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ASSOCIATION



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HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS & SUITES GETS A REFRESH

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-A familiar face is getting a whole new look-- and a whole new life, as one of Montrose's most iconic hotels receives a refresh. The Holiday Inn Express & Suites at 1391 South Townsend Avenue, which changed ownership in 2022, is now enjoying an upgrade and going from 122 to 130 rooms. "It's going to be gorgeous," General Manager Marcie Giles told the *Mirror*. "We're very excited and grateful."

There are now three outdoor fire pits, with a new dance floor in the conference room. Guest rooms, public spaces, and the exterior will be fully updated. While guests are still enjoying certain portions of the hotel, the \$7M renovation that began Feb. 16 will continue through May 19.

Paralleling the major re-investment in the Holiday Inn Express & Suites is a major investment in the community of Montrose. As members of the Greater Montrose Chamber of Commerce, the



Courtesy rendering from Holiday Inn Express & Suites.

Continued pg 32

A BUS TRIP INTO HISTORY



One of the more popular activities for patrons of the Western Slope Motorway was stopping near Bear Creek Falls south of Ouray where passengers exited the bus and viewed the canyon and the falls. Photo by George L. Beam, courtesy Denver Public Library.

By Bob Cox

MONTROSE-For many years following the Civil War travel by train was a novelty and, for the most part, a quick way to travel long distances.

While the automobile started changing travel in some ways, the individual motor car had its drawbacks. One of those drawbacks was limited seating. Another was the cost of individual ownership of an automobile.

The railroad companies recognized that they could not build train tracks in many places. Colorado was one of the biggest challenges. While the Mears Toll Road was originally planned as a railroad, it soon became evident that it was not practical.

World War One incentivized the development of multi-passenger vehicles, and, by the early 1920s, the motor bus was becoming more and more popular. Western Colorado was a perfect place for the use of these buses. They could go where the trains could not; often times

Continued pg 26

[Gia Pirelli: The Power of Spring Cleaning and Decluttering!](#)

[Lauren Hall Ruddell, Ph.D.: Your Brain on Nature: Attention!](#)

[Kate Burke: Artist's Profile- Dawn Sangdrol Blanchard!](#)

[Indivisible March photos by B. Switzer!](#)

UPDATED GUIDELINES FOR LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Dear Readers:

We appreciate your letters! We like reading and hearing opinions from all perspectives. We are sharing herewith our updated guidelines: In the past we have had one rule, to be implemented at the editor's discretion. We are now including two more suggested "Rules" for letter writers.

RULE 1. The Dead Horse Rule has been in place from the start of the *Mirror*. This is somewhat self-explanatory, but there are times when something has been said so many times it can run afoul of the "Dead Horse Rule," in which case we will inform the writer.

RULE 2. While there are always exceptions, a letter can often say what needs to be said in one page or less. Our pages are 8.5 X 11, we use a 10 pt Calibri font; letters that are roughly 800 words fit well within this suggested guideline.

RULE 3. Please limit repetitive mud-slinging to avoid bumping up against Rule 1. Also, in the case of those writing to intentionally discredit a public official or candidate for public office, please provide a link to the source of your allegation if possible. Unsourced, unproven allegations are not credible, and could in fact be untruths.

Finally, opinions expressed in letters and commentary are those of the authors themselves, and do not reflect the views of the *Montrose Mirror* or editorial staff.

Thank you,
Caitlin Switzer,
Montrose Mirror Editor

the
Montrose Mirror

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Published every Monday in Montrose, Colorado, the Montrose Mirror reaches a readership of over 25,000 across the region.
Publisher: Caitlin Switzer

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We welcome community contributions and commentary! Please note, submitted content does not necessarily reflect the views of the **Montrose Mirror** or its editorial team.

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Coffee & Conversation

April 9 @ 10-11am
Library Meeting Room



¡Hola! Hello! Join your community members this spring for leisure conversation at the Montrose Library Meeting Room on the 2nd Wednesday of the month from 10:00-11:00am starting February 12th. This bilingual event is meant to be a relaxed environment for learning Spanish and English. Coffee and light refreshments will be served.

320 S 2nd, www.montroselibrary.org
Mon-Thurs 10-7, Fri 10-6, Sat 10-5, Sun 1-5,
(970)249-9656.

MONTROSE REGIONAL
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE COUNTY CORONER'S RELEASE

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE--On March 27, the Montrose County Coroner's office was dispatched to 19 S. Park Street in Montrose for an unresponsive male located behind the Methodist Church. After an investigation, the decedent was transported to Community Hospital for an autopsy. He was later identified as Michael T. Garcia, 45.

The cause and manner of death are still under investigation by the Montrose Coroner's Office of Medical Investigations.

CHIPETA ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY LECTURE ON MAYA

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE--Have you ever wondered how the non-elite Maya lived? Please join us to learn about 20 years of research by Dr Hyde - Distinguished Lecturer of Archaeology at Western Colorado University. April 16 at 7pm at the United Methodist Church 19 S Park Avenue Montrose. Chipeta Archaeology Society Free.



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in Printing News' 'Top 100' Small Commercial Printers in North America

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE COMMUNITY BAND TO PLAY FREE CONCERT APRIL 13

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Sunday, Apr 13th, 3 pm ~ Landscapes of Sound ~ Free Concert by the Montrose Community Band. Come and enjoy picturesque descriptions of landscapes, both real and imaginary, through music.

MONTROSE HIGH SCHOOL APRIL DIVISION AWARDS



April Division Award Winners: Lluvia Banda, Aimy Granier, Yarely Ontiveros-Mendoza, Adriana Munshaw, Annaliese Dunn, Layla Lambert, Lilah Bahn-Ricker, and William Townsend. Not in picture - Lucas Hesse, Danilo Jacinto Hernandez and Addisyn Stanford. Thank you, students and teachers, for emulating "The Red Hawk Way." Courtesy photo.



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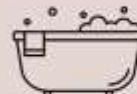
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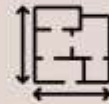
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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

WHERE IS THE ANGER AT DEMOCRAT PRACTICE OF GIVING SOCIAL SECURITY & MEDICAID TO ILLEGALS?

Editor;

In last week's Mirror David Congour gave the perfect example of someone who has been completely taken over by the common Leftist Trump Derangement Syndrome (TDS). The content was a despicable collection of sniveling Left wing lies and ugly comments about President Trump and fellow Conservatives apparently because he's mad his Leftist party lost the election.....and for good reason. He even degraded women when he said being a "busty" woman was one way to get on the good side of Trump. If a Conservative said that about women the whole nation of Leftists would blow their lids and take their \$billion dollar mega donors' money to buy up commercial signs reading, "CONSERVATIVES ARE SEXTIST"!! Then they would parade up and down streets while blocking traffic and pumping their childish signs. By the way Congour, what's wrong with a "busty" woman?

What's your preference? You should apologize to all women for that stupid comment!

Mark Alexander with The Patriot Post, who has several advanced degrees, including one in psychology, has the perfect definition of Congour's TDS as a form of hysteric cognitive dissonance, thoughts, beliefs, or attitudes resulting in dissociative behavioral and emotive expressions which render the afflicted incapable of free thought or critical evaluation, and subject to fear and blind hatred of all people and things associated with Trump to the extent they will abandon normative logic and reason, sever familial and fraternal relationships, and exhibit increasingly angry emotionally incontinent verbal and physical outbursts. Alexander added that the escalating frequency and intensity of hysterics associated with TDS are greatly exacerbated by the consumption of the hateful rhetoric spewed 24/7/365 by the Leftist media talkingheads across social media platforms. Meanwhile, former Vice Presidential candidate Tim Walz has been screaming to the Left media that MAGA voters are scared of his masculinity!! Does he mean those MAGA voters who witness him wildly swinging his arms around while dancing and jumping around on the stage next to Kamala kicking up his legs like a high school cheer leader? What Congour should be worried about is the insane de-funding of the police, the Democrat push for no voter ID, promoting transgender children, promoting sanctuary cities, the push for abol-

ishing ICE, the unconstitutional gun grabbing, DEI in critical industries, critical race theory, abortion on demand, men in women's sports, defending fraud, waste, and abuse in government spending, no cash for bail, student loan forgiveness in spite of the Supreme Court ruling that it's illegal, but Biden stated he was doing it anyway.

So, Mr. Congour, you should re-direct your anger to fighting the Democrat practice of giving social security and medicaid to illegals and for the practice of fighting laws that require proof of citizenship before voting! If you love America you should praise President Trump for closing the border that Biden swung wide open. You should condemn burning Tesla vehicles and dealerships. You should condemn Left-wing rioters painting their swastika logos on Teslas. You should have condemned Obama and Biden for giving Iran mega \$billions of dollars to buy weapons in their attempt to wipe Israel off the map. You know the United States would be next don't you? You should condemn burning Republican headquarters. You should condemn Democrats forcing airlines to hire DEI pilots. Would you fly on those planes? You should protest Democrats forcing sports teams to let males who can't compete with men on women's sports teams. It used to be men lied about their age to go fight in wars. Now they lie about their gender to beat women in sports. Did you protest Biden letting China fly their spy balloon over all of our strategic military bases? Then toughie Biden had it shot down to look good, but only after they had already transmitted all the spy data back to China. Did you protest Biden hauling sonny boy Hunter all over the world at taxpayers expense to make tax-free \$millions in secret deals with communist China, Ukraine, Iran, and other adversaries to fill the whole Biden crime family bank accounts while he was vice president and president? And all the while stumblin', mumblin', bumblin', sleepin' Joe was screaming in his many delirious, incoherent tirades that everyone should "pay their fair share of taxes!" Uh Huh!

The election of Donald Trump did not create the epidemic of emotional incontinence which resulted in hatred on the Left. Instead, the election revealed it. So, by now everyone has heard the term "woke" defined as a progressive (which is actually regressive) mental disorder characterized by fundamental insecurities resulting in an ob-

session with socialism, statism, historical revisionism, social/racial justice (more like injustice) and gender disorientation. Elon Musk described "woke" as a threat to modern civilization and that prompted him to purchase Twitter/X in order to restore free speech to the platform. Musk added that the woke mind virus consists of creating a very divisive identity politics which amplifies racism, SEXISM, and all the other -isms while always claiming to do the opposite. This actually divides people and makes them hate each other and hate themselves. Musk added, "the point is to end discrimination, not replace it with different discrimination."

The slaughter of thousands of men, women, and children in Afghanistan, Ukraine, and Israel is the direct result of Joe Biden's lethal foreign policy ineptitude. On Aug. 26, 2021 during Biden's deadly evacuation from Afghanistan, 13 members of the US military were killed along with scores of mutilated injuries. Bumblin' Biden ignored the advice of military commanders. This allowed \$billions and \$billions of valuable and new military equipment to fall into the hands of the Taliban. And not by coincidence, this allowed Biden to turn over the huge military airport to China, next to China, that was built by our military! Then on Aug. 29, the US conducted a drone strike on a vehicle in Kabul, that was supposedly carrying ISIS members, but actually carried ten Afghan civilians. Ten civilians were killed including seven children. Atta boy toughie Biden!

The violent assaults on thousands of Americans by illegal aliens is the direct result of Biden's lethal open border policy. The dramatic surge of violent crime across America is the direct result of Biden's condemnation and defunding of cops and appeasement of thugs. The blood of all those victims is on Biden's hands and those who were propping him up and guiding him off of stages.

President Trump certainly has his hands full nullifying all the hideous tragedies and assaults Biden and Democrats have inflicted upon America. Thomas Jefferson in 1801 said, "To restore harmony to render us again one people acting as one nation should be the object of every man really a patriot." And now you know Mr. Congour, why President Trump said, "I was saved by God to save America". And if the opportunity arises would you stand for our flag and kneel for the CROSS?

Jerry Bartholome, Montrose

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

SAN MIGUEL COUNTY SETS TIMELINE FOR SHERIFF APPOINTMENT PROCESS

Undersheriff Dan Covault, Sgt. Lane Masters vie for open position

Special to the Mirror

AN MIGUEL COUNTY--- The San Miguel Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) finalized the timeline for the process that will result in the appointment of a new County Sheriff. The retirement of longtime

Sheriff Bill Masters precipitated the statutorily mandated appointment protocols the commissioners must follow.

Two candidates — SMSO Undersheriff Dan Covault, and SMSO Operations Sergeant Lane Masters — will be interviewed

at the BOCC's next meeting, Tuesday, April 22. Per statute (CRS 24-6-402(4)(f)), those interviews will be conducted publicly. The interviews take place in the 2nd floor meeting room in the Miramonte Building in Telluride from 2-4 p.m. Undersheriff Covault's interview will take place at 2 p.m. and Sgt. Masters' is scheduled for 3 p.m. Following the interviews, the County will host a public meet and greet at the Placerville Schoolhouse with Masters and Covault from 5-6:30 p.m. There will be a Zoom option for those members of the public who cannot attend in person. The BOCC will be present to receive any feedback that the public would be willing to provide to help the Commissioners in this important decision. The final appointment decision and announcement will likely be made during the BOCC meeting on April 30. The public is encouraged to attend the interviews on April 22 via Zoom. Please be advised there will be no interaction between meeting attendees and the candidates, and no questions taken from the public during the interviews. Suggestions for candidate questions or feedback to the BOCC can be sent to bocc@sanmiguelcountyco.gov before April 25. (Please note, the BOCC meeting April 22 is a Tuesday, not the usual Wednesday meeting to accommodate staff training opportunities.)

Whichever candidate is selected will complete the remainder of Bill Masters' term, which expires in 2026. At that time, the appointed Sheriff can choose to run for election for a four-year term.

Sheriff Masters, who is Colorado's longest-serving Sheriff, announced his retirement in February after being returned to office by County voters for 12 consecutive terms. Masters will step down by early June, he said.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE REGIONAL HEALTH SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETES FIRST GALAXY SYSTEM ROBOTIC BRONCHOSCOPY PROCEDURE

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— On March 27, Montrose Regional Health successfully completed their first robotic bronchoscopy procedure with the newly acquired Galaxy System by Noah Medical. The Galaxy System features a robotic bronchoscopy device designed to detect lung cancer with improved accuracy and efficiency compared to alternative modern technologies. Montrose Regional Health is the first medical facility in the state of Colorado to acquire and implement this groundbreaking robotic system for early lung cancer detection.

With the assistance of the Galaxy System, physicians at Montrose Regional Health

are now able to diagnose and treat lung nodules much sooner while reducing the potential for infection using the system's single-use bronchoscope. "Lung cancer is a terrible disease that affects far too many members of our communities," said Dr. Hersh, Pulmonologist at Montrose Regional Health. "The key to lung cancer treatment is early detection—before cancer can grow and spread. The Galaxy System will help our patients receive the most accurate results possible, improving their prognosis."

The Galaxy System by Noah Medical is a state-of-the-art platform designed in collaboration with physicians that allows them to navigate to and locate lung nod-

ules with precision. Its "Tool-in- Lesion" TiLT+™ Technology has been shown to achieve 100% successful navigation to lung lesions and 100% precise positioning once inside the lesion. Once the abnormal tissue is located and examined, the Galaxy System has a 95% chance of determining a useful diagnosis, also known as "diagnostic yield."

Montrose Regional Health has been diligent in utilizing the most advanced medical technology currently available to provide quality care for their patients. In addition to the Galaxy System, MRH has implemented the daVinci, Excelsius, and Mako robotic surgical systems for precise and minimally invasive treatment options.

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SURVEY

English

www.montrosecounty.net/survey

In an effort to ensure Montrose County continues to address your needs in a matter important to you, we invite all residents to participate in a brief survey to provide feedback on Community Engagement. Help us improve how we connect with you to ensure we are meeting the community needs.



REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

GET READY FOR SPRING WILDFLOWERS—A PHOTOGRAPHIC JOURNEY



Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE—"Get Ready for Spring Wildflowers—a Photographic Journey" will take place at the Ute Indian Museum on Saturday April 12, from 10 to 11:15 am.

Join Ute Museum Volunteer Mary Menz and Jim Pisarowicz for an hour of beautiful wildflowers on the big screen, including many used by the Ute People. They will share fun facts and tidbits about the local flora. Mary is a Ridgway writer and Colorado Native Plant Master; Jim is an award-winning photographer from Montrose.

Mary and Jim will sign their books *Wildflowers of Colorado's Western Slope* and *Common Wildflowers of the San Juan Mountains* after the presentation.

Books are available in the Ute Indian Museum's gift shop.

Tome Nuestra Encuesta

Queremos sus comentarios



SURVEY

Spanish



SURVEY

English

www.montrosecounty.net/survey

En un esfuerzo por asegurar que el Condado de Montrose continúe atendiendo sus necesidades de una manera adecuada, los invitamos a todos los residentes para participar en una encuesta y ofrecer comentarios acerca de la participación comunitaria. Ayúdanos a mejorar cómo el Condado se conecta con usted y asegurarnos de que estamos respondiendo a las necesidades de la comunidad.





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GOP CHAIR REVEALS SUE HANSEN CHANGED HER PARTY AFFILIATION WITHOUT NOTICE TO PARTY OFFICIALS

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-A meeting of the Montrose Board of County Commissioners on Wednesday, April 2 included plentiful public input and the removal once again of disruptive attendee Ken Dolezal. The public comment portion of the meeting also included the disclosure by Republican Party Chair Monty George that longtime county commissioner Sue Hansen had quietly changed her party affiliation to "Unaffiliated."

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance, and an invocation delivered by Reverend Garrett Agajanian of St. Stephens Anglican Church. "...Heavenly Father, this morning I thank you for the freedoms we enjoy and we have as Americans, and the blessings and privileges that we enjoy living here in Western Colorado...we continue to mourn the loss of a leader and brother in Christ in our community, Sheriff Rick Dunlap, he was a friend to many of us, an example...this morning...I pray for this assembled council, I'm asking that you graciously grant them wisdom, and sound judgment and I pray for the agenda set before them today..."

All commissioners were present for the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

The first to speak was Monty George, the chair of the Montrose Republican Party. "Over the years the Montrose County Republican Party has stood strong together, supporting our Republican candidates through thick and thin. We've celebrated victories over and over again, getting our Republican candidates elected, into office, and have been successful when tasked to fill a vacancy in the county through the vacancy committee by placing a Republican in the county commissioner seat.

"This was done first, placing Sue Hansen in in 2018 after the resignation of Glenn Davis. This was accomplished again this year, with the appointment of Sean Pond after the untimely passing of Rick Dunlap, our dedication has paid off...we're proud to have three county commissioners who represent our values and our party.

"Imagine our shock, when during the state



Disruptive attendee Ken Dolezal was once again removed for shouting insults during the BOCC meeting. Above, Dolezal appeared to clap for himself as he was led away by a Sheriff's Deputy. Meeting screenshot.

GOP reorganization meeting this past Saturday, that our county central committee discovered that Sue Hansen had quietly changed her party affiliation to unaffiliated and abandoned the Republican Party responsible for both of her terms as County Commissioner. This was done by Ms. Hansen with no warning, no discussion, and not even a whisper to the party that supported her...this raises many concerns about our two-party election system. How is it okay for a candidate to become an elected official with the support of our political party, to then change party affiliation after enjoying seven years in office? Is there some other, higher agenda in this shift? What does this say or mean for the trust we have placed, what does it say about the loyalty to the values we fight for every day? We didn't hear this from her, no courtesy, no explanation, just silence until this information slipped out in the public domain...Montrose County deserves honesty, not deception...with this new knowledge and discovery, perhaps these actions shed some light on the dysfunctional, disjointed discourse that we've been observing over the past several weeks here in this room. The interactions between our three county commissioners, who were all elected Republicans, have ended up being an attack on two of the new commissioners, including attacks by

the liberal media and the recruited Democrats who come to this room. Now one of them has shown their true colors. It makes one wonder where the true problems lie."

Next to speak was Sue Gattis, "...I too changed my party affiliation from Republican to unaffiliated. I have been a Republican for 35 years...I did not know Sue Hansen did this...I did this because I was appalled at the things I have seen at the board meeting...I really have to say I was very disappointed. I'm very disappointed in you, Mr. Mijares, I don't like how you've handled a lot of things...your actions have consequences, that consequence was to lose me, a loyal Republican member of 35 years...I think we all have to work together, that means you too..."

Michael Badagliacco spoke. "Lately I've been struck by a lot of chatter about how the political left...have turned mobilization into an art form. We saw it here in this very room a few short weeks ago...in action, marching in lockstep to a single beat. It's impressive...picture this, unison is every voice belting out the same note, perfectly aligned...like a metronome ticking along...harmony on the other hand, is a vibrant weave of highs and lows, notes clashing, intertwining...it's the difference between a monotone hum and a symphony that grabs you by the soul...the left

HANSEN CHANGED PARTY AFFILIATION WITHOUT NOTICE *From previous pg*

excels at unison, they're a well-oiled machine...where's the heart, the passion, the fire. Then there are the Republicans, particularly the MAGA Republicans...the improvisors, the jazz cats of the political world...sometimes veering into dissonance with unexpected turns...but it's alive...Republicans aren't drones, we're not a cult, we're true independent thinkers...we don't strive for total agreement...uniformity isn't the point. Independence, liberty, and freedom is the point. Step back and listen, what emerges is harmony...it's raw, it's real, and it hits in ways unison can only dream of..."

Robin Heid spoke, "...Today we have a lot of things being called procedure errors and judgment calls that are euphemisms for incompetence or corruption, number one, the hiring process for two major people in this county government should have been paused or restarted when the new commissioner took office...we need to stop it today and start afresh..."

John Broadbooks spoke, saying he felt the need to respond to perceived aspersions on Hansen's character. "...I've known Sue for a number of years, I voted for her. I didn't look for an R or a D behind her name, I looked at her character, I have found her to be a forthright and dedicated public servant..."

Cindy Dozier spoke, and questioned whether Montrose County was a "coordinating county."

"...If we are not a coordinating county, I would strongly encourage us to become one...if we are a coordinating county, I would question if that designation is being used effectively, and can we make it more a part of what we are doing with our Federal land management folks..."

Next to speak was Karry Brown. "...I have served and my family has served this country since its founding...I see Democrats and Republicans and they're clashing. I'm an Independent...I am in the middle, I am looking at both sides...you can see the difference in their eyes and it breaks my heart...we as citizens of this town, we go out once a month to show our pride in America, to be an American, we fly our flags and we are met with resistance, with flipping you off. Why? Because we fly the American flag. That doesn't make any sense. If you don't like

America, then leave. Don't push on somebody else to belittle them, to degrade them...when you've got someone that's so blinded by their rage, you can't go sit and have a cup of coffee...my founding fathers made this possible for us all, and I want the hate to stop...I personally want to know how we bring in some of these new jobs...I thank you for your time and I ask everybody to please come together, don't be mad at one another, we're all here for the same reason, and that is for the betterment of our lives as a whole..." Ray Langston spoke next.

"...Commissioner Hansen I'm a bit disappointed that you had to change your affiliation though I do understand why. The corruption that has gone on within our local GOP has made it to where a lot of people are changing their affiliation to get away from the Republican Party. The state party as well. When you have chairs running for office in contested primaries, that is a violation of the neutrality clause. If the GOP is not going to honor their own bylaws, there is no honor in the organization...the GOP needs to address this issue and they need to address it within themselves as to what they're gonna allow and what they're not gonna allow."

Dee Laird spoke, commenting on the difficulties faced by the Montrose County Sheriff's Office in recruiting and keeping qualified deputies.

Laird said, "He cannot compete with the Montrose PD and this needs to change...this county needs a strong sheriff's department...Montrose deserves a strong sheriff's department."

"Like Larry whatever his name was from Oklahoma said, 'Let's get 'er done.'"

Ken Dolezal spoke. "...I'm the guy you had removed...I apologize if I offended anyone but I'm back. I think I speak for a lot of the people here...we have a wonderful events center as a result of David White's taking over the council...it's because of Dave White building the event center that we are hung with today at least \$1M per year debt...which takes away from the Sheriff's department. There wasn't a vote on the events center...they're putting out buckets when it rains because the roof is leaking...this doesn't make sense. The county has gotten along very well for several years now with the city, I want to see that

maintained, and I want to see good decisions made by this board. To Sue Hansen's credit I think that has been going on for the last six or seven years..."

Jim Anderson spoke, saying that the actions of the Republican Party and BOCC have followed established procedures. "...So far as I can see, the commissioners, all three of them, have been following protocol...these procedures have been going on for years, there's been a change in the chair, so what...they've been following the book, they've been following the procedures, these things have happened many, many, times over, and to be maligned because you just don't like the result, or all of a sudden show up after 30 years, is really amazing...who is the victim?"

COUNTY MANAGER

County Manager Frank Rodriguez had no changes to the meeting agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda items were unanimously approved.

MONTROSE COUNTY LOCAL LIQUOR LICENSING AUTHORITY

Commissioners left regular session to convene as the Montrose County Local Liquor Licensing Authority. They voted to approve the Chair's signature on a [Special Events Permit for Montrose Baseball, Inc.](#), on April 26, 2025, at the Antler Ridge Wedding and Events Barn, 72005 Kinikin Road. All appropriate documents, reviews, and fees have been submitted pursuant to CRS 44-5-101. No concerns were reported by the Sheriff's Office or Planning and Development Department.

The board reconvened as the BOCC.

MONTROSE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

The first item for the Board of Health was Consideration and possible adoption of [Resolution Number 21-2025](#), to correct a procedural error in regards to the appointment of the Director of Public Health for Montrose County.

County Manager Frank Rodriguez took responsibility for the error, noting that the correct procedures were not followed during the hiring of the Public Health Director. He read the resolution into the record. "...WHEREAS, the previous appointment of the Director of Public Health was adopted by the Montrose County Board of County Commissioners rather

HANSEN CHANGED PARTY AFFILIATION WITHOUT NOTICE From previous pg

than by the Board of County Commissioners in their role as the Board of Health through Resolution 17-2025; and WHEREAS, to correct a clerical error, the Montrose County Board of Health hereby appoints a Director of Public Health as outlined in C.R.S. 25-1-508; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MONTROSE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS THAT: Dr. Mirza Mashrur Ahmed is hereby appointed as the Director of Public Health for Montrose County and shall perform all statutory duties as required, providing reports to the Board of County Commissioners as requested."

Commissioner Hansen moved to approve the resolution; still, the motion died for lack of a second.

BOCC Chair Scott Mijares said that the BOCC cannot hire the Director of Public Health. "We need to follow the law, the law clearly states that the selection should be made by the Board of Health."

Hansen asked to consult with the attorney.

Pond abstained as he was not on the board at the time of the selection. He moved to approve Resolution 21-2025, to install Dr. Ahmed as the Interim Director of Public Health while a search is conducted for a Director of Public Health.

Hansen said, "...these commissioners have opened us up to a number of lawsuits with these things...I'm not voting for this."

Pond and Mijares voted to approve the motion on the floor.

Mijares said, "...We're going to make sure the law is followed and procedures are done correctly. Mr Ahmed might be our Director of Public Health...but we get to make that decision, not our staff or county manager."

Commissioners left the Montrose County Board of Public Health to reconvene as the BOCC.

GENERAL BUSINESS AND ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

During a heated discussion with additional comment, attendee Ken Dolezal was removed for shouting at commissioners to resign and appearing to clap for himself as he was escorted from chambers. Still the BOCC passed the first General Business item, **Resolution Number 22-2025** in a

two to one vote, with Hansen opposed. Resolution 22-2025 calls for legislative reform of the Colorado Open Records Act (CORA) to protect transparency while restoring the ability of local governments to function without operational obstruction or abuse. In addition to hearing from the public, Pond and Mijares shared their own experiences with extensive CORA requests.

Also with commentary from the citizenry, the BOCC voted unanimously to approve **Resolution Number 23-2025**, reaffirming Montrose County's designation as a Second Amendment Sanctuary County and formally opposing Colorado Senate Bill 25-003 (SB25-003).

The third and fourth General Business Items were passed together:

Unanimously approved were the Chair's signature on a Professional Services Agreement with Donna Harville Justin, Hearing Officer for the 2025 Board of Equalization (BOE) residential appeals; as reviewed by Counsel; and

The Chair's signature on a Professional Services Agreement with Ken Brownlee, Hearing Officer for the 2025 Board of Equalization (BOE) for commercial appeals, as reviewed by Counsel.

The BOCC voted unanimously to approve the termination of contract 2025-010 for the 2025 Kinikin Road Gravel Crushing Services.

Also approved was the sole source contract with Rocky Mountain Aggregate LLC to provide the rock fill for the 2025 Kinikin Project, as reviewed by Counsel.

Commissioners voted to authorize the Chair's signature on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of Montrose and Montrose County to host a one-time combined Residential Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) event, as reviewed by Counsel. This is to encourage citizens to collect, handle and dispose of common household hazardous waste materials.

Also authorized was the Purchase Agreement for the purchase of 600,000 gallons of liquid magnesium chloride solution from New GMCO, LLC of Rifle, Colorado, having submitted the lowest responsible bid in the amount of \$594,000; as reviewed by Counsel. County crews will pick

up the magnesium chloride at New GMCO's location at 240 N 9th. Street in Montrose, Colorado. The magnesium chloride will be used to treat approximately 116 miles of gravel roads in Montrose County.

Commissioners voted to approve a contract for professional services to Broad-bent & Associates, Inc. of Parker, Colorado, having submitted the lowest responsible responsive fee proposal in the total amount of \$13,495.80. The professional services include monitoring, groundwater testing, statistical analysis, and reporting at the West End Landfill near Nucla, as required by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). The work will be paid using funds in the West End Landfill post-closure fund.

Commissioners unanimously adopted **Resolution Number 24-2025** authorizing the donation of surplus property consisting of one light fleet vehicle to Hoof & Paw, Inc.

The final General Business item was the Consideration and possible authorization of the Chair to select and retain outside legal counsel for contract matters and risk assessment. This action represents an unbudgeted expense not to exceed \$10,000.

Commissioner Sue Hansen said that the outside counsel would be hired to review the North Campus construction, which has already been approved. She read into the record a "completely unsolicited" letter from an employee currently stationed at the South Campus, who wrote about the safety concerns and discomfort of the dilapidated building.

"We have to move forward with this building. I am not in favor of this..." Hansen said.

BOCC Chair Scott Mijares said that the original plan was to build the North Campus or the historic courthouse, "it was either/or."

Mijares raised concerns about a lack of funding. "It's going to cost our community. We will end up spending all our CIP money and will go into debt for \$10M or more...tax revenues are down...all the major economic indicators do not bode well...our Finance Director has told me that this won't bankrupt us but it will take away all of our options...my objective is

HANSEN CHANGED PARTY AFFILIATION WITHOUT NOTICE *From previous pg*

is talk to an attorney who's in the contracting business...the money has to come from somewhere. We have to be prudent, we have to be frugal...we can move our employees around and keep 'em in a safe area...for us to move forward with a \$28M building when it was never proposed to be both the courthouse and the building, is I think irresponsible. That the old board voted on it on December 28th, just before the new board came in, says something. I'm just trying to bring my knowledge of being in business to the board and say listen we have to be careful. We're dealing with your money...

Hansen said, "Thanks for that detailed explanation, I think we already talked about all that before...we are already under contract, we have been vetting it since 2018..."

She discussed the problems of the old building. She said that the county commissioners should move into the South

Campus. "We need to move forward, our employees want to move forward...this is a building that has to be built...we need to get this moving forward...if we get a Front Range lawyer it's going to be \$500 an hour..."

BOCC Vice Chair Sean Pond spoke. He commended Commissioner Hansen for taking emails and understanding employee concerns, adding that the Finance Department has raised concerns.

Pond said, "I don't have an opinion, honestly. I think there probably needs to be something done. If anybody thinks this project is on a hold, take a drive by. They're moving dirt, there's lots of equipment...the project is going forward, it's not been stopped...I think it's a valid concern to look at the contract, I think it's something that we should have a conversation about. After all it's your money, it's taxpayer dollars that are building this...whether if we need the building

then that's what we'll get, and if we think it's going to put harm for our budget for the future then I think we should look at it harder..."

Hansen said that the Finance Department is there to protect the county finances. They have never liked one capital project yet. "...It is not wasteful to find a facility and to build a facility that will protect our employees...our employees deserve more..."

Attendee Sue Gattis spoke. 'It seems that this is a problem you specifically have with the North Campus Mr. Mijares...why should we. You can get an attorney yourself and pay for it to look at the North Campus..."

Commissioners voted; the motion passed in a two to one vote with Hansen voting to oppose.

Hansen moved to adjourn; Mijares adjourned the meeting. "Thank you very much."

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

HB25-1312, IF PASSED, WILL MANDATE PUNISHMENT FOR ANYONE DARING TO DENY TRANS CULT

Editor:

It is not that difficult to see that, because Democrats don't really have a real message for the American people anymore, the only tactic they have left is the same tactic they use to try to prevent Trump from succeeding: lawfare. They have sued Trump to keep illegal immigrant criminals in America, sued him to keep toxic DEI policies in place in the bloated federal bureaucracies, and sued him to keep DOGE from saving taxpayers hundreds of billions of their money going into Democrat slush funds. They just shop around for a judge corrupt enough to let his/her hatred for Trump override justice, and presto! Immediate injunctions. Democrats (the DNC, Schumer, Jeffries, etc.) have now filed a lawsuit against Trump for an executive order that – wait for it – would make it illegal for non-citizens to vote. The entire point of Biden illegally letting the border be overrun for four years was to create new voters for Democrats. They are again showing who they are and how much they hate the American people. Go ahead Dem voters. Lie to yourselves and try to justify that as something good for the American people.

Another Democrat tactic when you have nothing that works – this one ages-old – is to fall back on slandering the opposition as racists. You would think that with Rep. Jasmine Crockett (D-TX) saying so many nasty things, she would eventually figure out she is not that bright and zip it. After wishing harm on Musk and Cruz and mocking Governor Abbott for being in a wheelchair, it is now known she repeatedly trashed Byron Daniels for having a white wife. Open racism and bigotry from a sitting member of Congress (and the face of the Democrat Party) must be just fine, right Dem voters?

Colorado was once a sane state, populated with people tied to reality and the Constitution. That Colorado is now a distant memory. Democrat voters share in the irrationality when they go along with Governor Polis and the Democrat legislature. That legislature is continually working on legislation that will void our second amendment right to keep and bear arms -- legislation that they know is blatantly unconstitutional and will eventually be nullified by the courts, but they don't care. Going even further into their lapse into insanity, HB25-1312, if passed, will

mandate punishment for anyone daring to deny the trans cult. The radical transgender bill makes “misgendering” a “discriminatory act” which entails substantial penalties. The bill threatens parents' custody rights if they don't “affirm” a child's “gender identity” and also pushes their gender ideology in schools -- including private, charter, and religious schools. Again, this type of ideology that allows leftist governments to control speech, thought, religion, and parenting is OK, right Dem voters? Total government control is good, right?

Here is something else you won't read in our illustrious Montrose Press or GJ Sentinel: Since Colorado passed the Taxpayers' Bill of Rights (TABOR) in 1992, administrative fees have increased 3,000%. In 2023 alone, Coloradans paid \$23.3 billion in various fees to the government.

Clearly, our Democrat controlled government is using “fees” as a way of bypassing TABOR to tax us without getting permission from voters.

But that's OK because the Democrat party is the party of ordinary people – right Dem voters?

Ed Henrie, Montrose



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

HANSEN FAILED TO SHOW THE COURTESY OF MEETING WITH THE REPUBLICAN CENTRAL COMMITTEE

Editor:

When Glen Davis resigned from the BOCC several years ago the Republican party strongly supported Sue Hansen as a replacement candidate. After fulfilling one full term the Republican party also strongly supported her election to a second term. This past weekend it became public

knowledge that she had abruptly changed her political affiliation from Republican to Unaffiliated. In doing so she failed to show the courtesy of meeting with the Republican Central Committee to apprise them of her decision and the reason for doing so.

Over her tenure she has served at least three times as the BOCC chair and ac-

quired the name of Queen Bee because of her manipulative methods. Now that she has obtained the position of low girl on the BOCC totem pole she has decided to take all her marbles and give the Republican party the proverbial bird. I may be really old-school but in my opinion her actions point to a serious character flaw.

Dee Laird, Montrose

HANG IN THERE SUE HANSEN, YOU HAVE SUPPORT

Editor:

How I miss Keith Caddy and Roger Rash. Hang in there Sue Hanson. You have support.

Jo Clugg, Montrose

AN OPEN LETTER FROM THE MONTROSE COUNTY REPUBLICANS CONCERNING RECENT ALLEGATIONS

Editor:

We, the Executive Committee of the Montrose County Republican Party, have endured the insults and false accusations from former Party Chair Ray Langston, most recently at the County Commissioners' meeting on April 2, 2025, where he accused the Party of corruption. Enough is enough! The public and possibly law enforcement, including the Montrose County District Attorney, need to know the truth about his alleged corruption, by-law violations, false accusations, sabotage of a congressional candidate, misuse of funds, theft, and verbal assaults against women.

Ray Langston's actions include:

1. Losing re-election as Party Chair in 2021 with only 17% of the vote due to his conduct, then violating neutrality as Candidate Support Chair in 2022, leading to his removal.
2. Failing to secure a nomination for Party Chair in 2023, while Scott Riba was elected.
3. Verbally abusing Party members, especially women, including his Secretary who resigned, and an Army veteran at the 2024 County Fair.
4. Misusing Party funds, including unaccounted campaign cash, unauthorized dinners, and an unapproved donation in 2020, while refusing to submit a 2020 financial report.

Ray Langston falsely accuses others of corruption to deflect from his record. He libels opponents, threatens lawsuits against critics, and disrupts events with violent outbursts, like one at a 2024 Meet & Greet witnessed by 35 people, including law enforcement. He has been banned from Party functions for five years after multiple disturbances, including a 2021 incident where he disrupted a guest speaker with profanity-laden yelling over her evidence against a controversial sex education bill.

The truth must be known to voters to counter his false statements and abusive behavior.

Montrose County Republican Party



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Saturday, April 26th

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A BUS TRIP INTO HISTORY From pg 1

much quicker. One of the many bus companies was the Motor Bus Transportation Company. They quickly made their mark on Colorado. They were actually part of a railroad company. An article in the April 30, 1920 edition of the *Montrose Daily Press* focused on the success of the company. It read:

MOTOR BUS CARRIES 80 PASSENGERS RIGHT ON TIME - *The Motor Bus Transportation company made a splendid record Thursday. Between Grand Junction and Ouray various buses of this company carried more than 80 passengers and carried them on time. For instance, they left Montrose sharply at 1:30 for Olathe, Delta and points west, whereas the passengers who chose the train route did not get out of the city until late that afternoon because of the train delay. The number of passengers being carried is increasing each day as they see by an actual ride how pleasant and prompt a trip is on the bus route.*

Six years later, the Colorado State Supreme Court ruled that the burgeoning bus companies were common carriers and were subject to the regulation of the Colorado Public Utilities Commission. In late May of 1926, the PUC granted the application for a transfer of the permits for the motor bus line. The action was reported by the Associated Press. It read, in part: (Associated Press) **DENVER, May 26—** *The state public utilities commission today granted the application for a transfer of the permits for motor bus lines between Grand Junction and Montrose, now held by the Motor Transportation company and H. D. Davis of Delta, to the Western Slope Motor Way, Inc., subsidiary of the Denver and Rio Grande Western railroad.*

Barely one month after the permit transfers, the D & RGW and the manager of the

new Motor Way saw the revenue possibilities of the tourist trade and began exploring routes. One of the first routes they explored was one that would entertain passengers on a route that began in Glenwood Springs; traveled over Grand Mesa to Cedaredge, then to Delta, Montrose, and Ouray. The culmination of the route went over the Million Dollar Highway to Durango and on to Mesa Verde, then to Telluride, on to Grand Junction and back to Glenwood Springs. Patrons could take any part of the trip or enjoy the awesome scenery of the whole route, with appropriate overnight and rest stops. The combined companies planned on completing the necessary tasks to have the route open by the summer of 1927, but a few experimental trips were made during the remainder of 1926. In August of 1926, Vic DeMerschman, manager of the Western Slope Motor Way, Inc., together with F. A. Wadleigh and Attorney Woodrow of the Denver and Rio Grande Western railroad, took the trip over the proposed route and concluded that it would take some time to develop the entire service in the ways they intended.

In January of 1927, Western Slope Motorway Inc. ran an ad in newspapers in towns along the proposed route. In part the ad promised: "Western Slope Motorways knows that business goes where it is invited and stays where it is well treated. If in the year 1926 our service was as good as you expected it will be better in 1927." By May of 1927, the company announced that they had logged an impressive 50,000 miles, and had successfully established the route to Durango. Their buses ran on schedule, until November when an avalanche on the Million Dollar highway prevented the bus from traveling from Durango to Ouray.

In late July of 1928, D & RGW announced that they were ready to begin an advertising campaign costing as much as \$25,000 to promote the travel between Montrose and Durango. President J. S. Pyeatt, in a press release, explained that the advertising was intended to increase travel of the buses of Western Slope Motorways, saying, "The time is near at hand when the Million Dollar highway will be appreciated as the great scenic bus route of the nation and thousands of tourists every summer will travel over it."

Within days of the press release, Vic DeMerschman, president of the Western Slope Motor Ways Inc., and a party of Rio Grande officials, traveled from Grand Junction to Silverton in one of the buses to evaluate the availability of restaurants, hotels and other amenities along the route.

In late January of 1930 the Western Slope Motor Way, inc. transferred its certificates to Rio Grande Motorways. Both companies remained subsidiaries of Rio Grande Western Railroad. The transfer significantly increased the patronage of the bus routes. The scenic trips, especially those between Montrose and Durango became a mainstay of the travelling public. One lady, quoted in a gossip column in the Palisade newspaper, summed the experience up well. She said, "As the bus chugged up out of Ouray and all the way to Silverton, I was amazed at the amazing scenery. It was not until the return trip that I realized what a dangerous road we had been traveling."

The buses occasionally encountered delays because of snowslides, rockslides and bad weather, but for the most part, they had a reputation of running on time and completing the trips without injury to passengers.



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The primary bedroom showcasing a vaulted ceiling and five piece en-suite bath with granite counter tops, tile finishes, private water closet and a generous walk-in closet. The guest hallway has an additional double door storage closet and 2 well sized bedrooms along with another full bath. The tandem 3 car garage has 578 sq ft of space and is perfect for your vehicles, recreational toys or even as a workshop. With this home conveniently located near the community's park and not far from downtown it's just waiting for your arrival.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

BOAT RAMPS OPENING AT STATE PARKS ACROSS CPW'S SOUTHWEST REGION

Special to the Mirror

RIDGWAY— The boat ramp at Ridgway State Park opened for the season Tuesday, and more boat ramps will soon open across the Southwest Region of Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

The boat ramp at Ridgway State Park is now open with Aquatic Nuisance Species

inspections available from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Those hours will be extended following Memorial Day weekend for the rest of the summer boating season.

The Navajo State Park boat ramp opened for the season on March 1. Crawford State Park will have its boat ramp open on April 7, while Paonia State Park's boat ramp is slated to open May 19.

CPW reminds the public that Paonia State Park's boat ramp will be closed on Tuesdays for wakeless days. Hand-launched boats will still be permitted.

Sweitzer Lake State Park had its reservoir drawn down for a dam restoration project during the winter. With work nearly complete, the lake will begin to refill starting April 15 and an announcement will be made in May regarding the opening of the boat ramp.

"We need the water to rise nine feet before we can open the boat ramp," Park Manager Scott Rist said. "We hope to open the ramp by mid-May."

The lake at Mancos State Park still has ice coverage and no opening date has been set for the boat ramp opening at this time.

Before launching in Colorado waters, boaters will need to ensure their boat is registered, purchase an aquatic nuisance species (ANS) stamp and follow all ANS inspection requirements.

"We always want to remind everyone to make sure their boats are clean, drained and dry," said Ridgway State Park Senior Ranger Derek MacLachlan.

All boats are also required to have one Coast Guard-approved life jacket for each person on board. Life jackets can save lives when they fit properly and are worn when recreating on the water. Boaters are also encouraged to take a boating safety course with CPW to learn navigation safety and what to do in case of an accident.

Opening dates:

Crawford: Monday, April 7

Mancos: TBA as conditions safely allow

Navajo: Saturday, March 1

Paonia: Monday, May 19

Ridgway: Tuesday, April 1

Sweitzer Lake: TBA in mid-May



*The boat ramp at Ridgway State Park.
Dustin Daskocil/CPW*



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YOUR BRAIN ON NATURE – ATTENTION



By Dr. Lauren Hall Ruddell, Ph.D

Greetings Mirrorites!

OLATHE- A social media pundit recently stated, “We are currently living at a time when attention is the new currency.” This is abundantly true, in my humble opinion. But what is this currency exactly?

When I started my Your Brain on Nature column for *The Montrose Mirror* almost four years ago, I went into great depth about the nature of attention, and the nature of attention in nature. What kinds of attention there are, what grabs it, what holds it, and what certain types of sustained attention can do to either improve your quality of life or diminish it were described. That first article from July of 2021 set the stage for following contributions. But that was some time ago, and there are many new readers since then that may not understand the importance of soft fascination, how sustained executive attention (voluntary attention) and other types of ways we direct that currency to be spent affect various parts of the brain. So it’s probably overdue for a refresher and some updates.

Although there are many kinds of attention that I have studied and many that I haven’t, there are two that are most relevant to attention restoration: voluntary and involuntary. According to the American Psychological Association (APA), *voluntary attention is that which is deliberately applied and controlled by the individual. It is effortful and limited. Involuntary attention is that which is spontaneously captured by a stimulus in the environment.* Many brain-activation studies have investigated the extent to which voluntary



Photo courtesy of O. Ivanov

and involuntary attention are controlled by separate neural systems.

We deploy voluntary attention routinely in our daily lives – from reading the morning newspaper to navigating rush-hour traffic. Being able to focus intensely is a critical life skill and aptitude. But the brain has limited resources for processing an overwhelming amount of information. Successful deployment of attention allows us to *selectively* process relevant information, while filtering out the irrelevant and distracting bits. We evolved to be beautifully able to do this, for short periods of time. The rest of the time, in the ancestral environment, which was intimately connected to the happenings in nature for better or for worse, exogenous, involuntary attention took up about 90% of our waking hours. There is general agreement among scholars that very early hominids were creatures that reacted to their environments through exogenous attentional patterns. But as humanity developed a larger and more complex neocortex, increased endogenous (voluntary) attention became more common. Less reactive and more predictive and inquisitive. So voluntary attention is awesome and partly makes us who we are. But...it can be too much of a good thing.

Having our attention grabbed and held either voluntarily or involuntarily is referred to as fascination. When we jump out of our skins at a car horn honking behind us, we experience a moment of involuntary reaction. But without sustained engagement with the stimuli, it cannot be thought of as fascination. Whereas cruising slowly past the scene of a traffic accident that we can’t tear our eyes off of is a kind of fascination. It is arousing and evocative, and is referred to as hard fascination, but ultimately does not help us to attain a restful, emotionally moderate, and healthful state of mind. That is achieved through low arousal, pleasing and engaging involuntary attention, which has been termed soft fascination. This type of attentional currency is growing scarcer and scarcer, while being more and more in demand.

More than half the world’s population now lives in urban areas. From a psychological perspective, urban lifestyles impose intense demands on our cognitive resources (Kaplan and Berman, [2010](#)). City living increases mental health risks in several ways, from schizophrenia to mood and anxiety disorders. When humans are bombarded with certain types of stimuli constantly, the result is chronic depletion of focused attention. This causes a shrinkage of problem-solving ability and resilience, while increasing frustration and lack of self-control. Impulsivity, depression, anxiety, and even rage can be the result.

There are many ways for humans to decompress from this assault on our brains and senses. Meditation, music, art, and dance can be very helpful. I don’t know nearly enough about these techniques to describe the how’s and why’s of indoor attentional therapies. I do, however, know that time spent in soft fascination in restorative environments is faster and often more effective than these other means of decompression. And we know that dosage matters. The more time attentionally depleted and stressed folks can spend in naturalistic surroundings, the greater their chances of long-term mental wellness and clarity. This phenomenon is examined through the lens of Attention Restoration Theory (ART) which you will see mentioned and explained in detail over

YOUR BRAIN ON NATURE – ATTENTION *From previous pg*

the next couple of months. You don't have to be a tree hugger to derive benefit from time spent in pleasant nature. Researchers have found that it helps, sure, but pretty much everyone can benefit in ways they are not even aware of.

For instance, two prominent researchers in this field ([Cimprich and Ronis, 2003](#)) found that women recently diagnosed with breast cancer scored higher on several attention tasks, compared to standard

care controls, following a five-week period of spending *120 minutes per week* in 'natural restorative environments'. The authors confirmed that two hours per week of nature exposure helped these patients restore cognitive resources depleted by the stress of their diagnoses and treatment. Less time was inadequate for significant changes to manifest. These patients were selected based upon their diagnosis and not their inherent tree-

hugging tendencies. Dosage matters, but two hours per week, not per day like I prefer (at least), was enough for significant brain change.

Please stay tuned for more of this refresher course on soft fascination. Readers who might like to experience a refreshing hike with pack goats can contact me at agescapesnow@gmail.com.

Best,
The Mindful Naturalist

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HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS & SUITES GETS A REFRESH From pg 1

hotel team participates in the local business community—and through charitable donations, public “renovation sales,” and the annual “share day,” the hotel owners are making a material difference for the people of Montrose.

“A very big highlight of the renovation is being able to give back,” Giles said.

Assistant General Manager Shayne Louder said that the Holiday Inn Express & Suites wants to be “your home away from home.”

Reinvesting in the community of Mont-

rose is an essential part of the company’s focus on revitalization, Louder said, as is charitable giving, to national organizations such as Feed the Children and local non-profit organizations.

“We love supporting the locals,” Louder said, noting that with completion of the renovation, the hotel will be getting away from the “corporate” feel in favor of something more comfortable.

“We want to bring people together.”

For something special in a busy market, the Holiday Inn Express offers tailored

package deals.

From the “Pet Package” which includes a partnership with Chow Down Pet Supplies, to the “Romance Package,” complete with enticing hot springs and spa passes, there’s something here to enliven your guest experience.

While no date has yet been set for an open house, when it does take place there will be entertainment and the entire community will be invited to celebrate, Giles said. “We’ll have hors d’oeuvres and a band.”

THE RENOVATION IN DETAIL:

Sales and Marketing Professional Denise Comer shared details of the Holiday Inn Express & Suites renovation:

-Completed Upgrades: We have finished painting the exterior of the hotel and upgraded the patio with new furniture, three firepits, and a gated key entry system.

-Guest Room Enhancements: All guest rooms will feature upgraded amenities, including new beds, tubs, and showers. We've also upgraded our TVs from 39 inches to 55 inches, allowing you to stream Netflix.

-Lobby Transformation: We are removing the stairs in the lobby to create a fully open space with all new furniture and a 65-inch TV.

-Room Expansion: Our current 122 rooms will increase to 130 post-renovation.

-Pool Closure and Fitness Center Expansion: Our pool will be permanently closed, but we are expanding our fitness center. In the meantime, we are partnering with the Montrose Rec Center to provide guests with passes to access their pool and fitness center.

-Meeting Space Upgrades: Our 5,000 square feet of meeting space is getting a facelift with new vinyl on the walls, new carpet, and an updated built-in dance floor. This unique feature makes our venue perfect for wedding receptions and company Christmas parties.

-Community Support: We recently held two days of sales to give back to the town of Montrose by selling items from our guest rooms, including beds, mini fridges, microwaves, dressers, desks, chairs, and more. The proceeds from these sales will be donated to our charitable foundation, Feed the Children.



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CITY COUNCIL HONORS LOCAL SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS



Mayor J. David Reed and Council presented local school bus drivers with the "You make a difference" award. Meeting Screenshot.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-All City Councilors were present, as was Youth City Council Representative Darinka Skybova, for the regular meeting of the Montrose City Council on Monday, March 31. Mayor J. David Reed called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance; Mayor Pro Tem David Frank had no changes to the meeting agenda.

"We're going to do a little awarding and proclaiming this evening," Mayor Reed said. Noting that, "they are the fabric that holds our community together," Reed presented local school bus drivers with the "You make a difference" award.

Also, proclamations were issued in support of Earth Week, Arbor Day, and Water Conservation Month.

CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

First to speak was John Brown, who said that there was not a proclamation issued in support of veterans, specifically those who served in the Vietnam War. Brown thanked the Council for hosting an Interactive Work Session with Citizen Ron Smith earlier that day. "The interaction was great...I would like to see that sort of open forum, a forum we could as the public come to, we could have two-way conversations...I really did enjoy the two-way conversation...what are you doing for the non-sanctuary process that I've been after since March of last year...there are things that we need to continue, keeping this

forum into a public format...a lot of the meetings in this community...that we want to attend, we find ourselves trying to make a decision, which one do I want to go to..."

Brown suggested a community bulletin board to avoid scheduling important meetings at the same time. "...Thank you for your time, have a blessed day..."

Michael Badagliacco spoke, "Citizens of Montrose would like to inquire if the Mayor will be responding to our request for a public forum, to refute allegations made over the past six months or so, raising serious concerns about the operation of the City of Montrose government...we asked the Mayor...to agree to a public forum and refute these allegations...the public has a right to know where our tax dollars are being spent and how. This is our money that you have a fiscal responsibility to use wisely. Seven years ago, Montrose was debt free—now we're carrying debt at record levels, and this body needs to answer for it. This forum would allow the public to understand whether what's been happening is in their best interests or not. Thank you."

Next to speak was Linda Zeman, "...I'm going to reiterate the same thing I've said the last couple times I've been here, and I hope that you do take seriously the issue of declaring Montrose a non-sanctuary city. I think it's disgraceful that we can't take a stand on something we claim to believe.

"I lived in Albuquerque, New Mexico for almost 33 years," Zeman said, noting that Albuquerque and much of New Mexico are declared to be sanctuary cities.

"...Last night there were a group of people that actually committed arson and vandalized the GOP headquarters in Albuquerque, New Mexico, spray painted it with 'ICE equals the KKK.'"

After noting that City Council was voted into office for the protection of the citizens of the city, for their well-being and for the good of Montrose, Zeman said, "There is not a sanctuary city in this country that has not been degraded, vandalized, the property values have dropped because the people of the city have not taken a stand to listen to the constituents...as you all know we have laws in this land, there are people that come into this country illegally, and we somehow think that they are allowed to be here. The fact that they have entered this country illegally makes them a criminal, whether you want to call them a criminal or not...when we tie the hands of ICE officials who are trying to protect the citizens of this country, that is a travesty. There are so many people in this town and throughout the country who want to see the city protected...if you don't change your ways and stand up and listen to your constituents, you will be voted out of office."

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda items were approved unanimously.

RESOLUTION 2025-03

As discussed earlier that day in work session, Council voted to adopt Resolution 2025-03, authorizing the Community Development Department to pursue a Housing Planning Grant from the Department of Local Affairs pursuant to Senate Bill 24-174 (§§ 24-32-3701 — 24-32-3711, C.R.S.) to fund the development of a housing action plan and Comprehensive Plan update specific to water supply and strategic growth.

PARKS FERTILIZER AND VACANT LOT HERBICIDE CONTRACT AWARD

Council voted to approve the award of the Parks and Vacant Lot Fertilizer and Herbicide Application Contract to Aspen SavATree, of Ridgway, Colorado, for the total contract amount of \$140,000.

CITY COUNCIL HONORS LOCAL SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS *From previous pg*

PARKS TURF MAINTENANCE CONTRACT EXTENSION

Also approved was the extension of a parks turf maintenance contract with Green and Bearit of Montrose, for the total contract amount of \$132,412.

2025 STREETLIGHT UPGRADE PROJECT AUTHORIZATION

Council voted to authorize 120,000.00 for direct LED replacements and pole replacements VFR as part of Year 3 of the Street Light Upgrade Project conducted in partnership with DMEA.

FIRE FLOW SUBDIVISION II RELEASE OF EASEMENTS

Council voted to approve the release of utility easements as shown in the Fire Flow Subdivision II.

STAFF REPORTS

Police Chief Blaine Hall updated Council on the Citizens Police Academy, to be held on April 5. The academy is full, Hall said. He invited Councilors to stop in, but to bring a lunch if they do.

City Engineer Scott Murphy gave a traffic update; Ogden Road is open. West Main improvements are set for mid-April. Work on the new Public Works Facility has been progressing well.

YOUTH COUNCIL REPORT

Youth City Councilor Darinka Skybova discussed the Youth Council non-profit expo, which was a success and well attended, with more than 50 vendors and positive feedback from those in attendance. The Youth Council will be working on a procla-


mation, a street cleanup, and a trip to Denver to visit the legislature. Skybova thanked City Council for their support.

Councilor Files congratulated the Youth Council, saying they did an excellent job on the non-profit showcase.

Mayor Pro Tem David Frank said the interaction between non-profits was amazing. "...We are very proud of you guys; we look forward to this happening next year."

Frank said he had attended the "Welcome Home" for the National Guard troops.

There will be no City Council meetings in April; the next meeting will take place on May 6. There was no further business, "Therefore we will stand adjourned," Mayor Reed said.






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Les Schwab Tires - a business conglomerate worth nearly \$7,000,000,000 (**THAT'S SEVEN BILLION WITH A "B"**) enjoying \$732,619 in your direct/indirect taxpayer benefits so far.

Did you Know?

Rathbone Hotel - recipients of about **\$1.5 MILLION** of OUR taxpayer funds, sold before construction completed. **Where did THEY go?**

Did you know?

According to our MCSD Superintendent Carrie Stephenson, The Montrose County School District would rather forgo more than **\$10,700,000 in federal funding** in the 2025-2026 school year than to simply recognize the sound science that there are but **TWO** genders? She was quoted to have said, "it's not that much money"! **Wait! WHAT?**

Did you know?

Mayor Reed, when asked on March 10th, in the Montrose Mirror as well as a March 14th post on the [Montrose DOGE Facebook](#) Page and again in the Mirror and directly at the [City Council meeting](#) March 31 and Facebook March 30, 2025 to agree to a sit down to publicly refute the allegations made by Mr. David White of serious issues within the Montrose City Government. To date, there has still been no response!

Montrose Citizens D.O.G.E. is a non-partisan community watchdog group reporting on things that raise eyebrows in the City and County of Montrose, CO's government fiscal expenditures and other questionable actions, holding our public officials accountable to We the People.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

SUE HANSEN, POLITICAL EVOLUTION OR DECEITFUL MANEUVERING?

Editor:

Sue Hansen's decision to secretly switch her party affiliation from Republican to unaffiliated was a spineless and unethical maneuver—one that should never have been allowed to happen under these circumstances. Like every sinister action taken by an unethical politician, it was shrouded in secrecy, with no fanfare or foreknowledge provided to those it affected. While everyone has the right to choose their political affiliation, and such choices don't inherently upend county-level governance, the stakes rise when elected officials at the county level are involved. Allow me to explain why this move infuriates me, regardless of party.

When an elected official switches to "unaffiliated" mid-term, the consequences are profound. If they resign—and let's cut the pretense, that's almost certainly why this was done in the shadows; if it were some grandiose show of "I can't take these MAGA Republicans anymore, I'm a moderate, so I'm turning unaffiliated to show my distaste," it would have been accompanied by the public spectacle Sue Hansen is known for, but it wasn't—the replacement process flips on its head. Instead of the party that elected them naming a successor, that authority lands in the governor's lap. In this case, Sue Hansen was chosen as a Republican by a majority of Montrose County voters. She stepped into the County Commissioner role in 2018, filling the vacancy left by the Glen Davis resignation, and has won reelection as a Republican every time since. For her to abruptly ditch her party label without a whisper guts the trust of the voters who propelled her into office. Below is how the replacement process works for County Commissioners. The "Colorado

State Legislative Council" lays out the process for filling a vacancy clearly.

County Office Vacancy

"...The appropriate political party vacancy committees appoint the replacement when there is a vacancy on the board of county commissioners. The vacancy committee must fill the vacancy within ten days of when it occurred; however, written notice of the time and location of the vacancy committee meeting must be sent to each vacancy committee member at least six days prior to the meeting. If a vacancy committee fails to fill the vacancy within ten days, the governor must appoint someone within 15 days. A minor political party must appoint a successor in accordance with its party bylaws in a vacancy for a county commissioner affiliated with a minor political party. The governor appoints a replacement to fill a vacancy if the outgoing county commissioner was unaffiliated."

For the political left, this might feel like a coup. If Hansen steps down, Governor Polis could handpick a replacement to their liking, even if it's just a fleeting victory—until November 2026, when Montrose County's staunchly Republican voters likely send a conservative back to the seat. But that's a distraction. The real outrage isn't the affiliation switch itself; it's the deceitful way it was carried out. No transparency—no call to the party chair, no public statement, no shred of explanation. Even when confronted in public at the BOCC meeting on Wednesday, April 2, 2025 (after officially changing her affiliation more than a week earlier without notifying anyone), Hansen stayed silent, offering no defense, no rationale, nothing. The secrecy stinks of cowardice and contempt for the electorate.

This isn't about policing someone's political evolution. It's about accountability and respecting the mandate of those who elected you under a clear banner. Hansen took that trust, crumpled it up, and threw it out the window without a word—a sucker punch to every Montrose County Republican voter who backed her and even to the unaffiliated and Democrats who voted for her.

It gets even better, though. After that very BOCC meeting on April 2, 2025, the usual suspects were spotted huddled in the parking lot for their predictable pow-wow: Sue Hansen, Ray Langston, and Dennis Anderson. For the uninitiated, Ray Langston is the disgraced former chair of the Montrose County Republican Party, boot-ed for ethics violations, who now spends his days railing against the party's supposed corruption. News flash, Ray: it was corrupt—under your watch! Yes, Ray, unlike you, we have the receipts, while your allegations are hollow caverns that echo only in your mind. As of the current leadership they have swept out the trash and set things right. Then there's Dennis Anderson, publisher of the liberal *Montrose Press*, who never misses a chance to polish Sue Hansen's image, the county's (former) resident RINO.

The coordinated campaign by Hansen, Langston, Anderson, and the *Montrose Press* to dismantle the Republican Party from the inside is as blatant as it is shameless. Hansen's latest stunt is just the cherry on top, exposing her true colors—and Langston's too. Their allegiance clearly isn't to the Republican Party or conservative principles. Their actions scream louder than any words ever could.

Michael J Badagliacco, "MJB"
Citizen-Montrose, CO

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

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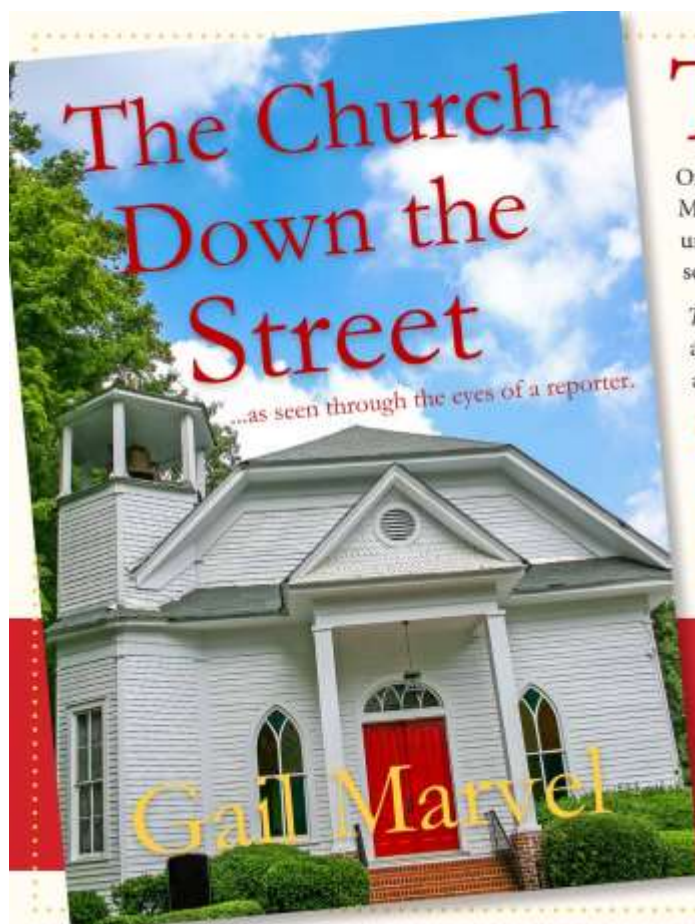
MESA COUNTY - Today, the Business Incubator Center launched a comprehensive expansion of resources and services to Spanish-speaking business owners and entrepreneurs in Mesa County called *Camino al Éxito*. Translated as "Path to Success," *Camino al Éxito* furthers the core mission of BIC: to stimulate the local economy through job creation, sustainable business practices, and innovation.

"The need to expand access of our entrepreneurial resources to our Spanish-speaking business community is obvious," said Dalida Sassoon Bollig, CEO of The Business Incubator Center, who noted that Spanish-speaking residents comprise 14.5 percent of the county's population.

Mandy DeCino, who serves as the director of the Small Business Development Center in Grand Junction, reinforced the expansion's importance: "I could not be more excited to expand access to entrepreneurs in our community, with additional Spanish-speaking resources and support. In addition, we now have a physical space with tools for online learning, one-on-one confidential business advising and classes."

Sonia Gutierrez, the owner of Sierra Concrete, will serve as one of the local business advisors to entrepreneurs seeking support from *Camino al Éxito*. Gutierrez attended today's event and shared: "This launch represents a significant step forward in serving our Spanish-speaking entrepreneurs. By providing them with the tools and resources necessary to succeed, we are acknowledging the vital role they play in our economy. We are thrilled to see the Business Incubator Center expand its reach, helping more local businesses grow and prosper. Together, we can drive innovation and growth within our community."

"Camino al Éxito is a game-changer for Spanish-speaking entrepreneurs in our region," said Eric Gil, Founder of Strong Branch Learning. "By providing tailored resources and dedicated support, this initiative paves the way for success and enables individuals to realize their business goals. I'm excited to contribute to this mission, helping entrepreneurs navigate their journeys with the confidence and knowledge they need to thrive in today's competitive landscape."



The *Church Down the Street*, published pre-COVID, peers into the worship services of more than 70 churches, some of which have a weekly attendance of less than 10.

Organized in a topical format (Hospitality, Program & Source Material, Music, Meditations & Invitations, and The Message), the author uses an unbiased approach to allow readers to experience the worship service as seen through the eyes of a reporter.

The Church Down the Street contains anecdotes and stories from the actual worship services and asks thought-provoking questions that allow readers to draw their own conclusions.

Readers will:

- See strengths and weaknesses in the worship service
- Re-evaluate hospitality toward visitors
- Become more aware of source material used in the worship service
- Compare and contrast music presentations and selections
- Discern the value and content of the sermon.

Gail Marvel's book, *The Church Down the Street*, is available online at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) and [wingedpublications.com](https://www.wingedpublications.com).

GAIL MARVEL
Montrose Author & Reporter



OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

THOSE THAT HAVE NEVER READ THE BYLAWS HAVE NO IDEA AS TO WHETHER THEY ARE COMPLYING WITH THE BYLAWS OR NOT

Editor:

So, the Montrose County BOCC meeting April 2nd, 2025, was the most deceitful arrogant display I have ever witnessed in any public meeting of the BOCC. The public comment session started with Monty George (chair Montrose County GOP central committee) admonishing commissioner Sue Hansen for changing her party affiliation from Republican to Unaffiliated. The central committee had no problem appointing Pond even though he publicly supported Trisha Murry who was unaffiliated and running against Republican Rick Dunlap. And Scott Mijares announced his run for county commissioner at the February 8th, 2024, central committee meeting while he was unaffiliated (hypocrisy! and a violation of the bylaws). So why did commissioner Hansen change her party affiliation? She had no support from the central committee because they decided that their support for Mijares, and Pond was a hill they are willing to die on. The hypocrisy of the central committee has no limits. Pryor to the 2022 primary the chair (Spencer Hamner) of the Montrose County GOP went to Gunnison County to recruit someone to primary Marc Catlin. The person they tried to recruit said no after he found out how little the job paid. When you look at the Montrose central committee's past decisions then I can see why commissioner Hansen decided to change to unaffiliated. I am disappointed that the Montrose GOP and state GOP have corrupted themselves to the point that good republicans are choosing to distance themselves from the GOP. While the state GOP has new leadership the Montrose GOP has the same corrupted leadership other than the chair. More GOP candidates are choosing to petition on to the ballot rather than trust the corrupt central committee assembly process. Without a change in leadership there will be no change in policy and therefore no change in trust. Two weeks ago, I had a

discussion with a member of the central committee after the BOCC meeting. I will not name him, he knows who I am talking about. He took offense to some of the things I have been saying about the central committee saying that it seemed as though I was attacking him as well. I asked him if he had ever read the bylaws, he said no. And there lies the problem, any members of the central committee that have never read the bylaws have no idea as to whether they are complying with the bylaws or not. And that was something Scott Riba took advantage of. To have uninformed people following his lead without questioning his motives. And his only use for the central committee was as a springboard for his political ambitions. With no regard for the damage to the party that this would cause. And trust once lost is hard to regain. The next contentious issue was when the BOCC convened as the Montrose County board of health. And that is when the feces hit the air moving oscillating device. Now mind you Pond and Mijares said repeatedly over the past few weeks that they were not going to fire MR Ahmed but that is what they just did. They voted today for Ahmed to be the interim director of public health when two weeks ago they had confirmed him as the director of public health and now the search for a new director of public health has begun. When the county attorney was asked if this exposes the BOCC to litigation she said yes. But that did not change their mind. This was no surprise considering their previous statements. And their reason behind this is that the original hiring was not conducted by the board of county health but instead by the BOCC, the same people just wearing different hats. And that is clutching at very thin straws, and I am certain that will not protect them from litigation to fire a man for what appears to be a racially motivated reasons and mask it as a miss step in procedure.

And I would advise Mr. Ahmed to lawyer up. If he has incurred expenses to move to this area for that job that he was hired to do, then he needs to recoup that and then some. I can put him in touch with the ACLU they are a nasty bunch of liberal lawyers that like nothing better than to take republicans to task for racist hiring and firing practices. Although the ACLU is terribly busy right now trying to salvage the racist DEI hiring practices and transgender issues. But let the attorneys know that the county has a 100-million-dollar annual budget, and they will beat a path to your door.

The next contentious issue on the agenda was a resolution calling for legislative reform of the Colorado open records act (CORA).

Now stop and think this one over. Who controls the Colorado legislature "Democrats" so who are Pond and Mijares asking help from, "Democrats." So, does any self-respecting conservative Republican think this is a good idea? Because I sure do not. The BOCC is subject to open meetings laws (CRS - 24 - 6 - 401 and 402) and this includes all telephone and electronic communications between two or more individuals on a board, committee, or commission.

So why do Pond and Mijares want to hide their communications from public view? Because they have been discussing the firings of Mr. Ahmed and Frank Rodriguez and that has now been made public. And their public statements do not reconcile with their "private" electronic conversations.

So, did Mijares or Pond take the training that was offered them for all new county commissioners? This training covers the open meeting laws and what forms of communication is subject to CORA request. My what a tangled web they weave when two commissioners practice to deceive.

RAY LANGSTON, MONTROSE

OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

THE MONTROSE SPIN MACHINE IN FULL VIEW *The Political Progressives are in Meltdown Mode – Why?*

By David White

In case you missed the fireworks at the Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) meeting last week, you would have learned that we had a Republican Commissioner (Sue Hansen) switch her party affiliation to that of unaffiliated voter; that the former Chair of the Montrose GOP (Ray Langston) was once again disclosing that he had illegally attained the voting record of Commissioner Mijares as well as making other false accusations against GOP members; that the publisher of the Montrose Daily Press (Dennis Anderson, a Delta County resident) was holding court inside and outside of the BOCC meeting room with Hansen and Langston all the while speculating on what yours truly was doing there as an observer. Anderson continues to spin the speculative and biased “news” that his training as a hardware store clerk, sorter of nuts & bolts, key making, etc. has taught him in order to meet the stellar qualifications that Wick Communications (owner of the MDP) have for the position of “publisher” of a dying newspaper. Truly embarrassing all the way around.

While serving as a public official is no easy task for the thin skinned, it doesn’t make doing one’s job as an elected official any easier when you’ve got armchair “wannabe’s” officiating from the audience, especially when the name calling and shouting out from the audience results in a Sheriff’s Deputy once again removing a malcontent and apparently disturbed member of the audience (a former Iowa lawyer who had his license suspended in that state in 2013) from the meeting room for the second time in a month. The public spectacle of it all comes from two of the Commissioners (Pond & Mijares, both new to the job) questioning policies, procedures and decisions by previous Board members and County management that could put the County in some financial or legal jeopardy. You’re almost made to believe that Montrose County government has been a tranquil and fairly well subdued local governmental entity for

most of its 142 years. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Chalk a lot of things that have happened in the County over the last 25 years or so up to new Commissioner’s coming into office with little to no public service experience. Or, Commissioners dealing with personal family or other matters and having to resign from office. Even when Commissioners do what is required of them by law, the public, generally unaware of either the laws or just simply lacking in an understanding of what the responsibilities of a “statutory” County government are (Montrose County is a statutory arm of State government) can be manipulated into believing that somehow their elected officials have another agenda at play vs. simply doing the job they were elected to do. The complexities are many. The media often don’t help in that regard. Neither does the rumor mill nor, in today’s world, the vast reach of social media which passes on information at light speed; information that may or may not be correct. The latest dust up in the County mirrors others that have occurred in the past. As an example, GOP Commissioner Betsey Hale resigned from office on February 8, 2004, and moved to Denver. The GOP appointed her replacement (Mike McCracken - [McCracken named new county commissioner | Local News Stories | montrosepress.com](#)) via their vacancy committee according to State law. Commissioner Rick Dunlap, coincidentally, passed away on February 8, 2025 – 21 years later, creating another vacancy filled by the GOP under State law with the appointment of Commissioner Sean Pond ([News Flash • Sean Pond Selected as Montrose County Commissio](#)). There were then and today, critics of the process. Accept it. It does work even if you don’t agree with it.

The current debate over whether or not to proceed with the County’s plan to build a \$25++ million-dollar four story office building known as “The North Campus” comes over two decades after the County acquired the former facility once occupied

by Colorado Ute (a defunct power company acquired by Tri-State Generation & Transmission – they supply much of the electricity found through rural Wyoming, Nebraska, Colorado & New Mexico - [Home | Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc](#)) that the County Administration claims is in a state of disrepair and structural failure. Yet, former Commissioner Hale (mentioned above) made the following statement prior to her departure in 2004: Hale said she is especially proud of projects that county commissioners have been involved with in the last three years. “Some of those projects include the establishment of a **capital reserve fund**, the installation of a new grandstand at the Montrose County Fairground and **the \$1.5 million lease/purchase of the former Tri-State Generation and Transmission complex**, she said.” The complex houses the county’s Health and Human Services Department and Finance Department.

Now we’re learning that the capital reserve fund (established in 2001) will be nearly if not totally depleted should the North Campus project proceed according to the County’s Finance Department due in large part to the costly restoration and renovation of the historic Montrose County Courthouse in downtown Montrose. Concerns by Commissioners surrounding this revelation have stirred public discord in that proponents within the County are arguing repairs to the existing building are not worth the expense resulting in “spin” from them creating an “us” (County Administration and some employees) vs. the Board of County Commissioners scenario. Again, nothing new. Just another contentious chapter in the book that is the history of Montrose County.

Another one of these dust ups that has been continuously spun in the media and elsewhere and blamed on various County Commissioners was the privatization of the Fixed Base Operation (FBO) at Montrose Regional Airport. Why? Because it made a lot of news and cost all involved, including the taxpayers, a lot of money.

Progressives are in Meltdown Mode – Why?

From 1991 to January 2006, the County provided FBO services to the General Aviation (G.A.) community, including the sale of aviation fuel and a terminal for the use of pilots and passengers of private aircraft. The terminal building was closed in 2002 because of asbestos concerns. The County installed a double-wide trailer as a temporary measure to house the FBO as a substitute for a “stick built” terminal. The then BOCC members (Dave Ubell, Betsey Hale and Leo Large), recognizing the need for better facilities, began consideration of contracting with a private provider for FBO services.

The question of privatization of the FBO was discussed extensively in the election for County Commissioners in November 2004. Then candidates Bill Patterson and Allan Belt, proponents of privatization, were elected. They joined Dave Ubell as Commissioners, being sworn into office in January 2005. Shortly thereafter, the County issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) with a response date of April 1, 2005, for a private company to take over the FBO operations at the airport. Two responses were received – one from JetAway Aviation and the other from V.I.P. Flyers/Jet Center Partners who planned to do business as Black Canyon Jet Center. The County formed a committee (FBO Committee) to review the proposals, to recommend whether to privatize the Airport and, if so, which applicant should be accepted. The then county manager, Dennis Hunt, and Scott Brownlee, the then Airport Manager, selected the members of the FBO Committee. Brownlee, County Attorney Jim Fritze, a banker and three airport employees were appointed. The FBO review committee recommended that the County continue to operate the FBO but if the contrary conclusion was reached, then negotiations should be with Jet Center Partners (which became Black Canyon Jet Center).

The BOCC decided to go ahead with the privatization plan and contracted with JCP/Black Canyon...and the war was on. JetAway sued the County and litigation dragged on for years and involved multiple boards of Commissioners and even saw an attempted recall of Commissioner Patterson (which failed as do almost all recalls).

In addition to the early days of the FBO turmoil, at least one of the Commissioner's (Patterson) had openly expressed his displeasure with County Manager Dennis Hunt. This eventually led to Hunt's resignation and the hiring of Joe Kerby as County Manager. More turmoil, but everyone made it through just fine.

2008 brought another change to the BOCC. Ron Henderson and I were elected and took office in January of 2009. In July of that year, County Manager Joe Kerby and Public Affairs Director Ana Mostaccero tendered their resignations as they had obtained new jobs. Kerby took up a new job as assistant county manager for Douglas County. Mostaccero left for Boulder County as public information officer for that county's Housing and Human Services Division. ([County manager, PR director resign | Local News Stories | montrosepress.com](#)). Another change in management, yet everyone survived.

Late 2010 saw yet another round of upset when the BOCC appointed Board of Trustees of Montrose Memorial Hospital (then a County owned hospital) and the hospital's attorney formed a private corporation known as Montrose Memorial Hospital, Inc. to which they appointed themselves as the Board of Directors of this new corporation and then leased the operations of the hospital to themselves to include the millions of dollars sitting in the hospital's bank account which, having no assets, they needed to continue to run the hospital as a private company, for a period of 50 years. The BOCC went to court and obtained an injunction to stop this change of operational authority until it could be determined if such an “in house” arrangement was proper and legal.

Years of litigation ensued along with an attempted recall of the BOCC by hospital employees and leadership. Eventually, after the courts declared the lease to be valid, a settlement between the BOCC and MMHI was reached giving some authority to the County to have representation on the MMHI (later changed to Montrose Regional Health) Board of Directors. In late 2022, the BOCC (Roger Rash, Keith Caddy and Sue Hansen), seeking to close the book on the County's ownership of a public hospital, signed over all of the real estate holdings that were titled in the

County's name (millions of dollars' worth, some paid for with taxpayer dollars), to Montrose Regional Health (whose ownership remains a mystery to this day).

Add to these such things as screwups by County employees (a road to nowhere comes to mind), ill-advised decisions that come from legal counsel or management, appointed boards and others and you have a messy sausage making operation. Yet, we've all survived in spite of the variety of opinions and advice given over the years. That's part of the human condition. No one is perfect. Opinions, goals or objectives and much more vary by the person or the situation. And it's okay to criticize. Just do it with facts and not the spin of speculation.

So, all of the combative talk coming from Commissioner Hansen, Dennis Anderson/Montrose Press, notable Democrat Party operatives and others about “racism”, “misogyny” and other intentionally incendiary words over the improper hiring of the County's Health Director (Mr. Ahmed was hired by the County Manager and not the Board of Health in violation of State statute) or rumors of the recently appointed County Manager (Frank Rodriguez) being “fired” or terminating the North Campus project construction contract for reasons previously stated, are without precedence. Montrose County seems to have a long history of controversy, controversy that is either self-inflicted or created by outside individuals or entities seeking something to gain.

To reiterate, with a public that is generally not well educated in how their government, at all levels, functions, we're ripe for the media and rumor mill spin that inevitably blows everything out of proportion unless it's based on facts. Until that stops, keep your seat belts on for more speculative opinions, biases, and other media driven hype. Hang in there Commissioners!

Mr. White is an active citizen & community leader as well as a business owner, entrepreneur, former Colorado Springs City Councilor and Montrose City Councilor as well as Montrose Mayor. He was a two-term Montrose County Commissioner and has served on many boards and commissions during his career. He & his wife are the parents of six children and have 10 grandchildren & one great grandchild.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

EVERY TAXPAYER IN AMERICA OWES ELON MUSK A GIANT VOTE OF THANKS

Editor:

For the last 60+ years many members of Congress and a few Presidents have highlighted the need to address excessive spending and waste of taxpayer dollars. Until now all of that was but lip service about a serious need. With our country teetering on the brink of certain financial destruction Elon Musk stepped forward and offered to volunteer his services to actually identify how our tax dollars are being wasted.

The DOGE committee that he formed to accomplish this task is made up of business team leaders who have also volunteered their time to work for the benefit of American taxpayers. In just 10 short weeks the DOGE committee has highlighted over \$100 billion in waste fraud and abuse and each item is posted on the DOGE website for all to see.

Every taxpayer in America owes Elon Musk a giant vote of thanks for the work that he is doing for our collective benefit. The Democrat inspired TESLA TERRORISTS are trying to intimate Musk to hide the massive fraud, waste, and abuse of our tax dollars.

If you are so inclined to offer your thanks to Musk, you can call the White House at 202-456-1111 and leave a recorded message or speak to a volunteer operator.

Dee Laird, Montrose

FINALLY, WE HAVE A PRESIDENT WHO IS COMPETENT AND IS WORKING FOR AMERICA

Editor,

Out of curiosity, I stopped by the Indivisible rally/protest on Saturday afternoon. Wow, lots of people carrying such interesting signs – “Hands Off My Education”, “Hands Off My Social Security” “Save Our Democracy”, “F... Trump and Musk”. Such deep thinkers at the rally. As I considered the group later, I realized that these are the same people who, sadly, for four years said nothing about our open border, nothing about Bidenomics cumulative 20% inflation, nothing about our education system failing our students – nationally only about 1/3 of third graders reading at grade level, nothing about our exploding national debt and nothing about social security being on a path to bankruptcy. They were also silent as we watched a president demonstrate that he did not have the mental faculties to perform the duties of his position. With all that in mind, it is no wonder that they don’t understand President Trump. As for me, I find it refreshing that we finally have a president that is competent and is working for AMERICA.

Ben Alexander, Montrose



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

AMERICA MAY NEED ANOTHER REVOLUTION

Editor:

With each passing day of President Donald Trump's second term, the less I believe he and his fascist cronies ever intend on leaving. They're committing so many crimes even the most do-nothing Democratic attorney general of the United States would be pressured into prosecuting them. They're so vastly expanding executive authority even the most milquetoast liberal president would use the new powers to transform America.

We've already seen Trump illegally try to stay in office through his involvement in the right-wing insurrection of January 6, 2021. I fear he would be more successful in a future attempt, that could look very different, having further consolidated his hold over the Republican Party and federal government. Americans would need to choose whether they wanted to overthrow the regime or acquiesce to living under a fascist dictatorship.

As a younger man, I found left-wing violence deeply romantic. This wasn't limited to genuine revolutionary struggle, but also actions which Bolshevik leader Vladimir Lenin would call adventurist, like those of the Weather Underground or groups like it. Eventually, I absorbed the classical socialist critique of terrorism, which identified mass upheaval — not individual acts of violence — as necessary to create significant change.

In recent years, I've grown more interested in the religious left tradition, which is frequently pacifist. Embracing spirituality has improved my personal life and politics in a number of ways. I have tremendous respect for a host of progressives, living and dead, who share a fundamental opposition to the use of force. That said, while I'm far more suspicious of violence than I was previously, I haven't managed to believe it's never necessary.

At the most basic level, any kind of government requires violence. If you have laws, as opposed to suggestions for behavior, they must be enforced. If you don't comply with these, agents of the state will force you to. Further, I can't forthrightly argue for pacifism in the face of a totalitarianism, foreign or domestic, which cuts off avenues of democratic, peaceful change. I'm concerned that's what Trump and his allies are building.

Perhaps such an emerging dictatorship could be overthrown by nonviolent means. I don't discount the possibility. Millions of everyday Americans might descend on the White House and refuse to leave until the government falls. The National Guard would be overwhelmed. One of Trump's deputies, seeing the writing on the wall, could arrest the president. Or maybe Trump would evacuate and live out his final days abroad, in exile.

However, I could easily imagine the situa-

tion degenerating into violence. I certainly hope this wouldn't be the case and all possible measures would be taken to avoid it. But if violence was unavoidable, I'd view these actions as a tragic — but necessary — concession to what, in spiritual terms, we might call a fallen world. Allowing a fascist regime to control the American government for a generation or longer would do untold damage.

The Democratic coalition has a wide variety of goals. For instance, I want to see a massive infusion of public funding into cultivated-meat research. If you're not familiar with the term, cultivated meat is grown from livestock cells, without slaughter. I view the developing technology as the most promising means of advancing animal welfare, my political priority. However, none of our aims can be achieved under a right-wing, authoritarian state.

Historians often say there have been two American revolutions. The first was against the British monarchy. The second was against Southern slavery. I worry America may soon need a third, against Trumpian fascism. We shouldn't prematurely abandon the electoral and legal arenas, but there may come a day when these are closed to us. The president and his allies are certainly acting as if the Democrats will never hold power again.

Jon Hochschartner, Connecticut

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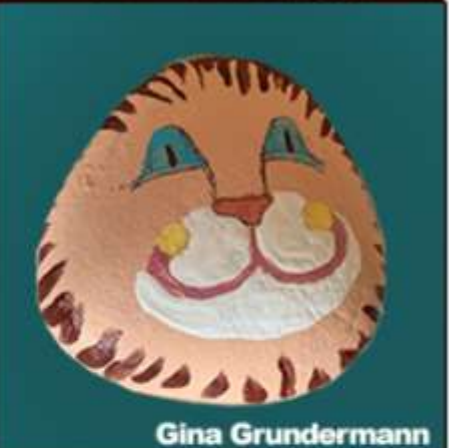
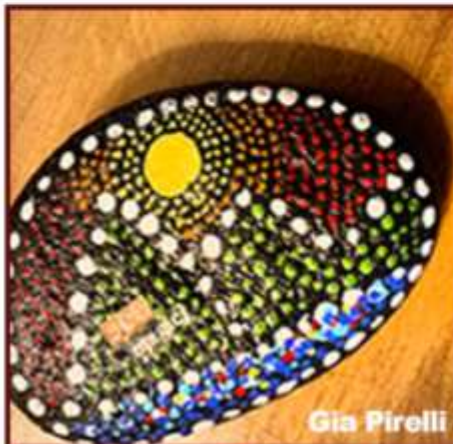
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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

CONSTITUTIONAL INTEGRITY: MY LETTER TO THE U S SUPREME COURT

Dear Justices,

I'm writing you today to express my concern about President Trump's continued disrespect toward judicial process and in particular his belief he has the power to circumvent the U.S. Constitution. I'm sure you are aware of his Executive Order challenging Birthright Citizenship as defined in the 14th amendment. The dispute at hand, in his mind, is the opening sentence of Section 1: "All persons born or natural-

ized in the United States and **subject to the jurisdiction thereof**, are citizens of the United States and the State wherein they reside."

The question at hand is how to define "jurisdiction thereof". A common definition is individuals are bound to obey the laws of the United States and the states. The exception would be to foreign diplomats and their offspring due to their diplomatic immunity. With that, unless you

are a diplomat or have a direct relation to that diplomat you are bound to the laws of the United States and its individual States.

If you view my interpretation differently and I'm sure there are a few of you who do, I ask this. Do those that were born in a U.S. Territory (Guam, Puerto Rico, etc.) have a right to citizenship? Or, are those that were born in Alaska and Hawaii prior to becoming states have a right to U.S. citizenship? There are no State laws and I question whether or not they are bound to U.S. law. If they're not "subject to the jurisdiction thereof" or weren't prior to statehood, how can they be deemed citizens? Do you strip them of something they've had for decades?

I hope you find by simple argument that anyone outside of the diplomatic core that is in the United States is bound to her laws. Anyone born in this country, regardless of their parents' entry status, is a U. S. citizen.

Please do not let President Trump trample on the precious document that defines how we operate as a country. Hold him to the oath of office he took.

David Stockton, Montrose



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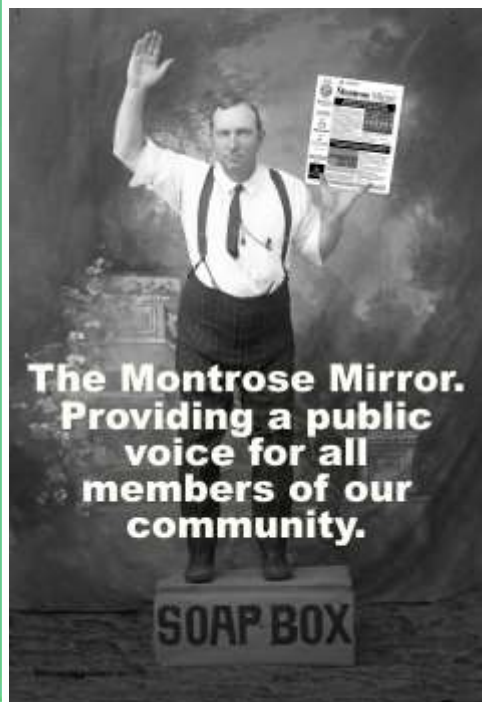
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**Monthly payment includes
estimated mortgage plus lot rent.**

WAC. ESTIMATED PAYMENT, RATES AND TERMS MAY VARY BASED ON CREDIT HISTORY. NOT ALL APPLICANTS WILL QUALIFY. SUBJECT TO LENDER TERMS & CONDITIONS. ACTUAL TERM, RATE, APR, AND LOAN AMOUNT MAY VARY.



901 65.30 ROAD, MONTROSE, CO
OPEN: MONDAY-FRIDAY, 8AM-5PM

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

LUPE DIAZ MARTINEZ-VALDEZ ***November 26, 1948 — March 31, 2025***



LUPE DIAZ MARTINEZ-VALDEZ passed away on March 31st at 4:45 AM in the comfort of her own home, surrounded by close family at the age of 76. She was battling Pancreatic cancer and had determined she was done with treatments and wanted to live out the rest of her life on

her own terms.

Lupe had previously been a caregiver for most of her life. She retired after caring for her late husband, Roger Valdez. She resided in Montrose, Colorado for the last 18 years in order to be closer to her daughter and granddaughters. Lupe was born on November 26, 1948 to Gregorio & Carlotta Martinez in Derry, New Mexico. She was the second youngest of 13 children. Lupe spent her childhood in Sylmar, California graduating from Sylmar High School. As a young adult, she married her soulmate Roger Valdez in 1967. They resided in Ventura County, California until they moved to Montrose. Lupe enjoyed listening to music, dancing, cooking and spending time with her family and grandchildren. Lupe is survived by her three children, Roger Valdez JR. (Cynthia Valdez), Renee Valdez-Knowles (Donny Knowles) and Erik Valdez. Her 13 grandchildren; Patricia Parra (Oscar Parra), Victoria Cornejo (Caleb Cramer), Marcella

Cornejo (Cody Champlin), Isabella Cornejo (Scotty Tenney), Phlora Valdez, Devon Valdez, Gerald Vasquez, David Francis (Kelly Francis), Demitry Knight-Valdez, Kyle Tipton, Christopher Hoover, Aliyah Valdez, Halo-Olivia Valdez, Hunter Garcia, and Haylie Richardson (Jacob Richardson). Her great grandchildren; Jeremiah Francis, Journee Francis, Aniyah Vasquez and one on the way, Selena Cornejo. She is also survived by her siblings Richard Martinez (Tommie Martinez), Raymond Martinez (Margarita Martinez), Marty Martinez (Chris Martinez), Jessie Madrid (Ace Madrid), Angie Ortiz (John Ortiz), Jenny Wall (David Wall). She is preceded in death by her husband, her parents, her three sisters (Maria Martinez, Nellie Flores and Connie Leos), her three brothers (Ernesto Martinez, Celso (Joe) Martinez, Gregorio Martinez). Services will be held at Crippin Funeral Home on April 12 at 10 AM. Celebration of life will be held afterwards at the Elks Lodge in Montrose.

RAYMOND J. KNOB ***November 22, 1936 — April 1, 2025***

Lifetime resident of Delta, Co, Raymond J. Knob passed away at his home on April 1, 2025, with his wife at his side.

Born on November 22, 1936, in Montrose, Co to Jake and Monica (Heili) Knob. He graduated from Delta High School in 1955. As a young man he worked in the orchard on Antelope hill and later worked for the Holly Sugar Factory. He would travel to the factory in Brawley, Ca. in the spring and back to the Delta factory in the fall, in 1977 Holly Sugar shut the factory down in Delta. Ray then started working on the farms. He enjoyed farming and worked the next 25 years for his cousin. Ray enjoyed his yard and helping Miletta

with the garden. In 1963 he married his country girl sweetheart Miletta Distel. From this union was born four children Ray Jr, Alan, Loretta, and Dale. Ray loved his family, and he helped Miletta with numerous Knob Family dinners.

Ray is survived by his wife Miletta of 62 yrs of marriage, children Ray (Connie) Knob, Alan Knob, Loretta (Wayne) Burton, Dale Knob. Grandchildren, Brittney, Travis, Christie, Mathew, Dylan, Morgan, and seven Great Grandchildren and numerous nephews and nieces. Ray was preceded in death by his parents Jake and Monica, brothers Victor Knob, Jake Knob Jr, Robert Knob, and a sister Mary Springer and a

daughter-in-law Brenda Knob. Donations can be made to HopeWest Hospice, PO Box 24, Delta, Co 81416

A Memorial Service is scheduled on Saturday, April 12, 2025 at 10AM, at Calvary Baptist Church - 1290 A Street Delta, CO. Inurnment to follow at Delta City Cemetery.



COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

DOROTHY LEIGH LONG

August 4, 1945 — March 27, 2025

We mourn the loss of our beloved Dorothy Leigh Long (Dee), who passed on Thursday, March 27, 2025, at the age of 79. She is survived by



her spouse of 58 loving years, Thomas Long, her children Deborah (Patrick) Shea, Jennifer (Urban) Walker, and Thomas Long, Jr., and her grandchildren J.T. Walker, Marian Walker, Archer Shea, and Parker Shea. She passed peacefully and in good spirits, just minutes after a visit from her beloved Tom and her dog, Maddie.

Some of her last spoken words were, "I've never been so happy in my life."

She grew up in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and she and her family spent their summers at



Clear Lake. She loved waterskiing, boating, and reading into the wee hours of the night. She worked as a flight attendant for Continental Airlines for 12 years, where

she met Tom. In 1978, Dee and Tom moved to Montrose, to raise their family after previously living in Los Angeles and Denver. She enjoyed family vacations, architecture and home design, and listening to the Rolling Stones (among many other of her favorite musicians). She never gave up on a project she started, and her tenacity was as apparent as her compassionate nature.

Dee enjoyed spending time with her family and friends, and often shared fond memories of her life with the people for whom she cared so much. We will never forget her. We would like to thank the Montage Creek Memory Care staff, as well as Hope West, for their kindness. Dee had been there only four weeks at the time of her passing. We ask that all who knew her hold their favorite memories of Dee in their hearts. A Celebration of Dee's beautiful Life will be announced and held at a later date.

DARLENE LAVERNE MILLICAN

April 2, 1931 — March 29, 2025

Darlene joined our Lord in heaven on March 29, 2025, just three days short of her 94th birthday. Darlene was born in 1931 to parents Clyde and Pauline (Morelang) Brenn. She married Charles Morrison Millican in 1948 and they raised two sons on their farm & ranch in Montrose. Her husband Charles and her parents preceded her in death. She is survived by her sons, Steven Millican (Becky) of Paris, Texas and David Millican (Jana) of Montrose, and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Along with the farm & ranch, Darlene worked many years at Montrose Memorial Hospital in bookkeeping.

No service is planned. The family would like to thank Valley Manor Nursing Home staff for the care given to Darlene during her time there.

John 11:25-26 25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; 26 and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"



COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

DONALD ARTHUR MOSS

October 16, 1934 — March 24, 2025



DONALD ARTHUR MOSS, 90, of Montrose Colorado passed away peacefully at home on March 24, 2025 surrounded by family.

Don was born in West Creek Colorado to Weldon and Ruby Moss on October 16, 1934. The family moved to the Truckton area of El Paso County when he was a young child. He graduated from Edison High School in 1952 where he met and later married his high school sweetheart, Mitzi Lee Weissenfluh, on December 26, 1956. Don received a B.S. Degree in Animal Husbandry from Colorado State University in 1956 where he was a member of the AGR Fraternity and the CSU Rodeo Club. He served in the Colorado National Guard and Army Reserve 1958 – 1964.

Don began work with the U.S.D.A.'s Soil Conservation Service in 1956 at Pueblo, Colorado and worked in several locations across Colorado with a tour in Honolulu, HI. He finished his 31 year career in 1987 as Assistant State Conservationist in Denver. After growing up on a farm and ranch, he spent a lifetime sharing what he

learned from the land and the people who work it. Don and Mitzi lived in Greeley Colorado for over 30 years before moving to Montrose Colorado in 2014. They enjoyed spending time with friends and family and traveling across the U.S. and the world. Don didn't know a stranger, and treasured seeing newborn calves in the spring. Don is survived by his wife Mitzi Lee Moss of Montrose, CO; son Sterling (Sarah) Moss of Bayfield, CO; daughter Shana (Jeff) Murray of Green River, WY; and four grandchildren, Tyler, Mikayla, Tenna and Peyton. Don is preceded in death by his parents, sister Phyllis Berry, brother Charles Moss, and daughter Tanya. No services are planned at this time. Burial will take place at Memorial Gardens in Colorado Springs. Memorial donations can be made to the Sharing Ministries Food Bank in Montrose Colorado. <https://sharingministries.com/>

JACK NATHAN LEE

May 5, 1930 — March 27, 2025

JACK NATHAN LEE was born to Thomas A Lee, and Mable Grundy Lee in Indianapolis Indiana May 5th, 1930. He was the 3rd of 4 boys and was often ill as a child. The Dr's recommended a higher dryer climate so the family moved to Denver Colorado in 1931. Jack was a typical youngster who loved horses and walked to the sale barn to buy several horses while growing up. He quit school in the 8th grade and worked for a riding stable in Tiny Town, breaking horses and taking customers on trail rides. At 17 he joined the Navy and did his boot camp in San Diego, California. He met his future wife through one of the recruits from Montrose, CO as a pen pal. He spent a year in Hawaii, and was transferred to Patuxant River, Maryland for the rest of his service time. He came home in April of 1952, where he and his pen pal, Anne McIntyre, were married in Montrose on Flag Day, June 14th, 1952.

He worked as a mechanic and was a de-

voted husband and father to five girls and one boy. He was a good father and a good husband. He always found a way to get everyone outside for camping, skiing, water skiing, built a cabin in the mountains, and kept everyone busy.

Jack retired at 55 years of age due to health issues and was told he had five years to live. After retiring he and Anne moved to Montrose in 1985 where he; raised horses, irrigated and worked the land, joined a saddle club, built a kit car, worked on different types of machines, and vehicles, all while improving his health where he lived until his passing at 94 years of age. Jack's Love for his country was only surpassed by his love for his family.

Preceded in death by his parents, his three brothers and his daughter Kathy.

He is survived by his wife Anne (McIntyre) Lee, Daughters: Kry's (Jerry) Martin, Carol Martinez,

Cassandra Lee, and Kim Chamberlain and Son: Matt Lee (Sharon) Grandchildren: Jennifer Martin, Jessica Burke, Steven Martinez, Jesse Haywood, Julie Tafoya, Jacob Chamberlain, Nick

Gressley, Corey Lee, Lyndsay Wilderson, Lindsey Gressley, Russell Gressley, Olivia Lee Great Grandchildren: Keeley Shea, Steven and Victoria, Chloe and Issabella, Sylvan, Rhianna, Rowan, Drew and Cole, Kai, Kinsington, Lexington, Evan, Austin, Eli, Remington, Sienna, Izac, Lillian and Mable,

Great, Great, Grandchildren: Avelicia, Ilyonna, Andrew, Adilene, Eladia, Tobias, Zaidan, Sofia, Flynn, Eralyn.

Numerous Nieces and Nephews.



COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

ROBERT "BOB" BRUCE CAMPBELL

May 1, 1952 — March 22, 2025



ROBERT "BOB" BRUCE CAMPBELL, 72, was born on May 1, 1952, in Denver, Colorado to John and Letha (Callender) Campbell. He went to join them in "The Final Frontier," peacefully surrounded by the rest of the family on March 22, 2025, at Montrose Regional Hospital from complications of COPD. He grew up in Arvada, Colorado where he learned the value of working as a team in the family drugstore business owned by his pharmacist father and his

mother the bookkeeper. His first job was delivering prescriptions to homebound customers and running errands for the business. He attended Arvada High School and joined the Navy during the Vietnam era. He served aboard the USS Oriskany as a radar operator and supply specialist. He experienced some fun times despite the stress of the wartime action. He experienced living in Subic Bay in the Philippines and traveled to the Equator and other surrounding countries during his time of service. After his military service, he worked in many other businesses such as insurance photography, a security guard and used his carpentry skills to remodel homes and as a handyman.

Bob married later in life after meeting his soulmate, Lauretta Lowell, upon meeting her at the Delta Library. They married in 1993 on a warm summer evening following the Sunday church service in a private ceremony at Montrose First Assembly of God. The two experienced many happy years of travel and shared their love of God, nature, astronomy, and highly intellectual conversations. Sadly, Lauretta succumbed to Covid during the pandemic.

Special thanks to his best friend and cousin, Jay Shaffer, who called into the

ICU and was able to speak to him via Facetime and brought him a final rally and happy moment for us all. Thank you to the rest of our cousins for their condolences as well and to the wonderful caring hospital and nursing home staff.

Bob loved music and was an accomplished Classical Guitarist and dreamed about playing in a Rock band someday. He and the residents at the senior apartments in Delta often gathered in the gazebo to jam to their favorite tunes. Most recently, Bob entertained the staff and fellow residents at the Elk Ridge Healthcare home with his fascinating stories of history and trivia. His love of astronomy and the series, "Star Trek," were some of his favorite topics.

He is preceded in death by his parents, John and Letha Campbell, wife Lauretta Lowell, sister, Carol Stolns-Ash, niece, Danielle Stolns-Barbee and brother-in-law, Kenneth Brian Klein. He is survived by sister, Margaret "Peggy" (Elmer) Spencer-Grose, brother, William "Bill" (Lisa) Campbell, sister, Joni Klein and brother-in-law, Paul Ash. He also left behind, aunts, uncles, and cousins, 19 nieces and nephews as well as many great-nieces and nephews in his big happy family.

ION SPOR

November 25, 1950 - March 19, 2025

ION DAN SPOR 74, passed away at his residence on March 19, 2025. Crippin Funeral Home and Crematory is assisting Mr. Spor's family.



COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

MARLENE (WICK) HAASE ***June 14, 1938 — March 22, 2025***



MARLENE (WICK) HAASE passed away peacefully in the early morning hours of March 22, 2025. She was born on June 14,

1938 in Cedaredge, CO to Elmer George and Lucille Arlene (Jordan) Wick.

She grew up in Cedaredge, CO and graduated from Cedaredge High School in 1956, where she was a cheerleader, member of Cedaredge Baptist Church, and Delta County Fair Queen. After graduation, she attended McConnell Airline School in Minneapolis, MN, and worked for a time as a flight attendant.

While back in Cedaredge, she renewed a relationship with longtime classmate Carl Haase, who was home on leave from the Navy.

She followed him overseas to Japan, where they were married in 1958. Their marriage produced two children – Steve (born in Japan), and Salynda (born in Germany). Their marriage lasted almost 64 years, until Carl's death in 2021.

After their time overseas, they returned stateside to Maryland, and, finally back to

their beloved Colorado. Marlene worked in the registrar's offices of Western State College in Gunnison, and Colorado Mountain College in Glenwood Springs.

She then moved into a successful career in banking, retiring as Vice President of the Bank of Grand Junction in 2005.

After her retirement, Marlene and Carl spent most of their retirement years in the house they built in Dove Creek, CO. She enjoyed reading, cross country skiing, hiking, baking, nature photography, playing the keyboard and writing poetry. In 2018, they moved to Montrose to be closer to their children. Marlene is survived by two children (Steve and Salynda), seven grandchildren, 11 great grandchildren, and one great-great grandchild.

A small, private service will be held among the family on Grand Mesa.

Crippin Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements.

News, if unreported, has no impact.
It might as well have not happened at all.
Thank you for reading The Montrose Mirror.

ISSUE 515 April 7, 2025

ART & SOL

ARTIST'S PROFILE: DAWN SANGDROL BLANCHARD



Dawn Blanchard, MCA feature artist. Image, K.R. Burke.

By Kathryn R. Burke

MONTROSE-Dawn Sangdrol Blanchard is a fascinating woman. Right brain-left brain. Ying and Yang. Father a rocket scientist, mother an artist. Once a stockbroker, now gallery owner with roots in mystic meditation. A web designer working with high-level government agencies. An award-winning illustrator and artist who had a full ride to study art in Arizona Bottom line, Dawn is a Creative. With a capital "C".

That's what she's been all her life. Regardless of the umbrella of her chosen place—in location, in life, in work, in philosophy—her creative spirit has always dominated. It's what she's been and done since she was raised (in California). While she was living in Dallas, emerged in the financial world. What happened in Arizona, where she spent two years as art director for the prestigious El Presidio Gallery in Tucson, rebranding the gallery.

sin and Range physiographic provinces. The rich colors of the earth defined her palette. The sunrises and sunset were divine inspiration. No longer dependent on meeting day-job work deadlines, she was free to wander and wonder, to absorb the peaceful energy that so fueled her creativity.

"I'd load my oil paints and sketch pad, and a hastily packed lunch and drive out north of Flagstaff to explore and paint the Painted Desert," she explains. The vast area, dating back to the Triassic period, roughly 210-230 million years ago. is comprised of layers of rock and minerals, petrified wood, and fossils, "layers that have different colors giving this unique part of the earth a 'candy stripe' look. ...The layers in these beautiful formations get their color from the minerals they are made up of, and each color and mineral carries its own vibration, or energy – much like crystals which are often used in spiritual and sa-

cred practices." [Article, *The Mystical Desert*, Dawn Blanchard, March 16, 2025.]

Combining her right brain-left brain world view, Dawn learned about the mystical and healing properties of the elements as well as their scientific source. She painted what she felt as well as what she saw. As a result, Dawn's contemporary landscapes seem to have a sacred energy that speaks to the viewer of nature's power. Her diverse palette and expression of patterns and shapes in nature tell the story of an artist who understands what touches the heart and opens our understanding of the spiritual connection we all have with the earth. [<https://dawnblanchard.art/about-the-artist>]

Dawn worked with various media, starting with colored pencil and watercolor, before she settled on oils. She built an impressive portfolio, selling her paintings in galleries throughout the west and as far away as Washington, D.C. "Once I started painting," she says, "it almost became an obsession – a commitment – a promise to myself. I wanted others to see these like I did—sacred, mystical, like a precious and highly-valued gem, present in the world.

She moved again, to Maryland, where she became a Buddhist (receiving the name Sangdrol) and studying more ancient ways. But that's another story, one you can read about on her website, <https://dawnblanchard.art/about-the-artist>,

In 2020, Dawn relocated to Montrose to be closer to her family and reconnect with

Continued next

ARTIST'S PROFILE: DAWN SANGDROL BLANCHARD *From previous pg*

the Southwest. You'll see how she combines her Buddhist practices with artistic endeavors when you visit her store, Meditation Spaces at 12 S. Uncompahgre in downtown Montrose (near Centennial Plaza). She is open three days a week, dedicating her other time to her "day job," (she is a communication specialist for government agencies).

Once again, Dawn combines yin and yang, partnering brushwork artistic creativity with digital technology. At present, she is the Senior UX/UI Designer for the USDA National Forest Service. "It's im-

portant work," she asserts, saving and protecting forests, and it aligns with her love for the land and her understanding of the role the earth and its bounty plays in our human existence.

And she's still painting, still making art.

The story of her mystical desert journey can be viewed at the Montrose Center for the Arts, 205 E. Main Street, where her work is on display through April 26th. At the opening of her show, she shared glimpses of that journey with stories that she shares on her website <https://dawnblanchard.art/artwork>. There, you

can also view her magical desert paintings that depict what she saw and felt in her heart while creating them. Each has its own story to tell. "We can all find our true nature in nature," Dawn says. "Trust your own heart."

Kathryn (Kate) Burke is a former board member of MCA. She writes about regional artists and art events and teaches art classes and craft workshops at local venues. Read more about her and her creative activities here <https://kathrynrburke.com/>



 **LEAP**
Low-Income Energy Assistance Program



**The days are getting warmer
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Accepting applications through April 30, 2025

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Community EASTER SONRISE SERVICE

Sunday April 20th 6:30am

“The So-What of Easter”

**Everyone is welcome! Join us at
the Montrose Pavilion South Lawn for an Easter service.**

Please bring lawn chairs or blankets for seating.

Refreshments will be available.

Outside event - please dress warmly

Speaker



PASTOR
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Sidelines Sports Bar
970-765-0129

Amelias Hacienda Restaurante
970-249-1881

Delta: Pour Ernie's
970-546-0074



Alpen Confections
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Crash Burger
970-249-0825

Coffee Trader
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970-249-8990

Busy Corner White Kitchen
970-323-6215

Delta: CB's Tavern
970-399-3570



COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

MAIN STREET MEETS TORTILLA FLATS ART SHOW: CALL FOR ARTISTS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The Montrose Center for Arts (MCA) in conjunction with MADA (Mexican American Development Association) invites artists with Hispanic roots to bring on their creativity and show the community the bold colors and vibrant expressions of their heritage. The MCA is looking for new energy including paintings and drawings in various mediums and styles, as well as 3-dimensional artwork. Viva el arte!

Hispanic artists from all over the Western Slope are welcome to apply for the show to be held from April 29 - May 30 at the MCA Main Gallery. Artists can stop by the "re-imagined" Montrose Center for Art at 205 E. Main Street (near the historic Tortilla Flats area of town), to pick up an application for the show or Artists can stop by MADA at 17 N. 6 Street. Call the MCA at 970-787-9428 with any questions.

About Montrose Center for Arts

MCA is a non-profit organization totally served by volunteers. It depends upon support from membership, contributions, sponsorships, grant funding and the local community. To support the MCA and local artists on the Western Slope, become an MCA member. Membership advantages include invitations to member-only special events, regular events and classes; unique show opportunities; notifications through the newsletter on all upcoming activities; and the ability to provide feedback on the direction of arts on the Western Slope. Stop by the MCA and sign up in person.

DELTA WELCOMES ADMIRAL RADIO APRIL 13



Special to Art & Sol

DELTA-The Delta Montrose Community Concert Association is excited to present the folk-styling of Admiral Radio on **Sunday, April 13, 2025 at 3 PM** at the Delta Performing Arts Center, 822 Grand Avenue in Delta, CO. Doors open at 2 PM.

South Carolina-based duo Coty Hoover and Becca Smith create a unique Americana blend rooted in traditional styles that also touches the heartstrings of the modern-day listener.

Named for the 1941 wooden Admiral brand radio they found while vintage hunting. Ironically, they later found out that Becca's grandfather had been a leading Admiral salesman in South Carolina. Inspired by the simpler era that gathered families around their radio, this husband-and-wife team weaves threads of country, folk and roots music together to create a nostalgic sonic tapestry evoking homespun comfort. Featuring guitar, banjo, and ukulele, accompanying their lush and effortless vocal harmony, this couple and their timeless sound are suited for audiences of all ages.

Single admission tickets will be available at the door on the afternoon of the performance, \$25 for adults, \$5 for students. For more information please contact Bob at 970-835-4480 or Connie at 970-249-4308 or visit our website at www.deltamontroseconcerts.com

Please note that this is a matinee performance.



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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

SONIC DONATES NEARLY \$1 MILLION TO SEND 400 EDUCATORS TO RON CLARK ACADEMY TRAINING WORKSHOPS AND SHARES CLARK'S EXPERT TIPS TO KEEP STUDENTS ENGAGED AT HOME

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— SONIC® Drive-In is fueling education by sending 400 teachers from 149 public school districts to Atlanta for the Ron Clark Academy Experience, a dynamic two-day training made possible by a nearly \$1 million donation from the SONIC Foundation. From March 20-21, 300 educators participated in immersive workshops to bring powerful teaching techniques back to their classrooms. Next month, an additional group of 100 teachers will attend the same training at the Academy sponsored by SONIC on April 24-25.

"This marks our second year sponsoring hundreds of teachers to attend the Ron Clark Academy Experience, and we're honored to support public education through this meaningful initiative," said Stuart Brown, Executive Director of the SONIC Foundation. "Our commitment to education is vital, and Ron Clark's groundbreaking methods equip teachers with fresh strategies to energize their classrooms and captivate and inspire students nationwide."

The Ron Clark Academy is a highly acclaimed, nonprofit middle school that

doubles as a demonstration school – a place where visiting educators engage in a vibrant professional development experience by observing best practices in action before participating in hands-on workshops. In the past 16 years, more than 150,000 superintendents, district-level administrators, and teachers have participated in the RCA Experience to learn new ways to engage students, promote academic excellence, build relationships, and create a positive classroom culture.

But learning doesn't stop when the school day ends. Parents play a key role in keeping kids motivated – whether it's during spring break, summer vacation, a long weekend or after school. Ron Clark shares a few simple tips – that only require 1% of effort from parents! – to keep learning alive at home:

- Set up a container in your home that holds a ruler, glue stick, ribbon, yarn, crayons, tape and other construction items. It's handy during the school year, but it can also spark creative projects in the off season.
- Have your child calculate the tip when you go out to dinner.
- Play a game where each family member

guesses the total dinner cost, and the one who comes closest gets to choose the dessert.

-Movie night! Watch your favorite movie that has historical significance, such as *Forrest Gump* or *Glory*, and pause often to discuss the content.

"The SONIC Foundation and our Academy share a commitment to supporting educators across the country," said Ron Clark, co-founder of the Ron Clark Academy.

"Our goal is to create a revolution in education through transformative teaching methods that can be shared and replicated everywhere – including at home – and this partnership brings us closer to that vision!"

Guests can join SONIC in supporting teachers and local public schools by ordering their favorite drink at the drive-in. Every time guests purchase a SONIC Drink, Slush, Blast or Shake, the brand donates a portion of proceeds to the SONIC Foundation, which is used to support public education through Limeades for Learning®. * Since 2009, SONIC has donated more than \$30 million to funding local classrooms, becoming one of the largest programs to support public education in the U.S.

SEE SOMETHING - SAY SOMETHING



970-249-8500

ANONYMOUS CALL

MONTROSE REGIONAL CRIME STOPPERS

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

JAMES MASON NAMED TO THE DEAN'S LIST AT PALMER COLLEGE OF CHIROPRACTIC

Special to the Mirror

DAVENPORT, IA)-- James Mason of Montrose, CO, has been named to the 2024 fall trimester Dean's List at Palmer College of Chiropractic's Main Campus in Davenport, Iowa.


Palmer College of Chiropractic, the first and largest college in the chiropractic profession, has campuses in Davenport, Iowa, and Port Orange, Florida.

SCHEDULE A VISIT WITH FSA TO ENROLL FOR ARC AND PLC

Special to Art & Sol

REGIONAL-Farming is risky, ARC and PLC can help! You may be eligible for the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs, which provide vital income support to farmers who experience substantial declines in crop price or revenue. For coverage for the 2025 crop year, you must make elections and enroll by April 15, 2025. Be sure to schedule a visit to your local FSA office to sign your ARC/PLC contract (even if you are not changing your program election). Make the most of your time and sign-up for other key FSA programs including the new Emergency Commodity Assistance Program and available disaster assistance and farm loan programs. With April 15 right around the corner, the countdown is on, enroll in ARC/PLC today.

For more information about FSA programs, visit the Farm Service Agency's ARC and PLC webpage or contact the FSA at your local USDA Service Center.




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

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

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

GAIL MARVEL
Montrose Author & Reporter

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



MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY

ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

Office Hours: By appointment.

Contact Information: (970) 249-2451
[https:// www.allsaintsmontrose.org/](https://www.allsaintsmontrose.org/) Rec-
 tor: The Rev Preston Gordon, [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
 112Main St.
 P.O. Box 262

Olathe, Co 81425

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

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Sunday 6 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Study/Prayer 7 p.m.

CELEBRATION CHURCH

Denomination: Southern Baptist Church
 (SBC – Southern Baptist Convention)

Address: 2900 Sunnyside Road, 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'S CHURCH OF THE VALLEY

Name of Church: Christ's Church of the
 Valley

Denomination Affiliation: Non-
 denominational Christian Church/Church
 of Christ

Address: 10 Hillcrest Plaza Way. Mont-
 rose, CO 81401

Office hours: Tuesday & Wednesday 9am-
 noon and by appointment.

Contact information:

Phone: 970-249-0530

Email: CCVMontroseCO10@gmail.com

Website: ccvmontrose.org

Name of current Senior Pastor: Ken Law-
 rence

Worship service times: 10:30 a.m.

Mission: Christ's Church of the Valley is a
 loving and welcoming church whose pur-
 pose is to help people to know and grow

in our Lord Jesus Christ to the glory of
 God.

Description: CCV is a multi-generational
 church family. While we are currently pre-
 dominately seniors, we are becoming
 more multi-generational.

Sunday School & Childcare: CCV has
 adult Sunday School at 9 a.m. and Youth
 Church during the 10:30 a.m. worship
 service.

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.

COMMUNITY SPIRIT CHURCH

United Church of Christ (UCC)

Address: 504 N. 1st Street (HAP Building)

Office hours: Call or text for appointment

Phone: 970-765-7070

Email: spirit@communityspiritucc.org

Website: communityspiritucc.org

Current Pastor: Rev. Wendy Kidd

Worship service: Sundays at 11am

Mission: Our commitment to a more inclu-
 sive and accepting world is steadfast, and
 we will continue to work towards a future

where everyone can live freely and au-
 thentically.

Demographics: We are a small congrega-
 tion of mostly adults and seniors, however,
 we are always ready to welcome families
 and children.

COVENANT HEBRAIC FELLOWSHIP

Denomination affiliation. No affiliation

Address Office hours N/A

Contact: 720-951-9941,
office@ccfmontrose.net,
www.ccfmontrose.net

Name of current Senior Pastor. Led by
 elders

Worship service times. Noon on Satur-
 days. Children's Church will be offered as
 needed.

Covenant is a Hebraic roots community

that studies the Torah as well as the rest of
 Scripture. We learn about the Hebrew
 roots of the language and believe that the
 Lord's feasts are for today. We are pre-
 dominantly made up of older folks, but
 have some young blood, too.

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY From previous pg

FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

Denomination: Church of the Nazarene

Address: 705 South 12th Street

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9 am-Noon and by Appointment

Contact Information: Office Phone 970 249-9213, mncfirst@gmail.com, www.montrosenazarenechurch.org

Pastor: Buddy Cook

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

Wednesday: Prayer Boot Camp - 7 PM

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

disciples in Montrose Colorado and around the world.

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MONTROSE

Affiliation: Presbyterian

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

Contact: 970-249-4732, 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 community, country, and world. We also encourage children and youth to grow their relationship with Christ through our children and student ministries.

HILLCREST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Denomination affiliation: United Church of Christ

Address: 611 South Hillcrest Drive, Montrose, CO 81401

Office hours: By appointment

Contact information:

Phone number: (970) 249-9047

Email address: office@montroseucc.org

Website: montroseucc.org

Current Pastor: Rev. Wendy Kidd

Worship service times: Sunday, 10 a.m.

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

on life's journey.

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

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

MONTROSE MISSION OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH

Affiliation: Orthodox

Meets: 2057 S. Townsend, Montrose, CO

81401 and Cimarron Creek Clubhouse.

Worship Services: The Montrose Mission of the Orthodox Church meets every Saturday night at 7 PM at All Saints Anglican

Church for Vespers, and we currently meet only on the third Sunday of each month for Divine Liturgy in Montrose at 9:30 AM at the Cimarron Creek clubhouse.

MONTROSE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Denomination Affiliation: United Methodist

Address: 19 S. Park Avenue Montrose CO. 81401

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

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

montroseumc.org

Current Senior Pastor: Rev. Kevin Young

Worship service times:

8:30 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual

9:45 a.m. Christian Education & Fellowship

11 a.m. Sanctuary

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

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

Wherever you are on your spiritual journey we invite you to come discover hope, joy, peace, purpose.

ROSEMONT BAPTIST CHURCH

Affiliation: Southern Baptist

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

Office Hours: Tues-Thurs, 9am-4pm

Contact information:

Phone: 970.249.4887

website: www.RosemontBaptist.org

email: office@rosemontbaptist.org

Senior Pastor: Rolland Kenneson

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

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

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

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

matter what stage of life they are in.

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

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

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY From previous pg

SPIRITUAL AWARENESS CENTER

Denomination affiliation: Independent Spiritual and Interfaith Community
Address: Services 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., 2nd Sunday of each month; Chai Chats, a Wednesday morning midweek informal spiritual gathering at 10:30 a.m. at Pun Hill Himalayan Restaurant, Mont-

rose; 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. 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-](mailto:ststephensmontrose@yahoo.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).

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 a.m. followed by a time of fellowship and snacks. Beginning Feb. 23 we will have a family Bible study, "Lord, Teach Me to Pray," following fellowship from 10:45-11:30 a.m.

All family members are welcome. During the Sunday sermon we offer teaching for children ages birth to kindergarten, in a kid-friendly room called Base Camp. We have communion on the first Sunday of each month and meet following services for a potluck brunch. Please visit <https://www.summitchurchmontrose.org/events>

VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH OF MONTROSE

Denomination Affiliation: Independent Baptist
Address: 2890 N Townsend Ave., Montrose, CO 81401
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8am-12pm
Contact Information: Phone (970) 249-

6874; email at info@vbcmontrose.org; website: vbcmontrose.org
Current Pastor: Roland Kassales
Worship Service Times: Sunday School at 9:30am, Sunday AM Service at 10:30am, Sunday PM Service at 6pm, Wednesday Night Service at 6:30pm (all services include childcare)

Victory Baptist Church exists to exalt God, edify saints, and evangelize the lost. Demographics: Victory Baptist serves everyone with age-appropriate classes, groups, and activities. Families with children make up the majority of VBC with young adults, singles, middle-aged couples, and seniors comprising the rest.

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

information to the Montrose Mirror:
 Name of church
 Denomination affiliation
 Address Office hours
 Contact information (phone number, email address, website)
 Name of current Senior Pastor
 Worship service times

Please give a one sentence description of your church and its mission in the Montrose community.
 Brief description of your current church demographics (predominately family, youth, seniors, singles).
 Do your church services include Sunday School and childcare?

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📞 970-615-9412

✉️ julie@thehiddenlakecommunity.com

🌐 www.thehiddenlakecommunity.com

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The Satisfied Woman

SPRING CLEANING & THE POWER OF DE-CLUTTERING



By Gia Pirelli.
Courtesy photo.

We've all heard of the mythical Marie Kondo—the grand Guru of organization. She's written books (none of which have I read) and she even has a show on HGTV, or she did. IDK. I've never watched it. Despite my fascination with her and her ways, I feared the ensuing

self-recrimination for the staggering amount of clutter and crap I would find stuffed into my corners and closets—both physically and mentally. Clutter represents our inability to deal with things. It represents scarcity, fear and the inability to let go of something. The “I might need that one day” syndrome. Or, “these 1991 Levi 501s looked amazing on me and they WILL fit again!” Seriously? If my ass was as small as it was when I was 17 I'd go out and buy myself a brand new pair of expensive designer jeans as a trophy. Can I get an Amen.

I know all of this. I read books on Yogic philosophy. I've read the entire *Baghavad Gita*. Twice. I am a bit of a germ-phobe and my house is always clean and tidy. It looks great in photographs. Everything is artfully arranged and tastefully decorated. Just don't go in the guest room. Definitely don't open the closet. And maybe don't go in the shed either.

My guest room was a hodge-podge of designer cast offs to sell on Poshmark, precariously balanced on a fragile antique chair. 23 shipping boxes, not broken down but stacked like the Leaning Tower of Amazon. Random items I didn't know what to do with, or the constant “I'll deal with that later. For now I'll just put it on the bed...” Sound familiar? It was also a shrine to my late friend, Deb, who died in

2021. The day after my birthday. The shock, pain, and emotional turmoil of that resulted in a sort of hoarding behavior. I basically created a shrine to her, with special memories, knick knacks, pictures, etc. And then over the years desecrated it with more and more random stuff. It was really weird. It bothered me, for a while now, but I just didn't have the time or energy to deal with it. Translation: I didn't have the courage to face it.

But then a week ago I met someone in town, just by happenstance. One of those crazy brief encounters that winds up inspiring action or evolution. In this case, both. Dawn Sangdrol Blanchard. She has a little shop downtown, by Guru's, called Meditation Spaces. She specializes in creating sacred spaces for meditation. Check it out. After spending some time in her lovely and peaceful shop, I decided to finally deal with what I'd been avoiding. To declutter and organize my guest room. To welcome spring, and new beginnings. To let go of old energy, to let go of grief, and to get rid of those damn jeans from 1991. (They're at Goodwill if anyone's interested.)

What happened next was truly transformational. In so many ways. I finally let go of the shrine to my late friend. I released all of the old, stale energy in my guest room to make space for joy and peace, instead of sorrow. I built a sacred space for myself, and for my spiritual and mental health.

I donated countless items, burned sage, lit incense, put in a few fountains. I repeated mantras while cleaning. I cried and laughed over items I came across. I moved a LOT...physically, mentally, emotionally, psychologically, spiritually. You name it. It was powerful.. Not only my guest room, but my entire home and my mind have achieved a peace and tranquility I've not felt in a very long time. I meditated in there one evening, after placing the finishing touches on my space. I

haven't slept that well in years. I think partly because I've been holding onto energy that was dragging me down. And then, of course, the self-judgment for that, combined with the shameful knowledge that I should really do something, but couldn't summon the enthusiasm (or maybe courage) to do it. It was all a very toxic combination. The last few days have been liberating for the fact that I went through all of it, finally, and then with growing excitement, passion and inspiration created a space for myself that I absolutely love. Now, I smile and pause when I walk by that room instead of hustling past, averting my gaze and avoiding responsibility.

What felt like a mountain of a task, became an enjoyable and powerful release. It took me an entire day to sort through, and organize boxes for donation, or bags for the trash. But it allowed me to move through countless items, covered in dust, and let go. I connected with so many things I'd either forgotten, avoided or been afraid of. The second day was conceiving the space and acquiring a few items to bring my vision to reality. The 3rd day was finishing touches. It's amazing how many things I already had. We, as a culture, have SO much stuff. Odds are you have just about everything you need to make a beautiful space. You just need a little creativity, and a little inspiration.

As we welcome spring, maybe take the time to tackle a closet. Or, if you're like me, and you have a dedicated “guest room” with no guests—like ever—then make a sacred space for yourself. Dedicate that space to something that brings you joy and inspiration. Maybe a sewing room, a library and reading room, a dance studio, a meditation and yoga space. Whatever meaningful thing you enjoy that you wish you made space for in your home, in your life. Two things will happen: 1) you will experience a lightness of being and lifted weight from your heart

SPRING CLEANING & THE POWER OF DE-CLUTTERING From previous pg

and mind; and 2) you will intentionally create space for something you love to do or engage in.

And then you will find yourself engaging in it more, because you've made the space for it.

You don't need Marie Kondo, or a Scandi-

navian Architect. You just need to put on some music, tie your hair up and dive in.

Choose music that reflects the energy of what you're trying to create.

Maybe start with The Beatles, Here Comes the Sun. Smile, forgive yourself for being a disorganized mess, and walk right

into the thing you've been avoiding. You'll be so glad you did.

Gia Pirelli is a successful business woman, entrepreneur and jewelry designer. Read more about her here: <https://www.giovannadesigns.myshopify.com>



Open House

Saturday, April 26th

**16612 S Townsend Ave.
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Renaturing



Contact Author and Speaker:

🌐 laurenhallruddell.com

✉ agescapesnow@gmail.com

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WEDNESDAY APRIL 9, 2025

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

TELLURIDE BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL DETAILS VERY SPECIAL TOY FACTORY PROJECT SET IN TRIBUTE TO MARSHALL TUCKER BAND'S TOY CALDWELL

Special to Art & Sol

TELLURIDE- After much deliberation over the mystery act atop Telluride Bluegrass Festival's 2025 bill, festival promoters Planet Bluegrass have put the rumors to rest, announcing the details behind the first-ever **Toy Factory Project** performance at this year's Festivarian gathering. Helmed by **Marshall Tucker Band drummer and co-founder Paul T. Riddle**, the Toy Factory Project is a band created in memory of fellow Marshall Tucker Band co-founder **Toy Caldwell** and his legendary songs. Joining Riddle is a band of giants, ready to celebrate the southern rock legacy of Caldwell and MTB: **Marcus King** (Marcus King Band) on guitar and vocals, **Oteil Burbridge** (Dead and Company, Allman Brothers Band) on bass, **Charlie Starr** (Blackberry Smoke) on guitar and vocals, **Josh Shilling** (Mountain Heart, Wynona Judd) on keys and vocals, and **Billy Contreras** (Lionel Hampton, George Jones, Zach Bryan, Ricky Skaggs, Bela Fleck) on fiddle.

Telluride Bluegrass attendees will be treated to some of Marshall Tucker Band's great crossover hits like "Can't You See," "Heard It In a Love Song," "Searching For a

Rainbow," and "This Old Cowboy," to name a few, and can surely expect a special guest or two for the first-ever set on Saturday, June 21st, for the further exploration of Toy Caldwell's legendary blending of rock and roll, country, bluegrass, and blues on stage in Telluride's world-famous Town Park. **Check out a preview of Toy Factory Project [right here](#).**

Saturday evening's Toy Factory Project performance rounds out an already-stellar Telluride Bluegrass Festival lineup over the course of June 19-22 in Telluride, Colorado:

Thursday, June 19:

Jason Isbell and the 400 Unit
Gillian Welch & David Rawlings
Thee Sacred Souls
I'm With Her: Sara Watkins, Sarah Jarosz, & Aoife O'Donovan
The Travelin' McCourys
Mountain Grass Unit
Olive Klug
Chris Thile

Friday, June 20:

Greensky Bluegrass
Lake Street Dive
Dan Tyminski Band
Punch Brothers

Tim O'Brien Band
Rainbow Girls
Water Tower
DUG

Saturday, June 21:

Toy Factory Project
Sam Bush Band
Telluride Troubadour
Kasey Chambers
Yonder Mountain String Band
Béla Fleck, Edmar Castañeda, Antonio Sánchez Trio
Caleb Kauder and Reeb Willms
Still House String Band
Telluride Band Contest Finals

Sunday, June 22:

Alison Krauss & Union Station featuring Jerry Douglas
Zach Top
Telluride House Band
Rebirth Brass Band
Ken Pomeroy
New Dangerfield
Authentic Unlimited

Tickets and camping passes are still available in limited quantities for Telluride Bluegrass Festival 2025 and can be found [right here](#). For more information, please visit bluegrass.com.



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Holy Week Services

April 14-18, 7– 7:30 AM



Monday – St. Stephen's Anglican Church
2504 Sunnyside Rd.

Tuesday– Seventh Day Adventist Church
1551 Valley Rd. (behind Wells Fargo)

Wednesday– 1st Church of the Nazarene
705 S. 12th St.

Thursday– Montrose Christian Church
2351 Sunnyside Rd

Friday– Celebration Church
2900 Sunnyside Rd.

Services will be 30 minutes, followed by a continental breakfast.

An offering will be received for ministries of the AMC.

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Show 7:30 PM

Seats:

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David Kienholz.....970-209-1430	Aaron Tobler.....970-275-0780
Chris Cooper.....970-270-3284	Steve Zahnhiser.....970-765-1719
Justin Covington.....970-275-4189	Cheryl Larsen.....970-596-8801
Nicole Goza.....970-209-2548	Vicki Jones.....970-209-3018
Mark Covington.....970-209-1956	Office.....970-249-6658

1563 Ogden Rd Montrose, CO 81401



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SAVE THE DATE! LOCAL EVENTS CALENDAR

ONGOING-

COLUMBINE QUILTERS meet at Welcome Home Alliance Warrior Resource Center, 4 Hillcrest Plaza Way Montrose. 1st Saturday except for July at 9 am.

FRIENDSHIP QUILTERS meets at the Montrose County Events Center, 4th Thursday Jan - Oct, 3rd Thursday Nov - Dec, 9am.

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 Montrose Area Woodturners meet second Saturdays 9 am. Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners. For location and information contact: 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.

MONTHLY

Feb. 4-April 11--The Montrose AARP Tax-aide site will be in operation from Feb. 4 through April 11 at the Senior Center in the Montrose Pavilion, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 9am – 2pm. Reservations are required and can be made now by calling 970-252-4889.

April 8-Tuesday April 8 at 5 Hispanic Affairs 504 N. 1st, Citizens' Climate Lobby meets to forward local efforts to mitigate pollution .Non-partisan, environmental, All Welcome. Info.970-765-9095.

April 12-Ute Indian Museum. From 10 to 11:15 am, join Ute Museum volunteer Mary Menz and Jim Pisarowicz for an hour of beautiful wildflowers on the big screen, including many used by the Ute People. They will share fun facts and tidbits about the local flora. Mary is a Ridgway writer and Colorado Native Plant Master. Jim is an award-winning photographer from Montrose. They will sign their books *Wildflowers of Colorado's Western Slope* and *Common Wildflowers of the San Juan Mountains* after the presentation. Books are available in the Ute Indian Museum's gift shop.

April 13-On Sunday, Apr 13th, 3 pm ~ **Landscapes of Sound ~ Free Concert by the Montrose Community Band**. Come and enjoy picturesque descriptions of landscapes, both real and imaginary, through music.

April 16-Have you ever wondered how the non-elite Maya lived? Please join us to learn about 20 years of research by Dr Hyde - Distinguished Lecturer of Archaeology at Western Colorado University. April 16 at 7pm at the United Methodist Church 19 S Park Avenue Montrose. Chipeta Archaeology Society Free.

Sept. 13-14-The highly anticipated Tribute to Aviation, Montrose Regional Airport's signature event, is officially scheduled for Sept. 13-14, 2025. As one of the largest static aircraft displays in the western United States, Tribute to Aviation will showcase both military and civilian aircraft. For more information, please contact Vendla Stockdale at vstockdale@montrosecounty.net or 970-964-2479 or visit

www.tributetoaviation.com

INDIVISIBLE ACTIVISTS MARCH THROUGH MONTROSE



Hundreds of people took part in the "Hands Off" march through Downtown Montrose on Saturday, April 5. According to a news release, Indivisible activists organized the march and rally in Montrose in partnership with other national and local non-profit organizations such as the Montrose Women's March and the Montrose League of Women Voters. The event was 1 of 950 rallies occurring across the country on the same day for a large mobilization called "Hands OFF!" Photos by B. Switzer.



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