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# the Montrose Mirror

## OLATHE PROUD AS ARCHERS HEAD TO WORLD COMPETITION

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-The phrase, "Olathe Proud!" seems to be everywhere these days as the first-rate Olathe Middle/High School Archery teams prepare to go worldwide.

This week, the archers will top off a season of constant practice and striving with even more hard work as they raise funds for the next step. Both Middle School and High School teams qualified to compete in the World Championships after taking 36 archers to the National Championships in Sandy, Utah—where the OMS Archers qualified in 3D, and OHS Archers qualified in 3D as well as in Bullseye. Now, a total of 18 young athletes plan to compete in the World Championships in Daytona, Florida June 6-8.

"We've got our plane tickets!" Coach Jody Baugh said, noting that the tickets were purchased with team funds that must be re-

imbursed, and that there are other expenses as well.

The Olathe Archery Teams have set a fundraising goal of \$25,000, of which \$3,385 has so far been raised through a GoFundMe site. There will also be a benefit for the teams at the Rustic Charm Bar & Grill in Delta from 7 to 11pm on May 25.

In addition to four weekly practice sessions, the Archery Team students must maintain at least a C average in their classes to be eligible for the team. "Oh my gosh, they're just a great bunch of kids!" Baugh said.

Excellence in Archery can contribute to overall success in life, as students learn to work hard, set goals, and hit the target.

One GoFund.me donor, Montrose Garage Doors, offered words of encouragement as well, "May your arrows always find their tar-



get, both on the range and in life. Keep aiming high and hit the bullseye in all your endeavors!"

To contribute to the Olathe Middle/High School Archery Teams' World Championship journey, attend the upcoming fundraiser to make a donation or visit <https://gofund.me/50292c83>.

## RE-1J COMMITTEE TO REVIEW DISCIPLINE POLICY DESPITE PRESIDENT'S FIERCE OPPOSITION



**PIO Matt Jenkins announced that he would manage efforts to ensure that RE-1J's outreach efforts and web presence comply with Colorado's stringent accessibility laws. Jenkins also runs the district's livestream efforts, which are plagued with poor audio quality and livestream glitches.**

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-The Montrose County School District RE-1J Board of Education convened for a regular meeting on Tuesday, May 14. Present for the meeting were Board President Sarah Fishing; District A Director Neisha Balleck; District B Director Ted Valerio; District C Director Alice Murphy; District D Director Tom West, and District F Director Jody Hovde. Board Vice President Steve Bush was absent.

President Fischering called the meeting to order and led in saying the Pledge of Allegiance; the board voted to approve the meeting agenda.

During the meeting, RE-1J Public Information Officer Matt Jenkins

**Continued pg 34**

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**May 30**  
**6:45-8:00 PM**  
**Library Meeting Room**



An attorney from Colorado Legal Services will present on the eviction process, defending yourself in an eviction, housing conditions, and the law for mobile home owners living in mobile parks. The presentation will also cover recent changes in housing law for late fees, rent increases, mediation, and more.

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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## SEEKING SHELTER...



Photo of the new Shelter Distilling Facility in Montrose is by B. Switzer.



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# RED HAWKS GOLFERS CONCLUDE SUCCESSFUL SEASON

By Cliff Dodge

MONTROSE-The Montrose Red Hawks girls' golf team, a very young and inexperienced team, concluded their regular season with a 10th place finish in the Colorado High School Activities Association 4A Regional Tournament.

There were eighteen teams competing in the Regional with seventy-two players teeing it up for a shot at the state tournament which will be held in Colorado Springs next weekend.

The Erie Tigers golf team posted a winning score of 217, a full 34 strokes in front of second place Mullen and Steamboat

Springs who tied shooting 251 for a share of second place. The Red Hawks placed 10<sup>th</sup> and shot a combined score of 311.

The Red Hawks finished as follows:

31 <sup>st</sup>	Sydney Bell	100
37 <sup>th</sup>	Selah Mason	105
38 <sup>th</sup>	Abigail Svacha	106
43 <sup>rd</sup>	Abigail Hines	111

Montrose head coach Brooke Brennecke said, "The tournament was played at the Foothills Golf Course and was a good track. It was fun for all of the girls to go out there and experience a new golf course.

For once they had nice weather."

Brennecke continued, "The girls played their game to the best of their ability. Each player shot their season average if not a couple of strokes better. I am proud of each player as they improved throughout the year and continuously showed dedication to the game.

"As a first-year coach, it was a learning season for me. We accomplished the majority of the goals and expectations we had set for the girls, which in my book, is a huge accomplishment. Although we didn't make it to State this season, we will be back next year bigger and better and ready to tackle more goals."



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## **for DMEA Board**

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

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

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

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

# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## GRAND MESA VISITOR CENTER TO REMAIN CLOSED FOR THE SEASON DUE TO BUDGET AND PERSONNEL CONSTRAINTS

*Special to the Mirror*

GRAND JUNCTION-The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests' Grand Valley Ranger District regrets to announce the Grand Mesa Visitor Center will remain closed for the upcoming season due to budgetary and personnel constraints. While this decision was not made lightly, ensuring the continued operation and maintenance of essential facilities and services within the Grand Valley Ranger District is necessary.

Despite the closure of the Visitor Center, visitors can still enjoy many recreational opportunities on the Grand Mesa. Re-

strooms at the Grand Mesa Visitor Center will remain open for public use.

Additionally, information sandwich boards will be strategically placed to provide visitors with essential information about the area's attractions, trails and safety guidelines.

The Wi-Fi network will continue to be available within the vicinity of the Visitor Center, allowing visitors to stay connected and access important online resources during their visit.

"We appreciate the understanding and cooperation of forest visitors during this closure," said Bill Edwards, Grand Valley

District Ranger. "Information and resources are still available online or by calling our Ranger District office. We encourage recreators to plan their trip in advance and Know Before They Go."

For more information, please contact the Grand Valley Ranger District at (970) 242-8211.

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

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# RED HAWKS TRACK GREAT AT STATE

By Cliff Dodge

JEFFCO-The Montrose Red Hawks co-ed track and field team strutted their stuff at the Colorado High School Activities Association state track and field meet held in Jefferson County this past weekend. The boys' team (5<sup>th</sup> last year) tied for second place with Niwot. The girls' team (15<sup>th</sup> last year) placed 11th in 2024.

On the boys' side

- Bohdan Walchle placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 400 meter dash.
- Dylan Jessop placed 6<sup>th</sup> in the 110 meter hurdles.
- The Red Hawks placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 4x200 meter relay.
- The Red Hawks placed 5<sup>th</sup> in the 4x400 meter relay.
- Dylan Jessop won the long jump, 1<sup>st</sup> place leading 22 ft. 8 in.
- Dylan Jessop placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the triple jump (47 ft, 4 inches).
- Trevor Hill won the discus throw (181 ft, 7 inches).
- Andreas Distel placed 4<sup>th</sup> in the discus (160 ft, 11 inches).
- Trevor Hill placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the shot put (54 ft, 4 inches)

On the girls' side:

- Sarah McGarry placed 7<sup>th</sup> in the 100 meter dash.
- Sarah McGarry placed 5<sup>th</sup> in the 200 meter dash.
- Sarah McGarry placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 300 meter hurdles.
- Sarah McGarry placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the long jump (18 feet)
- Madison Lucero placed 7<sup>th</sup> in the triple jump (35 ft, 9 inches)

Head coach Brian Schwerdtfeger was totally pleased with the performance of the Red Hawks athletes in the championships. He had high praise for Sarah McGarry calling her the best pure sprinter on the western slope. He was most pleased with the performance of Dylan Jessop along with his weight-men Trevor Hill and Andreas Distel. He was especially pleased with the overall performance of his team from top to bottom. He said, "This was a total team effort from the preliminaries to the finals. Everybody gave their all and it showed with the boys finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> and the girls finishing 11<sup>th</sup>."



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## *Memorial Day Services*

*Monday, May 27*

**Valley Lawn Cemetery**

*10870 Hwy 550, 9 a.m.*

**Grand View Cemetery**

*16300 6450 Ct., 11 a.m.*

# MEMORIAL DAY 2024...A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

By C.B. Williams

MONTROSE-It's a busy weekend and generally the kick-off of summer, and to so many, this weekend is much, much more. It is a time to remember those who lost their lives in war—those who made the ultimate sacrifice so the USA can remain free.

Main Memorial Day ceremonies will be Monday, May 27 at Valley Lawn Cemetery, 10870 Hwy 550, at 9 a.m. and Grand View Cemetery, 16300 6450 Ct., at 11 a.m. Here is a breakdown of the ceremonies along with other events this weekend hosted by local veterans' organizations:

-On Saturday, May 25 at 9 a.m., the American Legion Riders will place US flags at the veterans' gravesites at Valley Lawn. The public is invited to observe and participate.

-Also on Saturday, the Veterans of Foreign Wars will be selling poppies at City Market South and Murdoch's from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., according to Commander J. Bob Brueske.

-Sunday, May 26 at 8 a.m. the VFW and others will place US flags at Grand View Cemetery then Cedar Creek Cemetery. Once again, the public is invited.

-At 8 a.m. on Monday, May 27 the VFW will line a section of lane at Grand View Cemetery with large US flags.

-The American Legion Post 73 and American Legion Riders will host a Memorial Day ceremony on Monday, May 27 at 9 a.m. at the Valley Lawn Cemetery, according to Post Commander Dave Vergamini. The ceremony will include presentation of the colors, invocation, and W.L. "Lance" Bach, author and retired Navy Seal captain, will be the featured speaker.

-Following that ceremony the riders will form a procession in memory of the "22," he said, and will ride to the 11 a.m. ceremony at Grand View Cemetery (up on Sunset Mesa past the soccer fields). The procession will bring awareness to the "22 a Day," an effort to prevent suicide in the veteran community.

-The Veterans of Foreign Wars-led ceremony at Grand View will feature a veteran Navy chaplain.

-Following the Grand View ceremony, the riders will continue the procession through Montrose.

**Memorial will bring people together**

This Memorial Day is a reminder of the

efforts underway to build the Montrose Veterans Memorial. Recently the Montrose County commissioners signed a memorandum of agreement to help make the new memorial a reality. The memorial is proposed for a site near the Montrose Pavilion and adjacent to the Botanical Gardens.

As the motion to sign the MOA came forward, county manager Jon Waschbusch and county commissioners Keith Caddy, Sue Hansen and Roger Rash had heartwarming comments on the proposed memorial.

City of Montrose staff have been working on the MOA with Waschbusch and the Montrose Veterans Memorial Coalition, and county commissioner approval is a great step forward, according to MVMC president Les Williams. The Coalition is made up of American Legion, VFW and Disabled American Veterans members. Williams said Jim Scheid, Montrose public works manager, has been gathering MVMC signatures and will bring the MOA to the city council.

One thing J. Bob Brueske, vice president/chairman of the MVMC board, thinks will happen once the new memorial is built is it will bring people together.

"One of the things that I am looking forward to when this is completed is we will have a central place to gather for veterans' events," Brueske said.

"Our local organizations will still do things like Memorial Day flags at the individual cemeteries," he continued, "but we'll have a place where all can gather for one ceremony. Other holidays will have events at the plaza also, he said, such as Veterans Day and Fourth of July.

"We'll be able to see the names on bricks and benches on the plaza, remember loved ones – friends, family – and share our appreciation for their sacrifices together."

"Near the Pavilion is a very accessible place for the public...for remembering the veterans. The memorial and plaza around it will make people think," he said: "This is why we have what we have."

What a great idea the memorial is, he said, and mentioned that former director of the Montrose Welcome Home Alliance for Veterans Mike Trickey had the vision for the memorial.

"This town needs something like this for the veterans, families, friends, and the education of children," he said, "it isn't just something for a

bunch of old vets. This is for the public."

Brueske, who has been active in veterans organizations since he returned from Vietnam, recently has been touring the country and has noticed that even very small towns have really nice memorials.

"Even little towns have beautiful memorials," he said. "We need to build ours."

## **Bringing the Memorial to light**

The City of Montrose and Montrose County now are committed partners, and the project should soon enter the stage of design approvals.

"We need about \$500,000 to put anything substantial in place. So, he said they are continuing their fundraising efforts.

"Stay tuned for more information on that," he said. There are exciting things in the works.

"This is a very veteran-giving community," he said, "We had a little hiccup in the location moving from Cerise Park, but once we get this MOA rolling people will step up. This is a great location."

Companies including Turner Toyota, Spectrum, DMEA, and Camelot Gardens are some of the bigger donators so far, but the smaller ones are building. Brueske said there also have been large in-kind donations from Strata-Geo, Del-Mont Consultants, Buckhorn Engineering.

"As we get closer to building, I see contractors and suppliers stepping up with more in-kind donations," he said. And it helps in the fundraising efforts to have all the local veterans service organizations supporting the Veterans Memorial Plaza project, he said. Brueske mused that the November 2024 Veterans Day ceremony might take place at the new Montrose Veterans Memorial Plaza near the Pavilion. Donations and the purchase of tribute bricks and benches for the Montrose Veterans Memorial Plaza can be made [online](#), or a check can be made out to MVMC and mailed or dropped off at the Montrose Welcome Home Alliance for Veterans, 4 Hillcrest Plaza Way, Montrose CO 81401.



# MIRROR LEGALS & CLASSIFIEDS

## PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

MONTROSE COUNTY

SAFE STREETS FOR ALL

PLANNING PROCESS – PUBLIC MEETING NO. 1

May 22, 2024

Montrose County is hosting a public meeting to discuss the Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Planning Process for public transportation infrastructure around Montrose Regional Airport. The SS4A Planning Process includes a thorough public and stakeholder involvement program intended to foster public discussion and participation in the planning effort. This is the first public meeting for the Montrose County SS4A planning process, which will include the following topics for discussion:

Topics to be covered:

- What is the SS4A Planning process and grant program?
- How do I get involved?
- What types of projects are included?
- Review of existing conditions
- What are the next steps for the public process?
- 

Additionally, an open discussion will be held to gather public and stakeholder input on transportation related safety projects in around Montrose Regional Airport.

**WHAT:** Montrose County "Safe Streets For All Planning Process" Public Meeting No. 1

**WHERE:** Public Works Meeting Room, 63160 LaSalle Road Montrose, CO 81401

**WHEN:** Wednesday, May 22, 2024. 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM

The public is welcome to attend.



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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## CSF LIBRARY TALKS RESUME MAY 24

### *Special to the Mirror*

**MONTROSE**—Being a family caregiver is hard enough without having to make the decision and follow through with placing a loved one under professional care. When the time comes, there will be more questions than answers. The answers you seek could very well be found in the Caregiver Support Foundation (CSF) Library Talk this coming Friday, May 24 at 1 pm. The talk and subsequent discussion will be led by the Chair of CSF, Dr. Laird Landon. The talk is titled, "What to Know When Placing a Loved One."

What is palliative care? Are memory care and assisted living the same? How much does it cost? Does Medicare help at all? Does our doctor help? Where can I get help? How do I monitor the care he (she) receives? What is the difference between assisted care and a nursing home? What is an ombudsman anyway? The questions keep coming.

Author Laird Landon, PhD, knows the questions and their answers and will provide a one-hour, plain English talk – no jargon – with answers to these questions.

"When I had to place my wife some years back, the emotional and logistic issues came in a huge wave that overwhelmed me – even though I had done a fair amount of research and I thought I was ready for anything," said Landon. The process of placement has many roadblocks, forks in the road and non-obvious dangers. And, if nothing else, the caregiver has to learn the language. "After my experience it occurred to me that there were a lot of people with the same problem. That led to my years of research and the establishment of the foundation." Following Landon's talk, a panel of four caregivers, who have been through the anguish of placing a loved one, will answer questions from the audience.

"The folks on the panel have all had to deal with this complicated and potentially devastating event, just hearing their stories will remove the clouds from the minds of many caregivers who must face the unhappy eventuality," Landon said. The Library Talk does not endorse any specific companies, facilities, or medical professionals. Commercial input is discouraged. Here are the stats:

Time: 1pm - 3pm MST

Location: Montrose Library

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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### GJPD AND GJFD RESPOND TO FATAL MOTORCYCLE CRASH

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE- The Grand Junction Police Department and Grand Junction Fire Department responded to a single motorcycle crash in the area of N 1<sup>st</sup> Street and Ouray Avenue on 5/17/24, at approximately 4:30 a.m. The adult male motorcyclist was transported to the hospital where he was declared deceased. Speed is suspected as a factor in the cause of this crash. The roadway was closed for several hours and has since been reopened. The Mesa County Coroner’s Office will be responsible for releasing the name of the decedent after appropriate notifications have been made.

The Grand Junction Police Department is committed to ensuring the safety of the community and continues to work traffic operations during peak hours.

### GJPD MAKES ARREST IN HOMICIDE INVESTIGATION

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-On May 14, 2024, at approximately 8:50 p.m., officers with the Grand Junction Police Department responded to the Woodspring Suites, located at 659 Market Street, for a call about an unresponsive male. The male, discovered to have a suspected knife wound, was pronounced deceased at the scene. Through the investigation, a suspect was identified and arrested. Shenting Guo, a 32-year-old female, was remanded to the Mesa County Detention Facility and charged with Murder in the Second Degree. The details leading to this incident remain under investigation and there is no further information available at this time. The Mesa County Coroner’s Office will be responsible for releasing the identity of the deceased after appropriate notifications have been made. The Grand Junction Police Department believes this to be an isolated incident.



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**MONTROSE REGIONAL  
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# Attention Big Lou Stark

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give my money to family  
and friends instead".  
Lou Stark - 3/18/2024

Pay your taxes before you ask to manage ours.

Montrose Taxpayers

Paid for by Brittney Griffith

# BOCC SIGNS MOA WITH VETERANS MEMORIAL COALITION, CITY OF MONTROSE



Meeting screenshot.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-In a brisk meeting with all commissioners in attendance, the Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) voted to approve items that included a Memorandum of Agreement with the City of Montrose and the Montrose Veterans Memorial Coalition.

BOCC Chair Roger Rash called the meeting of Wednesday, May 15 to order at 9:30am; Commissioner Sue Hansen led in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

Delivering the invocation was Pastor Buddy Cook of 1<sup>st</sup> Church of the Nazarene. Cook said, "...We gather on this day remembering that this is National Peace Officer Remembrance Day...we remember today those who have answered the call to protect and serve and who have done so at the cost of their lives. We are thankful for what they have done for us...we think of Sergeant David Kinterknecht and all those along with him who have stood in the gap and done their job at a cost that was so high..."

## PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

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

## COUNTY MANAGER

County Manager Jon Waschbusch asked to remove Consent Agenda Item 20 from the Consent Agenda. The item will return at a later date, BOCC Chair Roger Rash said.

## CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioners voted to approve the Consent Agenda with Item 20 removed. Resolution 28-2024 was assigned to Consent Agenda Item 3, Resolution No. 29-2024 was assigned to Consent Agenda Item 21, and Resolution 30-2024 was assigned to Consent Agenda Item 23. Commissioner Sue Hansen said that the approval brings human services funding from state and federal sources, not to exceed \$500K, directly to the community.

## GENERAL BUSINESS & ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Commissioners voted to approve four items for Montrose Regional Airport, including:

- the 1st (First) Amendment to the On-Call Architectural Engineering and Planning Ser-

vices Agreement entered into 12/19/2023 with Corgan Associates Inc., for professional bidding services to acquire snow removal equipment for AIP 3-08-0043-063-2024 ...for a not-to-exceed amount of \$35,459;

- the 2nd (Second) Amendment to the On-Call Architectural Engineering and Planning Services Agreement entered into on 12/19/2023 with Corgan Associates, Inc., for the Safety Action Plan in relation to the SS4A Grant administered through the U.S. Department of Transportation for Safe Streets and Roads for All, for a not-to-exceed amount of \$500,000;

- the 3rd (Third) Amendment to the On-Call Architectural Engineering and Planning Services Agreement entered into 12/19/2023 with Corgan Associates Inc., for Airport Access Road Design and On Site Construction Management Services for the Western portion of the Airport Access Road for AIP 3-08-0043-063-2024...for a not-to-exceed amount of \$419,520.

- the 4th (Fourth) Amendment to the On-Call Architectural Engineering and Planning Services Agreement entered into 12/19/2023 with Corgan Associates Inc., for Automobile Parking Lot Design and On Site Construction Management...for a not-to-exceed amount of \$157,404.

BOCC Chair Roger Rash thanked Airport Manager Lloyd Arnold and his team for their efforts. Arnold said, "We want to have a nice facility for the business folks and the public on the Western Slope to use, and I think that we are accomplishing that together."

Commissioners also voted to approve the Chair's signature on a Memorandum of Agreement with the City of Montrose and Montrose Veterans Memorial Coalition, a project that has long been in the works. Originally planned for Cerise Park, the memorial will now be placed on City property adjacent to the parking lot of the City's Pavilion Events Center. "This is a project that has gone through some iterations prior to being in front of the board today," County Manager Jon Waschbusch said, "but it has very positively evolved into what is now a three-party partnership between the city, the county, and the Veterans Memorial Coalition." The new location is at the Pavilion adjoining the Botanic Gardens. Local veterans have taken the project from an idea to something that is ready to advance and be

built, Waschbusch said. "It's a pleasure to be able to present this agreement to the board today, and I think everybody involved is just looking forward to seeing actual work on the ground."

Les Williams of the Veterans Memorial Coalition spoke as well, "It has been a long road, and we could not be more pleased with this partnership that we've developed out of this. So out of some hardship comes some joy, and this is what we're feeling today..."

Commissioner Sue Hansen said that the county is proud to be involved with the project, "I think it just goes to show that the municipalities and the local governments get together and make things happen..."

BOCC Chair Roger Rash said that he hopes that there will be a signature event at the Memorial every Veterans Day, "...It has not been the case in the past where the city and the county have worked together as well as this board has...this project will make our community better and I'm honored to be a part of that..."

BOCC Vice Chair Keith Caddy said that he is very impressed with the veterans and with the perseverance that they have shown.

"...I am very pleased with the way this went, and that Montrose County can be a small part of this success."

## PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the Cooper-Weber Minor Subdivision [MI23-014] proposal to divide 10 acres into two lots at Parcel 399106200013, 16318 6900 RD.

Also approved were the Mallard Creek Minor Subdivision [MI24-004] proposal to divide a 40-acre parcel into three lots at Parcel 376922300001, 71065 Highway 50; and the BJJ Minor Subdivision [MI24-005] proposal to divide one lot from 138-acre parcel at Parcel 376912100002, 11250 Highway 347.

Commissioners held a public hearing before voting to approve a proposed amendment to Zoning Regulations.

Commissioners approved the Turgeon Rezone [RZ24-001] from General Agricultural (A) to General Residential (R) at 376719100017, 62790 LaSalle Rd.

The River Stone Subdivision Extension [EXT24-002] proposal to extend the time period to file an approved plat for recording at 399305217022 was approved as well.

With no Executive Session and no further business, commissioners voted to adjourn.



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## ALPINE BANK PIONEER CLUB HELPS MEMBERS BUILD SAVINGS, HAVE FUN

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE—Are you in the Club? If you are over age 60, and enjoy socializing while saving money, Alpine Bank has a club for you!

Montrose's own Pioneer Club was started in 2001, the same year that Alpine Bank first opened a branch here in town. Twenty-three years later, the club itself has grown while the aggregate balance required for membership has not.

Directing the Pioneer Club today is Alpine Bank's Koree Wilde, who said that the club continues to gain traction from current members sharing their experiences with friends and family.

"What it's all about is having fun, building relationships, and making people feel welcome," said Wilde, who has served as club director for the past year and a half.

Members receive a regular newsletter along with the opportunity to engage in fun social activities with other club members.

Wilde said that she enjoys planning new and fun events for club members and seeing some of the longtime club activities turn into traditions. The fall banquet—

traditionally the most well-attended club event-- drew 250 attendees in 2023. Other popular gatherings take place at the end of each month, including Bingo, and this year members will enjoy a summer picnic, Wilde said. Events are held in the morning as well as in the evening, to appeal to members with varying schedules.

Wilde notes that in addition to remaining involved with their community, Pioneer Club members receive benefits that far outpace the savings requirement. "If you think about the complimentary things that you receive, they add up to far more than the interest you are going to earn on a regular checking account," Wilde said.

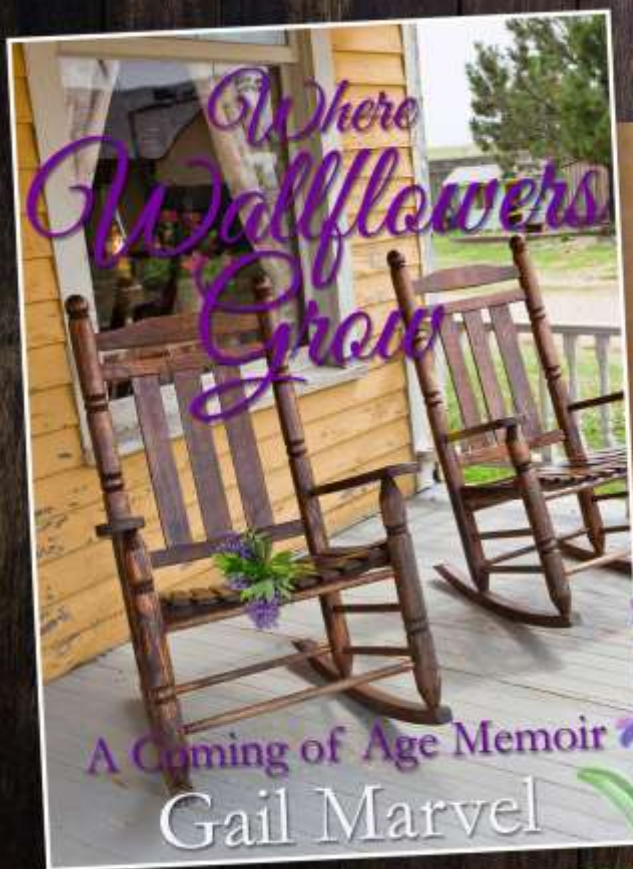
Membership is limited to those who qualify; to join, you must be at least 60 years of age, and must maintain an Alpine Bank Pioneer Club checking account and any



Alpine Bank Pioneer Club Courtesy Photo.

combination of personal checking, savings, or money market accounts with an aggregate daily balance during the statement cycle of at least \$5,000. Another option is that a member must maintain an Alpine Bank Pioneer Club checking account and a personal certificate of deposit in the combined amount of \$10,000 or more. Spouses and other additional Pioneer Club checking account signers qualify for member benefits, regardless of age.

To learn more, [visit the Blog](#). Those interested in joining can call Koree at Alpine Bank Montrose, 970-240-0900.



*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.

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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).



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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## NORTH FORK MINERS TRAIL CONNECTS HISTORY & COMMUNITY



**Courtesy photos.**

*Special to the Mirror*

**HOTCHKISS- —** Delta County, in the Town of Hotchkiss, marked a historic moment last Friday, May 10th, with the groundbreaking of the North Fork Miners Trail. The event saw a remarkable turnout from the community and significant support from various organizations and stakeholders. Representatives from Delta County, DMEA, the Town of Hotchkiss, Delta County School District, The Nature Connection, NF Pool and Recreation District, Delta Health, DOLA, and many others were in attendance to celebrate the launch of this highly anticipated project. Several speakers thanked the landowners who generously contributed to this project, which couldn't have come to fruition without them. They also emphasized the importance of the North Fork Miners Trail in providing a safe and efficient path for kids, seniors, and visitors to navigate from the town and Fairgrounds to the Pool, Ball Fields, Bike Paths, Soccer Fields, North Fork High School, and all local events

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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## FREE PUBLIC TOURS OF ANCIENT EAGLE ROCK SHELTER ON THE GUNNISON RIVER

*Special to the Mirror*

REGIONAL-On May 25 from 9 to 12 a.m. there will be volunteer guides to share the story of the site with visitors. Eagle Rock is one of the oldest prehistoric sites in Colorado, where excavations revealed evidence of hunting, tool making and cooking along with rock imagery. The site is located between Hotchkiss and Delta.

**This free tour is open to the public and is hosted by the Chipeta Chapter of the Archaeological Society and the BLM.**

Directions: Take Highway 92 east from Delta to the signed turnoff on the right-hand side of the road at approximately Mile 12.8. Pass through the gate and follow the far-left gravel road generally west or 2.5 miles to the trail head parking lot. The quarter-mile trail down is slightly steep with steps in places. Guides will be on the site.

For more information contact: [sjjcas1@gmail.com](mailto:sjjcas1@gmail.com)



*Eagle Rock Shelter. Courtesy photo.*

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Annual Meeting

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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

## COLORADO LEGISLATURE'S 2024 SESSION IS OVER – MORE FREEDOMS LOST

By David White

Let's start this editorial with a big shout out to the Democrats who control the Legislature and Governorship in the State of Colorado for furthering their radical agenda that promises more reductions in our freedoms through taxation and fees and our capitalist business model as they bow to the climate change activists in choking the oil and gas industry off as well as the various groups calling for D.E.I. (Diversity, Equity & Inclusion) to become the law of the land along with all of the other "woke" ideologies that one can envision. They're doing a stellar job of destroying this state.

There were 705 bills introduced in this year's legislative session. That's a record. Bills came from Democrats and Republicans of course with the Democrats responsible for the majority of the bills limiting personal freedom and empowering the State government beyond what power they possessed prior to 2024. Of course, the bills that passed have to be signed by the Governor to become law. Many have already been signed with more coming.

First and foremost, this bunch running the State doesn't think that responsible adults should own guns of any kind. Thankfully, brighter minds prevailed on some of the anti-gun legislation that was proposed but failed to keep several bills from getting through the process with the Governor signing them. Don't worry though, they'll be back next year for another run at taking away your rights on this front.

There were many other good and bad bills introduced in this legislative session. Many were killed along party line votes (PLV) but most seem to have been passed and their status along with those already signed by the Governor or about to be signed can be found here: [Bills, Resolutions, & Memorials | Colorado General Assembly](#). Thanks goes to former State Senator Kevin Lundberg for his diligent efforts to monitor and track these bills and providing them to me (with his commentary) and others to be shared throughout the State. For a full rundown of many of these bills, go to: [LUNDBERG REPORT \(kevinlundberg.com\)](#)

Rather than hash through the good and bad bills, we'll focus on the bills signed into law as of today or on the Governor's desk for signature (**NOTE: If you click on the bill, you will be taken to the Colorado General Assembly web page for the bill where you can gather all of the details regarding it and how it worked its way through the process**):

[HB24-1041 Streamline Filing Sales & Use Tax Returns](#) Doesn't do much, but every little bit helps. Signed into law by Governor.

[SB24-228 TABOR \(Taxpayer Bill of Rights\) Refund Mechanisms](#) Here is an interesting last-minute bill that might be good, but don't think it is a tax reduction, it looks more like a shell game to me. The title tells the real story, it is not lowering taxes, just switching up the way taxes are collected. TABOR requires refunds for money collected beyond the TABOR limits (which have been unconstitutionally increased through the decades of TABOR). This bill shifts the refund mechanism through lower taxes, but it looks to me like the lower tax rates are only temporary, so long as the TABOR refunds are required. Bottom line is this. Polis will claim it is a tax reduction, but that is not so. It is only an alternative TABOR refund mechanism. **Signed by the Governor.**

[HB24-1039 Non-Legal Name Changes](#) This one forces all public schools to play the pronoun game with their students and it sets up a task force to come up with a policy that will ultimately hide such transitioning from "non-supportive" parents. **Signed by the Governor.**

[HB24-1071 Name Change to Conform with Gender Identity](#) The bill states that when incarcerated a person can change their legal name to conform with their new "gender identity." **Signed by the Governor.**

[HB24-1124 Discrimination in Places of Public Accommodation](#) This makes nonprofit organizations subject to Colorado's discrimination laws. It looks like a way to force nonprofit organizations to capitulate to the LGBT ideology. **Sent to the Governor.**

[HB24-1150 False Slates of Electors](#) Several provisions in this bill, but it looks like it is trying to fortify the enforcement of the National Popular Vote, if that ever becomes a reality. **Signed by the Governor.**

[HB24-1170 Rights for Youth Division of Youth Services Facilities](#) More transgender ideology in state statute. **Sent to the Governor.**

[HB24-1174 Concealed Carry Permits & Training](#) Turns over concealed carry instruction to the Colorado Bureau of Investigation. This will make concealed carry permits more difficult to obtain and renew. **Sent to the Governor.**

[HB24-1229 Presumptive Eligibility for Long-Term Care](#) Will allow all illegal aliens long-term care. **Sent to the Governor.**

[HB24-1338 Cumulative Impacts & Environmental Justice](#) The title of this bill is "Concerning measures to advance environmental justice by reducing cumulative impacts of air pollution." This will become a dangerous weapon that government will have to bludgeon any business they deem as violating whatever environmental justice means, at that time... **Sent to the Governor.**

[HB24-1341 State Vehicle Idling Standard](#) How dare you think that it is a good idea to warm up your car on a bitterly cold morning? **Signed by the Governor.**

[HB24-1346 Energy & Carbon Management Regulation](#) More control on our daily lives to chase their fictitious fear of carbon

*Continued next pg*

## ***COLORADO LEGISLATURE'S 2024 SESSION IS OVER – MORE FREEDOMS LOST*** ***From previous pg***

of carbon dioxide **Sent to the Governor.**

[HB24-1348 Secure Firearm Storage in a Vehicle](#) requires that guns in unattended vehicles be locked up in a trunk or hard case, effectively disarming citizens in their cars. **Sent to the Governor.**

[SB24-014 Seal of Climate Literacy Diploma Endorsement](#) I passed over this one at first, but after a second look I realize this is a big corruption of our schools. It gives special honors to any student who buys into climate alarmism, and gives them this special distinction if they become actively involved in this destructive hoax. **Sent to the Governor.**

[SB24-065 Mobile Electronic Devices & Motor Vehicle Driving Banning](#) hands-on mobile phone use for **all** drivers in Colorado. **Passed House. Likely to be signed by the Governor.**

[SB24-084 Attorney General Duties to Prevent Mis- & Dis-information](#) It is quite appropriate that this is numbered 84, as in the book by **George Orwell: 1984**. Whatever happened to the First Amendment? **Sent to the Governor.**

[SB24-094 Safe Housing for Residential Tenants](#) Here is another bill to make people feel good, but in reality, it drives up the cost of renting and depresses the number of houses that are available to rent (because it makes being a landlord that much more difficult). **Sent to the Governor.**

[SB24-123 Waste Tire Management Enterprise](#) One more “enterprise” to work around TABOR and create yet another bureaucracy. **Sent to the Governor.**

[SB24-131 Prohibiting Carrying Firearms in Sensitive Spaces](#) Prohibits carrying firearms in virtually any public space. ***This is a clear violation of Article II, section 3 of the Colorado constitution: “The right of no person to keep and bear arms in defense of his home, person, and property, or aid of the civil power when thereto legally summoned, shall be called in question; but nothing herein contained shall be construed to justify the practice of carrying concealed weapons.”*** This is because it will be impossible to defend one’s “person” (not to mention one’s family) if anyone cannot bear arms in public. **Sent to the Governor.**

[SB24-229 Ozone Mitigation Measures](#) More heavy hand control of oil and gas. This adds licensing requirements for oil and gas, more monitoring and stiffer penalties to the industry. **Sent to the Governor.**

[SB24-230 Oil & Gas Production Fees](#) These “fees” are a punitive tax on oil and gas production to fund transit projects. **This is a tax**, which makes it an **illegal** act of legislation without a vote of the people. It is part of a “deal” the big players in oil and gas made to supposedly get the governor off their back. They have been trying that game for decades and all it has gotten them is the most expensive state in the Union for oil and gas production. BTW, ultimately, “We the People” pay for this cost-of-living increase which this new tax creates. **Sent to the Governor.**

And so it goes. More liberal insanity. More takings of your personal rights. More regulations on businesses of all kinds. More and more Californication of Colorado. As I often say, **WAKE UP PEOPLE!** We’re losing our beautiful state to ideologues who are just fine with a socialist system of government. Our State Constitution speaks of something quite the opposite. Get involved. Know who is running for office at all levels and their ideology and most importantly, VOTE! DMEA elections are on June 6<sup>th</sup> and the State Primary elections are on June 25<sup>th</sup>. **Get informed and VOTE!**

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



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

# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## NUVISTA FEDERAL CREDIT UNION AWARDS THREE LOCAL SENIORS WITH \$1,200 SCHOLARSHIPS

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-It's scholarship season on the Western Slope and daily, graduating seniors are committing to colleges and universities and putting together their financial packages. NuVista Federal Credit Union is committed to helping these students pursue their educational goals by offering three, \$1,200, one-time scholarships.

To apply for the NuVista Federal Credit Union Scholarship, students had to complete an online application with supporting documents and two required essay questions. One required essay question was "What does Financial Literacy mean to you? And what do you see as a need for Financial Literacy in schools today?" The credit union received a record number of applications and an internal committee consisting of credit union employees reviewed the applications and chose the recipients.

NuVista Federal Credit Union CEO BJ Coram said, "We believe that by offering these scholarships, we help our members have access to higher education, regardless of their financial background. It's important to us that we reward the talent, hard work and dedication of the students in our communities while helping reduce the burden of tuition."

This year's scholarship recipients are: Julisa Hernandez Scott from Olathe Middle/High School. Julisa is attending the University of North Dakota in the fall to study aviation. She plans on becoming a commercial pilot. In a Thank You note, Julisa said, "Thank you for believing in my potential and commitment to helping me achieve my educational goals. Receiving this scholarship is an investment in my education and will help me pursue my dreams".

Lilaena "Lani" Hasler is a senior at Montrose High School. Lani will be attending

the Technical College of the Rockies and is enrolled in the cosmetology program and will receive her license this year. Her dream is to own her own salon.

Dakota Sahagun is graduating from Gunnison High School. Dakota plans to attend Northern Arizona University in the fall where she will pursue a degree in visual communications with an emphasis in graphic design.

The NuVista Federal Credit Union Scholarship was established in 2005 and since then the credit union has awarded thousands of dollars to local students. To be eligible for the scholarships students had to be a graduating senior pursuing secondary education and had to be a member of the credit union or live in the same household with a member.

The scholarship was available to seniors graduating from schools in Montrose, Gunnison, Delta, Ouray, and San Miguel Counties.

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# MONTROSE BASEBALL PLAYOFFS END AT CHSAA REGIONALS

By Cliff Dodge

MONTROSE-The baseball season for the Montrose Red Hawks came to an end at the Colorado High School Activities Association (CHSAA)'s regional playoffs at Runyon Field in Pueblo on Friday afternoon, May 17. The Red Hawks defeated the Severance Silver Knights 9-1 in the opener, and then fell to a strong Pueblo County Hornets team 10-0. The Red Hawks ended up with a season record of 14 wins and 10 losses as their season came to an end.

### Montrose Red Hawks 9, Severance Silver Knights 1

The Severance Silver Knights were a familiar team to the Red Hawks as they clashed in the opener of the Pueblo regional. The Red Hawks played the Knights in the first game of the season defeating the Knights 12-7 back in March. Things changed little as the Red Hawks again dominated the Knights scoring 9 runs while giving up a single marker.

The Red Hawks scored early and often, hanging up a 3 spot in the bottom of the first inning to set the tone for the game. The Hawks added 2 runs in the third inning and finished off the scoring with 4 more tallies in the 5<sup>th</sup> inning.

Senior Gage Wareham led the Red Hawks offensive attack with three hits including a ringing double. Other hit-makers included Jackson Barrett, Brekin Hutto, Cooper Ross, Jack Pankey, Jaxon Kattner and Titus Weese. RBI leaders included Titus Weese with three driven in while Jack Pankey drove in two runs. The Red Hawks ran wild on the basepaths as they stole four bases to help their offense. Senior Titus Weese pitched a complete game victory giving up a single run on seven hits. Weese walked three batters and struck out six Knights.

### Pueblo County Hornets 10, Montrose Red Hawks 0


The Montrose Red Hawks ran into a very sharp buzz saw in the final game of the regional tournament at Runyon Field in Pueblo. The Hornets were stellar on both sides of the ball as they shut out the Red Hawks 10-0 to claim a spot in the quarter finals of the 4A tournament.

The Hornets wasted little time in dominating the scoring as they put up five runs in their half of the second inning. The Hornets scored at least one run in innings 2 through 6 to end the contest after six innings. Junior Brekin Hutto managed the



Kortlan Nelson waits to hit in a recent game against the Palisade Bulldogs. Photo by Cliff Dodge.

only hit the Red Hawks had in the game. Senior Jackson Barnett pitched into the 4<sup>th</sup> inning giving up five runs on six hits while walking three and striking out a pair. Reliever Gage Wareham pitched the final inning and a third allowing five runs on four hits while walking a batter and striking out a batter. Next season awaits.



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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## SCOTT MIJARES IS A STRONG SUPPORTER OF MCSO, HAS SHERIFF'S ENDORSEMENT

*Editor:*

Did you know this about Scott Mijares ? He is a very strong supporter of our Sheriff . Sheriff Lillard has endorsed him. He will work strongly to assure that we have good law enforcement in our community and it will remain a safe and wonderful place to live.

*Rick Bleier, Montrose*

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# RE-1J COMMITTEE TO REVIEW DISCIPLINE POLICY From pg 1

announced that he would be driving district efforts to ensure that the outreach efforts and web presence comply with Colorado's stringent accessibility laws. Jenkins also oversees the district's livestream efforts, which were abysmal on May 14. There was no sound at all for the beginning portion of the livestream which includes awards and the recognition of students and staff. When some sound was restored, it was of poor quality, and throughout the lengthy meeting the livestream would continuously stop and then start anew.

Also of note, the board formed a committee to review specific discipline policies that are intended to "keep kids out of the court system" but which seemingly have had the opposite effect.

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

The meeting began as students from the Olathe Archery teams and the Olathe High School FFA Livestock Judging National Champions joined the board for recognition.

In addition, the meeting agenda notes, *"Special thanks and celebration to all the Montrose High School student leaders who helped guide the open house community tours for a potential redesign of Montrose High School in April (members of the LULAC, STUCCO, and many other clubs participated). All our community is invited to our second Montrose High School open house to join student lead tours any time from 6 PM to 8 PM on Tuesday, May 21 at MHS."*

## AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Altrusa May Apple Awards were presented to Peak Academy Teacher Amber Bray and Outer Range Teacher Sarah Smith

The KREX Golden Apple Award for February was awarded to Black Canyon High School Teacher Ashley Pelham and the KREX Golden Apple Award for May was awarded to Early Childhood Center (ECC) Teacher Brianna Dunn.

## DONATIONS

Centennial Middle School received a donation of \$3,000 from the Western Colorado Community Foundation/Anonymous Fund to be used for the Band program. Also received by Centennial, as noted in the Consent Agenda, was a check for

\$1,000 from the National Christian Foundation of the Rocky Mountains for the CTMS Ski Club.

## FINANCIAL REPORTS AND BUDGET FORECAST

RE-1J Director of Finance Emily Imus delivered a report on district [Funds](#) and [Investments](#).

Imus also presented the Budget Forecast. The Municipal Finance Act has passed, and will increase the base for per pupil funding, she said. Imus discussed impacts to the school district and answered questions. Total projected per pupil funding for RE-1J schools is \$11,548. Enrollment trends will be projected in the budget. Imus said that the district was also preparing for negotiations with the Uncompahgre Valley Education Association (UVEA) to determine the salary and benefit increases that make up 86 percent of the expenditure budget.

Imus asked for feedback on priorities. 2024-2025 budget priorities include expanding Career Pathways, expanding the visual and performing arts, having the most competitive compensation package on the Western Slope with a focus on recruitment and retention, supporting mental health needs, ensuring safe and updated facilities aligned with the Master Capital Plan, and program sustainability after ESSR.

District F Director Jody Hovde asked "What about academic achievement...I just think it's important when our kids leave Montrose and Olathe schools that they are not considered unable to read, write, and do arithmetic..."

After further discussion, Imus presented a timeline; the Board of Education must vote to adopt the budget by the end of June.

## BOARD ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATES

District D Director Tom West, who serves on the Facilities Committee, deferred to James Barnhill, who was scheduled to give a report on facilities, "He will do a better presentation about the HVAC systems that are coming in and what the deferred maintenance is going to look like this summer."

District C Director Alice Murphy said that the District Accountability Committee (DAC) looked at the budget process and is

considering the role of the district with charter schools.

Also a member of the DAC, District A Director Neisha Balleck said that the middle schools will be learning about digital citizenship. RE-1J has not reviewed a charter school since 1991, Balleck said, and is reviewing and learning about the process of reviewing charter schools.

District F Director Jody Hovde gave a brief update on the food service selection committee.

## COMMUNITY INPUT

Jim Haugsness spoke to the Board, "Olathe Proud! I think those kids are absolutely amazing..." Haugsness also wished a belated Happy Mothers' Day to all of the mothers present, acknowledged Teacher Appreciation Week, and thanked the board members for their efforts. He said that he has spoken to Superintendent Carrie Stephenson regarding the recruitment of teachers, and discussed some of the issues when it comes to recruiting and retaining quality teachers, including low pay, better opportunities in the private sector, the cost of living, the cost of post-secondary education and preparation, student debt, the loss of professional autonomy, the lack of academic freedom in the classroom, and the need to reduce red tape. "Build trust in teachers," Haugsness said, adding that he hopes to work with Stephenson to create a path forward.

Also addressing the board was Ron Henderson, who said he saw information about RE-1J schools in the *US News & World Report* and asked whether the board planned on issuing a statement or rebuttal.

The report to which Henderson referred, [which can be found here](#), states that *"In Montrose County School District Re-1J, 31% of elementary students tested at or above the proficient level for reading, and 24% tested at or above that level for math. Also, 37% of middle school students tested at or above the proficient level for reading, and 21% tested at or above that level for math. And 54% of high school students tested at or above the proficient level for reading, and 31% tested at or above that level for math."*

James Barnhill gave an update on the deferred maintenance to be performed

## **RE-1J COMMITTEE TO REVIEW DISCIPLINE POLICY From previous pg**

during the summer months. He provided paper copies of the material to the board, "These are called handouts." Montrose High School encompasses one third of the deferred maintenance across the entire district, Barnhill said.

Constituents can find the [Master Capital Plan](#) on the district web site, Fishing said. "...it's really easy to navigate."

PIO Matt Jenkins spent ten minutes discussing [the work he will do](#) to ensure the district is fully accessible to individuals of all abilities and in compliance with Colorado's [HB21 1110](#). "So like we've got to be super accessible...we're going to have a ton of training...everybody should have access to our services..."

Superintendent Carrie Stephenson said that every public agency is dealing with the same mandate. "It absolutely is a heavy lift."

Executive Director of Academic Services Jessica Kalb gave a [detailed update on the expenditure of the ESSER funds](#) received by the district. The district has set aside \$4.4M toward program sustainability.

Hovde asked for data on the Outer Range campus, which was funded with ESSER dollars. Academic data will take time, Stephenson said.

Not one person showed up for a "really well advertised" recent job fair, Stephenson said. "We're really going to have to take a different approach to recruiting than before..."

### **DISCIPLINE POLICIES**

A discussion of discipline policies was on the agenda at the request of District A Director Neisha Balleck, who said that she would like to convene a committee to consider discipline in response to a recent SRO presentation and concerns raised by constituents. "I wanted to look at the discipline policies...I have had a lot of questions around those...I still have questions...we could work on some of this and work on those policies together...and then report back to the board..."

Board President Sarah Fishing said that the situations that triggered the recent concerns were "isolated" and have been dealt with. "First of all, it's a lot of policies, the board has a lot of other work to do as well.....I don't believe that there would be any need to do that work because...I

am confident in the policies themselves and I don't believe that they do need to be changed...I've done the work myself to read them and I'm confident in that so I would not have any interest in serving on a committee for that purpose...the situations that triggered the interest in those policies specifically have been dealt with and they're isolated.

"It seems that our time would be better spent on other things."

District B Director Ted Valerio said, "...I would be happy to be on a committee to kind of look into those...I don't think it would take away from what we're doing...I'd be happy to help."

District D Director Tom West said that he wants to see specific expectations, "I think things need to be specific...I want to see specifics...in these isolated cases people are upset, and they have a right to be upset, so how do they want it changed...do you want the SRO to get fired? Do you want the assistant principal to get fired...what do you want out of this?"

Fishing said, "I don't see a situation here where the policy was contravened; the policy was followed...this doesn't feel like the right road to go down to me...it's a very small group of people...when you consider there are 6,000 students and there were two isolated cases...what would the objective of the committee be?"

Balleck said that she has experienced a situation with her own child that is strikingly similar to the "isolated" experiences. "...the issue on the table is the ticketing of kids when they first have an incident, when they have...a physical altercation...that has been the main concern because what the kids experience by going to court really affected them socially and emotionally, they are very, very affected by that...for me when I've looked at the policies...and it talks about how we're going to minimize students going to court...good kids going to court the first time, even if they start a fight, from what I've been researching, doesn't seem appropriate...the board sets policies, and the procedures from the district have to match up with the policies. This particular policy talks about how we're going to keep kids out of the court system, mini-

mize that, but that's not what has happened and that's not what I just recently experienced...what I would really like to do is meet as a committee, look at best practices, look at our policies, and really have some conversations around, is this the best for our kids or not...what could we do differently..."

Fishing said that if Balleck feels that policy was not followed, "...that's not a committee that has to be formed...that's a discussion with administration...that's NOT a committee..."

Valerio said that sometimes a policy is not clear enough, "...Sometimes you have to make the policy a little bit more specific...I think that's kind of the direction we're looking at."

"Who here has read the policies?" Fishing asked. All directors but West raised their hands.

Said District F Director Jody Hovde, "I've read the policies, they seem pretty solid to me, but things just keep arising across the district. So if you just have a committee to review them again and see how the procedures line up with the policy and just give us a report back, I don't see any harm."

Fishing continued to argue passionately against the proposed committee.

Valerio said, "I understand that you're really against this, and you think it's already completed and done, but others just don't agree with you right now." He suggested putting the matter to a vote, but ultimately Fishing said that the committee could meet and report back to the board. Committee members would include Balleck, Valerio, and possibly Hovde.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

With Consent Agenda Items [4,7,8](#), and [11](#) pulled for further discussion, the board approved the remaining Consent Agenda items.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Following some discussion, Items 4, 7, 8, and 11 ([Personnel Report](#)) were approved as well.

The Board voted to approve [Resolution 09-2024](#)-Supplemental Budget Adoption 2023-2024 and [Resolution 10-2024](#)-Amended Budget Adoption 2023-2024, as presented by Finance Director Emily Imus.

### **ENROLLMENT REPORT**

# RE-1J COMMITTEE TO REVIEW DISCIPLINE POLICY From previous pg

Imus presented the [Enrollment Report](#). Current enrollment as of May is 6,099, which is one student lower than last month and 52 students higher than last year at this time. When asked if the increase was due to newcomers, Imus said. "Yes, I think part of that is."

### EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER (ECC)

Updated information for the ECC is included in the [meeting packet](#).

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board moved to enter Executive Session with Stephenson and with Executive Assistant to the Board Laurie Laird for Personnel to discuss the Superintendent Evaluation in accordance with C.R.S. 24-6-402 (4)(f) and then return to regular session. Following the Executive Session the meeting was adjourned.

The next regular meeting of the RE-1J Board of Education will take place at 6:30pm on June 11.

## CHANGING NEEDS?

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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## CONSIDER THE QUALIFICATIONS OF THE CANDIDATES

*Editor:*

CITIZENS---ATTENTION, the upcoming election is upon us!!!!

FROM WHERE I SIT: An opinion piece.

We are soon to have our primary election. It is especially important because there is no Democrat opposition, so whoever wins the primary, wins the seat.

To me there are two contentious and major issues that voters should understand in order to vote intelligently to fill the vacancies on the Montrose County Board of County Commissioners. Previously I have written about both. The first is that I would hope that the electorate would consider the qualifications of the candidates that will get the privilege to govern our county (an annual business of \$110,000,000) effectively and efficiently. The second issue is how they correct the mis-handling (mis-appropriation) by the present BOCC of the Public Safety Sales Tax collections. First the qualification issue: I asked all candidates to list their qualifications so that we, the people, could judge who could best manage the position of Commissioner with a \$110,000,000 annual budget in addition to 400 employees, county police protection and millions of dollars' worth of equipment and real estate. County Commissioner is a BIG, full time, job. It not only requires a knowledge of accounting and business administration but an understanding and respect of public people and various employees and their motivations. Neither Stark nor Dunlap have any of these traits. In this election we must hire executive material, not micro-managers; we must hire leaders who will lead by persuasion and not by threats and intimidation. We must have commissioners who will treat the public as equals, in spite of their "elevated" station on the commission and with respect and understanding of their concerns. Dunlap has not had the decency to answer public questions as to how he will handle the PSST problem and Stark, at great length, explained that he would do what he wants to. Neither of these two have either a business background or significant experience to rate having anything to say about handling OUR \$110,000,000 budget. I heartily believe that both of them are motivated solely by the \$110,000 salary (and the county vehicle) and the fact that the present BOCC want them to be elected in order to maintain the status quo. In opposition we have two extremely upstanding, well-educated and disciplined men. Both Scott Riba and Scott Mijares have managed their own businesses and other's businesses over the years, making substantial incomes to support their families and educate their children. In fact they presently own and operate

their own means of support. Their wives will operate their existing business interests when elected so that those businesses will not interfere with their devotion to their County duties. Both of them come to us highly recommended by fine, substantial citizens both from Montrose and the places where they used to live. I encourage all voters to elect the TWO SCOTTS. Other comments: When Stark and Dunlap were offered the opportunity to sit in on county meetings to see what it was all about, they fell asleep. I saw the photos. Stark has said that being a commissioner is a part-time gig and it is obvious that he needs the salary to pay off his \$80,000+ debt to the IRS. We should pay him \$110,000 to snooze? And then provide him with money to pay off his significantly delinquent tax bill? What kind of a citizen doesn't pay his taxes? We should never pay a scofflaw's tax bills for him. He will make sure you do. Personally, I kinda like Dunlap. He is a Veteran. One-on-one he is friendly. But I don't need friends on the BOCC---I need educated, competent, experienced managers---and so do you! He was elected sheriff three times as the lesser of the two options (evils). He gave his PSST money back to the commissioners and gave them the idea they could swipe it. He left the offices of the sheriff in run-down condition (didn't the incumbent have to paint the whole place?) and with his deputies without competitive pay, allowances or body armor. Lately I heard that he took the sheriff's fleet of vehicles to a private shop for maintenance when the county shops were already paid to do it. Was this this because he did not know the procedures or for some other reason? (Don't fix the problem, spend your way out of it, eh?). Finally, Dunlap was encouraged by me to furnish the public with a copy of his Army discharge paper, his DD-214. (The public may read mine anytime). But not Dunlap's. Why? I certify that there should be nothing on that document which would keep him from holding office---or is there? And if there is, maybe we should know about it BEFORE the election.

Now for the issue of the Public Safety Sales Tax and its misuse and abuse. Since the passage by our voters of the PSST in 2008, in excess of \$55,000,000 (my estimate) has been redirected to other uses by the present BOCC. Personally, I consider it as having been stolen by the sitting County Commissioners and if it would not cost so much, I would sue them all to put it back in the Sheriff's account. However as of now almost all of that fifty five million that WE voted to go to the Sheriff's Department has been syphoned off and frittered away by the present BOCC. Two of these commissioners PROMISED myself and another prior to their election that

they would not do what they have since done. In December of 2023 they indicated that they would return it to its Ballot purposes. On both of these questions they have reneged. This is an important consideration as the FIRST obligation of their office is public safety. I am embarrassed that a former police officer who I supported for election twice is against adequately funding the Sheriff with the money WE, the electorate, voted for the purpose. I think that Dunlap, if elected, will act the same way. Both Stark and Dunlap have already advanced or been elected at least one 'grade' above their level of competency! An author, Louis Peter, wrote a whole book about it. It's called the 'Peter Principle' and its practice is epidemic in our elected bureaucracies! We have two prime examples in office presently, let's not practice the 'Peter Principal' for another four years! Both Scott Riba and Scott Mijares have sworn to uphold the ballot issue as it is written and I believe that they will do exactly that. Why not? With our society going the way it is going we had best have a well manned, well equipped, well paid and well run Sheriff's force or the only thing standing between our citizenry and the bad guys will be our shotguns (which our illustrious governor is trying to outlaw). According to police manning levels we should have one deputy per 500 citizens. That number is 84. A month ago we had 44 and decreasing. The city pays \$80,000 to \$90,000 per cop per year and has a better retirement program than our Sheriff. The sheriff can only start deputies \$64,400 per year. Where do all the deputies go? Where have they gone? The answer is ELSEWHERE! The PSST, operating as we the people voted for it, can rectify that situation. BUT NOT WITHOUT KNOWLEDGABLE, DEDICATED COMMISSIONERS willing to have Gene Lillard man and operate the department as it should be run WITH THE FUNDS SUPPOSED TO BE AVAILABLE to him. I think the department is pretty fine but with a proper General Fund budget contribution as voted to be preserved AND ALL of the PSST funds we voted that the department should be getting, it can and will be the best in the state. Let's give Gene Lillard what he needs to do this. Whatever our present commissars were spending the \$55,000,000 of accumulated PSST funds on--- instead of public safety, my safety, your family's safety---is unconscionable and borders on CRIMINAL.

Let us reverse this behavior by electing the two SCOTTS!

The question needs to be answered, now! What was this \$55 million dollars spent (wasted) on?

Bill Bennett, Montrose

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# COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

## GENERAL SURGEON DR. MICHAEL MCCANN PRESENTS "HERNIAS & YOUR HEALTH" JUNE 4

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE – General Surgeon Dr. Michael McCann, D.O. FACS, FACOS will be presenting a free educational seminar for the public titled "Hernias & Your Health." The presentation will be held in Montrose Regional Health's Conference Rooms A&B on Tuesday, June 4 from 6:00-7:00 p.m. All members of our communities are invited to attend. No reservation is required.

"Experiencing a hernia can sometimes be confusing," said Dr. Michael McCann, General Surgeon at Montrose Regional Health. "Depending on your situation, your age, and your lifestyle - you may need surgery, or you may be able to just wait and watch the situation. I hope this presentation can be a helpful resource for people in our communities who have questions."

Hernias can take many different forms and cause varying amounts of pain. Dr. McCann's presentation will break down and explain the various types of hernias people experience. The presentation will include how to identify the different types of hernias, which can heal on their own, and what solutions are available. A portion of the presentation will include a discussion of the minimally invasive options available, including the daVinci Xi Surgical Robot. The daVinci Xi is a robotic-assisted surgical system that allows the surgeon to perform safer, more precise operations that result in less pain and faster recovery for the patient. A question & answer session will take place at the end of the presentation to address any questions and provide additional information for attendees. For more information about the presentation or to schedule an appointment with Dr. McCann, contact his office at 970-497-5979. At right, Courtesy photo.



*Dr. Michael McCann, D.O. FACS, FACOS, will be presenting a free educational seminar titled "Hernias & Your Health" on June 4 at 6 p.m. at Montrose Regional Health.*

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## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

### NOW IS THE TIME TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR MCSO

*Editor:*

Since noting two weeks ago that it seemed our BOCC had recruited two "ringers" to run for two commissioner seats, I've had a couple folks inquire about how I came to that conclusion. My answer to that is simple.

Shortly after Scott Riba announced his candidacy, Commissioner Sue Hansen approached me asking me to find a candidate for District 3 and I reminded her Scott Riba was running. Her response was that, "I need someone I can work with." Interesting response. Did that mean she was difficult to work with or did it mean she preferred a candidate easily manipulated to tow the current county line regarding unrestricted use of PSST funds as well as a rejection of the MCSO moving to the FPPA retirement program?? Or could it be that Sue Hansen doesn't want anyone asking questions?

Shortly after that, Big Lou Stark showed up out of nowhere, as did Rick Dunlap after several years in retirement. It became clear that both were recruited as "ringers" when their candidacy was supported by all three commissioners at the Republican Assembly. Never has any sitting commissioner in my memory endorsed a pre-primary candidate. Certainly a questionable decision on their part since neither Stark or Dunlap seem to have the qualifications necessary for the increasingly important job of commissioner. The "ringer" recruiters obviously did a poor job in vetting their chosen candidates!

Dunlap wasted no time after announcing his candidacy in aligning himself with a disgraced former legislator and bomb throwing RINO suffering from a huge burr under his saddle after being rejected by the Republican party for by-law and code of conduct violations. My momma used to continually caution me that I would always

be known by the company I kept, but Dunlap apparently never got that advice, since he has yet to disassociate himself from individuals who are rendering him less credible on a weekly basis.

In a previous Mirror letter I noted that if Dunlap is elected commissioner he would immediately be faced with a huge CONFLICT OF INTEREST since his daughter-in-law, Cindy Dunlap, serves as the Chief Financial Officer for Montrose County. That family relationship would require him to publicly declare the CONFLICT and recuse himself from ALL financial discussions and decisions. As yet he has failed to acknowledge that critical conflict exists. This seems to be how Dunlap handles hard decisions. Ignore the issue until the question goes away. Good luck on this issue fading away! With the county dealing with a budget of around \$130 million of our tax dollars it is certainly not in the best interest of Montrose taxpayers to have only two commissioners making financial decisions.

When Dunlap was nominated at the Republican Assembly for commissioner, his military service was noted along with an as yet to be confirmed combat bronze star. The Montrose County Veterans Service officer pulled up Dunlap's service bio but there was no bronze star noted. Strange! Even stranger is the fact that retired Marine Bill Bennett has twice asked publicly here in the Mirror for Dunlap to release his DD214 that would show his service record with rank, medals, and commendations, but so far all we've heard are CRICKETS! Once again Dunlap's modus operandi seems to be remain silent and maybe the questions will fade away. The primary election for commissioners is being completely dominated with concerns around inappropriate use of PSST funds by the county as well as the BOCC refusal to consider the FPPA retirement

program for the MCSO.

It has become clear that the PSST has been used for questionable county spending absent SO approval. For 12 years as Sheriff Dunlap was oblivious or complacent about the fact that his PSST fund was being grossly mismanaged by the county. It took Gene Lillard to discover those discrepancies. Sheriff Lillard has publicly noted the low morale existing in the Sheriff Department when he took office and the increased spending he had to undertake was evidence of Dunlap's management failures.

The most important thing to remember is that Gene Lillard has wholeheartedly endorsed Scott Riba and Scott Mijares for county commissioners. This is not a casual endorsement but a plea for help for his department. In addition with the possible exception of two individuals, the MCSO rank and file is supporting Mijares and Riba as well. Citizens that have been informing the public of the need for solid change in transparency at the BOCC know that absent the election of Riba and Mijares the big cover up by the county on the PSST and FPPA will continue.

Now is the time for us all to make a difference for our Sheriff Department and our collective public safety by fulfilling our duty as registered voters and stepping up and voting for Riba and Mijares for county commissioners. In full support of Sheriff Lillard and the men and women of the MCSO!!!

Any voter unclear on the two critical issues in the primary race for commissioner (The PSST and the FPPA) are strongly urged to call or meet personally with Sheriff Lillard, who will share his concerns with those two issues and the future dangers to our County Sheriff Department if Riba and Mijares are not elected as our new commissioners.

*Dee Laird, Montrose*

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# COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

## FEWER MOTORCYCLE DEATHS DUE TO IMPAIRMENT IN 2023

*Special to the Mirror*

COLORADO – As temperatures begin to warm, an increase in the number of motorcycles on Colorado roadways will naturally follow. Colorado State Troopers want to remind riders about the dangers of driving while impaired and to ride with focus.

“Last year we saw a tremendous improvement in choices by our motorcycle community,” stated Col. Matthew C. Packard, chief of the Colorado State Patrol. “We saw a 36% decline in fatalities caused by an impaired rider in the crashes our agency investigated, and I’m hoping we can continue this downward trend. Lives depend on it.”

Motorcyclists face a higher risk of serious injuries or death when they are involved in a crash. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, motorcyclists account for 14% of all crash-related fatalities in the U.S., even though they are only 3.5% of the vehicles on the road.

“Experienced riders don’t take unnecessary risks,” stated Col. Matthew C. Packard, chief of the Colorado State Patrol. “Whether consuming alcohol, marijuana or another substance, intoxicated riders are more likely to lose control of their vehicles and crash.”

[The Effects of Alcohol on Riding \(NHTSA\)](#)

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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## MONTROSE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION AWARDS MORE THAN \$725,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS TO LOCAL YOUTH

### Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE - The Montrose Community Foundation (MCF) is helping to fund the futures of more than twenty Montrose County high school seniors. Recipients were given scholarships ranging from \$1,000 one-time scholarships to full-ride scholarships. The total value of scholarships awarded exceeded \$725,000.

The Montrose Community Foundation scholarship awards are chosen by committees of community members who evaluate information submitted by students and their high schools. Applicants were asked for transcripts, letters of recommendation, resumes and completed essays. Awardees were announced this spring. Scholarships enable talented students to access quality education and training, which can be a major stepping-stone toward a successful career. Montrose Community Foundation is honored to be part of their success.

Scholarship recipients are:

Nick H. Gray Scholarship, full ride, last

dollar scholarship: Lily Cooper, Olathe High School (OHS); Grant Kennedy, Peak Virtual Academy (PEAK); Analise Marin, OHS; Andre Miguel Bucani, PEAK; Julie Ledesma Suarez, Montrose High School (MHS); Laticia Mora, MHS; Amy Scriffiny, MHS; Breyana Shipley, MHS Ken and Marlene Townsend Scholarship, \$10,000 renewable for four years (\$40,000 value): Ashlee Petranovich, MHS Auto Enthusiast Scholarship - \$6,000 non-renewable: Parker Neil, Delta High School Montrose Youth Football Scholarship, \$5,000 non-renewable: Blake Bercillio, MHS; Johann Farnese, MHS; Blake Griffin, MHS; Dylan Jessop, MHS; Gage Wareham, MHS; Austin Zimmer, MHS Montrose Community Foundation: For immediate release: May 14, 2024


Montrose Rotary Club - Frank Family, Gary Krabbe Memorial, Dennis Devor Memorial and Rich Tafoya Memorial Scholarships, \$2,000 non-renewable: Sadie Corn, OHS; Mia Duncan, MHS; Rhyan Neary, MHS; Rachel Robuck, MHS



**Brad Townsend and Keli Kingery presenting Ashlee Petranovich the Ken and Marlene Townsend Scholarship. Courtesy photo.**

Roy and Louis "Babe" Faussonne Scholarship, \$1,000 renewable for two years (\$2,000 value): Amy Scriffiny, MHS Ada and Luther White Memorial Scholarship, \$1,500 non-renewable: Natalie Trask, MHS Colorado Water Officials Association - Richard Rozman Scholarship, \$1,500 non-renewable: Keiran Bray, Nucla High School Montrose Chamber - Ken Gale Scholarship, \$1,250 non-renewable Mercedes Shea, OHS Cobble Creek Golf Scholarship, \$1,000 non-renewable: Giada Amundson, MHS; Noah Richmond, MHS Gilbert Family Scholarship, \$1,000 non-renewable: Breyana Shipley, MHS Maxine Keller Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000 non-renewable: Julisa Hernandez, OHS

Applications for 2025 scholarships open in December. For more information on the Montrose Community Foundation and our scholarships, please visit [montrosecf.org](http://montrosecf.org). About Montrose Community Foundation: Founded in 1989 to help fund community projects, the Montrose Community Foundation (MCF) is a charitable 501(c)3 organization with the long-term goal of building permanent funds for the public benefit of the residents in the Montrose community. MCF serves the community as a non-profit resource, it grants funds, administers scholarships for local students, collaborates with community groups and fosters a compassionate community that is focused on the future through planned giving. For more information visit [www.montrosecf.org](http://www.montrosecf.org)



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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## NUVISTA FEDERAL CREDIT UNION AWARDS THREE LOCAL SENIORS WITH \$1,200 SCHOLARSHIPS

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-It's scholarship season on the Western Slope and daily, graduating seniors are committing to colleges and universities and putting together their financial packages. NuVista Federal Credit Union is committed to helping these students pursue their educational goals by offering three, \$1,200, one-time scholarships.

To apply for the NuVista Federal Credit Union Scholarship, students had to complete an online application with supporting documents and two required essay questions. One required essay question was "What does Financial Literacy

mean to you? And what do you see as a need for Financial Literacy in schools today?"

The credit union received a record number of applications and an internal committee consisting of credit union employees reviewed the applications and chose the recipients.

NuVista Federal Credit Union CEO BJ Coram said, "We believe that by offering these scholarships, we help our members have access to higher education, regardless of their financial background. It's important to us that we reward the talent, hard work and dedication of the students

in our communities while helping reduce the burden of tuition."

This year's scholarship recipients are:

Julisa Hernandez-Scott, graduating senior from Olathe High, (left), poses with Sara Plumhoff, NuVista Federal Credit Union, (right) at the Olathe High School Awards banquet on May 8. Julisa is the recipient of a \$1,200 NuVista Federal Credit Union scholarship. Courtesy photo.



*Julisa Hernandez-Scott, graduating senior from Olathe High, (left), poses with Sara Plumhoff, NuVista Federal Credit Union, (right) at the Olathe High School Awards banquet on May 8. Julisa is the recipient of a \$1,200 NuVista Federal Credit Union scholarship. Courtesy photo.*

study aviation. She plans on becoming a commercial pilot. In a Thank You note, Julisa said, "Thank you for believing in my potential and commitment to helping me achieve my educational goals. Receiving this scholarship is an investment in my education and will help me pursue my dreams".

Lilaena "Lani" Hasler is a senior at Montrose High School. Lani will be attending the Technical College of the Rockies and is enrolled in the cosmetology program and will receive her license this year. Her dream is to own her own salon.

Dakota Sahagun is graduating from Gunnison High School. Dakota plans to attend Northern Arizona University in the fall where she will pursue a degree in visual communications with an emphasis in graphic design.

The NuVista Federal Credit Union Scholarship was established in 2005 and since then the credit union has awarded thousands of dollars to local students. To be eligible for the scholarships students had to be a graduating senior pursuing secondary education and had to be a member of the credit union or live in the same household with a member.

The scholarship was available to seniors graduating from schools in Montrose, Gunnison, Delta, Ouray, and San Miguel Counties.



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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## BOCC MANAGEMENT PRACTICES UNDER SCRUTINY

*Editor:*

In last week's Mirror a number of questions were raised concerning my February 19, 2024, article in the Mirror "COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR WASTING TAX-PAYER DOLLARS." My response to those questions and other issues shall be posted over the next few weeks in a series of "opinion" articles.

I left Montrose County on 2-2-2024 because of the toxic, hostile work environment created by the County Commissioners. The threats, the made-up personal write-ups, and the disrespect towards myself and others that expressed numerous concerns was very real. The morale of the employees was the worst that I have seen since being at the County. Employees would hardly speak up when we had meetings with commissioners in fear of retaliation.

The last meeting I attended with the commissioners, employees were told to speak up and that we want to hear your concerns and were assured there would be no retaliation. Well, that was a lie. A few employees spoke up and other employees

were written up for things that were said in a meeting a few months earlier that some of them did not even attend!

After that all trust was gone, and the morale of many of the employees became even worse. The Commissioners were aware of the morale issues and did nothing to evaluate the problems. For example, Commissioner Sue Hansen a few years earlier wanted us to form a committee and she could meet once a month to discuss what we could do to make the morale better. SHE NEVER SHOWED UP, not even once! I would like to answer the following questions posed to me by Mr. Bennett in his Mirror article.

#2. How many employees left prior to me leaving? Answer: Between September 2017 and as of 2-2-2024 counting myself about 18 very good employees left.

Question 3, Did employees leave because of management actions?

Answer: Yes, my understanding from conversations I had with departing employee's is that most of the employees did leave because of the micro-management, and the total disrespect of employees

with years of experience in the construction industry.

Question #4. Have there been any lawsuits filed by a Road & bridge employee against the county?

Answer: There was a lawsuit filed against the county by a former Road & Bridge employee and to the best of my knowledge was settled to the satisfaction of the plaintiff.

In the coming weeks I will be reporting on several issues concerning the various management practices of our current county commissioners as well as on projects that deserve further investigation by the BOCC and the taxpayers of Montrose County. To date, as a citizen, taxpayer, and former employee of the county I have not received an inquiry from the BOCC regarding any of my publicly addressed concerns.

Therefore, it is my opinion that our current county commissioners lack the understanding that they work for the citizens of Montrose County and that we will and do refuse to be treated as a nuisance.

*Chuck Bell, Montrose*

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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## PRESIDENT TRUMP WILL HAVE HIS HANDS FULL WHEN HE RETURNS

*Editor;*

The recent American Pro-Hamas Terrorism Supporters have now identified themselves as supporters of the most subhuman brutal forms of terrorism experienced anywhere on earth. "An evil enemy will burn his own nation to the ground just to rule over the ashes." Most are foolish children who have been deeply and dangerously indoctrinated with totally false history by Democrat Marxists in the union controlled anti-American U.S. education system. Sadly they have identified themselves as not just anti-Israel, anti-Jew, and pro terrorism, but as a result, anti-American as well. What they are doing in American cities chanting "death to America," is far closer to an "insurrection" against the United States than anything that happened on January 6, 2021 and every sane American knows it....plus maybe even some Democrats. The Jewish people have populated the land of Israel since 2000BC (that's before Christ---just to clear it up for the "drive-bys" as Rush Limbaugh would say.) In spite of what Democrats will tell you it is their homeland as designated by God and recorded in the Bible. 1900 BC Abraham was chosen by God as the Father of the Jewish Nation. 1850 BC Jacob, son of Issac, rules over Israel. 1400 BC Moses leads the people out of Egypt and back to Israel. 1010 BC King David unites the 12 tribes into one nation. 970 BC King Solomon, son of David, builds the first temple structure in Jerusalem. 930 BC Israel is divided into two kingdoms, the Kingdom of Israel and the Kingdom of Judah. 800 BC The rise of the prophets, God's messengers. 722 BC Kingdom of Israel is conquered by Assyrians. 605 BC Kingdom Judah is conquered by the Babylonians. 586 BC Solomon's Temple is destroyed by the Babylonians. 539 BC Persians conquer the Babylonians and take control of Israel. 538 BC The Jews return to Israel from exile. 520BC The Temple is rebuilt. 450 BC Reforms made by Ezra and Nehemiah. 433 BC Malachi is the end of the prophetic age. 432 BC The last group of Jews return from exile. 333 BC The Greeks conquer the Persian empire. 323 BC The Egyptian and Syrian empire take over Israel. 167 BC Hasmonians recapture Israel and the Jews are ruled independently. 70 BC Romans conquer Israel. 20 BC King Herod builds the "second" temple. 0 AD Jesus Christ is born in Bethlehem..70 AD Romans destroy the temple. After that Jewish people were captives to the Romans, Byzantines, Arabs, and Crusaders. Through all these events, the Jewish people continued to live in Israel. And during the centuries there was never a time when the Jews didn't live in the land. They built their communities, they raised their families, practiced their faith and they suffered at the hands of man outside rulers, but they always kept their faith. And that's what sustains them, even now.

In 1948 the UN established the State of Israel, the nation of Jews. So don't buy the Palestinian

lies that they are entitled to the land. History and the Bible prove it's simply not true. Democrats constantly holler, "two state solution" when Palestine is not even an organized state, but Israel is. Palestine is only a terrorist bunch of killers who want to eliminate Israel and the United States of America. God will provide a way for his chosen people to live in Israel forever as he has for thousands of years. Why do Democrats constantly want to change God's will on everything they get their hands on? Oh, maybe they think they're God over and above the real God. They're just wasting their time and taxpayers' money and not smart enough to know it. Their open activism of brutal terrorism of Israel resulted in an unprecedented armed murderous attack on young concert goers from the skies, the house-to-house- beheading of innocent children, infants, and entire families, setting innocent alive citizens on fire, and kidnapping innocent civilians for hostage, torture, rape, and murder while hiding behind civilians as human shields. AMERICAN terrorists totally support it and are totally void of any form of human decency, moral or ethical foundation. We have seen them in action before, via Black Lives Matter, and Antifa, far LEFT anti-American anarchy groups funded, commanded and protected by ACT BLUE and the Democrat Party. They destroyed cities and attacked innocent American citizens across the country and our streets are still full of the same people now. Americans are not stupid enough not to believe that they have had possession of Palestinian, Hamas, and Iranian flags for years waiting for Israel to be attacked and that they just happened to show up by the thousands in cities across the USA in support of Hamas terrorism just minutes following the Israel attack. No, their pro-terrorism professional signs, flags, and the hundreds of look-alike tents crammed onto college campuses were created and distributed well in advance of those attacks. Messiah Barack Hussein Obama used the exact same techniques to topple several Middle Eastern governments in his fake "Arab Spring". These violent anarchy attacks on American institutions are well-coordinated community organizing at its best by the best Muslim Marxist community organizer in U.S. history. (Remember the boast, "I'm going to fundamentally transform America"? ) And the immature teeny-bobbers behind him gladly jumped up and down pumping their signs saying words like, "change we need" and "yes we can"! The same people who are educating them to believe there are more than two genders and that women have a constitutionally protected right to murder their own children (Note: nowhere in the Constitution does it give women the legal right to murder their babies! It has been a made-up fraud by Democrats!) are in the streets now supporting Hamas terrorism. Most have been spoon fed self-destructive lies by the anti-American Marxist Democrats. And

they vote for Democrats because they are told to (Just like the invaders) despite knowing that every Democrat run city has turned into 3rd world toilets complete with the stench.

A vital point to remember is that the reason Hamas was able to be so successful in their brutal assault on Israeli citizens is that ISRAELI CITIZENS HAVE BEEN DISARMED BY THEIR OWN GOVERNMENT SINCE 1992. The only way to own a firearm as an Israeli citizen is to prove you have a need for one and obtain a government issued license to purchase and own one. SOUND FAMILIAR??? Hitler's disarming of the Jews allowed the holocaust to happen and flourish. Maybe now Israelis can prove they will have a need for firearm possession permanently in the future! This is the same civilian disarmament American Democrats have been trying to impose on American citizens for decades. Do not let them do it!! Don't ignore their phony displays of trying to make you think they are such upstanding, sensitive, and caring people by holding their fake little socials in public places to do their hand squeezing and back-slapping while gorging on their tea and crumpets. Before they leave they will plan and plot ways to take your firearms, outlaw your gas vehicles, gas lawn mowers, back-yard grills, gas chain saws, their attempts are ongoing-----the list is endless. Then they will all leave their little social with that cozy warm feeling up their pant legs while driving away in their China-made electric cars while not paying any gas tax to repair the highways they help to wear out and to fill the potholes they help create with the heavy batteries their vehicles need to carry. No, don't overlook their phony displays.

The phony displays even extend to Montrose Mayor, Barbara Bynum who publicly lacks any desire to commit Montrose to be a NON-SANCTUARY city! What kind of idiocy is that when she can plainly see the destruction committed in Democrat cities by illegal invaders. They are now destroying Denver under the watchful eye of Colorado's embarrassing Democrat Governor Polis. It's now been revealed that Biden has secretly flown in over 185,000 Haitians, 101,000 Venezuelans, 91,000 Cubans, 76,000 Nicaraguans and more to over 43 different airports across the U.S. under the cute name of a "mass parole program" and paid for by you, the taxpayer. And this is in addition to all the invaders crossing the border by land! Mrs. Bynum, which illegal group do you prefer as your next-door neighbor? And whose side are you on? You might acquire a backbone when those invaders flock into your husband's doctors office demanding their FREE medical care!!

Remember, teach a man to fish and you feed him for a day. Deport a man and you never have to feed him again! President Trump will have his hands full when he returns.

*Jerrv Bartholome, Montrose*

# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## THE NEXT TEN YEARS WILL BE A DECADE OF MAJOR CHANGE— AT DMEA WE NEED TO CONTINUE TO ADAPT AND BE FORWARD THINKING

*Dear editor,*

I want to thank David White for his letter in last week's Mirror regarding the Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) Board election. It gives me the opportunity to introduce myself, share the good news about DMEA (which David's letter overlooked), and outline some of the challenges and opportunities I see facing DMEA in the future.

It's been my honor to serve on the DMEA board. I grew up in a small farming community in upstate New York, which instilled in me a deep connection to people who work the land and a strong work ethic. My first job was working on a dairy farm when I was 14 years old. My spouse Brenda and I have lived in Montrose for 40 years. Our daughter was born and raised here and graduated from Montrose High School in 2005. We love western Colorado and in our spare time enjoy gardening, hiking, travel, good music and swing dancing.

I received a Master of Science degree from the University of Idaho in Forest Resources. In addition to holding several agriculture and forestry related positions, I've been employed in the nonprofit sector most of my career working with people in rural communities throughout the West to give them a voice in decisions that affect their lives.

I've worked on a range of energy policy issues over the years at the local, state and federal level. My skill set includes experience in strategic planning, financial management and oversight, and Board development and governance.

As a long-time resident of Montrose I've been involved in community led efforts to safeguard our Western Slope water, ensure that development pays its own way, and improve our public education system, just to name a few. Before joining the DMEA Board I was an active member of DMEA for many years advocating for fair and affordable electric rates.

As a Board member I will always do my best to keep the interests of co-op members and our local communities in Montrose and Delta County at heart. I strive to do my homework, ask plenty of questions,

and examine all sides of an issue. One question I always ask myself is "how will my decisions as a board member impact the people who live in our service area, and especially those struggling to make ends meet?"

DMEA has faced many challenges in the last few years. We switched our wholesale power provider, started a fiber internet subsidiary, weathered a malicious cyber-attack, and experienced unacceptably high CEO turnover. I believe we have emerged stronger and more resilient than ever.

Here are ten reasons why DMEA members should be proud of their electric cooperative and the current Board of Directors.

1. You can count on DMEA to provide a reliable supply of electricity day in and day out, and we are proud of our track record. DMEA's Board and staff is committed to implementing a robust risk management plan to ensure reliability.
2. Inflation has eaten away at our pocket-books and everything costs more. When the DMEA Board decided to switch power providers in 2021 it reduced our wholesale power costs by about 20 percent, which has allowed us to keep our electric rates stable for the last five years. No other electric co-op in Colorado can say that. In fact, you will find that DMEA's rates are significantly lower than our neighboring electric co-ops.
3. DMEA is financially strong and stable and in the last two years the Board has been able to return nearly \$6.7 million in prior years' margins to our members as capital credits.
4. On average roughly 35-38% of DMEA's energy portfolio is renewables. The addition of the Garnet Mesa Solar Project in Delta County will push our renewable resource mix on average into the mid-forties. Garnet Mesa is moving forward and we have tentatively planned a groundbreaking ceremony at the site on July 23<sup>rd</sup>. Our contract with Guzman Energy gives us more flexibility to self-generate our own power from renewables, supporting local jobs and the economy. DMEA has an application pending with the U.S. Depart-

ment of Agriculture to build our own 20 megawatt solar/storage project and we have identified multiple siting options, so stay tuned.

5. I am passionate about transparency, member engagement and Board accountability. As your DMEA Board member, I've supported making our monthly board packets and financial reports available online for all members to see. I've also participated in listening sessions across our service area, encouraged members to attend Board meetings to share their feedback, and backed a policy that DMEA shall be non-partisan in all political matters. We are offering online voting this year in an effort to increase voter turnout, and in the future I would like to see our Board meetings be available online.

6. Our high speed internet network (Elevate) is financially stable and built for the future. DMEA has secured nearly \$61 million in state and federal grant funds to bring fiber internet to our local communities. By the end of this year we expect to reach 82% of our members and the Board has set a goal of reaching every single member by 2027.

7. Because we are committed to delivering fast, reliable Internet you can count on, in the fall of 2023 we increased the base internet speed for our Elevate customers from 150 megabits per second (Mbps) to 400 Mbps. And better yet, we kept the price the same and scrapped our requirement that customers sign a one year contract. Customers can now try our broadband Internet service risk free.

8. DMEA believes in supporting local nonprofits that contribute to the quality of life in our communities. In the last two years the DMEA Board has provided financial support to Peer Kindness, Maslow Academy, Montrose Veterans Plaza, the Western Slope Conservation Center, the Hispanic Affairs Project, Magic Circle Players and the Nature Connection.

Each year, DMEA also offers more than \$50,000 in college scholarships to local graduating seniors and continuing education students.

9. The Board and staff is committed to improving our member/customer service

*Continued next pg*



# AT DMEA WE NEED TO CONTINUE TO ADAPT AND BE FORWARD THINKING

## From previous pg

and communication with an emphasis on friendly and helpful customer service representatives and responsive and competent technical support.

10. And finally, DMEA helps support a strong local economy by providing stable, affordable electric rates as well as bringing high speed internet to our members in Montrose and Delta Counties.

However, we cannot rest on our laurels. The electric industry is in the midst of a major transformation. There is an ongoing shift in the fundamental economics of energy toward cheaper renewables, and state and federal tax credits, grants and loans have hastened that transformation. According to the Rocky Mountain Institute, we are in the middle of an energy technology cost revolution and the cost of new energy technologies has fallen by 60-90% in ten years.

There is a pressing need for additional electric transmission infrastructure in Colorado and nearly all regions of the country to improve reliability and resilience, address high energy costs, and reduce con-

gestion and constraints.

Other challenges and opportunities facing DMEA, our wholesale power provider and/or the electric industry as a whole include:

1. ensuring there is enough power to meet peak demand (otherwise known as resource adequacy requirements)
2. considering the need for improvements to our distribution system to meet increasing electricity loads,
3. capitalizing on the synergies and potential cost savings available through the development of an organized wholesale power market by 2030,
4. planning for the continued growth of distributed energy resources and technologies, and
5. investing in energy efficiency because it is the largest, cheapest, safest and cleanest way to keep our members' electric bills stable and lower carbon emissions.

I envision the electric industry continuing to evolve toward a hybrid of localized and centralized renewable resources supported by firm generation that is controllable

and reliable, tied together by advanced communication and controls that securely balance supply and demand-side resources nearly in real time.

The next ten years will be a decade of major change. At DMEA we need to continue to adapt and be forward thinking, all while providing reliable and affordable rates.

The Board's leadership is critical in this regard. And none of this would be possible without the dedication, hard work and professionalism of every single one of our employees.

My door is always open and I am eager to hear from co-op members because they own DMEA and their voice matters. I encourage our members to attend a Board meeting and let us know what is on your mind. And I humbly ask for your vote in the upcoming election.

For more information on my candidacy check out my website: [kevinford-mea.com](http://kevinford-mea.com).

Kevin L. Williams. Montrose  
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## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

### THE ECONOMY IS A DISASTER AND THE WORLD IS ON FIRE, AND THE BUCK NOW STOPS WITH THE CURRENT RESIDENT OF THE WHITE HOUSE

*Editor:* Joe Biden just promised America a massive tax hike --- continuing a long list of actions totally destructive to middle class Americans. Biden April 23, 2024: "Donald Trump was very proud of his \$2 trillion tax cut that overwhelmingly benefited the wealthy and biggest corporations and exploded the federal debt. That tax cut is going to expire. If I'm reelected, it's going to stay expired." Biden and his handlers intentionally lie that the tax cuts cost the government \$2 trillion and increased the debt. In fact, the government has collected a huge amount of additional revenue after the tax cuts were passed, and additional revenues do not cause increased debt. The Biden administration's vast spending increases increased the deficit. They also repeatedly lie that only the rich benefitted from the tax cuts, when everyone who pays taxes has benefitted. In fact, the Trump tax cuts benefitted the middle class the most. For example, filers with an adjusted gross income of \$15,000 to \$50,000 enjoyed an average tax cut of 16% to 26%. By comparison, no income group with the AGI of at least \$500,000 received an average tax cut exceeding 9%, and the average tax cut for brackets starting at \$1 million was less than 6%. This administration also wants to ignore the fact that corporate taxes --- which Trump cut from 35% to 21% and Democrats raised again --- are also just a tax on consumers.

A logical question to ask is: "Why would the Biden administration want to raise taxes when the lower rates actually increase the money going into federal coffers and when the public has more left over to spend, save, and invest and make the economy grow?"

Meanwhile, our illustrious governor Polis and his Democrat Colorado legislature continue their subterfuge and slight of hand to convince Colorado residents they are actually doing something to reduce their property tax burdens. They just passed yet another property tax increase and are claiming it's a cut. Governor Polis: "We are focused on saving Coloradans money on property taxes and making Colorado more affordable." Sorry, but paying more isn't "saving Coloradans money." Residential property tax rates go up under their legisla-

tion. Instead of paying an effective rate of 6.3% this year, you will pay 6.8% next year. That's how Democrats "cut" taxes, by raising taxes and declaring it a cut because they would have raised the tax even more.

Both these examples have one thing in common: the complete disregard for the needs and wishes of middle class America. For Democrats to stay in power, they have to cater to a coalition of radical special interest groups and completely ignore most of America. By focusing on the demands of the (deluded) few, reality and the needs of the many go by the wayside. The vast majority of Americans agree that males who claim to identify otherwise should not be allowed to dominate women's sports teams and use their locker rooms. Title IX was passed years ago to protect women's rights in sports, and was highly successful. Now Biden and company have single-handedly erased decades of protections for women by unlawfully reimagining Title IX to permit the invasion of women's spaces and the reduction of women's rights. Discriminating against women to protect men is now OK for Democrats.

Biden constantly tells everyone that our support for Israel is "ironclad", even as he stabs Israel in the back by making saving Hamas the U.S. Policy with his demand that Israel allow Hamas to survive. Americans support Israel, which includes destroying Hamas, but election priorities are more important to Biden than America's only ally in the Middle East and the only homeland for Jews. He worries about ignorant pro-Hamas student protestors financed by Soros, and Muslim voters in Minnesota and Michigan, so he sacrifices an ally (as well as American citizens held captive by Hamas) at the altar of a few more ballots. As Rep. Jim Banks stated: "the president cares more about getting votes of blue-haired gender studies majors than he does Americans and the Israeli community."

The border is open and millions are coming at Biden's explicit request. By the end of Biden's term, no fewer than 10 million unvetted illegal aliens (many of them criminals, terrorists and spies, even members of China's military) will be within America's borders. He could order the border closed

for national security reasons at a moments notice. The administration just admitted to secretly flying 320,000 illegals directly from across the globe into at least 43 different American airports in 2023 alone. The flights continue --- in the middle of the night. America is a proud nation of (legal) immigrants, but never before have we imported millions completely unvetted, by air, with taxpayer dollars, from the most corrupt nations, . Never before have we not expected them to pay their own way and to assimilate. Democrats intend these illegals to become a part of their coalition to keep them in power -- to the obvious detriment of American citizens. They have the audacity to say that this "immigration" boosts the economy, but if that were true they would implement legal, controlled, merit-based immigration that might actually achieve that goal --- without destroying this nation.

I mentioned previously that despite sixty-six percent of American voters opposing abortion past the third month, the Democrat establishment continues demanding abortion throughout the nine months of pregnancy and shoving their extreme abortion goals down Americans' throats. Again, this is due to prioritizing the demands of one of their coalition partners, Planned Parenthood and the abortion industry, over the needs of the vast majority of the American people.

Biden thinks he can win the next election by pandering to the Democrat party's coalition of corrupt special interest groups. He is fully aware that everything he is doing severely damages this country, and most specifically the middle class, but he doesn't care. It is no wonder Democrats want to distract from Biden's incompetence and total disregard for the majority of this nation's citizens, and somehow make the election about Donald Trump. That might have worked if Biden had not turned everything into absolute disasters, and if Trump's results during his presidency were not the inverse of Biden's.

The economy is a disaster and the world is on fire, and the buck now stops with the current resident of the White House. Period.

*Ed Henrie, Montrose*

# BRING ON THE SUMMER

# Outdoor Festival

MAY 25, 2024 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

11:00 - 12:00 Tournament Sign-Ups

12:00 PRE-REGISTER OR SIGN UP AT EVENT

- Skateboard Competition (Register Online - QR code)
- Disk Golf Ace Race Contest (Online Sign Up - QR code or at Event)
- Cornhole Tournament (Pre-Register @ Scoreholio/ or at Event)
- Basketball Tournament (Sign Up at Event)



## DEMO'S & YOUTH ACTIVITIES ON STAGE

11:00 - 12:00	Contest Activity Sign-Ups
11:00 - 3:00	DJ AK1 & Benny Boom (host)
12:00 - 12:30	Frozen T-shirt Competition
12:30 - 1:00	Lifejacket Scramble
1:00	Ducky Race
1:00 - 2:00	Big Wave Surf Demonstrations (Montrose Surf and Cycle)
1:30 - 2:00	Pie-Eating Contest
2:00 - 2:30	Dance Demos (Hip Hop - A Time to Dance)
2:30	LFMG Music Academy
3:00	AWARDS - Raffle Winners - Thanks to Partners, Sponsors, etc.
3:30	LIVE Music - The One Takers (Pop/Rock) and Youth Jam Session
5:00	END: Music and Alcohol Sales



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## BRING ON THE SUMMER Outdoor Festival



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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## I SUPPORT LAW ENFORCEMENT...

*Editor:*

It's election season. From the President down to the Montrose County Commissioners race, the ballot is lined with quality candidates and place holders. Almost all the candidates and sitting elected office holders will say, "I support law enforcement..." When you ask, "How do you support law enforcement?", the blank stares come out, the blame game starts, the stories about prairie dog hunts from 30 years ago are dragged out.

Back in 2007, a Citizen Committee was formed to look at how to fund Public Safety in Montrose County. MC4FF, Montrose County 4 Funding our Future. From this Committee came the Public Safety Sales Tax (PSST) proposal that was approved in 2008. A 0.75% sales tax to be a **supplemental funding** source for public safety in Montrose County. 70% to the Sheriff's Office; 30% to fund the DA, the Basin Clinic and other areas at the control of the Montrose County Commissioners. The Citizen Committee and the PSST ballot initiative never intended for the PSST to be a primary funding source for the operation of the Sheriff's office. It was established to provide supplemental funding for Public Safety.

In the past year, citizens have questioned how the 70% is being allocated to the Sheriff's Office and the charges against PSST fund by the Montrose County Commissioners. Going before the Commissioners, citizens question if the PSST is being used as was intended by the Committee and the ballot initiative. A comment was made, '...you should have had a better

*attorney...'. Is this Supporting Law Enforcement?*

At the 2024 Budget Work Sessions, Sheriff Gene Lillard reported on the dilapidated condition that the Sheriff's office facilities were in when he took office in 2019 as well as the current need for a retirement program focused on law enforcement. During the Sheriff's testimony, Commissioner Roger Rash called Sheriff Lillard "disingenuous" and at one point "dishonest" for having pointed out the condition of the Sheriff's Office and the conditions the Deputies were exposed to and blamed it on "previous Commissioners". Commissioner Rash and Caddy were elected in 2016 and took office in 2017 and were the Commissioners for the last two years of the Rick Dunlap administration at the Sheriff's Office. When Commissioner Rash defended former sheriff Rick Dunlap, and blamed previous Commissioners, he pointed directly at himself, Commissioner Caddy and Rick Dunlap. Commissioners Rash and Caddy were the *previous Commissioners*, and as per Commissioner Rash, responsible for the Sheriff's Office's dilapidated condition. Is this Supporting Law Enforcement?

At a County Commissioner Candidate Forum in Nucla, former sheriff Rick Dulap admitted he returned budgeted monies and did not utilize the funds when Deputies were working in facilities in disrepair. Is this Supporting Law Enforcement?

Recently the Montrose County Commissioners approved a nearly \$8,000,000 facility upgrade to the jail. When citizens questioned the County as to where the

funding was to come from, a County Official stated, "...from the Public Safety Sales Tax fund...". Does this mean it will be charged against the Sheriff's budget? The jail and the Sheriff's offices are County facilities, just like the old Courthouse that is being renovated with a \$14,000,000 remodel. Are the Treasurer, the Assessor and the County Clerk's operating budgets being charged for the \$14,000,000 renovation to the County building they occupy?

Moving forward with Supporting Law Enforcement and Public Safety in Montrose County starts with re-writing and redefining the original Public Safety Sales Tax ballot language to close the "loopholes" that having the 'better attorney' produced. The PSST should have never developed into an open debate between the Sheriff and the County Commissioners as to the proper allocation of the monies.

I stand in support of the efforts of Montrose County Citizens to re-write the Public Safety Sales Tax ballot language to close the loopholes, more precisely define the use of the monies and allow the Sheriff to control his budget and charge backs in the future. I stand in support of Public Safety and Law Enforcement in Montrose County and advocate providing the funding necessary to protect our Deputies, provide superior law enforcement and serve the Citizens of Montrose County with much needed Public Safety Services like the Basin Clinic in Naturita.

*Scott Riba, Candidate-*

*Montrose County Commissioner District 3*



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# CARTOON BY TIM JONES

WEEKLY CARTOON

## SOUR GRAPES

by Tim Jones



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This is the sum of 4 liens the IRS has levied against **Steven Louis Stark**, Candidate for County Commissioner in District 1.

The 4 Liens are filed and recorded by the County Clerks in Mesa and Montrose Counties. The liens show a record of non compliance and tax avoidance stretching from 2002 - 2024.

Montrose County deserves better.  
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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## FREE PUBLIC TOURS OF ANCIENT EAGLE ROCK SHELTER

*Special to the Mirror*

REGIONAL-Free public tours of ancient eagle rock shelter on the Gunnison River Saturday May 25 from 9 am to Noon. From 9 to 12 a.m. There will be volunteer guides to share the story of the site with visitors. Eagle Rock is one of the oldest prehistoric sites in Colorado, where excavations revealed evidence of hunting, tool making and cooking along with rock imagery. The site is located between Hotchkiss and Delta. This free tour is open to the public and is hosted by the Chipeta Chapter of the Archaeological Society and the BLM. Directions: Take Highway 92 east from Delta to the signed turnoff on the right-hand side of the road at approximately Mile 12.8. Pass through the gate and follow the far-left gravel road generally west or 2.5 miles to the trail head parking lot. The quarter-mile trail down is slightly steep with steps in places. Guides will be on the site. For more information contact: [sjicas1@gmail.com](mailto:sjicas1@gmail.com)

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**Montrose county deserves honest representation  
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**Scott Mijares and Scott Riba are both dishonest men.**

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

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

**Vote for Louis Stark County commissioner district 1.**

**Vote for Rick Dunlap County commissioner district 3.**

**These men are honest.**

**Paid for by Ray Langston**

# COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS: EDUCATION

## NATHAN PULLIAM GRADUATES FROM BOB JONES UNIVERSITY

*Special to the Mirror*

GREENVILLE, SC-- Nathan Pulliam, a resident of Montrose, was among over 650 students who graduated from Bob Jones University Friday, May 3.

Pulliam graduated with a AS in Christian Ministries.

In addition to 523 students receiving bachelor's degrees, 97 students received master's degrees and 58 received associate degrees. Five candidates received earned doctoral degrees.

Located in Greenville, South Carolina, [Bob Jones University](http://www.bobjones.edu) provides an outstanding regionally accredited Christian liberal arts education purposely designed to inspire a lifelong pursuit of learning, loving and leading.

BJU offers over 100 undergraduate and graduate programs in religion, education, fine arts and communication, arts and science, health professions, and business.

BJU has over 3,000 students from nearly every state and more than 40 countries. We are committed to the truth of Scripture and to pursuing excellence in all we do.

### PULLIAM HONORED AT 2024 AWARDS CEREMONY

*Special to the Mirror*

GREENVILLE, SC-- Several students were recognized at the annual Awards Ceremony during Commencement Week at Bob Jones University.

Nathan Pulliam, a resident of Montrose, won the Founder's Discipleship Group Leader - 2 Award from Personal.

A medallion is presented in remembrance of Dr. Bob Jones Sr.'s Christian concern for character development and spiritual growth in young people. The citation reads as follows, "To the discipleship group leader who has shown unusual concern for the lives of those in his/her charge and whose influence and leadership are most akin to the compassionate, creative and constructive efforts of the founder, Dr. Bob Jones Sr., to help each student realize his or her greatest potential for God."

Located in Greenville, South Carolina, [Bob Jones University](http://www.bobjones.edu) provides an outstanding regionally accredited Christian liberal arts education purposely designed to inspire a lifelong pursuit of learning, loving and leading.

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## COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

### FREDERICK JOHN ZAJECHOWSKI

***May 3, 1928 — May 13, 2024***

It is with great sadness that the family of Frederick John Zajechowski, 'Fred', announce his passing.

Fred, age 96, passed away at his home in Montrose, Colorado on May 13, 2024 from congestive heart failure. He showed courage in facing life challenges and stayed strong to the end.

Fred met the love of his life, Joan [Brudjuk], while bowling, a passion they both shared, and married on July 29, 1967. Together they created a lasting love of over 56 years. Fred is survived by his wife, Joan and stepdaughter Gina Robison. He is preceded in death by sister Celia, step-sister Josephine and stepdaughter Lisa.

Fred was born and raised in Chicopee Falls, Massachusetts on May 3, 1928, to Polish immigrants Andrew Zajechowski and Mary [Drzal]. Although Fred did not have a college education, he made a successful career as a top manufacturing engineer with Smith and Wesson in Springfield, Massachusetts before retiring, moving to Arizona, and finally to his final home in Montrose, Colorado.

Fred had a fulfilling and well-lived life with his beloved wife Joan. And as Nishan Panwar once said, "We are all stories in the end, remembered by the adventures we had, the achievements we made and the people we loved. So make sure your story is a good one."

The Vigil and Rosary will be held at Crippin Chapel Funeral home on Thursday, May 23, 2024 from 6-7 p.m. Funeral services will be held at Saint Mary Catholic Church on Friday, May 24, 2024 at 10 a.m. Both located in Montrose, Colorado.

Fred was a member of Saint Mary Catholic Church and passionate about supporting Second Chance Humane Society and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to any of the above-mentioned organizations, in his remembrance.



*Now more than ever...*

*Thank you for reading*

**THE MONTROSE MIRROR**

# COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

## ROBERT WENDELL FIELD

**October 28, 1930 — May 10, 2024**



Robert Wendell Field was born October 28, 1930, to Alve and Ethel Field at St. Luke's Hospital in Montrose, Colorado. He died at his home early Friday

morning, May 10, 2024.

Robert (always called Bobby by his siblings) lived a true and full rancher's life in western Colorado. Growing up through the Great Depression and World War II, Robert lived and worked with his family's sheep ranching and hunting businesses in the Uncompahgre Basin. Robert attended Frost and Johnson Elementary Schools and Montrose High School where he graduated with the class of 1948. He was an active tumbler at Montrose and very involved as an agriculture student under the instruction of Mr. Dee Clark at Montrose's FFA (Future Farmers of America) Chapter where he served as chapter president in 1947-48. Robert was elected Secretary of the Colorado FFA Association in 1948 and served that year representing the future of the agricultural industry in Colorado. Robert always admired and appreciated Mr. Clark's influence in his life and attributes a large part of his lifetime success to his association with such a dedicated high school agriculture education instructor and FFA Advisor. Mr. Clark, Robert would reminisce, was responsible for enrolling him as a student at Colorado Agricultural and Mechanical College (CSU-Colorado State University) in the fall of 1948 and taking him, John (Hoot) Hoffman, Francis Belgardt and Bernard Chuchuru all to Fort Collins to begin their studies in the business of agriculture. Robert graduated from Colorado A & M with a degree in Animal Science in 1953.

Robert worked nights at the CSU sheep livestock barn lambing sheep, worked evenings as an assistant at the CSU library through his college years in addition to

working for various range sheep operations in western Colorado to pay for his college degree.

It was in the CSU library where he met his lifetime sweetheart, Beverly Ann Bond, who was raised in Denver, Colorado and Yellowstone Park, Wyoming. Just after his tour with the United State Air Force in Korea on June 5, 1955, and before his honorable discharge in 1955, Robert and Beverly were married in Denver, Colorado and shortly thereafter began their life together in Steamboat Springs, Colorado where Robert served as the Routt County Extension Agent. Their western adventure continued when Robert took the job as the Colorado Woolgrowers Association's Executive Secretary, headquartered in Denver, and traveled the state and nation extensively promoting legislative and sheep industry issues. After the birth of their three children, John, Brian and Kelley, Robert and Beverly moved home to Montrose in 1962 where they purchased the first portion of the family ranch. Robert supplemented their move by serving as the Manager of the Tri County Water Conservation District for almost the next decade and later, Beverly began a 33-year career as a teacher in the Montrose County School District. When asked, Robert commented that one of the most striking accomplishments of his working career was his involvement with the Tri County Water Conservation District and the Dallas Dam project helping to create the vast domestic water system throughout the Uncompahgre Valley during the late 1960's and early 1970's. Robert and Beverly accomplished their dream of an independent sheep ranching operation in the early 1970's and, before Robert's death last week, he could honestly say with his normal western humor, that he had been in the sheep business for over 75 years, and he had "already seen at least three good years".

In his later years, Robert was able to significantly help with the family sheep business where he would always accompany his son, John, in the annual trek up to and from the summer rangeland in the beauti-

ful San Juan mountains above both Lake City and Telluride. He was also so very proud of and very much enjoyed helping his daughter Kelley with her cattle and guide and outfitting business (Coffee Pot Outfitters - named for the original summer range that Robert's father, Alve, operated in during the early 1900's), in both Cimarron and Lake City.

Robert lived to personally see all three of his granddaughters in Oregon graduate from high school and college as well as each one of their marriages and was able to listen to his granddaughter's retiring address as a state officer of the Oregon FFA Association.

Robert is survived by his oldest son, John (Linda) Field of Montrose, Linda's daughter, Kassie Medulla (Joe) and her children, Landry and Remy - all of Vidor, Texas, his son Brian (Laurie) of Canby, Oregon and his daughter, Kelley (Monte) Sanburg of Montrose, his granddaughters; Lyndsay (Tim) Dyk of Milwaukie, Oregon, Bailey (Tyson) Corcoran of Mrytle Creek, Oregon and Madison (Gordon) Iverson of Hubbard, Oregon, his great grandchildren, Jubal Brian Corcoran (three years old) and Marlow Esther Corcoran (one year old) and Robert's youngest brother, Gerald Field of Montrose.

He was preceded in death by both of his parents, Alve and Ethel (McCormick) Field, his beloved wife, Beverly A. (Bond) Field, brothers Shirley F. Field, Ken Field, Dale Field, Dean Field, and his sisters Marge (Field) Marvel and Marilyn (Field) Roth.

The immediate Family will have a small service at Crippin Funeral Home on May 22nd followed by a celebration of life get together at John and Linda Field's home in Montrose sometime in July of this year. The Field Family would like to convey their appreciation and thanks to all the health care professionals and Hope West for the care they provided to Robert and family. In lieu of flowers please consider donating in Robert W. Field's name to the Colorado FFA Association or to the Colorado Woolgrowers Association where Robert's vision for the future of agriculture and the sheep industry is still at work



## COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

### **SUSAN BARBARA HENDERSON** ***February 14, 1946 — May 9, 2024***

SUSAN BARBARA HENDERSON, aged 78, passed away Thursday, May 9, 2024, at Hope West's Ferris Care Center in Grand Junction of complications of Polycystic Kidney Disease. When writing to her a few days before her passing a friend of 33 years said, "some of the words that come to mind when I reminisce about you are strong, confident, brilliant, accomplished, true, sincere, funny, adventurous, powerful, can-do-anything, always the best wife and companion to Fred."

Susan was born in Denver, Colorado, on February 14, 1946, to Ernie and Frieda Schwelka. She always said that one of the greatest gifts she received was being born on Valentine's Day. "No one ever forgets your birthday," she always said. Susan grew up in Denver and was educated in the Cherry Creek School District, graduating from Cherry Creek High School in 1964. She attended the University of Colorado in Boulder, Colorado, graduating in 1968 with a bachelor's degree in English. Following graduation Susan married Rich Hedlund and went to work in the Denver Public Schools. Susan worked in DPS for fourteen years serving as a classroom teacher, an instructor in the DPS staff academy, and as an assistant principal at Baker Middle School. After a divorce from Rich, she acquired a scholarship from the English-Speaking Union to study theater in London, England.

Later, while working on her master's degree at CU Boulder in 1981, she met and fell in love with Fred Henderson. They later married and enjoyed a 43-year magical relationship.

She left DPS in 1982 and became affiliated with the Aurora, Colorado, public school district where she spent three years working as a Learning Coordinator at Mrachek Middle School. Following her time in Aurora, she joined the Cherry Creek Schools and worked there from 1985 to 1991. She served as an assistant principal at Meadow Point Elementary School for one year and was the principal at Arrowhead Ele-

mentary School for five years. It was at Arrowhead where she found her true calling professionally.

Feeling the need to spend more time together, Susan and Fred left their administrative jobs in the Cherry Creek school district and moved to their second home in Leadville, Colorado, in 1991. There they lived a true mountain lifestyle cutting wood in the summer for heat in the winter, fishing, elk hunting, hiking, and plowing snow. It was there that she was introduced to camping, which became a lifelong pursuit.

They lived in Lake County for seven years until Susan's mission as an educator drove her back to work. She had a brief stint as an adjunct instructor at Colorado Mountain College, and then as an administrator in the Lake County School District. Professionally unsatisfied, she and Fred returned to the Front Range, and she took a position as the principal of Mesa Elementary School in the Boulder Valley School District. Near the end of her tenure in Boulder, she received a one-year exchange with a principal in an elementary school in Canberra, Australia. She and Fred lived, worked, and played in Australia for the full year of 2001. While Susan ran the elementary school, Fred was the house spouse, specifically overseeing planning excursions around the country when school was not in session. Susan made many friends in Australia several of whom she remained in contact with for the rest of her life.

After returning to the USA from Australia, Susan retired in the summer of 2002. She and Fred bought an RV and for the next four years traveled full time extensively throughout North America. Getting nervous about not having roots, she convinced Fred to settle down in an active adult community in Denton, Texas, where she taught water aerobics to her fellow residents, and became a devoted yoga practitioner. Giving up RVing drove Susan and Fred to international travel. Over the next decade, she and Fred traveled to many

places, including the Amazon River, Peru, Ecuador, and the Galapagos Islands in South America. Next, they took an extensive African safari that had them visiting Botswana, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and South Africa. Susan always longed to return to Africa for more extensive travel.

Following a decade in Texas, Colorado beckoned Susan and Fred, and they returned in 2015 building a home on Spring Creek Mesa in 2016. She wasn't through traveling. In 2018, they took a sweeping tour of Southeast Asia visiting Hong Kong, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam. Susan enjoyed living in Montrose, finding the hiking and camping opportunities abundant. Following several knee surgeries, she was frustrated that she could no longer hike the beautiful trails near her home. She remained active through the Chipeta Chapter of the Colorado Archeological Society. Before she became very ill, she served as that organization's secretary. Both she and Fred were site stewards for various biological, rock art, and historical sites sponsored by the BLM and CAS. She valued the many friends she and Fred had made in Montrose.

Susan is survived by her devoted and loving husband, Fred, her two sisters, Linda Reeves of Grand Junction, Colorado, and Karen Egan of Kwethluk, Alaska, as well as her niece, Kaitonya Egan of Honolulu, Hawaii.

There will be no public services, and those who love her are encouraged to make a donation to Hope West Hospice in her name.



## COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

### THOMAS MARK COLANDER *March 4, 1964- May 6, 2024*



Tom lived a life committed to his faith and family, with deep appreciation for the splendor of God's creation. Thomas Mark

Colander, age 60, of Redvale, CO passed away unexpectedly, on May 6, 2024. Tom graduated to heaven, after a head on wreck in San Miguel Canyon.

Tom was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, March 4, 1964. He grew up in a loving family with his parents, an older brother, and two younger sisters. Tom completed majors in Business Administration & Computer Science, at North Park University, Chicago, IL, in 1986.

Lynn and Tom met at church in 1980 and were married in 1986. They enjoyed raising two beautiful daughters. Tom and Lynn were profoundly in love for 42 years.

Tom had a dream to run a guest ranch in the mountains, nestled on a lake. In 1997, they moved near Norwood, CO and started Wing Shadow Ranch on the Gurley Reservoir and bought an existing outfitting business, Colorado Trophies. In this career, he was able to combine his love of the

outdoors with his passion for Christ. Over the last 27 years, he lived out his dream job and built many lasting friendships.

Tom is survived by his parents, Donald and Gretchen Colander, his siblings, Dr. Timothy (Lora) Colander, Sheryl (Todd) Slechta, and Sarah (Todd) Engels. He is survived by his wife Lynn Colander, his two daughters, Michelle Colander and Kristina (Jonathan) Barstad, and three granddaughters, Allison, Brooklynn, and Caitlyn Barstad. Tom's love for his family and friends was paramount. Tom had a servant's heart and positively impacted so many lives and will be deeply missed.

The celebration of life service and reception will be on June 22, 2024 at 1 p.m. at Celebration Church in Montrose, Colorado. I

n lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Samaritan's Purse under the Tom Colander Memorial Fund.

### TINA LYNN MATA *April 10, 1962 — May 9, 2024*

TINA LYNN MATA is off to a peaceful place with no more pain or suffering. She lost her battle to terminal cancer on May 9, 2024, at the age of 62. She was surrounded by her closest family and loved ones at her home in Montrose, CO.

She was a lover of arts and crafts, always working on some new project. She was very ambitious and had to be busy all the time. She loved her plants and animals and rescued them any chance she could. Her favorite color was purple. One of her favorite sayings was "You can do it!" (But you have to imagine her saying it with a Louisiana accent like in the Adam Sandler movie, *Water Boy*). She was fiercely independent and liked to do things her own way. Right up to the very end, she didn't even let death boss her around.

Most of all, she loved taking care of anyone or anything in need. She was like a mother to so many more than just her own kids. Her loving nature was never judgmental, but always unconditional love. She leaves behind 6 children, 11 grandkids, and 3 great grand babies. Her partner in crime, Billy, has 2 children, 2 grandkids, and 1 great grand baby that she loved as her own, plus countless others.

She faced many trials, always with strength and a smile. This tenacious woman was widowed twice before reconnecting with her high school sweetheart. After her first battle with cancer, and surviving a stem cell transplant in 2012, we were so blessed to have another twelve bonus years with her.

She is our hero, and her legacy will live on in the bravery, humor, strength, and love that she leaves in each of our hearts.



# COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

## ERNEST LOU VEO

ERNEST LOU VEO was born March 10<sup>th</sup>, 1930, to Leo Franklin (Buck) Veo and Lois Eva Richardson at St. Lukes Hospital in Montrose, Colorado. Growing up Ernie lived and worked on the family cattle and sheep ranch in Cimarron, Colorado. He attended school in Cimarron through the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, traveling by horseback with his brother, Dick, 6 miles each way to get his education. They rode 3 miles to Newberry's Store where in the winter "Pop" Newberry would pull them down off their retired racehorse, Ted, and bring them in by the stove for a few minutes before lifting them back onto Ted to continue the ride to school. Ted was a tall horse! Ernie then attended Montrose High School where he graduated with the class of 1948. He was an active and talented tumbler in high school which served as physical therapy for his undiagnosed broken back which occurred in a skiing accident at the ranch as a young man.

After high school he continued to work on the family ranch. Ernie met his lifetime sweetheart, Florence DelTonto, when she worked at Maude Austin Drug Store in Montrose. After Florence got to know Ernie a little better, she would make the strawberry shake he enjoyed so much with real ice cream, rather than the traditional ice milk, no 5-cent upcharge collected! They were married on December 14, 1952, in the First Methodist Church of Montrose. Ernie's enlistment in the US Army began on November 19<sup>th</sup>, 1953. He was stationed at Fort Ord, California and Fort Riley, Kansas where an apartment fire destroyed all their belongings including their wedding gifts. He finished his tour stationed at Fort Hood, Texas where their eldest son David was born. He was Honorably Discharged November 18<sup>th</sup>, 1955.

After his army discharge, Ernie and Florence's family expanded with the births of Dennis, Debra, and Terry, all born in Montrose. Ernie worked for the Western Colorado Power Company and eventually Delta-Montrose Electric Association as an Apprentice Lineman, Journeyman Lineman, Crew Foreman, and Line Supervisor. He was a member of the IBEW Local 1200, Local 1057 and finally Local 111 serving as Steward and as a member of several contract negotiating committees. Ernie loved working in the field with his line crew and was a knowledgeable and respected mentor to many apprentice linemen. He was also an instructor at the Mesa Hotline School in Grand Junction, Colorado. He retired after 42 years of service on April 1, 1994. Ernie was active in the local 4-H program as the founding Leader of the Eastside Ranchers 4-H club, which produced numerous champion entries for over 15 years. He served on the Montrose Volunteer Fire Department for 22 years from 1965 to 1987 in many capacities including First Lieutenant, Treasurer, and as an Investigating Committee Member. He served as a Board Member and President of the Montrose Producers Co-Op. He was a longtime member of B.P.O. Elks 1053, initiated in 1959 with 65 years of continuous membership. Ernie was a devoted husband, loving father, grandfather, and great grandfather, beloved uncle, and respected member of the Montrose community. He will truly be missed by all who knew and loved him.

He is survived by his loving wife of over 71 years, Florence, Children David (Jolene) Veo of Park Rapids, MN; Dennis (Kathy) Veo of Montrose; Debra Veo of Arizona; Terry (Patricia) Veo of Maricopa, AZ. Grandsons Kristopher (Bethany), Kristo-



pher was born on Ernie's 51<sup>st</sup> birthday, Levi (Sara), Cash (Melissa), Logan, and only Granddaughter Jessica (Darrell) who was born on Florence's birthday. Great grandchildren Jordan, Eli, Jaxon, Easton, Mason, Lainey, Lindey, and Dalton, as well as numerous nieces, nephews, and great-nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by both his parents, an infant daughter, and his only sibling Richard F. (Dick) Veo and wife Lois Marie.

Also, his father and mother-in-law Pete & Susie DelTonto, brother and sisters-in-law Charlie, Jimmy, Bobby and Betty DelTonto, Mabel DeVincentis, Pauline Garinger, and Virginia Hadley.

The Veo family would like to convey a heartfelt "Thank you" to all the Hope West Hospice nurses for the sincere, loving care they provided Ernie, especially Mary & Mellisa.

ISSUE 470 May 20, 2024

# ART & SOL

## YOUR BRAIN ON NATURE – SPIRITUALITY PART TWO



By Lauren Hall Ruddell, Ph.D.

*Greetings Mirrorites!*

In part one of this column topic I mentioned being smug about being in nature when others were in church. Turns out that they were probably gaining just as much benefit, just doing it differently according to their inherent and genetic spiritual tendencies. I was getting one important protective brain treatment, while they were getting another. While my DMN was being bathed and pampered, their cingulate cortices were getting some love. One is not better than the other intrinsically, but for non-religious spiritual folks like me, it's all about the DMN.

To review, the Default Mode Network (DMN) is a collection of brain regions that are active when the mind is at rest or engaged in introspective activities, including self-transcendent experiences associated



Photo Courtesy of Greg Rakozy

with religious or mystical experiences. A study by Siltan and colleagues (2011) suggests that the DMN may be involved in the sense of unity with a higher power or the feeling of being connected to something greater than oneself, which are both central components of religious faith.

For certain souls, especially religious people with a tendency toward depression, being in nature is helpful, but being in church *and* in nature is the real magic pill. Let me explain.

The DMN is both angel and devil in the case of major depressive disorder (MDD).

We know that time spent in nature in soft fascination with pleasing sights and sounds improves mood through activation of the DMN. Activity in this area that is modified by gentle, non-arousing, occasional inputs often precludes rumination. However, rumination on negative experiences and circumstances can take place in the DMN as well, and this can be a very strong response in some folks. The DMN is highly self-referential...it's all about me, me, me. That's OK when trying to solve a sticky work problem or find creative inspiration. However, the unsupervised yet

*Continued next pg*

## **YOUR BRAIN ON NATURE – SPIRITUALITY PART TWO** *From previous pg*

negatively occupied DMN tends to wander over to the dark side of the force when not constrained by restorative environmental stimuli, or something just as potent.

For instance, one team of researchers found that MDD risk was associated with *increased* DMN connectivity. Oh crap! They then found that high ratings of R/S (religious/spiritual) importance were associated with lower DMN connectivity in high-risk individuals successfully coping with depression, most of the time. R/S is psycho-code for religious and/or spiritual, as if they are nearly the same thing, which they are not. Nevertheless, they concluded that R/S importance may support neural adaptations in the DMN that may be protective against depression. The reason...self-referential thinking is often associated with increased DMN connectivity and which is quite often observed in persons with MDD who engage in rumination, *but* this can be remedied by directing focus toward a Higher Being, the cosmos, or some conceptualization of divinity. You can do this in nature, or do this in church, but the external rules and rituals of active religious practice may make it easier for self-transcendence to occur in certain people and for that nasty rumination to be stuffed deep underground. In other words, high DMN connectivity is great for oh so many things in life, unless you are already depressed and consistently feel resentful and negative. Then sending a little energy to other parts of the brain might be better. Meditation and prayer

seem to be a mindful way to switch it up at this point and send energy back to the prefrontal cortex. Again, this research team, I believe erroneously, collapsed religiosity and spirituality into one big, juicy construct.

Other researchers appear to agree with me.

People will often freely label themselves as *either* religious or spiritual. Spiritual people seldom identify as religious, although some swing both ways. When it comes to mental well-being and dealing with things like depression, this is an important distinction. Sure, people identifying as spiritual and non-religious tend to be more open-minded than their religious neighbors, which can pay dividends over the course of one's life, but they also tend to be more prone to depression. Spending time in restorative landscapes for these folks is critical for the prevention and healing of depression, and plenty of it. Spending some time in the outdoors and also in church is most protective for those of a natural and genetically pious bent. Not doing either one is usually a recipe for finding oneself on the therapist's couch or standing in line at the pharmacy. And for some people, an outdoor lifestyle is the best remedy of all. Take note that depression-associated suicide rates among ranchers and park rangers are much, much lower than most other professions. So whatever happened to that religious trope about the creator and the creation mentioned in Part One? It's still around, especially among fundamentalist sects.

But in general, a pro-environmental sentiment is creeping in that I find very encouraging, hopeful, and wholesome. A pretty darned good article that explains this further can be found at [The Brink](#). I will close with some inspiring words from a devout American Christian reclining under a sycamore...

"Reminded of the imagery in Isaiah 55:12 ("all the trees of the field shall clap their hands"), it struck me that this tree was joyfully being what it was created to be. Wholly unaware of the ceaseless clangor of digital life, this tree was simply, quietly bearing witness to God by embracing its simple calling: to sprout leaves, provide shade, produce oxygen, and grow upward, toward the light that gives it life. In that moment of appreciating the treeness of this tree, I was at once full of peace, wonder, and worship. How many billions of other trees across the world have this exact posture, with branches lifted up, as if in constant praise of their Creator?

Why are we humans—who, as image-bearers of this God, have even more reason to constantly praise him—too busy to be bothered with the simplicity of joyful gratitude and worship?" (Brett McCracken, 2020, The Gospel Coalition).

I will be on assignment in Europe for a few weeks assisting with establishment of a UNESCO Man and the Biosphere project for western Ireland, but I will join you digitally again in August. In the meantime this summer, hug a tree and sing a psalm and prepare to be uplifted.

**249** 8500

**ANONYMOUS**

Download The APP. **P3TIPS** 

**MONTROSE REGIONAL  
CRIME STOPPERS**

*see something, say something*

# MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY

## ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

**Office Hours:** By appointment.

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

**Worship Service Times:** Sundays 9AM,

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

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

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

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

## BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Olathe, Co 81425

Tuesday-Friday Phone: 970-808-1021  
[www.biblebaptistchurcholathe.com](http://www.biblebaptistchurcholathe.com)

Pastor Gabe Skillo

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Sunday 6 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Study/Prayer 7 p.m.

## CELEBRATION CHURCH

**Denomination:** Southern Baptist Church  
 (SBC – Southern Baptist Convention)  
**Address:** 2900 Sunnyside Road, Mont-  
 rose, CO 81401

**Office Hours:** By appointment

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

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

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

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

**Senior Pastor:**

Pastor Brandon Mathis

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

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

**Demographics:** Multi-generational

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

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

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

## CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

**Denomination:** Christ Lutheran Montrose  
**Affiliation:** Lutheran Church Missouri Syn-  
 od  
**Address:** 1980 N. Townsend Ave., Mont-  
 rose, CO 81401  
**Contact:** 970-633-0226

**Website:** [www.montroselutheran.org](http://www.montroselutheran.org)

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

**Pastor:** Tim Onnen

**Worship:** Sundays at 9 AM

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

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

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

## FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

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

**Pastor:** Buddy Cook

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

Wednesday: Prayer Boot Camp - 7 PM

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

*disciples in Montrose Colorado and around  
 the world.*

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

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MONTROSE

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

**Contact:** 970-249-4732, [in-  
 form@fpcmontrose.com](mailto:in-<br/>
  form@fpcmontrose.com),

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

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jesse G. Mabanglo

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

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

# MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY *From previous pg*

## HILLCREST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**Denomination affiliation:** United Church of Christ  
**Address:** 611 South Hillcrest Drive, Montrose, CO 81401  
**Office hours:** By appointment  
**Contact information:**

Phone number: (970) 249-9047  
 Email address: [office@montroseucc.org](mailto:office@montroseucc.org)  
 Website: [montroseucc.org](http://montroseucc.org)  
**Current Pastor:** Rev. Wendy Kidd  
**Worship service times:** Sunday, 10 a.m.  
 Hillcrest Congregational UCC is a welcoming, open and affirming church, open to all no matter who you are or where you are

on life's journey.  
 Church demographics: HCUCC welcomes all ages to worship with us. (predominately family, youth, seniors, singles)  
 We offer inter-generational worship with a children's "prayer-ground" and activity packets. A cry room is also available.

## MONTROSE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**Denomination Affiliation:** United Methodist  
**Address:** 19 S. Park Avenue Montrose CO. 81401  
**Office Hours:** M-Thu, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
**Contact Information:** 970-249-3716, [office@montroseumc.org](mailto:office@montroseumc.org), [mont-](http://montroseumc.org)

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

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

## ROSEMONT BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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

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

## SPIRITUAL AWARENESS CENTER

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

**Name of current pastor:** Rev. Dr. Arlyn Macdonald, Senior minister; Rev. Ruby Salaz, Assistant Minister. Spiritual Counseling available. **Worship service times:** In-person Sunday Unity Service at 11 a.m., (Social Time begins at 10 a.m.); Quiet Meditation at 10:30 a.m. Virtual Afternoon Service on Zoom at 2:00 p.m.; Chai Chats, a Wednesday morning midweek informal gathering at 10:30 a.m. at Pun Hill Himalayan Restaurant, Montrose; Thursday Empowerment Circle at 10:30 a.m. on Zoom. Everyone is

welcome. *The Spiritual Awareness Center is an interfaith spiritual community welcoming spiritual seekers and people of all faiths, providing a safe place to explore and nurture the individual's unique connection to the Divine through Unity services, classes, family and community projects, including the Great Community Giveaway and Wellness Fair. People of all ages are welcome. There are currently no Sunday School or nursery services provided but craft supplies are available for youth.*

## ST. STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

**Denomination:** Anglican-Reformed Episcopal Church (REC)  
**Address:** 2405 Sunnyside Road, Montrose 970-249-4868  
**Contact:** [ststephensmont-](http://ststephensmontrose.com)

[rose@yahoo.com](mailto:rose@yahoo.com)  
[www.ststephensmontrose.com](http://www.ststephensmontrose.com)  
**Rev. Dec.** Garrett Agajanian  
 St. Stephen's is a community of caring Christians rooted in the godly traditions of the past, focused on the challenges of the

present, hopeful for the future, continuing in the Faith once delivered to the saints, using the 1928 Book of Common Prayer.  
**Sunday:** Holy Communion 10 am. Fellowship following service.  
 Children's nursery available (unstaffed).

# MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY *From previous pg*

## SUMMIT CHURCH OF MONTROSE:

**Denomination affiliation:**

Southern Baptist

**Address:** 10977 60.75 Rd. Montrose, CO 81403

**Office hours:** Varies

**Contact information:**

email:[summitchurchmontrose@gmail.com](mailto:summitchurchmontrose@gmail.com)

website:

[www.summitchurchmontrose.org](http://www.summitchurchmontrose.org)

**Senior Pastor:** Interim Pastor.

**Worship service times:** Sunday Worship is

at 9 am followed by a time of fellowship and snacks.

Summit Church has frequent Bible studies and other events for adults, young adults, youth and children. Please visit <https://www.summitchurchmontrose.org/events> for more information.

*Summit Church Montrose is a new church plant that preaches the Word of God, reaches the lost with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and equips Christians to serve the Lord. Summit Church has people of all ag-*

*es! We have families with children (babies, school aged, recent high school and college graduates) up to retired individuals.*

*During the Sunday sermon we offer teaching for children ages birth to Kindergarten, in a kid friendly room called Base Camp.*

*We also have a children's activity during our Monday night adult Bible study.*

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

## VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH OF MONTROSE

**Denomination Affiliation:** Independent Baptist

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

**Office Hours:** Monday-Friday 8am-12pm

**Contact Information:** Phone (970) 249-

6874; email at [info@vbcmontrose.org](mailto:info@vbcmontrose.org); website: [vbcmontrose.org](http://vbcmontrose.org)

**Current Pastor:** Roland Kassales

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

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

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

**Church Directory**

*Mirror Editorial Staff*

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

**information to the Montrose Mirror:**

**Name of church**

**Denomination affiliation**

**Address Office hours**

**Contact information (phone number, email address, website)**

**Name of current Senior Pastor**

**Worship service times**

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

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

**Do your church services include Sunday School and childcare?**

**Local Immunization Providers**

Visit [www.montrosecounty.net/immunizations](http://www.montrosecounty.net/immunizations) for updated information on immunization providers.

**Questions? Call (970) 252-5011**





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# COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

## WESTERN SLOPE RURAL PHILANTHROPY DAYS REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

### *Special to the Mirror*

FRUITA- Community Resource Center (CRC) has opened registration for the Western Slope Rural Philanthropy Days (RPD) conference from June 5 - 7 in Fruita. This event is being organized by CRC and a Steering Committee of more than twenty local leaders. For over 30 years, RPD conferences have convened with the goal of strengthening regional Colorado nonprofits and the communities they serve. Registration will remain open while tickets last or through May 24. Tickets are expected to sell out quickly.

The Western Slope Rural Philanthropy Days (RPD) conference is an opportunity for nonprofit professionals, grantmakers, community leaders, distinguished speakers, and elected officials to exchange knowledge and establish meaningful relationships across their professional networks in the region. This rotating opportunity occurs every four years in the Western Slope region, composed of Delta, Eagle, Garfield, Mesa, and Pitkin counties. RPD is a part of the Rural Action Network (RAN), a statewide program of Community Resource Center that builds nonprofit capacity, fosters relationships, and fuels regional collaboration leading to increased grant dollars awarded to rural communities.

Rural Philanthropy Days brings together community organizations and foundations to amplify their missions, sustain meaningful collaborations, and surpass fundraising goals. Community Resource Center anticipates over 75 funders and grantmakers to attend the June conference. In addition to connecting rural nonprofits to

these resources, the conference offers professional development, educational opportunities, and relevant panel discussions pertaining to the promises and obstacles of operating a nonprofit in the Western Slope region.

The conference will be held at Fruita Monument High School with evening receptions at the Dinosaur Journey Museum and Absolute Prestige. The third day will be an optional half-day of self-care and wellness with a keynote speaker followed by breakout session activities including beginner-friendly mountain biking, meditation, sound baths, journaling, and animal therapy.

Featured events include a facilitated tour of innovative housing solutions on the Western Slope, a Western Slope regional town hall, a panel discussion highlighting actional change told through lived experiences, networking receptions, and capacity building sessions on the economic impact of nonprofits, building effective coalitions, and intersectionality in the nonprofit sector. During the Western Slope Nonprofit Community Fair on June 5, regional nonprofits and local governments will have the opportunity to host a table where their peers, statewide leaders, and funders can approach them to connect and learn more about their work. Through this session, funders and nonprofit organizations have the opportunity to develop a mutual understanding of one another in a relaxed environment.

"Rural Philanthropy Days (RPD) conferences stand as flagship events in rural Colorado", says CRC Co-Board Chair, Leslie Baldwin. "These conferences are born out

of collaboration with community leaders, fostering dialogue and tackling key topics shaped by their firsthand experiences. This platform allows nonprofit professionals to engage directly with statewide funders, partake in professional development opportunities, and connect with fellow community leaders from across the region. Whether aiming to lay the groundwork for new initiatives or amplify existing efforts, RPD offers a vital space for networking and growth."

Kayla Bowers, one of our Steering Committee Co-Chairs, commented that "[they're] thrilled about Fruita hosting this impactful event within [their] community. This conference serves as a pivotal platform for business leaders across multiple counties to converge, learn, and foster greater awareness of the vital initiatives underway in our communities. [She's] grateful for the chance to spotlight the significant contributions of both business leaders and nonprofits, acknowledging the profound economic benefits this conference will bring to rural Colorado."

"Western Slope RPD is an incredible opportunity for skill building, collaboration and networking for our local nonprofits and funders" said event Co-Chair, Erin Ivie. "This conference will have a huge impact on our rural communities. Western Slope RPD is only held once every four years; register today!"

Registration is now open! There are a limited number of scholarships available. Please visit our [website](#) for more information. For additional information and questions, contact Jennifer Allen at [west-ernrpd@gmail.com](mailto:west-ernrpd@gmail.com).



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# SAVE THE DATE! LOCAL EVENTS CALENDAR

## ONGOING-

**TRUE GRIT WALKING TOURS-June and August in Ridgway**-Every Friday 3 pm guided free True Grit walking tour departs the gazebo in Hartwell Park. Arrive 15 minutes early. The one-hour tour covers downtown locations where True Grit was filmed. **July in Ridgway**-Every Friday 3 pm and Monday 10 am. Guided free True Grit walking tours depart the gazebo in Hartwell Park. Arrive 15 minutes early. The one-hour tour covers downtown locations where True Grit was filmed. Call 469.682.9710 to arrange a custom tour for \$10 per person at a time of your choosing.

**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](mailto:info@mc4arts.com)

**MONTROSE ALTRUSA**-1st Tuesday of the month Program meeting; 2nd Tuesday of the month committee meeting; 3rd Tuesday of the month Business meeting. Meetings are held at the Field House on the corner of Colorado Avenue and Rio Grande Avenue at Noon.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**THE MONTROSE GENEALOGY CENTER** at 700 E. Main St. is now open Wednesday and Thursday afternoons, 1-4 p.m. or call for an appointment: 970-240-1755. Free help and resources for your family history research." (The center is sponsored by the non-profit organization, Fore-Kin Trails Genealogical Society.)

## MONTHLY

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

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


**May 25**-Free public tours of ancient eagle rock shelter on the Gunnison River Saturday May 25 from 9 am to Noon. From 9 to 12 a.m. There will be volunteer guides to share the story of the site with visitors. Eagle Rock is one of the oldest prehistoric sites in Colorado, where excavations revealed evidence of hunting, tool making and cooking along with rock imagery. The site is located between Hotchkiss and Delta. This free tour is open to the public and is hosted by the Chipeta Chapter of the Archaeological Society and the BLM. Directions: Take Highway 92 east from Delta to the signed turnoff on the right-hand side of the road at approximately Mile 12.8. Pass through the gate and follow the far-left gravel road generally west or 2.5 miles to the trail head parking lot. The quarter-mile trail down is slightly steep with steps in places. Guides will be on the site. For more information contact: [sjcas1@gmail.com](mailto:sjcas1@gmail.com)

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

# CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2024!



Montrose High School Principal Heidi Voehringer welcomed the 278 graduates of the Class of 2024, along with families and friends, to the graduation ceremony at the Montrose Football Field on Sunday, May 19.

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