women who serve and protect us will never falter. As your next Montrose County Commissioner I will move heaven and earth to help the Sheriff and his staff build the strongest, well qualified Sheriffs Department on the Western Slope. That's a promise.

Thank you Sheriff. I will not let you down.

Scott Mijares, Candidate for Montrose County Commissioner District 1

www.scottm4montrose.com

THE WEST END - A LAND FORGOTTEN? NOT ON MY WATCH

Editor:

Over the past few months I have had the chance to get to know the good folks of the West End of Montrose County. They are facing many challenges out there and they need our help. As many have heard, they are fighting off the Biden Administrations attempt to declare the Dolores River Canyon and surrounding mineral belt as a National Monument under the Antiquities Act of 1906. This is a very controversial issue that has been orchestrated out of Washington without the consultation of the residents of that area who have been preserving its health and natural beauty for hundreds of years. It threatens our ranchers, our farmers, our water, and the rich deposits of rare earth minerals that could supply green affordable energy to our country while revitalizing the economy for local residents.

This is only one of the challenges facing the residents of the West End. The West End Family Link Center has been providing much needed social services to its residents for over 25 years. The need for these services is greater than ever before and growing. In addition to food boxes packed and delivered to an estimated 30% of residents, the "Link" provides over 25 additional social services ranging from Parenting Classes to Home Visitation for the Elderly.

My visit last week was a real eye opener. The Family Link Center in Nucla was

busting at the seams with food and supplies for the community. The problem is not getting food and household items. There are a number of State and Federal programs that help finance the purchase of food as well as charitable foundations that offer grants for the same. The problem is getting money to pay for employees to administer the programs. Many of the grants will not pay for administrative costs associated with non-profits. This is where the BOCC comes in.

Over the past 16 years the Board of County Commissioners have awarded the "Link" \$15,000 to finance operations. Unfortunately that amount has not increased since 2008.

To its credit, the BOCC has "given" the Family Link a county owned building, however that "gift" came with a set of financial obligations including insurance costs, maintenance, repairs, and utilities. (Property taxes might be waived) Needles to say, that \$15,000 does not go a long way in the inflationary environment we now live in.

As one of your new Montrose County Commissioners I will strongly support an increase in this budget that would reflect a 3% inflation rate over the last 16 years. [Future Value Calculator](#). This calculation would amount to an annual budget increase for the West End Family Link Center from Montrose County from \$15,000.00 to \$26,086.28. Keep in mind that this would

only be applied to one year of underfunding and does not do anything to make up for the previous 15 years. (a matter for discussion as well)

Another Challenge - We all heard news earlier this year that the Basin Medical Clinic was defunded by the current BOCC. Public outrage brought the BOCC back to the table and funding was later restored. It was heartbreaking to hear this when the story first broke. The Basin Clinic sees 14-16 patients per day and is an important component to public safety on the West End. The Public Safety Sales Tax (PSST) Resolution link - <https://scottm4montrose.com/psst> specifies that a portion of the tax collected was to go to Rural Medical Clinics. Why then was funding withheld? As one of your new County Commissioners I will fight for the people of the West End of our county. They will not be left out of the fair and equitable distribution of Montrose County resources.

I would like to close by reminding everyone about the huge fight with our Federal Government over the proposed Dolores National Monument. Please reach out to Sean Pond on the West End. Look for him on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/hashtag/haltthedoloresmonument>. He needs our help and support.

Scott Mijares

Candidate for Montrose County Commissioner, District 1

www.scottm4montrose.com

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

VIEW WATERCOLORIST SUSAN KIENHOLZ' EXHIBIT OF NATIVE AMERICAN ROCK ART AT UTE INDIAN MUSEUM THROUGH MAY 31

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-In honor of Archaeological and Historic Preservation Month, the Ute Indian Museum (17523 Chipeta Road) will host accomplished watercolorist Susan Kienholz' exhibit of Native American Rock Art. May 1-31 Twenty percent of all arts sales will fund the Friends of the Ute Indian Museum.

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**Montrose county deserves honest representation
on the board of county commissioners.**

Scott Mijares and Scott Riba are both dishonest men.

**Mijares on numerous occasions has publicly stated
that he was a lifelong republican. Mijares became a republican
for the first time in his life on February 12th 2024. Scott
Riba assisted with this lie by providing a letter dated Feb 5th
that he had verified Mijares's party affiliation, that letter
appears on Mijares's web site. Scott Mijares voted the
democrat ballot in the 2020 presidential primary. These
facts can be verified by a records request from the Montrose
county clerk's office and the Ouray county clerks office.**

**Both these men will lie to try to win an election to an
office that neither deserve.**

Vote for Louis Stark County commissioner district 1.

Vote for Rick Dunlap County commissioner district 3.

These men are honest.

Paid for by Ray Langston

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

KENNETH "BRIAN" KLEIN

August 30, 1957 — May 2, 2024



KENNETH "BRIAN" KLEIN, of Montrose, Colorado, went to be with his Lord on May 2nd, 2024. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather "Papa," brother, cousin and friend. Kenneth was fondly known as "Brian". He was born to H. Daryl and Doris Klein on August 30th, 1957, in Morristown, NJ. Brian moved several times in childhood due to his father's career as an engineer for Bell Laboratories. He lived in El Paso, TX, Las Cruces, NM near White Sands Missile Base (during the Cuban Missile Crisis), Jamestown, NC and finally Broomfield, CO. Brian graduated from Broomfield High in 1975. He completed two years at Colorado State University studying agronomy, having developed an interest in farming while working on his grandparents' farm in Nunn, Colorado.

Brian worked in sales at Turner Automotive for 42 years and in construction for a number of years in between with family. He was a talented carpenter and devoted family man. He had the best corny "dad jokes". When a bug hit the windshield on the highway- "Well it doesn't have the guts to do that again," or Brian's favorite parting expression- "Glad you got to see me!"

His favorite person and best friend was his wife Joni Klein. They met on a blind date set up by her sister Peggy. They were married on September 1st, 1980. They remained happily married

for 43 years. Whatever Joni wanted to do, Brian would support it. Brian held many titles in his life, but his favorite was being called "dad" or "papa". He loved his people and was a devout Christian. He was kind, humble, quiet, strong and a man of his word. His favorite hobbies were golfing, watching the Denver Broncos, going to Disneyland, and spending time with his family.

Brian is survived by his wife Joni, sons Kenneth "Brison" and John "David," daughters Christine and Brittany, and grandchildren Anyeri, Michelle, Merrich, Harmony and Antonio. He is also survived by his brother and sister-in-law, Bruce and Joy Klein, and numerous nieces and nephews.

EDWIN LEROY WARNER

February 10, 1943 — May 5, 2024

Eddy was born in Oklahoma to Charles and Ethel (Polk) Warner and was an only child. He served 23 years in the military. He raised five children and later in life married Josephine, who had 3 grown children. Together, they enjoyed 16 grandkids, numerous great-grandchildren and 1 great-great granddaughter.

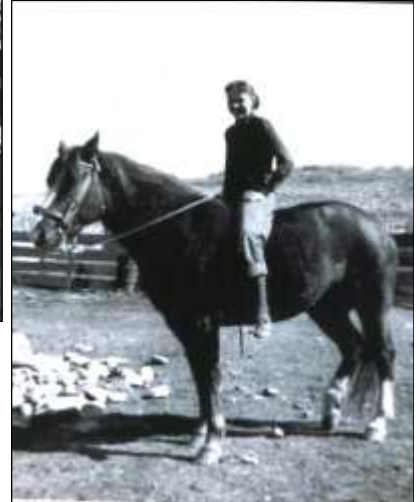
A private family celebration of life has been held.



COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

ANITA KAY VOGELAAR ***August 31, 1941 — May 2, 2024***

ANITA VOGELAAR, 82, passed away on May 2, 2024 at her home in Montrose with her devoted husband David Figgins by her side. Anita, the daughter of Dorothy and Cecil "Skinny" Vogelaar, was born in Delta and grew up in Montrose, helping her father on the family ranch and excelling at academics, barrel racing, and baton twirling before graduating from Montrose High School in 1959. She attended the University of Northern Colorado where she and her husband started a family, and moved to Oregon, California, and then Michigan while continuing to spend summers on the family ranch on Horsefly Mesa and at Black Lake outside of Ouray. Anita was proud to be a third generation Montrosean, carrying forward her family's history of ranching in the area since the 1800's.



Throughout her life, Anita demonstrated an entrepreneurial spirit, managing the family ranch on Horsefly and establishing herself as an expert in the restoration and authentication of Native American baskets. Her passion for antiques, interior design, and her commitment to preserving heritage were evident in the many projects she took on both professionally and personally. She was admired for her intellect, creative skills, and service to others.

Anita is survived by her husband, David, and her children: Shaun Sowle of Montrose, Slade Sowle (Dianne) of Grand Junction, and Tiffany Hegarty (Mike) of Pendleton, OR, and sister Jennifer "Billie" West of Longview, WA. Her family includes stepdaughters Mar-gie Roth (Jay) of Paonia, Rebecca Fortes of Rhode Island, and Ruth Figgins of Kalamazoo, MI. She also leaves behind 10 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Arrangements by the Crippin Funeral Home in Montrose. A family service is planned for a later date.

JULIA MARIA ANGELES ***March 11, 1933 — May 2, 2024***



JULIA MARIA ANGELES, 91, of Montrose, Colorado, passed away on May 2, 2024, due to complications from pneumonia.

Julia was born on March 11, 1933, to Thomas Miskell and Katie Miskell, née Quinn, in North Elmsall, Yorkshire, England. A former beauty queen, Julia would go on to pursue a career as a State Registered Nurse and State Certified Midwife, before emigrating to the United States.

On November 18, 1961, Julia married Dr. Jaime Salen Angeles at St. John's Cathedral in Cleveland, Ohio. Julia and Jaime went on to have four children: James Patrick (1962), Thomas Joseph (1966), Kevin Michael (1968), and Catherine Constancia (1971). After retiring in 1994, Jaime and Julia moved west, eventually settling in the Rocky Mountains.

Julia was predeceased by her husband Jaime (2018), daughter Catherine (2019), and son James (2020).

She is survived by her son Thomas [Riani] and granddaughter Siobhán, and son Kevin [Ellen] and grandson

Noah. She will be fondly remembered by her namesake niece Julia Chrisop and nephew Thomas Walsh..

In lieu of flowers, contributions in her honor may be made to St. Mary's Catholic Church, Montrose Botanical Gardens, or Hopewest Hospice.

The care she received from so many caregivers was greatly appreciated, particularly from The Center at Foresight and Elk Ridge Health & Rehabilitation Center. Thanks to everyone for your thoughts and prayers for Julia and the Angeles family.

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

JOEY J. MANGANELLO *July 5, 1957 — April 30, 2024*

JOEY J. MANGANELLO passed away in his home Tuesday April 30, 2024, at the age of 66. Thanks to Hope West and the love and support of his family, Joey was able to spend his final days in his beautiful home that he had built himself and was so proud of.

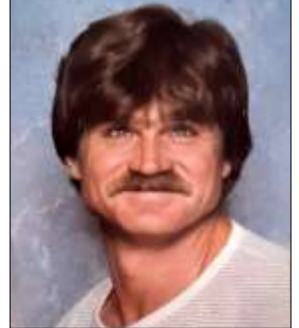
Joey was a man of many talents and a jack of all trades. He was a talented artist and musician. He played the drums, vocals and harmonica in a local band called High Country with his family. Over the years, Joey worked as a high scaler at Crystal Dam, the mill at Camp Bird Mine, Logging, Industrial mechanic at Sullair, meter reader at San Miguel Power, he delivered parts

and oxygen for Hartman Brothers, and he also owned and operated his own construction business called Buckhorn Home Improvements. There was nothing that Joey couldn't do or wouldn't do to provide for his family.

Joey was born July 5th, 1957, in Mesa Arizona and moved to Montrose at the age of 16. He fell in love with the mountains and spent his days camping, fishing, hunting, shooting guns and archery, riding dirt bikes, and boating. He loved a good thunderstorm, listening to good music, a good game of horseshoes, and sitting around the fire with good friends and family. Joe was the life of the party, but more

than anything, He loved his family.

Joey was preceded in death by his son, Tanner Manganello, his brother Jimmy Manganello, his father Johny Manganello, his mother Dorris Svaldi, stepfather John Svaldi, and in laws Marlys Mills and Ray Wilson. He was survived by his brother Jerry Manganello, son Cody Manganello and wife of 48 years, Marla Manganello.



The Mirror:

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our readers out in cold ...



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COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

TASHA NICOLE CRUZ

September 9, 1990 — April 28, 2024



TASHA NICOLE CRUZ, a loving mother of seven, tragically passed away in an accident alongside her long-time partner, Brad Armendariz, on April 28, 2024, at the young age of

33. Born in Delta, Colorado on September 9, 1990, Tasha was a beacon of light and love to all who knew her.

Tasha's world revolved around her children, and she dedicated her life to being their rock and unwavering support. She is survived by her four beloved children,

Andrea, Mario, Lilianna Martinez, and Junior Armendariz, as well as her three cherished stepchildren, Dominick, Anthony, and Kannon Armendariz. Her precious grandson, Mario Carrillo, who will forever carry her love in his heart.

Tasha also leaves behind her parents, Joann Abeyta and Javier Cruz, and her siblings, Melissa Suarez, Francisco, Jennifer, Javier Jr., Chelsea, Mireya Cruz and Juan Duarte, along with a host of extended family members and friends who held a special place in her heart.

She was preceded in death by her sister, Prisilla Zamora.

Known for her infectious laughter, warm embraces, and genuine kindness, Tasha had an incredible ability to light up any

room she entered and make everyone feel welcomed and loved. Her heart of gold and vibrant spirit touched the lives of countless individuals, leaving an indelible mark on all who had the privilege of knowing her.

Although her time on Earth was far too brief, Tasha's legacy will endure through the cherished memories she created with her family and friends. Her unwavering love and dedication to her children will forever serve as an inspiration to all who knew her. Tasha Nicole Cruz will be profoundly missed, but her love and light will continue to illuminate the hearts of all who were blessed to have known her. Crippin Funeral Home is assisting Tasha's family, 970-249-2121.

MICHAELE QUINN LANDBACK

October 13, 1947 — April 26, 2024

MICHAELE QUINN LANDBACK, 76, of Montrose, Colorado, went to be with her Lord on April 26, 2024. She was born October 13, 1947, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to Thomas Barrett and Mary (Lynch) Quinn. Michaela spent her childhood at Starboard Light in Greensburg, Pennsylvania, which is now the University of Pittsburgh. She graduated from Oldfields School in Sparks Glencoe, Maryland, and received her BA in psychology at CU, Boulder, Colorado.

Michaela was married to Samuel F. Landback, which later ended in divorce. To this union, they had a son, Shawn Landback, who resides in Montrose, Colorado. Michaela was an entrepreneur of several businesses including dress designer in Detroit, Michigan, a boarding house and saloon owner in Basalt, Colorado, and a gift shop at the hot springs pool in Ouray, Colorado.

Michaela was a member of the West Morland Hunt Pony Club in Greensburg, Pennsylvania. She was an avid athlete and swimmer, enjoyed traveling, cooking, birds, and plants. Most of all she loved people.

She is survived by her son, Shawn Landback of Montrose, Colorado, a sister, Mary Mooney of Dallas, Texas; a niece, Catharine Smith and a nephew, Marquis Smith both of Greensburg, Pennsylvania, also, many cousins and friends who knew and loved her. She was preceded in death by her parents Thomas Barrett and Mary (Lynch) Quinn of Greensburg, Pennsylvania; her brother, Charles Lynch Quinn of Basalt, Colorado; her sister, Sheila Quinn Smith of Greensburg, Pennsylvania, and several aunts, uncles and cousins, as well as many friends.



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ISSUE 469 May 13, 2024

ART & SOL



CHILI'S READY TO SERVE YOU TEX-MEX & OH, THOSE RIBS . . .

By Carole Ann McKelvey

MONTROSE – Chili's in Montrose has been a go-to staple ever since they opened. The other night my son, Ian, and I decided to grab a bite for dinner. Now, if you have trouble with long menus be forewarned. There are a lot of choices here. I wasn't particularly hungry, so decided to have a Caesar salad, oh and with a margarita please--my son is driving. I thought of ordering a Quesadilla Explosion Salad, but with more than 1,000 calories for a salad?! No thanks!

Ian chose to order a "big mouth" burger with pulled pork and a Coke. We also were ordering for my teen-age grandchild, who didn't want to come with us. Teenagers! The teen was ordered a half order of those baby back ribs and fries; to arrive packaged before we left.

My salad arrived in all its glory with crunchy lettuce and veggies and croutons. Yummy!

Seems I was hungrier than I thought so I helped Ian with his fries. He pronounced the pulled pork/burger "okay," but nothing spectacular. Chili's is a good restaurant if you have a favorite meal here. Nothing too spectacular.

But the menu has almost anything you would expect from this nationwide chain.

Appetizers: From \$5.29-12.99

Crispy Asparagus; Regular & Spicy Loaded Boneless Wings; White Spinach Queso; Crispy Cheddar Bites; Fried Pickles; Triple Dipper Combination of 3 appetizers; Chips & Salsa; Texas Cheese Fries Full; Classic Nachos; Classic Nachos with Fajita Chicken or Beef; Fresh Guacamole; Signature Wings; Signature Boneless Wings;
Salads, Soups, & Chilis: \$4.99-10.99

House Salad; Quesadilla Explosion Salad; Santa Fe Chicken Salad; Boneless Buffalo Chicken Salad; Caribbean Salad With Grilled Chicken; Caribbean Salad with Grilled Shrimp; Grilled Chicken Salad; Soup & House Salad; Sandwiches & Handhelds, served with homestyle fries; Bacon Avocado Chicken Sandwich; Buffalo Chicken Ranch Sandwich;

Craft Burgers Served with House-Made Garlic Dill Pickles & Homestyle Fries: \$9.59-14.99

Southern Smokehouse Burger; Big Mouth Bites;

Lighter Fare: \$10.99-14.99

Ancho Salmon; 6 oz Sirloin with Grilled Avocado; Mango Chile Chicken; Grilled Chicken Salad; Margarita Grilled Chicken;

Fajitas & Enchiladas: \$11.49-16.99



Mix and Match Fajitas; Mix and Match Fajita Trio; Beef Enchiladas; Green Chile Chicken Enchiladas;

Fresh Mex Bowls: \$10.99-11.49

Prime Rib Fresh Mex Bowl; Chipotle Chicken Fresh Mex Bowl;

Burritos: \$10.99

Smothered Prime Rib Burrito;

Tacos & Quesadillas: \$10.99

Ranchero Chicken Tacos; Spicy Shrimp Tacos;

Ribs & Steaks Chicken & Seafood: \$11.29-19.99

Cajun Chicken Pasta; Crispy Honey-Chipotle Crispers; Original Chicken Crispers; 6 Oz. Classic Sirloin* With Grilled Avocado; Classic Ribeye; Classic Sirloin* – 10oz; Classic Sirloin* – 6oz; Honey-Chipotle Full Order Ribs; Honey-Chipotle

Continued next pg

CHILI'S READY TO SERVE YOU TEX-MEX From previous pg

Half Order Ribs;

House BBQ Full Order Ribs'; House BBQ Half Order Ribs; Mix & Match Ribs; Original Full Order Ribs; Original Half Order Ribs; Texas Dry Rub Full Order Ribs; Texas Dry Rub Half Order Ribs

Lunch Combos: \$7.49-9.00

Lunch Combo – Fajitas; Big Mouth Bites; Mini Burgers; Chipotle Chicken Fresh Mex Bowl;

Desserts: \$7.29

Molten Chocolate Cake; Skillet Chocolate Chip Cookie; Cheesecake

Kids Menu: \$4.99

Each comes with choice of entree, side, and drink: Pizza Pepperoni; Mac & Cheese; Pepper Pals Grilled Cheese Sandwich; Pepper Pals Cheese Quesadilla; Pepper Pals Crispy Chicken Crispers; Pepper Pals Grilled Chicken Bites; Pepper Pals Cheese Burger Bites.

Chili's is located at 1431 Ogden Rd, Montrose, CO 81401; call (970) 249-7160. Hours: Mon – Sat. 11 am – 10 pm; Sunday, 11 am to 10 pm. Happy hour drinks Mon-Fri. 3 pm-6 pm; Saturday and Sunday, all day.

CHANGING NEEDS?

At a certain stage of life- many people are ready to make a change. To downsize their home, or simply choose a community that better suits their new lifestyle, interests, and needs. Sounds familiar? If you're ready to make a move, I invite you to call me today. I specialize in helping folks make the most from the changes and choices they have at all stages of life. I'd love to do the same for you.

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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/> Rec-
 tor: The Rev Preston Gordon, [pgor-
 don@allsaintsmontrose.org](mailto:pgor-

 don@allsaintsmontrose.org)

Worship Service Times: Sundays 9AM,

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

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

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

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

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Olathe, Co 81425

Tuesday-Friday Phone: 970-808-1021
www.biblebaptistchurcholathe.com

Pastor Gabe Skillo

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Sunday 6 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Study/Prayer 7 p.m.

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

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 5th 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

Email: montroselutheran@gmail.com

Pastor: Tim Onnen

Worship: Sundays at 9 AM

Sunday School and Adult Bible Class at
 10:15 AM; Women's Bible Study Fridays at
 9 AM. At Christ Lutheran Montrose you will

find friendly people gathered in a welcom-
 ing environment being comforted and en-
 couraged by the forgiveness and love of
 Jesus, and sharing that with one another.

We are a small congregation of seniors
 and middle-aged, sprinkled with young
 children and teenagers.

FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

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

Pastor: Buddy Cook

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

Wednesday: Prayer Boot Camp - 7 PM
Mission Statement: *Montrose First Church
 of the Nazarene exists to make Christlike*

*disciples in Montrose Colorado and around
 the world.*

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MONTROSE

Affiliation: Presbyterian
Address: 1840 E Niagara Rd. Montrose
 CO. 81401 **Office Hours:** M-Thu 9AM -
 12PM

Contact: 970-249-4732, [in-
 form@fpcmontrose.com](mailto:info@fpcmontrose.com),
www.fpcmontrose.com

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jesse G. Mabanglo

Worship Service times: 9:30AM,
We strive to encourage, challenge and

*support one another through spiritual
 growth, worship, and service in our com-
 munity, country, and world. We also en-
 courage children and youth to grow their
 relationship with Christ through our chil-
 dren and student ministries.*

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY From previous pg

HILLCREST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Denomination affiliation: United Church of Christ

Address: 611 South Hillcrest Drive, Montrose, CO 81401

Office hours: By appointment

Contact information:

Phone number: (970) 249-9047

Email address: office@montroseucc.org

Website: montroseucc.org

Current Pastor: Rev. Wendy Kidd

Worship service times: Sunday, 10 a.m.

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

on life's journey.

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

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

MONTROSE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Denomination Affiliation: United Methodist

Address: 19 S. Park Avenue Montrose CO. 81401

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

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

montroseumc.org

Current Senior Pastor: Rev. Kevin Young

Worship service times:

8:30 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual

9:45 a.m. Christian Education & Fellowship

11 a.m. Sanctuary

Montrose UMC is a leader in being fully inclusive, loving, and just servants of

Christ. Our church family welcomes people from various cultural and faith backgrounds: single, married, remarried, with or without children, from diapers to 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

email: office@rosemontbaptist.org

Senior Pastor: Rolland Kenneson

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

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

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

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

matter what stage of life they are in.

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

We provide a nursery for children under four years old with paid staff providing excellent care during Sunday Morning Bible Study and Worship Service.

SPIRITUAL AWARENESS CENTER

Denomination affiliation: Independent Interfaith

Address: Meeting at Lions Park Community Building, 602 N. Nevada, Montrose

Office hours: Tues-Fri, 9 am to 4 pm, **Home**

Office – 970-252-0908

Contact information:

Rev. Dr. Arlyn Macdonald,

970-252-0908,

arlyn@spiritaware.org,

www.spiritaware.org

Name of current pastor: Rev. Dr. Arlyn Macdonald, Senior minister; Rev. 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

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:

email: summitchurchmontrose@gmail.com

website:

www.summitchurchmontrose.org

Senior Pastor: Interim Pastor.

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 ag-

es! 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 the first Sunday of each month for a potluck dinner at 5:30 p.m., followed by a prayer session at 6:30 p.m.

VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH OF MONTROSE

Denomination Affiliation: Independent Baptist

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

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8am-12pm

Contact Information: Phone (970) 249-

6874; email at info@vbcmontrose.org;

website: vbcmontrose.org

Current Pastor: Roland Kassales

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

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

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

Church Directory

Mirror Editorial Staff

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

information to the Montrose Mirror:

Name of church

Denomination affiliation

Address Office hours

Contact information (phone number, email address, website)

Name of current Senior Pastor

Worship service times

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

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

Do your church services include Sunday School and childcare?



Local Immunization Providers

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

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Christy@cimarroncreekcommunity.com www.cimarroncreekcommunity.com

SAVE THE DATE! LOCAL EVENTS CALENDAR

ONGOING-

HEALING COLLECTIVE OF WESTERN COLORADO-Every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month from 12-1pm the Healing Collective of Western Colorado meets at 220 N Stough Ave. It is open to all wellness providers in the area who would like to collaborate with and learn from other local practitioners.

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

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

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

NURSE FAMILY PARTNERSHIP-Breastfeeding Support Group on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month. An infant scale will also be available to check your baby's weight. Breastfeeding Support Group (Bring your questions and your family!) Montrose County Event Center (1036 North 7th Street Room 3) 10am - 12pm. Questions? Please call 970-252-5015.

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

THE 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

May 1-31-In honor of Archaeological and Historic Preservation Month, the Ute Indian Museum (17523 Chipeta Road) will host accomplished watercolorist Susan Kienholz' exhibit of Native American Rock Art. Twenty percent of all arts sales will fund the Friends of the Ute Indian Museum.

May 16-Montrose Women's Giving Club to meet at the Bridges, 5:30pm. Visit <https://www.montrosegivingclub.com> for information.

May 18-The Montrose County Historical Museum will be hosting a one-time Grandview Historical Cemetery Tour on May 18, starting at 4 pm. Please meet at the Grandview Cemetery on Sunset Mesa to learn about some of the Pioneers and their stories, plus the history of Cemeteries. Please call 970- 249-2085 or email info@montrosehistory.org for RSVP, and the cost is \$10 per person. Therefore, call early space is limited.

May 19-Karaoke at the Theatre, what's that? Come check it out, May 19 and June 8, 7 PM at Magic Circle Theatre, 420 S 12th St, Montrose, behind Safeway. If you have family in town for graduation festivities, bring them all to celebrate in song! Only \$5 cover charge! Snacks and alcoholic/nonalcoholic beverages are for sale in the lobby. Hope to see you there!

May 25-26-16-hour Wilderness First Aid certification. May 25 & 26 in Montrose. \$250 Colorado Mountain Club members, \$300 nonmembers. Register online before 5/23 and details at: https://www.cmc.org/groups-sections/cmc-state/course-templates/copy_of_wilderness-medicine-school-wilderness-first-aid/wilderness-first-aid-cmc-wsg-2024

June 1-Delta Rock Wranglers' Rock, Gem & Mineral Show. 9am to 5pm. Bill Heddles Rec Center in Delta. Free admission all ages.

June 6-DMEA Annual Meeting to take place on June 6 at Columbine Middle School in Montrose (610 York Street), from 4:30 to 8:30pm.

June 8-Karaoke at the Theatre, what's that? Come check it out, June 8, 7 PM at Magic Circle Theatre, 420 S 12th St, Montrose, behind Safeway. Only \$5 cover charge! Snacks and alcoholic/nonalcoholic beverages are for sale in the lobby. Hope to see you there !



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