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the Montrose Mirror

PATTERSON TERM LIMITED AS DMEA FACES CONTESTED ELECTION



Montrose County Manager Jon Waschbush came before the DMEA board requesting \$50,000 from the Unclaimed Capital Credit Fund for the Montrose Courthouse remodel project. Photo by Gail Marvel.

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE-On May 28, the Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) Board of Directors regular meeting was called to order at 3 p.m.

The call to order was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, determination of a quorum, and approval of the consent agenda (Membership & Meter Report, and Minutes from the April 2024 Regular Meeting). Directors Jock Fleming and Enno Heuser were absent, all other board members were present in person.

Member Attendance/Introductions

DMEA co-op members are afforded an opportunity to speak during Member Comments, which for this meeting was scheduled for 5 p.m. Those addressing the board were members of the Citizens Climate Lobby (Kent Dolezal, Tony Hoag, and Mary Loncar), as well as Joseph

Continued pg 37

CDOT MEETING FOCUSED ON FUTURE OF US50 BRIDGE

By Gunnison Clamp

MONTROSE-The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) is hopeful of a best-case scenario on the Highway 50 Bridge between Montrose and Gunnison, as they push for a deadline of reopening it by July 4th to partial traffic.

The DOT held a meeting at the Montrose County Event Center on Thursday, May 23 covering a range of topics on the bridge, from tentative deadlines to the inspection process that revealed the critical issues.

Structural cracks were initially found in April during a federally directed inspection, immediately closing the bridge and leading to widespread uncertainty across the western slope. A detour has since been opened on Gunnison County Road 26, with multiple windows of time every day for traffic to make the trip east, without having to take a detour to I-70 or US 160. The option of using County Road 25 as a separate bypass is also being evaluated.

Present at the meeting were CDOT Executive Director Shoshana Lew, CDOT Region 3 Director Jason Smith, and several other officials including State Representative Marc Catlin.



Rep. Marc Catlin (HD58), center, speaks during the CDOT meeting on May 23. Photo by Gunnison Clamp.

Continued pg 55

[Flood Follows Flood](#)
By Bob Cox!

[Not one, but two Local Op-Eds by David White!](#)

[The Barefoot Laureate](#)
By Wendy Videlock!

[Gail Marvel Chats with CD3 Candidate Jeff Hurd!](#)

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Special to the Mirror

RIDGWAY-A concert featuring classical pianist Kara Huber will be Sunday, June 9 from 4:30-5:30 p.m. at the United Church of the San Juans in Ridgway.

Proceeds will be used toward medical expenses and a portion of the proceeds will be donated to EBeauty Community, a nonprofit organization that provides free wigs to women undergoing cancer treatment.

This is the site to follow Meredith's journey <https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/meredithscancerjourney/journal>.

Donations can be made through GiveSendGo.com at <https://www.givesendgo.com/GBHBU>

BENNET TO BE IN NUCLA ON JUNE 9 FOR MEETING ON HALT THE DOLORES

Special to the Mirror

NUCLA-Senator Michael Bennet will be in Nucla on June 9 at 1 PM at the Nucla High School Gym for a meeting for the Halt the Dolores. Please come and help us stop this monument. Visit [Halt the Dolores.com](http://HalttheDolores.com) for information or [click here for video](#).

THE MONTROSE MIRROR

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

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VISTA CHARTER SCHOOL WELCOMES APPLICANTS FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mirror staff report

MONTROSE-At Vista Charter School, students find the direction and resources to succeed and become leaders after high school. Now, Vista could use some new leaders on its board of directors--following the recent resignation of a director, the board is down to three.

Vista Board Chair Brian Balerio said that the school board wants to ensure that Vista continues to serve the community, meet the needs of students, and keep the school's successful career-path focused curriculum on track; the current goal is to have seven directors on the board. Parents, former educators, and local business owners are all welcome to apply.

"We want to maintain a diverse board," Balerio said, "One that is representative of the students we serve. We are actively looking for new board members-we want a diverse group that is representative of the students we serve."

Those interested in applying to serve on the [Vista School Board](#) can call the school at 970-249-4470.



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JORDAN RAINER
 Straight Shot
 TOP 10 FINALIST ON NBC'S THE VOICE

CityofMontrose.org/July4

CORRECTION

Thank you to Dave Klein, Facility Manager for the Bureau of Reclamation at Curecanti, who informs us that dates we gave last week for the testing of all four gates at Morrow Point Dam were not correct. According to Klein, four gates were tested after installation in 1970, and only used in 2014, 2017, and now 2024. "We keep very detailed records," Klein said, noting that no records of all four gates being opened could be found for 1982, although it was a high water year. See the nighttime photo of 2019 spillway release shared by Klein on our back page today!



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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
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- 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

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

PERHAPS WE THE PEOPLE SHOULD CONSIDER A BALLOT MEASURE ON COSTS OF EDUCATING NEWCOMERS

Dear Editor,

If the City Council fails to pass the Non-Sanctuary City resolution, perhaps We the People should put a resolution on the November ballot that would require the City Government to reimburse the School District for the full cost of educating any illegal alien student and REQUIRE the school district to ascertain the legal status of each of their students.

Rick Bleier, Montrose

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UPDATED GUIDELINES FOR LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Readers:

We appreciate your letters! We like reading and hearing opinions from all perspectives. We are sharing herewith our updated guidelines: In the past we have had one rule, to be implemented at the editor's discretion. We are now including two more suggested "Rules" for letter writers. **RULE 1.** The Dead Horse Rule has been in place from the start of the *Mirror*. This is somewhat self-explanatory, but there are times when something has been said so many times it can run afoul of the "Dead Horse Rule," in which case we will inform the writer.

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

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

Thank you,
Caitlin Switzer,
Montrose Mirror Editor



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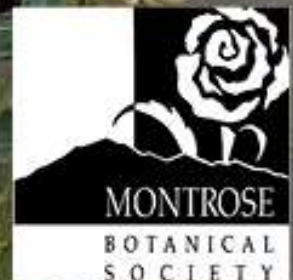
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THE GUNNISON TUNNEL - RICHER HISTORY WITH NEW PERSPECTIVES AND MODERN TOOLS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Montrose County Historical Society will host Brody Wilson, who will be presenting "The Gunnison Tunnel - Richer History with New Perspectives and Modern Tools". He will be sharing how he used technology to unlock new insights into the history of the tunnel. He recently had a four-part podcast on KVNF radio on the Gunnison Tunnel. This program starts at 7 pm at the Montrose County Fairgrounds Event Center on June 5th and is open to the public.

2024 Republican Primary

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

VOTE RICK DUNLAP, DISTRICT 3 COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Editor:

Let's talk about a person who has worked for others in the United States Army and in law enforcement for over four decades. A person who has proven himself fiscally responsible, consistent, and dedicated to all Montrose County citizens. This person held tight to his word and did EXACTLY

what he said he was going to do as the Montrose County Sheriff, and he did it with honesty and grace.

I think you know who I am referring to now – RICK DUNLAP. You could not ask for better representation as your next County Commissioner in District 3.

There have been some folks who have

questioned whether Rick did what he was supposed to with the Public Safety Sales Tax funds. I am here to tell you, he DID—I was there. I ask you to refer to two articles printed in the Montrose Daily Press dated March 26, 2008; one titled, "County Leadership More Transparent", and the other titled, "County Displays Benefits of Sales Tax" and you will see. Rick utilized those funds to purchase the necessary equipment to bring the Montrose County Sheriff's Office into the technological 21st Century. Rick hired additional deputies to better promote public safety throughout the entirety of Montrose County. Rick procured new vehicles to replace the dated unreliable junk that we were driving every day. Rick instituted the mobile data computer program, which allowed all deputies to remain mobile and readily available to respond to calls for service. And Yes, Rick bought TASERS for all deputies; a resource they never had prior to his tenure.

Knowing Rick Dunlap as long as I have known him, and having the great opportunity to work both for and with Rick, I know he has the skills, knowledge, and the commitment to community necessary to serve everyone. I have a tremendous amount of respect for this man; he taught me a lot about being a sheriff and public servant. Rick is the best choice for District 3 County Commissioner in Montrose County.

VOTE RICK DUNLAP, District 3 County Commissioner

Respectfully,
Adam W. Murdie



The Offices of the Treasurer and Assessor will be closed to the public Wednesday June 5, 2024, due to a required system upgrade.

TreasurerWeb and EagleWeb will not be available.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

PUBLIC SAFETY DEPENDS ON A STRONG AND WELL FUNDED SHERIFF DEPARTMENT

Editor:

With millions of illegal invaders invited into our country by liberal Democrat policies, “blue” cities and states are feeling the economic crunch as well as rising crime rates and are trying to shift that burden to other communities. It was noted in last weeks Mirror that Colorado ranks 47th out of 50 states in public safety, and our future public safety here in Montrose County is at risk in the June primary race for two new commissioners.

Our continued public safety clearly depends on a strong and well funded Sheriff Department, unfortunately it has been well documented that the county has been inappropriately depleting the PSST fund created by public vote for the benefit of our MCSO for non qualifying General Fund uses. In short the county has been using the PSST as a slush fund to augment other county expenditures all to the detriment of our Sheriff Department and our collective public safety right here at home.

Last fall in the budget process Sheriff Lillard, facing recruitment and retention problems, requested an extra 4% salary increase for his department and a move to the FPPA retirement program but County Manager Washbush took it upon himself to recommended denial of those requests and our short sighted commissioners agreed opting instead to further de-

plete the PSST by 5.2 million to fund jail expansion, clearly a county capital project since the county owns the entire Justice complex, without the sheriff approval. Sadly those questionable decisions are now affecting our public safety as the MCSO is hemorrhaging employees due to an increased inability to compete or retain qualified personnel.

Exhibiting their full intention to continue the unrestricted use of the MCSO PSST fund as well as their refusal to even consider the FPPA retirement program our commissioners have hand-picked two successors to maintain the county status quo. Both have clearly been picked for anticipated ease of manipulation. Certainly not in the best interest of a strong MCSO or county public safety!

It has been noted publicly that Big Lou Stark has a record of four federal tax liens exceeding \$83,000 along with a foreclosure, topped off with a bankruptcy. With that record of not being able to handle his own money wisely, do we really want to trust him with over \$100 million of our tax dollars??? And our commissioners are trying to foster this guy off on taxpayers as qualified. Shame on them!!!!

Rick Dunlap, the former sheriff, was totally unaware for twelve years that the county was pilfering his PSST funds. More importantly for voter consideration is the

fact that if elected he will be faced with a huge CONFLICT OF INTEREST since his daughter-in-law Cindy Dunlap is the County Chief Financial Officer and he would have to declare that CONFLICT OF INTEREST and recuse himself from ALL financial discussions or decisions. Short of her resignation from the Finance Department the perception of a family bias in all county financial issues will render Dunlap ineffective as a commissioner.

By far the best choices for the two commissioner seats are the two Scotts, Riba and Mijares. Both are accomplished entrepreneurs in their own right and will be impervious to any county special interest manipulation. It is important for voters to know that Gene Lillard, Montrose County Sheriff, strongly endorses the two Scotts for commissioner— a reason which in my opinion is a public request for help, since having a strong MCSO hangs in the balance of this primary election. Any voters unclear about this election are urged to contact Sheriff Lillard at 970-596-9929.

Ballots are being mailed today and voters undecided are urged to attend the 6-8PM candidate forum scheduled for this Thursday June 6 at Friendship Hall. Please help our dedicated men and women at the MCSO and back Gene Lillard and vote for Scott Mijares and Scott Riba for County Commissioner.

Dee Laird, Montrose

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ON THE ISSUES

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- I will continue to fight and protect Colorado's water rights
- Agriculture and natural resources remain the pillars of HD58. This district should be represented by someone who not only understands those industries, but lives in them every day
- I support multiple uses of our public lands (e.g., agriculture, mining, oil and gas, renewable energy, timber, recreation, etc.).
- I believe in LOCAL control
- I am adamantly opposed to the Antiquities Act that is being pushed forward to be signed by the President to create a Dolores River National Monument



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: EDITOR'S NOTE

To our Readers,

As a weekly newspaper we do offer an open platform for the first amendment and free speech, and our readers are able to read and learn from the letters we publish. However, it has been brought to our attention that Ray Langson's letter of May 27 makes false statements about County Commissioner Candidate Scott Mijares, in addition to referring to Mijares as a "Con Artist." While letters are expressions of opinion, Mr. Langston makes several highly specific but unsubstantiated claims. Among those claims is one that asserts Mijares was a registered Democrat in Hawaii in 2004 and that candidate Mijares was convicted of 3rd degree assault in Hawaii in 2002, which is false (see links to source material below). In his letter Mr. Langston stated that Mijares was permanently banned from trading stocks or securities by the Securities and Exchange Commission, which is also false (see link below.) Mr. Mijares has provided us with direct evidence that all three of Mr. Langston's claims about him are verifiably untrue. Below are links to the documents shared with us by Scott Mijares with his own comments.

Thank you for reading,

Mirror Editor Caitlin Switzer

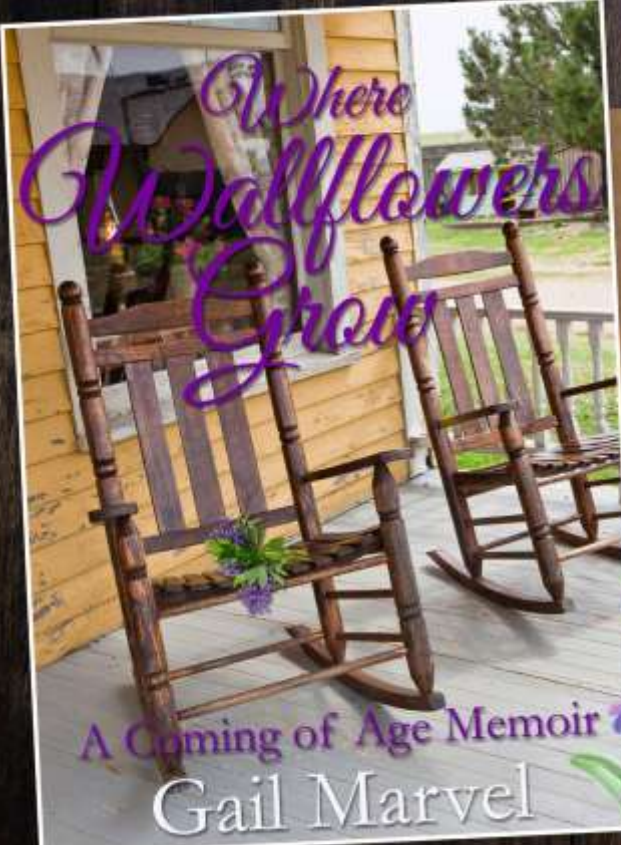
LINKS TO MIJARES DOCUMENTS:

1) [PDF of my SEC Settlement agreement](#), (see sections I, II, and III where it clearly states that I will not participate the sale of stocks in a scheme to defraud, etc. The document also says that I did not admit or deny the allegations made by the SEC in the Civil Complaint.)

2) A [copy of the assault case in 2002](#) showing "No Plea, No Sentencing, and Case Closed". Also included is a [copy of a letter](#) written to me yesterday by the real victim of the incident Kahaunani Holden (age 19 at the time) She praises me for coming to her defense after being attacked by a man twice her size. She also says that her attacker was ultimately charged by police in the incident 22 years ago.

3) I do not have a copy of my Voter Registration in Hawaii in 2004 but can assure you Ray does not either. I have tried to retrieve the record but they do not maintain those records in Hawaii. It should be noted that I co-hosted a conservative talk show while in Hawaii and have hosted the Montrose Republican Social hour at the Wild Horse for the past 18 months which makes Rays claims absurd and untrue.

Here is a link to a letter I wrote to the Governor of Hawaii, Linda Lingle(R) in 2007 where I clearly state that I am in fact a conservative republican. [Island Breath: Superferry News of the Day 9/16 & 17](#)



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

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

GAIL MARVEL
Montrose Author & Reporter

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



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

BOCC MANAGEMENT AND WHY ELECTIONS MATTER

Editor:

I have shared with you in the last few weeks my opinion of what I feel is and has been a monumental failure in both leadership and management by the county commissioners. It is never easy for employees to come forward and state their views and recommendations for improvements while being an employee at Montrose County, but as I have explained, others and I have tried. The fear of retribution and losing our jobs was and is very real to those I have talked with at the county. Our current board of BOCC has been in charge for so long they are wrapping up their second terms as County Commissioner and in my opinion, they have lost all awareness that they work for the people of Montrose County and are not some sort of self-defined royalty that has not only destroyed all trust with many county employees but also citizens from the WEST END

to OLATHE. I do not believe that, but for very few people, anyone wants anything to do with them or to put up with them at their so-called 'three-minute and sit down, we have heard enough from your public' BOCC meetings. Who would even consider attending such meetings where insults have been hurled at those in disagreement. Now, imagine what employees might have suffered through? I think anyone would be upset. We the affected persons reserve the right to be cynical and are.

This upcoming election for County Commissioner is critical to just what type of Commissioners and what and who they really represent. As a former supporter of Rick Dunlap (NO MORE) I approached him and asked for solutions to the concerns with county management. All I got from Dunlap was a verbal run around and no thought as to how to remotely address my

concerns. Big Lou (whoever he is) Stark seemed not to want to be bothered and crickets. No thoughts, no solutions.

I have heard that the commissioners are very concerned about their policies being brought out into the SUNLIGHT for public analysis.

If Sue Hansen cannot work with Scott Riba and Scott Mijares I really wonder, why?

I found both Scott's to be engaging, concerned and completely open to making Montrose County open, transparent, and trusted again.

The respect and thoughtfulness I received from both Scott's quite frankly overwhelmed me.

The county has received over \$100,000,000 from the road and bridge tax over and above the General Fund.

I will be providing real time pictures of more, "to come."

Chuck Bell, Montrose

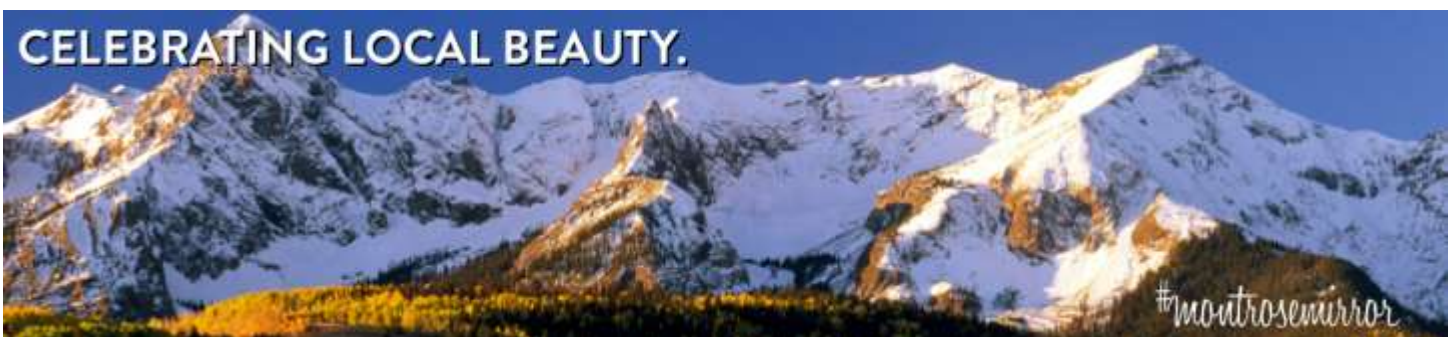
HOW IS PRIDE GATHERING 'FAMILY FRIENDLY?'

Editor:

How interesting that a recent announcement in your paper about a Pride gathering is described as "family friendly." I believe that an event promoting homosexuality and questioning your biological gender is anything BUT family friendly. This should be more appropriately framed as mental health support versus promoting families. We need to stop normalizing perceptions and values that are anything but normal. We are all being pressured to accept this way of thinking but that's not fair or healthy. Any heterosexual family that finds itself dealing with a child that questions their sexuality or gender knows that they can be in for a hard ride. That's not to say that everyone doesn't deserve love because, of course, they do. However, promoting it as normal and pressuring the rest of us so that a MINORITY can feel okay is a great dysfunction.

And when folks disagree with me, as I'm sure they will, let's keep it civil. That is actually something that should be normalized...civil exchange.

Lisa Reynolds, Montrose





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GAIL MARVEL CHATS WITH CD3 CANDIDATE JEFF HURD



A newcomer to politics, Jeff Hurd was raised on the Western Slope and is running for Congress in Colorado's 3rd Congressional District. When asked if he has the necessary thick skin to be a politician he said, "Absolutely. I don't take myself too seriously. I don't pretend to have all the answers. I don't have all the answer...just ask my kids." He laughed and said, "And my wife agrees with the kids!" (Hurd Family Courtesy photo)

By Gail Marvel

GRAND JUNCTION- Jeff Hurd, who is 44 years old and from Grand Junction, Colorado, is running for Congress in Colorado's 3rd Congressional District. He said, "I was born in Greely and moved to Grand Junction when I was seven years old." After graduating from Grand Junction High School, Hurd went to Notre Dame, the University of Denver (law school), and then received an advanced law degree from Columbia Law School.

After working for several years at an international law firm headquartered in New York City, Jeff knew he wanted to

return to Western Colorado. In 2014 the Hurd family moved back to Grand Junction where he became co-owner of a small law firm and later opened, and now leads, the Grand Junction office of Ireland Stapleton Pryor & Pascoe PC.

Jeff and wife Barbora (originally from Czechoslovakia), have five children ranging in age from 15 to 2 years old. Faith is the center of their family, and together they are committed to raising their children with Christian principals.

When asked about his political life, Hurd said, "This is my first campaign. I haven't even run for dog catcher before." The motivation for Hurd to seek public office came during a meeting at the Craig Power Plant. He said, "There were a group of us around the table and these coal miners were losing their jobs and their livelihoods because of government regulations. I left the meeting thinking *these people need an advocate...that's something I can do.* I feel called to serve the district where I was raised. I want to fight for rural Colorado, but I don't want to fight loud; I want to fight smart."

Understanding the economic challenges of the area Hurd said, "I don't want to see rural Colorado get left behind. Our greatest export is our kids. I want to create economic opportunities for our kids to stay here, if they want to stay here, and to thrive in rural Colorado."

Incumbent Lauren Boebert (R) chose to run for reelection in Colorado's 4th District, which leaves the 3rd District open. There are 10 Republican candidates running for Colorado's 3rd Congressional District in the upcoming primary. Commenting on negative advertising coming from his opposition Hurd said, "I don't do negative ads. I'm focused on pro-rural Colorado, I'm not against anyone. I'm not afraid to disagree, but I always try to do it without being disagreeable."

When asked about challenges he would face in a Trump administration, Hurd said, "I share Trump's priorities. Under Trump we can create opportunities for families. We can unshackle regulations that are crippling Colorado."

Speaking to challenges he would encounter if he were under a Biden administration Hurd said, "I would push back hard against regulations. Government is so overregulated that it is pushing rural Colorado into poverty."

Hurd feels that service is a critical role for a congressman. He said, "It's not just passing laws in Washington DC, it's the nuts and bolts of offering the help you can provide. I want to be judged by the effectiveness of what I'm able to do for individual constituents."

By all appearances, much of the focus of Hurd's campaign has been on the energy sector. He said, "Actually no. Having a secure boarder is my top priority. However, having abundant, low-cost energy saves *everyone* money so they can put food on the table, fill the car with gas, and pay the electric bill."

Being a political candidate is not for the faint of heart. Hurd said, "In the last nine months I've driven 24,962 miles...that's a little over once around the globe. My struggle with campaigning is that I'm missing my kid's music recitals and baseball games."

Constituents who engage with Hurd will immediately notice that one of his political strengths is the ability to converse and discuss issues, i.e. protecting water rights, agriculture, inflation, transportation).

When asked to describe his weakness, Hurd said, "Sometimes I tend to be a perfectionist...I need to focus on what is possible, not what is perfect."

Beginning the week of June 3rd citizens can expect to start getting their primary ballots in the mail.

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Montrose County Commissioner District 1 and District 3

Moderated by the Montrose County Republican Party

Scott Mijares - District 1 Candidate

Lou Stark - District 1 Candidate

Rick Dunlap - District 3 Candidate

Scott Riba - District 3 Candidate

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MASTER PLAN DRAFT UNVEILED AT PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS BEGINNING JUNE 10

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE—Montrose County residents are invited to learn more about the draft Montrose County Master Plan at public presentations starting June 10.

The draft plan will be presented to residents for input at five events across the county. The master plan guides the growth and physical development of the unincorporated areas of the county and relies heavily on public input.

County staff and master plan contractors will provide a presentation on the draft plan outlining key topics like natural resources, agriculture, economic development, utilities and services, transportation, and land use. Following the presentation, county staff and the master plan contractors will be available for questions and discussion.

Public engagement is a critical part of the master plan and the public is encouraged to fill out a survey to provide feedback. A draft of the master plan will be available

on montrosecounty.net for residents to review in advance. Additionally, for those unable to attend, a recorded presentation is also available on the master plan website.

Presentation/Open House Schedule

June 10- Montrose County Event Center (1036 North 7th Street, Montrose), 4:00-7:00 p.m.

June 11-Naturita Community Center (411 West 2nd Ave. Naturita), 4:00-6:00 p.m.

June 12-The Forum (245 S. Cascade Ave, Montrose), 8:00-9:00 a.m.

June 12- Maher, Onion Valley Community Club (3996 Clear Fork Road, Crawford), 4:00-6:00 p.m.

June 12-Olathe Town Hall, (419 S. Horton Ave, Olathe), 4:00-7:00 p.m.

What is the Master Plan?

The Montrose County Master Plan serves as a crucial tool for guiding future growth and development. It establishes long-term goals and policies that inform decision-making regarding land use, zoning regula-

tions, subdivisions, hazard regulations, annexation decisions, development review, and other development-related matters.

The plan is a non-regulatory document, but it heavily influences how these ordinances are created or amended.

Looking Ahead

Montrose County will continue to process the public feedback received at the open houses.

This input will be instrumental in finalizing the master plan, ensuring it reflects the community's vision for the future of Montrose County. The plan will be brought before the Montrose County Planning Commission for final approval in the fall at a public meeting.

For More Information

Residents can find more information about the Master Plan update process, including the draft plan and meeting summaries by visiting the [Master Plan webpage](#).



Marc Catlin^{for} Senate Dist 5

Heart of the Colorado River Basin

Water and natural resources are vitally important to all of Colorado. Our industries, ranging from agriculture, recreation, to tourism are based on the foundation of water.

I am a proud advocate for the Western Slope and will continue to advocate for the values held by the people in Senate District 5.

I actively defend and protect public health, education, public safety, law enforcement, veterans issues, and our diverse economic drivers.

I consider Western Colorado's economic viability and natural resources a high priority. The discussions and issues I bring forward are to guide policy in a direction to improve and protect the interests held by our citizens. As your Senator, I will continue to stand up and speak out when government or special interest groups encroach on these rights.

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FLOOD FOLLOWS FLOOD



The flood in 1909 pushed Portland Creek over the banks of the channel on the south end of Main Street in Ouray. Similar flooding happened in Cascade Creek on the north end of town. The St. Elmo Hotel is on the right edge of the photo. Photo courtesy of the Ouray Historical Society

By Bob Cox

OURAY-Anyone who has visited, or even driven through the quaint mountain town of Ouray has likely looked at, and appreciated the beauty of the mountains east of town, commonly called the Amphitheater. Most of the time the view is breathtaking and little thought is given to what happens to the melting snow and falling rain that makes the landscape so enthralling, but with the beauty also comes the possibility of disaster.

Early in the morning and throughout most of the day on July 21, 1909, those beautiful mountains were subjected to an inordinate amount of rainfall. The Cow Benchmark, better known as Amphitheater, Cascade Mountain and the head waters of Skyrocket Creek, all of which range in elevation from 12,000 to just over 13,000 ft., were subjected to a series of cloudbursts. The creeks that headwater in the area fall about 5,000 ft. in a distance of about three miles. Two of the creeks, Cascade Creek and Portland Creek, flow into the town and through culverts on Main Street before dumping into the Uncompahgre River

below town. In a report printed on the morning of July 22, 1909, the *Daily Sentinel* in Grand Junction reported, in part: *It seems that the cloudburst occurred in the mountains just east of Ouray and about 4 o'clock. Without warning to the people of the town, a great flood swept down the channels of the two creeks which find their way from east to west through the town. It is said that the wall of water was from 7 to 10 feet high and extended from one creek bed to the other, making a veritable sea of flood about one-fourth of a mile in width.*

The culverts that provided a channel for both Portland Creek and Cascade Creek were quickly plugged with large boulders and debris. The several bridges on the streets and alleyways where Portland Creek traverses the town were literally washed away. According to various accounts, the bridge over Portland Creek on 6th Street was the first to plug up, creating a dam that backed water up into the canyon. The dam broke, sending the wall of water on down through more bridges until the bridge in the alley between 4th Street

and Main Street washed out. One half block later, the flood waters and debris hit Main Street and turned it into a river of rock, fallen trees and pieces of the bridges. The water flooded the Elks Lodge and headed north.

Most of the businesses in town were above the water and escaped serious damage, but those businesses and residents in the path of the Portland water suffered heavy damages. At the same time Cascade Creek was wreaking havoc in the lower part of town. The homes north of 8th Avenue from above 5th Street to just north of 9th Avenue, where the channel crosses Main Street were partially washed away. The culvert under Main Street plugged up and some of the water from Portland made it all the way down Main Street. Most of the water channeled its way to the river, but left behind piles upon piles of debris. According to the *Sentinel* article, a total of nearly one mile of curbing was destroyed.

According to two news accounts, several people braved the rushing waters on horseback and with wagons to aid those who had fallen or were stranded. No lives were lost, save that of a small burro that was swept away in the initial wave of water that rushed down Main Street. Cleanup efforts began almost immediately. Men and women alike gathered, picking up rocks and removing the debris. Wagons were hastily hooked up to help haul away what could be loaded.

Just days later, insult was added to injury. *The Rocky Mountain News*, in its September 6, 1909 edition, dated as an August 22 release, reported the following:

Heavy rain, which fell continuously today in the amphitheater of Portland Creek threatened this town with a disaster similar to the recent one when Portland Creek overflowed its banks and poured a large torrent of rocks and water through the main street of the town. Today, the warning was given early, and 100 teams, manned by very able-bodied men in town, labored incessantly to keep the creek within its bounds. Logs and sandbags were employed to strengthen the dikes, which had been built ten feet above the normal

Continued next pg

FLOOD FOLLOWS FLOOD *From previous pg*

bank of the stream where the stream runs through the town. Their efforts were only partially successful, and when the crest of the flood came down at 1 o'clock this afternoon many of the buildings damaged two weeks ago were again flooded.

Another consequence of the flooding was the interruption of train service from Ouray and more flooding in the areas around Telluride exacerbated the problem. The train tracks and damage were not repaired until just a few days before Christmas, and even then the repairs were temporary. According to *The Montrose Enterprise*, the first train from Montrose to Telluride took place on December 20th and consisted of a very limited number of cars.

Following the August flood the citizens of Ouray united to mitigate any further such disasters. They proposed, in the words of both the Ouray and the Telluride newspapers, to "clean out, deepen and enlarge the channels of Cascade and Portland creeks, and to line the sides and bottoms with cement." The goal was to prevent logs and other debris from encountering obstacles and creating a dam. Some even proposed a special tax to be levied for the

improvements.

Some of the improvements were accomplished and the Cascade and Portland flumes were constructed, but in mid-July of 1919, Mother Nature spoke again. Much of the country was either in or just recovering from a major flu epidemic. The following press release was printed by the *Rocky Mountain News* and several other newspapers:

Ouray Inundated When Cloudburst Breaks Above City. OURAY, Colo. July 15 - A cloudburst, which broke over the American Flats at 7 o'clock last night caused a flood which an hour later swept over Cascade Falls and inundated the lower part of Ouray. Cascade flume was filled with thousands of tons of rock and debris for several blocks. By heroic efforts on the part of hundreds of Ouray citizens, the flood was turned down Main Street and found an outlet thru the baseball park into the Uncompahgre River. The Portland flume, across the north end of Ouray was filled to its utmost capacity with water because of the cloudburst but carried its load safely to the point near the Uncompahgre outlet, where a small break occurred.

Once again, the citizens came to the res-

cue. A work holiday was declared at noon that day so that the debris could be cleared.

Flooding occurred several times over the next years. In 1929 some 40 families were forced to flee from their home, but no lives were lost and the improvements helped, but did not totally stop the damage. During that event, one house was washed from its foundation and swept down the river. The 1929 flood was declared by some to be the worst in the town's history. To add to the problem, Skyrocket Creek, which crosses the highway north of town, became plugged up sending debris down out of its channel into the lower part of town and washing the railroad tracks out. Because the power plant in Ouray supplied power to both Ouray and Montrose, the residents of both towns were plunged into darkness for about one hour.

At one time, nearly 40 years ago the Colorado Department of Highways established some "lift off" paving panels in the street where Cascade Creek crosses Main Street (U.S. Highway 550.) The panels were evidently never used and have long since been paved over.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

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Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-On June 11 and June 18, Morningstar Therapy dogs will be having two therapy dog practices and informative meetings where we will walk you through what is expected on a test to have your dog nationally certified as a therapy dog, and will give you information to get you started.

Therapy dogs are calm, friendly dogs who like to volunteer with their owners to bring smiles and joy to people in nursing homes, hospitals, schools, libraries and other places. (These are not service dogs who are trained to help their owner with a disability. Therapy dogs do not get special access into stores and airplanes).

If interested in attending the two sessions, call Marcia at 970-209-3891 or Sue at 970-596-9343 for the location and time.

SOUTHWEST COLORADO GEOTHERMAL SUMMIT ON JUNE 4

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-You are invited to join a conversation about geothermal energy at the first Southwest Colorado Geothermal Summit! Learn how geothermal energy can heat and cool our homes, produce clean baseload electricity, support our workforce and make our communities more resilient.

Southwest Colorado Geothermal Information Session

Montrose County Event Center

Tuesday, June 4th

6 PM - 8 PM

Food and refreshments provided; other accommodations are available

RSVP on Eventbrite

This gathering is intended to start a community conversation around geothermal energy to explore its opportunities, challenges and how it may fit into the future for the region. The geothermal public information session will follow an afternoon technical workshop for relevant stakeholders such as local governments and utilities.

The summit is being created by the **Southwest Colorado Geothermal Collaborative** with support from the **Colorado Energy Office**. The SW CO Geothermal Collaborative is an ad hoc group of community leaders seeking opportunities to learn and hold dialogue about the potential geothermal energy has for the Southwestern portion of our state.

You can learn more about this exciting event by visiting SWCOGgeothermal.eventbrite.com!

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COMMUNITY MEETING ON HISTORIC DESIGNATION FOR TORTILLA FLATS & LA RAZA PARK SET FOR JUNE 3

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Community Meeting: Historic Designation for Tortilla Flats/La Raza Park Neighborhood. Everyone is invited to this important community meeting to discuss designating the neighborhood, known affectionately by residents as "Tortilla Flats," a nationally recognized historic district. This meeting will be on Monday, June 3 at 6 p.m. at the MADA Building located at 17 N 6th Street. This is a chance to learn more about what this designation would mean and share your thoughts. This neighborhood has a rich history that deserves recognition! Your opinions will help guide the decision-making process. Free pizza will be provided!



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HERNIAS & YOUR HEALTH

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How can we tell them apart? What are the surgical and non-surgical solutions available to address the different types of hernias? Are there minimally-invasive methods for addressing hernias?

Join Dr. Michael McCann for an overview of the types of hernias, how to recognize them and what options are available to address them.

Tuesday, June 4
6:00-7:00 PM
Montrose Regional Health
Conference Rooms A&B

No RSVP required. Light snacks and refreshments provided.

For more information, call (970) 497-5979



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

PUBLIC INVITED TO WESTCLIFFE, MONTE VISTA TO DISCUSS FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

Special to the Mirror

MONTE VISTA. – Colorado Parks and Wildlife has scheduled two public meetings to discuss proposed fishing regulation changes that are aimed at advancing conservation goals related to Rio Grande cutthroat trout.

One meeting will be held in Westcliffe and another in Monte Vista.

The meeting in Westcliffe will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. June 10 at the West Custer County Library located at 209 Main St. The meeting in Monte Vista is slated for 6 to 8 p.m. June 13 at the conference room at CPW's office located at 722 Henderson Rd.

"We are proposing restricting harvest and tackle in the Sand Creek drainage to allow for the reestablishment of a self-sustaining Rio Grande cutthroat trout population," said CPW Aquatic Biologist Estevan Vigil.

"In addition to changing the regulations at Sand Creek, we are also proposing to restrict harvest and tackle at Rito Hondo Reservoir and the creek above the lake also to restore Rio Grande cutthroats."

Both the Sand Creek and Rito Hondo drainages have recently been reclaimed by removing non-native fish from these drainages so Rio Grande cutthroat will thrive. The proposed regulations are aimed at protecting populations during the rebuilding process, which can take up to five years.

Additionally, another regulation change is also proposed for Kerr Lake within the Rio Grande National Forest south of South Fork. CPW has proposed the removal of special regulations involving fly-and-lure fishing only that has been in place at Kerr Lake since 1955. CPW has also proposed removing the limit of two fish and return-

ing Kerr Lake to statewide regulations on bag and possession limits of four and eight.

CPW has found there is no biological reason to keep the special regulations at Kerr Lake in place.

"The cutthroat in Kerr Lake are sustained through stocking and are not genetically pure," Vigil said. "In order to match regulations to other waters managed the same way, we are proposing the removal of the special regs at Kerr Lake."

CPW will discuss these proposed changes and be available to discuss issues related to Rio Grande cutthroat trout conservation at these two meetings. All are welcome to attend.

"It is important we hear feedback from the public and local anglers before implementing any regulation changes," Vigil said.

A sitting County Commissioner with 2 years left on her term is campaigning for a candidate to serve on the Montrose County Board of Commissioners. If this seems odd and unethical, it is.

The voters get to decide who represents them, not an elected official. Montrose is better served by a board that is made up of 3 independent thinkers who are there to serve the public, not another commissioner.

Vote for Scott Mijares for County Commissioner

Paid for by Ana Maymi





There is a reason for this support...

The Montrose Mirror, January 29, 2024, Page 6

WE ENDORSE SCOTT RIBA FOR MONTROSE COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 3

To the Citizens of Montrose County:

As citizens of Montrose County we endorse Scott Riba for Montrose County Commissioner District 3. We have known Scott Riba for a long time and respect his straightforward approach and honesty. He tells it like it is.

The Montrose County Commissioner race for District 3 is critical. This county needs a commissioner who understands business, who has the best interests of the county and its citizens as his focus, and is willing to stand up and dig in his heels to see that decisions made by the county benefit our citizens in the best possible way. He will not be a “yes” man but a voice to be heard. No one can satisfy all the people all the time. But Scott Riba will do his best to represent you in a positive manner.

Please join with us and support Scott Riba in the upcoming election for Montrose County Commissioner District 3.

Gene R. Lillard and Deb Lillard, Montrose

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

SCOTT MIJARES WOULD BE A BLESSING TO THE COUNTY COMMISSION

Editor:

It's always refreshing and encouraging when somebody who is running for public office is honest, hard-working, fiscally responsible, and even creative. I'm here to attest that Scott Mijares, who is running for county commissioner is all of the above. I met Scott 17 years ago in Hawaii. We both owned and maintained acreage on the North Shore of Kauai. Keeping up with the demands of tropical Hawaii land was a daily requirement.

Upon my introduction to Scott he offered to help move a large dirt pile that had been stagnating in my yard for months. I obliged and sure enough the next day he was there bright and early with his new front loader making haste with the large task. Being frugal and thinking that I'd be paying a *Hawaii wage*, I was surprised when, at completion Scott offered his services gratis. I would learn over the years that deeds like this were common for Scott. Whether helping to organize and conduct an auction for charitable organization or diligently putting together a historical album for a legend surf veteran friend, Scott is willing and eager to offer a helping hand wherever or whenever he has the tools or talent.

It didn't take long before we became good friends and for our families to spend time together.

Over the years I enjoyed watching Scott build a creative brand of locally made products that were popular with merchants and tourists across Hawaii. He nurtured and participated in every step of the business from equipment sourcing and financing to product fulfillment and customer relationships.

Ultimately he would always achieve consistent quality and take pride in the final product delivered. As a seasoned entrepreneur Scott understands the importance of budgeting and practices conservative fiscal responsibility.

Eventually, as we both moved from Kauai, Scott would always feel at home in rural America, especially small community that would align with his conservative values. Montrose has been the perfect fit for Scott, his wife Juli and 110 lb pet Bernese, Koda. Nowadays, you may find Scott and Juli tending to the Wild Horse Whiskey and Wine bar that they recently built. Stop by, have a chat and you'll immediately get a feel for the Mijares' warmth and appreciate their hands-on workmanship.

It's in my humble opinion that Scott would be a trustworthy and hard working addition to Montrose public service.

He characteristically has an unwavering conviction for the truth and readiness to always defend what he believes in. My family fully supports his decision to run for county commissioner and I look forward to the improvements that he will contribute to Montrose.

Thank you,
Joe Pearce, CEO
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PATTERSON TERM LIMITED AS DMEA FACES CONTESTED ELECTION

From pg 1



On May 28 during the monthly Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) Board meeting, a parting gift of appreciation was given to Board of Director Bill Patterson. Patterson, who is term limited, has served 12 years on the DMEA board. (L to R) Patterson and DMEA Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Jack Johnston. Johnston thanked Patterson for his contribution to DMEA and wished him well in the future. Patterson, not one to ride off into the sunset, laughed and said, "I won't be going away!"

(L to R) Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) Board Chair Stacia Cannon and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Jack Johnston. During the regular board meeting on May 28, 2024, Cannon received a Board Leadership Certificate (BLC) through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). Photo by Gail Marvel.

McGill, who attended by Zoom. Delta resident Kent Cloward attended in person but did not have comments for the board.

Board Recognition:

Both Jock Fleming and Stacia Cannon were recognized for their continuing education efforts and received their Board Leadership Certificate (BLC) through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). Bill Patterson, who is term limited, was recognized for serving on the board for 12 years.

Committee Chair Reports:

Finance-Audit-Rate Committee (FAR) – Damon Lockhart, Chair.

Lockhart said, "We did not meet."

Engineering – Construction – Energy Services Committee – Enno Heuscher, Chair.

Did not meet.

Member Relations Committee – Bill Patterson, Chair.

Patterson said, "We met on April 24 and talked about the upcoming annual meeting. We talked about candidates, method of voting, the low percentage of votes, CoBank scholarships, applications for scholarships, and how to personally hand out scholarships."

Executive Committee – Stacia Cannon, Chair

Cannon said, "We did not meet either." **Informational Item (Non-Privileged CEO Report)** – CEO Jack Johnston.

Johnston noted that officials from other entities (i.e. CREA, Western United) would be attending future board meetings to meet the DMEA board. He said, "Pretty straight forward this month. We had scholarships and linemen attending hot-line school for two weeks. It's advanced education and we gave out five scholarships. It's the best hands-on our staff can get here."

DMEA employees put large American flags on display in Delta and Montrose counties. Johnston said, "It's our contribution to national holidays. We put them up for Memorial Day and we'll put them up for the Fourth of July."

Addressing the topic of vegetation Johnston said, "By August we'll have the overall assessment done on our system as a whole. It includes vegetation removal and is leading up to the 2025 budget. Liability the last few years, we have improved. Mother nature has treated us well in April."

Kevin Williams asked about the accumulation of "little, tiny outages". Staff reported outages can be attributed to weather,

wind, and snow. Car/pole accidents result in longer outages because poles must be replaced. There were no major event days in the month.

Continuing with his report Johnston said, "The trendline for EV charging stations has increased in usage."

Background: Net metering is a billing system that allows customers who generate their own electricity to exchange excess electricity and thus reduce their overall bill.

Johnston said, "There are a lot of solar sales developers in our territory. There is a lot of discussion on net metering on the State level and we're worried about misinformation. There is a PSA [Public Service Announcement] on our website to keep members informed. We want to help residents know what is and what is not factual."

DMEA donated an old GIS (geographic information system) which produces large maps, to North Fork High School.

Johnston informed the board about the number of ballots that have been returned for the upcoming board of directors' election. As of May 20, 2024, there was a 9.8 percent return, for a total of 2,997 returned ballots. Ballots could be

PATTERSON TERM LIMITED AS DMEA FACES CONTESTED ELECTION *From previous pg*

submitted by three different methods (Mail – 2,128; Web - 636; SmartHub – 233). However, before the meeting adjourned Johnston updated the report and ballots received now stood at 13.29 percent. Looking at past years, 2016 had a 19.06 percentage of returned ballots.

Informational Item (Non-Privileged Legal Report) – Attorney Sarah Abbott.

Abbott said, “We’ve been looking at governing policies. We’re taking another look at the By-laws in an ongoing effort to modernize governing. We’ve been preparing for the upcoming election.”

Informational Item Director Reports Western United Electrical Supply (WUES) Report – Jock Fleming.

In Fleming’s absence, Johnston said, “The backlog of transformers has softened. There is a significant improvement. They are looking to expand to another State. Their business is doing extremely well.”

Colorado Rural Electric Association (CREA) Report – Damon Lockhart.

Lockhart reported on a meeting at Grand Valley Power. He said, “This is a very diverse group. I listened a lot.”

Johnston said, “DMEA is active in the conversation of net metering. We’re over five percent and growing. We have system limitations. Pace is slowing down right now.”

Note: Recent changes in DMEA department head titles:

Jay Suckey, Interim CIO

Bob Farmer, Interim CFO

Gayle Gouker, Senior Advisor to the CFO

Informational Item:

Form 7

Senior Financial Advisor Gayle Gouker deferred to Interim Chief Financial Officer Bob Farmer.

Form 7, which had a deadline of April 30, has already been filed with an electronic signature. Information on Form 7 has been seen by the board. Johnston said, “It’s a static report.”

Action Item:

Operation Round Up Trustees

Two new trustees were appointed, giving Operation Round Up a full complement of board members.

Capital Credit Allocation - Interim Chief Financial Officer Bob Farmer.

Farmer explained the two options avail-

able, allocation by revenue or by kilowatt hours. His recommendation was allocation by revenue in order to maintain consistency with past practices. Passed unanimously.

ReConnect Grant RUS Form 675

It was determined a formal vote would be appropriate. Passed unanimously.

Member Comments:

Representatives of the Citizens Climate Lobby (Kent Dolezal, Tony Hoag, and Mary Loncar) addressed the board to encourage DMEA to be more aggressive in promoting rooftop solar as a means to the goal of 100 percent renewable energy. Joseph McGill (on Zoom) is also a proponent of solar and renewable energy and made brief comments to the board. Hoag, president of the Citizens Climate Lobby, will meet CEO Johnston in the near future. Johnston, who would not commit to DMEA’s future plans, said, “But I can tell you where we are at today.”

Unclaimed Capitol Credit Fund Donation Request – Montrose County.

Making the request for \$50,000 were Montrose County Manager Jon Waschbusch, Montrose County Communications Director Katie Yergensen, and Scott Stryker, Stryker & Co.

Because of technical difficulties with the video, Waschbusch used PowerPoint for his presentation. Funds are requested for the remodel project of the 100-year-old Montrose County Courthouse. Waschbusch said, “The historical aspect of the building is that everything was produced locally [bricks, timber, sandstone, labor]. Totally local building, a local effort.”

Stryker, the contractor for the project, spoke about the circulation of money locally. He said, “It’s a \$ 13M contract. A small portion will go to Denver and Grand Junction, but 95 percent goes to the Delta/Montrose area.”

Waschbusch said, “We [Montrose County and DMEA] serve the same folks. We have the same service area.” Other entities partnering on this project with the county are DOLA (Department of Local Affairs) and the City of Montrose (waived fees). Waschbusch said, “This is a cash project. There is no debt.”

Executive Session

-Confidential Corporate, Litigation and Regulatory Matters

-Review Unclaimed Capitol Credit Fund Donation Request – Montrose County

-Board Policy Review:

Policy 108: Board Communications

Policy 109: Outside Engagement of Services

Policy 116: Member Concerns

Executive Session Summary –Amy Taylor, Executive Assistant.

In an email Taylor summarized the action taken by the board after exiting the executive session:

Unclaimed Capital Credit Fund Donation Request – Montrose County. The Board declined to act, tabling this matter to the June Regular Meeting.

Board Policy 108: Board Communications. Upon motion by Director Metheny, seconded by Director Sanchez, the Board unanimously approved the updates to Board Policy 108 with two amendments, adding back in some previous policy version verbiage.

Board Policy 109: Outside Engagement of Services. The Board declined to act, tabling this matter to the June Regular Meeting.

Board Policy 116: Member Concerns. Upon motion by Director Williams, seconded by Director Lockhart, the Board unanimously approved the updates to Board Policy 116 with one minor verbiage amendment.

There were no additional items from the Executive Session to address.

Having no further business to conduct, the Board adjourned its Regular Meeting at 7:08 p.m.

Annual Meeting

The DMEA Annual Meeting will take place on Thursday, June 6, 2024, 4:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. at Columbine Middle School, 610 York Street, Montrose

Background- *During meetings the board hears verbal summary reports of their monthly meetings and activities. Co-op membership has access to some of the written staff reports submitted for board approval, i.e., minutes of the previous meeting, CEO report, and action items (resolutions). Following the meeting members can access packet information through SmartHub, the online service which allows members to manage their*

PATTERSON TERM LIMITED AS DMEA FACES CONTESTED ELECTION From previous pg

DMEA accounts.

Director Contact Information

Dist. 1 - Bill Patterson, 970-209-1449,

bpatterson@montrose.net

Dist. 2 - Steve Metheny, 970-209-6172,

steve.metheny@dmea.com

Dist. 3 – Jacob Gray, 970-778-9512, jacob.gray@dmea.com

Dist. 4 – Emily Sanchez, 970-209-4582, emily.sanchez@dmea.com

Dist. 5 – Kevin Williams, 406-839-1603, kevin.williams@dmea.com

Dist. 6 - Damon Lockhart, 970-314-1071,

damon.lockhart@dmea.com

Dist. 7 – Enno Heuscher, 970-270-

6523, enno.heuscher@dmea.com

Dist. 8 - (North Region) Stacia Cannon,

920-207-8831, stacia.cannon@dmea.com

Dist. 9 - (South Region) Jock Fleming,

970-275-1808, jock.fleming@dmea.com

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DELTA COUNTY'S USEFUL PUBLIC SERVICE OFFICE INTRODUCES NEW COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITY BENEFITING SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

Special to the Mirror

DELTA COUNTY— Delta County's Useful Public Service Program (UPS), a division of the Delta County Criminal Justice Services Department, has developed an innovative opportunity for defendants sentenced to community service. This new initiative allows individuals to donate to the Delta County Summer School District Lunch Program to fulfill half their required service hours.

For many years, defendants have had the option to donate meat to the local jail as part of their community service obligations. This new program expands the scope of donation opportunities, providing a meaningful way for individuals to contribute to the well-being of the community's children. "We believe this is a positive step forward," said Useful Public Service Coordinator Greg Jackson. "By allowing donations to the summer school lunch program, we are giving people an opportunity to support a crucial aspect of our community – the health and nutrition of our students."

The Delta County School District Lunch Pro-

gram plays a vital role in ensuring that all students receive nutritious meals during the summer months. This is especially important for families in need, who may struggle to afford the additional cost of providing extra food at home to ensure their children have proper lunches during months when school is in recess. This new option not only diversifies the ways in which defendants can fulfill their community service requirements but also strengthens the support network for local schools. UPS is committed to creating programs that benefit both the community and those serving community service sentences.

This initiative aligns with our mission to foster community engagement and support essential services.

For more information about this new opportunity or to participate, please contact Useful Public Service at 970-874-2028.

About Useful Public Service (UPS)
Useful Public Service is dedicated to providing structured community service opportunities that benefit the community while



fulfilling court-ordered service requirements. Our programs aim to enhance community well-being and offer individuals a chance to contribute positively to society

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

A MODERN DAY AL CAPONE?

Commissioner Candidate Big Lou Stark has a lot to Explain!

By David White

I want to thank Montrose County District 1 Commissioner candidate Big Lou Stark for sitting down with the *Montrose Daily Press'* Katharhynn Heidelberg this past week to discuss the \$83,487.01 in Federal tax liens that he has accumulated over the course of almost 20 years of not paying his Federal taxes and why he did it and how he's rectifying what he owes the government and by extension, all of us who pay our taxes.

Mr. Stark stated that: **"he realizes it was wrong not to pay his taxes previously, as part of what he called a misguided protest."** **"Basically, what it was, was a childish mistake."** **"Stark said he was angry to see how the federal government spent money and, as a teenager, decided he would "protest" by not paying taxes."** **"Further, he realized the people on whose behalf he was trying to make a point were, in fact, paying their taxes. "I realized that by me not paying taxes, it was offensive."**

The MDP article went on to say that **"Stark worked with a tax settlement firm to address the issue and said he has been making payments under a plan, trimming the outstanding settlement balance to about \$9,600. He said that prior to announcing his run for office, he checked to see whether the lien notice had been removed and realized the firm hadn't correctly set an agreement that would remove the lien."** **"Stark provided a copy of Nov. 30, 2022, communication with the**

tax settlement firm, which stated the IRS agreed to settle for a total of \$10,106."(https://www.montrosepress.com/news/commissioner-candidate-stark-pledges-to-satisfy-tax-lien-calling-his-tax-protest-a-mistake/article_4a4ac854-1f7f-11ef-820f-bf71f956de4c.html)

While I can give Big Lou a pass on his misguided beliefs as a teenager, it's hard to accept and pass it off as just that when all of those around you are paying their share into adulthood even though they may hold the same anti-government beliefs as he does. As most law-abiding taxpayers know, tax evasion (which is what Big Lou was guilty of), used to be grounds for jail time. Today, you can hire someone to talk the IRS out of throwing you in the clink for a few years. Such was Big Lou's fortune. Al Capone didn't fare as well and wound up in prison for a few years.

So...Big Lou was able to get \$73,381.01 written off of his back taxes bill leaving him with \$10,106 to pay as of November 30, 2022 – 18 months ago. Simple math tells us that he has paid back \$506.00 of his \$10,106.00 balance or \$28.11 per month if his payments started on December 1, 2022. So, what of the amount written off? Most likely, it was added to the Federal deficit meaning that all of us will own a piece of that debt. Lucky us!

Fundamentally, if Big Lou wins the June 25, 2024, Republican Primary election, he'll be one of our County Commissioners (by default) charged with managing a

\$113,000,000++ budget; overseeing the County Manager and making HUGE decisions that will impact all of us. His paycheck will be \$101,000 a year and the \$9,600 still owed the IRS will be paid with your tax money. Pure and simple. For him, problem solved. For us? You know!

With a track record of not paying taxes, having his home foreclosed on after less than two years of ownership and a variety of other issues that prove him to be a less than adequate County Commissioner candidate or elected County Commissioner, it's time for Big Lou to bow out. But that won't happen when you have sitting County Commissioners Sue Hansen, Roger Rash and Keith Caddy endorsing and supporting Big Lou's candidacy along with other Republican elected officials. Why? Perhaps the rot within the GOP (yes, the Dems have plenty of rot too) has clouded the clear thinking that used to exist within the party. Vetting a candidate should be a requirement of party leadership. Nice guys like Big Lou are still nice guys. But that doesn't make them qualified to hold public office.

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.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

COLORADO OUTDOORS – URBAN RENEWAL OR A NEW “PIE IN THE SKY” BET? *More of Your Tax Dollars Going to the Elites*

By David White

As if the ongoing implosion of the Colorado Outdoors medical center wasn't enough to make our City leaders think twice about the direction their Montrose Urban Renewal Authority's (MURA) Colorado Outdoors project is heading, without telling the public the whole story, another \$709,645.88 of your tax dollars are being spent to further the goals of the private developers who are operating multiple “shell” companies in an ongoing effort to benefit themselves and their wealthy clients. More on this in a minute.

Most folks in the local business community have become painfully aware of the financial hardships that have come upon several local contractors and service providers as the result of the Ovation Healthcare decision to stop construction on the highly touted Colorado Outdoors Medical Center in the Colorado Outdoors development. Black Mountain Capital (a Nevada based corporation owned by the Drago family who partnered with the City Manager and City Council to create the Urban Renewal Authority) sold the land for the medical center to Colorado Outdoors Healthcare Property Co., LLC (a Delaware limited liability company) whose mailing address and corporate office are in Brentwood, Tennessee and in the same building as Quorum Health Corporation and their subsidiary company Ovation Healthcare.

The tangled web of layered corporations and responsible parties has brought together the perfect storm for our local contractors, sub-contractors and other companies who thought they were protected, by contract, from the risks associated with dealing with these entities. Unfortunately for them, they came to find out that regardless of the multiple number of liens filed against the general contractor and his liens against the corporation that contracted to build the medical facility, no

one is getting paid and more liens and most likely a formal foreclosure against the project will ensure that this project might be the first of more failures to come. An abandoned building near the gateway to Colorado Outdoors isn't the image MURA has sought to create, yet here it is for the world to see.

In the midst of this, we came to learn in April of this year about “Project Green.” This project is owned by Greenline Ventures of Denver, “an impact-focused investment management firm that specializes in providing creative and flexible capital to underserved businesses and communities that are often neglected by traditional capital providers.” (<https://www.greenlineventures.com/overview>). Greenline is set to build 96 1&2 bedroom apartments to be rented at “market rates” (code for \$1,500-\$2,000+ per month). They will also be constructing 10,000 square feet of retail and commercial space (plans call for a restaurant to use 50% or more of this space) with construction to start in early 2025. Greenline Ventures claims to have raised over \$1.8 billion of capital and has invested over \$2.5 billion in businesses and projects in “high distress census tracts throughout the country.” Given that Montrose must be, in their words, a “high distress” area, it's interesting that they are evidently not interested in low-income housing. What they are interested in though is DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) as a matter of making a political mantra their calling in life. The following is an excerpt from their corporate mission statement:

“At Greenline, we passionately believe that all people are created equal. Although this belief is foundational to our culture, we, as a society, have not practiced this ideal. Race, gender identity, socio-economic status, religious beliefs, immigration status, and many other fac-

tors define perceptions and determine the privilege of an individual. This asymmetry in our society has resulted in centuries of injustice and the dehumanization of people. Accordingly, Greenline unequivocally believes that Black Lives Matter, and we are deeply committed to supporting those peacefully protesting against violence, injustice, and racism as well as those working to create social equity and to uplift one another towards our highest principles.” “Greenline recognizes that the lasting, systemic change required to impact the deep-seated historical disparities in our country will require individuals and organizations to commit to urgently focus on these issues over an extended period of time. Even during challenging and turbulent times, we must stay on our mission to drive this change.” <https://www.greenlineventures.com/racial-equity-and-inclusion>

While I believe that “all lives matter,” I must ask our City leaders the question of what is it that this “corporation” is going to bring to our community that's a positive (beside their money)? BLM is well known for burning, looting, rioting and committing other acts of violence to incite civil unrest in order to extract “change” from weak politicians. They are proponents of defunding law enforcement. And yet, this corporation supports an organization such as BLM and its goals? Do we really need them in Montrose? Nope!

All of this brings me back to the \$709,645.88 that the City Manager and his staff convinced the City Council to approve in January of this year to construct a 275-foot extension of Tributary Street (which is the street in front of the new Fairfield Inn by Marriot and the defunct medical center in the Colorado Outdoors project going to the west into the land abutting the Uncompahgre River. Funding for the 275 feet of road comes from the

MORE OF YOUR TAX DOLLARS GOING TO THE ELITES From previous pg

the sewer fund (\$100,000) and the City's capital improvements budget (\$400,000 budgeted and a cost overrun of \$209,645.88 made up the balance of \$609,645.88).

The City Engineer, Scott Murphy, when asked about this expenditure by Councilmember Dave Frank in the City Council Work Session on January 16, 2024, stated that they needed to install 30" diameter sewer pipe, water lines, and other utilities even though there weren't any formal development proposals for the area at the end of the street extension. He stated that "more (development) is slated" but that "nothing is in focus at the point."

The reality is that Mr. Murphy most likely knew that a new development was, in fact, "in focus." A new development has been in the works for some time and, while not yet discussed and approved through MURA public meetings, on May 6, 2024, it was disclosed that a new luxury "garage condominium" community with a private, member's only club has begun to

be marketed as ParkHouse (homes) and The Reserve at ParkHouse (10,000+ square foot clubhouse with private Owner's Lounge and concierge services) under MLS No. 813241 (Multiple Listing Service used by realtors to list properties for sale). Pricing starts at \$420,000 per unit for a 1,200 square foot luxury garage/condominium. Need a place to park your Ferrari, Mercedes, Porsche, Lamborghini or other luxury car while you're jetting around the world? This is it! (for more information, check out their website and see what you're missing: <https://www.parkhouserreserve.com/>)

Is this what Montrose needs in the way of housing? I don't think so, but it is a free market UNLESS, the taxpayers are going to fund this latest development scheme in Colorado Outdoors and all indications are that this will be the case as evidenced by the expenditure of funds to bring high-capacity utility lines into this development via Tributary Street. Ever wonder why the 1% are the 1%? This is a case in point. Use

other people's money. Defer taxes until 2042 as is the case within the boundaries of the urban renewal area and you've got yourself a great investment property, but at a cost to the taxpayers that you won't have to pay as the rest of us will pick up the cost. The prices of these units will do nothing but inflate housing prices further putting the affordability of homes out of reach of most people.

Time will tell if this latest scheme is going to work. The City's too far into the Colorado Outdoors development to quit, so guard your wallets. They'll be coming for what little is left in them to keep the illusion of success alive.

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.

\$ 83,487.01

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.
Vote Scott Mijares for County Commissioner District 1
scottm4montrose.com

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS



All the generous Boot Stomp supporters,

I hope this message finds you well. We sincerely appreciate your ongoing support and commitment to the patients at the San Juan Cancer Center a department of Montrose Regional Health.

We wanted to inform you that, after careful consideration, and in light of our past success, we have made the decision not to hold The Boot Stomp event in 2024. This decision is based on our assessment of the current circumstances and our desire to ensure the most effective use of resources.

While we won't be hosting the event this year, we want to assure you that our dedication to supporting cancer patients remains unwavering. The funds raised in previous years have had a significant impact on the lives of those affected by cancer in our community and we are committed to continuing our mission.

We plan to resume our fundraising efforts in 2025 with renewed energy and enthusiasm. Your past generosity has played a crucial role in our achievements, and we look forward to your continued partnership in the coming years.

Thank you for your understanding and ongoing support. If you have any questions or would like more information, please feel free to reach out to us.

Warm regards,

Terri Leben, Event Chair & The San Juan Healthcare Foundation Board

terri@bootstompmontrose.com

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

FROM WHERE I SIT: A STARKER REPLY

Editor:

FROM WHERE I SIT S21: Opinion: Candidate for County Commissioner District 1 Campaign letter posted in the Mirror May 27, 2024. "A STARK CONTRAST" highlighted exactly what happens when a candidate talks a lot and PRESENTS "NOTHING" IN THE WAY OF SOLUTIONS. I will respond to his letter as follows:

Mr. Stark, or BIG LOU, announced his candidacy out of the blue ABOUT NINE MONTHS AGO. We all asked who this person is, where he came from and what makes him think that he is qualified for the position of a Commissioner of Montrose County?

To date what we have learned is that Mr. Stark has a record of tax liens and personal foreclosures that are not singular but numerous. In other words, not an accidental occurrence but apparently purposely undertaken. Try as he might to justify his conduct and his disregard for the same laws we all must follow, he has failed. I can only ask who in their right mind would hire someone off the street with Mr. Stark's credentials and put them in a position of trust and responsibility in a small business, no less a \$110,000,000 and 400 employee business.

Mr. BIG LOU STARK never thinks to mention the costs incurred by others attempting to collect from him, in other words, the financial difficulties his inconsiderate behavior may have cost others. In short, when one fails to pay his tax bill he fails to pay the cost of keeping him in our society. He takes all the services his

government provides but does not contribute to what those services cost his fellow citizens. Bums don't pay their taxes but they don't take from us either!

In his letter in the Mirror he speaks about those with political and personal agendas, yet fails to describe his motivations or agendas. Yet, Mr. Stark, most of us are recognized by what we have accomplished in our lifetimes and the people that we are associated with. What we stand for and who we stand with are who we are. Big Lou has been running for County Commissioner for nine months and yet refuses to identify his standing on issues that have been repeatedly presented to him for answers.

Had he ever paid attention to the conduct of BOCC meetings he would surely have found that few constituents voice their opinions there---the only folks that show up are those that want permits or exceptions to laws or regulations. No one else attends or participates because the significant citizenry of Montrose County refuse to get a three minute sound bite to present and then get dumped on by a disparaging commissioner or two that don't like the content of their comment. Having attended a few sessions to learn what the BOCC does and possibly having slept through at least one of them, it is no wonder he cannot identify issues he would like to correct or a possible solution or two.

Two significant issues the present BOCC refuses to address themselves to or to resolve is the abuse of the funds the PSST has generated and the institution of a

better retirement plan for the sworn officers of the Sheriff's Office. The STONE-WALLING of this issue (by candidates and the BOCC) is an unconscionable refusal of their duties to insure protection and safety of the community. If Mr. Stark was really interested in the people of Montrose he would have, instead of IGNORING the concerns of the public, put at least a little thought and study into a position about those two issues.

We are losing highly trained, experienced deputies because of our BOCC's inaction on this matter. Delay is a serious mistake by them and certainly the refusal to vocalize his position indicates to me that he knows and/or cares nothing about the issue or he cannot figure out a way to mealy-mouth his support of the STATUS QUO all of whom appear to think we do not need police in our county!

SCOTT MIJARES, Mr. Stark's opponent in this election, has been unequivocally clear in supporting workable solutions to these issues.

In closing Mr. Stark will protect you from everything except himself. How can a candidate for a Commissioner's position be so un-committed to all issues except his own election to a good paying job? Based on his own refusal to study the issues and the community regarding what he should stand for and get done over the next four years it should be obvious to us all that he will accomplish little if elected. Vote FOR Scott Mijares for District 1 Montrose County Commissioner.

Bill Bennett, Montrose

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

BIDEN'S MESSAGE IS THAT THE COUNTRY IS EVIL, RACIST, AND FULL OF HATRED, AND HE WILL FIX IT BY EMPTYING THE TREASURY TO BUY VOTES

Editor:

Wow, what a contrast. Donald Trump had a wildly successful rally in the South Bronx last week. The Bronx is the poorest borough in NYC and the South Bronx is the poorest of the poor. Most residents are black or brown, and they vote overwhelmingly Democrat. No Republican presidential candidate has gone anywhere near the area in decades. In one of the bluest counties in the country, Trump did not pander to the audience. He didn't point out or attack enemies. He didn't bemoan their fate. He didn't promise government welfare programs or emphasize anyone's victimhood. Not one line of pandering to anybody.

The contrast with President Biden couldn't be starker. In three speeches in the last week or so,

Biden talked about little other than racial grievance politics. In a speech at the Museum of African American History, Biden claimed America was beset by forces to deny freedom of opportunity for all Americans, and that there was an insidious movement led by his political opponent to hurt black people. In another disaster of a speech to the NAACP, the White House had to later make no less than ten corrections to it. In a self-centered commencement speech at Morehouse College riddled with some of his familiar falsehoods about himself, Biden painted a picture of a racist and evil America.

In another speech in Philadelphia, Biden literally bragged that he defiantly refuses to abide by rulings from the Supreme

Court in his efforts to pander to one of his special interest groups. How dare the highest court in the land object to his shifting billion of dollars of student debt from rich credentialed radicals to less affluent middle-class Americans?

Biden's message is that the country is evil, racist, and full of hatred and that he will fix it by emptying the Treasury to buy votes.

Trump, who had a very successful first term in improving the lives of all Americans, but especially minorities and the poor, acknowledges the very real economic, social, and foreign policies this country faces. Unlike Biden, his speeches show a man that loves his country and its people, and wants a better future for all. Biden wants to destroy it.

Voters have a choice between race-baiting and pandering Biden, or Trump's unbridled optimism for his country. Given Trump's reception in the South Bronx, it is apparent most Americans don't want the government handouts, and more federal government control of their lives. They don't want the illegal invasion. They want liberty, and the opportunities and prosperity that come with that freedom.

The Democrat party has moved so far left that they are using the playbooks of thugs like Stalin, Putin, and Daniel Ortega of Nicaragua. Nothing better illustrates the lawlessness of the Democrat party than the lawfare deployed against Trump. Biden and his handlers are shamelessly gleeful over the results of the Manhattan trial that they know was corrupt and unconstitutional from day one. Biden, the most

corrupt president to ever hold office, had the audacity to state that "no one is above the law." It is common knowledge and indisputable that Biden and his family are a criminal enterprise that has willingly sold out the U.S. for million dollar payments from foreign enemies. Yet, like Hillary and numerous other Democrats, Biden has never been held accountable for his crimes.

Each of the lawsuits filed against Trump began in the White House with the help of the DOJ, which is as crooked as Biden. The NY district attorney's office is a swamp of anti-American, anti-Constitution radicals, some of whom are funded by Soros, and are committed to destroying our nation as founded.

Trump's vision for America as one of unity, strength, and prosperity stands in their way, and Democrats know they can't beat him fairly. Again, what a contrast.

New York City is now an embarrassment to America – ruined by the elite radicals who run it. It is overrun by illegal migrants demanding everything and giving nothing, crime, violence, and now legal thuggery. Voting for Democrats is a vote for the total destruction of our legal system; rampant inflation; unaffordable energy prices; endless wars and possibly WWII; continued invasion by illegals; from around the world – many of them terrorists; more pampering of criminals; more censorship; illegal surveillance; unsustainable debt; and a ruined economy. And don't forget to hate your neighbor.

Ed Henrie, Montrose

**The Mirror:
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one newspaper.**



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Colorado-ology



CDOT MEETING FOCUSED ON FUTURE OF US50 BRIDGE From pg 1

“You’re going to hear some things about the state of Colorado doing their best,” Catlin said as he welcomed guests and opened the meeting. “To tell you the truth I’m proud of what they’re doing.”

Director Lew opened discussion among CDOT officials and engineers by talking about what the inspection process that found the issues is meant to do. “In terms of the process, the process is supposed to identify things that could be catastrophic.”

Engineer Rob Beck stated that “We brought sophisticated methods out to essentially look into the steel. The anomalies are in the welds; that you cannot see with the naked eye.”

Lew said that “The schedule that we’ve laid out is aggressive. If things go right with the weather and the team is able to continue to get materials; we’re optimistic that this schedule is achievable. We just met with the federal team in (Blue Canyon) and their goal is to get done by July 4th as well.”

The Blue Creek Canyon construction has been ongoing for several years now and will finish up this spring, which means that eastbound travelers on Highway 50 may face two separate traffic disruptions for the next month or so.

Beck explained an important point about the issues on the bridge. “Some of these things; are critical, and others aren’t as urgent.”

The span of time from about June 7 to 13 will be occupied with repairing critical structural issues on the bridge, and through the summer, the plan is to repair many other minor, non-critical issues found, while allowing the passage of traffic. “We would sequence the repairs to hopefully get more and more traffic, more weight,” Lew said. “That sequence would get the bridge fixed by the end of the (summer) season.”

Regional Director Smith told the audience that “The steel is scheduled to start arriving on June 5th. Once we can get steel on site, then we start performing critical repairs.” He also stated, “It’s a 24/7 operation we’re gearing up for right now.”

After critical repairs, the hope of course is to open the bridge to limited traffic. One thing Smith said the Department is doing to help with this is stripping the asphalt

off the deck of the bridge, to reduce weight.

Even once weight load is reduced and traffic is allowed, expectations shouldn’t be full traffic. “On July 4th, we don’t know how long openings will be,” Smith said. “We need to be off of this structure before winter.”

After discussion and a presentation on areas of the bridge affected by anomalies, the floor was opened to questions.

One person asked if other bridges were identified with the same issue. Jason Smith said that the steel used for the Middle Bridge, T1 steel, was used in the Lake Fork bridge as well. Initial inspection was already done there, but no critical issues were found, so inspections moved to the Middle Bridge.

Eventually though, once issues with the Middle Bridge are ironed out, scanning will be done to see if the one on the Lake Fork of the Gunnison River has similar minor issues.

Another question brought up weight restrictions as far as travel across the bridge this summer. Smith answered that there would be, but that it was yet to be determined. Continuing, he dove into length and width as well.

“We’re not sure if it’ll be limited on the length necessarily. We do have to have a width restriction.”

The *Mirror* asked what Federal Assistance looked like on the project, and how much or how little funds from Washington were helping.

Director Lew’s answer didn’t paint the prettiest picture but did tell of the determination of the State of Colorado to get it done anyway.

“We’re not waiting for Federal dollars. When we applied for the funding, we were denied. The federal programs that are available for emergencies, are designed for acts of God.” She said there was a range of events that could trigger distribution of funds, but that bridge inspections did not fall under those criteria. Some funds at the moment are coming from an emergency grant from the Colorado Transportation Commission.

Lew went on to explain that state dollars would suffice, but that the hope is that future federal programs can assist.



Montrose resident and BOCC District 1 Candidate Scott Mijares speaks during the CDOT meeting. Photo by Gunnison Clamp.

“Fortunately, there are several sources of state funding. But we will also continue to pursue other sources of federal funds. There are some grant programs that we’ve applied for; that open in July and August. We’ll be putting in applications for large amounts of federal funding.”

“Longer-term, we’ve raised this question to the feds on why this kind of issue doesn’t trigger the emergency funding. We may ask our delegation to raise that question to Congress,” Director Lew said.

Other questions followed, and the attendees from the public displayed some frustrations with the project, such as issues in public communications and the uncertainty the project brought.

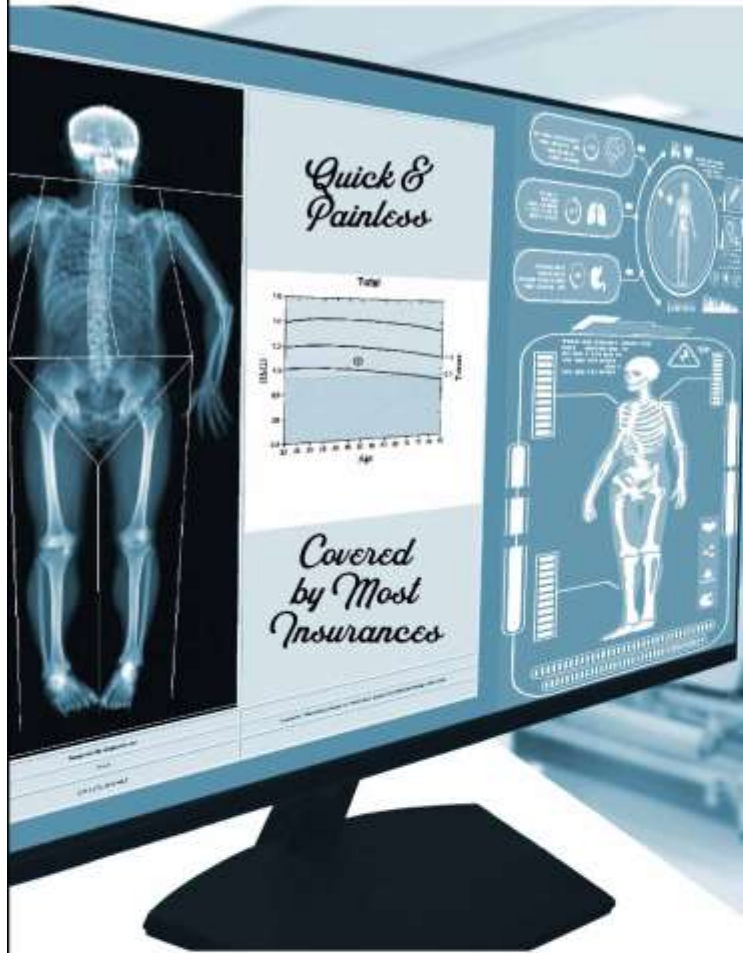
However, the good that has come of the issue was highlighted too.

County Commissioner Sue Hansen said that as a result of the challenges faced by local ranchers, the County now had a “comprehensive producer list” for agricultural producers in the area, and the plan is to continue to expand and improve that further.

So far, weather has remained favorable for repairs, as crews continue to work toward the July 4th traffic goal.

For further updates, visit [codot.gov/news/2024/us-50-bridge-closure](https://www.codot.gov/news/2024/us-50-bridge-closure), or call the Region 3 office at 970-243-2368.

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What is being done to eliminate waste, fraud, and abuse from our county budget?

Why are sitting county commissioners supporting one candidate over another?

Why was the vote to become a non-sanctuary county not unanimous?

Why is a sitting county commissioner campaigning for and helping to raise campaign funds for my opponent?



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

ONE DELTA COUNTY ANNOUNCES WESTERN SKYWAYS MOVE TO DELTA

Special to the Mirror

DELTA-One Delta County is excited to announce the purchase by Western Skyways of a commercial facility located at 18436 F Road, Delta, CO.

The 6.25-acre heavy-duty industrial facility, with a building that spans 20,245 square feet and an additional 8,500 square foot concrete pad which will allow for future expansion, marks a significant milestone for the company.

The decision to relocate from Montrose to Delta was driven by a strategic plan to reduce overhead expenses and leverage the labor pool in surrounding areas such as the Surface Creek valley, the North Fork valley and Mesa County. Delta's convenient location between Montrose and Grand Junction makes it an ideal choice for this expansion.

"Our rent in Montrose was the second largest expense for the company," said Eric Barker, President of Western Skyways.

"We have been considering Delta for several years due to its favorable environment for growth and expansion and its strategic geographic location for employee recruitment. Owning our own building in Delta will decrease our overhead costs and enable us to attract skilled labor from

a wider region."

Western Skyways has a long-standing tradition of employee loyalty and satisfaction. The company's workforce of 55 employees boasts an average tenure of 17 years, with some members having dedicated as long as 30 years to the company. The company was purchased in January, 2019 by four employees who form the management team, Eric Barker, Don McArthur, Ryan Dickerson and Tony Borgia, all of whom have been with the company for over 20 years.

"Our employees are the backbone of our success," Barker emphasized. "We believe in investing in their best interests because when we support them, they, in turn, support us. We provide good pay and high-quality career paths within the company."

Western Skyways reports sales increases of 30% to 40% post-COVID, with volumes continuing to remain strong. The company offers highly skilled positions and provides comprehensive in-house training, benefits and merit-based bonuses based on company performance. Additionally, Western Skyways supports employees in obtaining necessary licenses by covering license and training expenses.

Greg Pope, Executive Director of One Del-

ta County, commented on the relocation: "We have been in contact with Western Skyways for a couple of years. When the property on F Road became available, it presented an excellent opportunity for the company to make the move. They are exactly the kind of company we are targeting and we couldn't be more thrilled to welcome Western Skyways to Delta County."

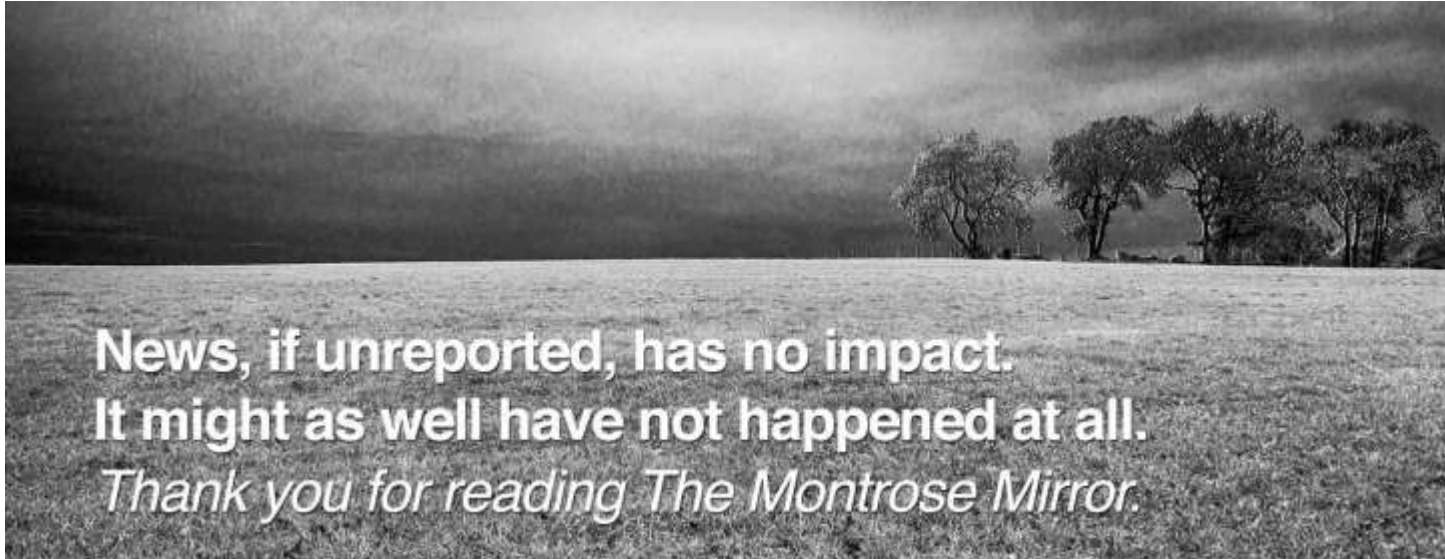
About Western Skyways

Western Skyways was originally founded in the mid-1940's in Troutdale, Oregon. It moved to Montrose in 1994 and is a leader in aviation services. The company prides itself on its skilled workforce, quality of work, and commitment to customer service and satisfaction. With the transition to its new facility in Delta, Western Skyways will continue to set the standard in the aviation industry.

About One Delta County: An Economic Alliance

One Delta County is dedicated to promote, strengthen, and enhance Delta County's economic base and to increase the standard of living for all residents through retention, expansion, attraction and development of new business and industry that pays a livable wage.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CATLIN'S COLORADO WATER CONSERVATION BOARD PROJECTS BILL SIGNED INTO LAW

Special to the Mirror

SILVERTHORNE-The Colorado Water Conservation Board Projects was signed into law by Governor Jared Polis, On Wednesday, May 29, 2024. This legislation is the main funding mechanism for water projects in the state of Colorado. The bill appropriates \$314 million to water projects via the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) or division of water resources in the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). A few of the projects listed in the bill include: \$2 million for the turf replacement fund and \$23 million to the water plan implementation cash fund. Also appropriated, \$20 million for the purchase and sale agreement between the Colorado River Water Conservation District (Colorado River District) and the Public Service Company of Colorado for the

purchase of the water rights associated with the Shoshone Power Plant. Colorado Governor Jared Polis signed the bipartisan bill in Silverthorne.

The bill received 96% approval in passing through the legislature. The prime sponsors of the bill were the Chair and Vice-Chair of House Agriculture, Water, & Natural Resources Committee, Rep. Karen McCormick (D-HD11) of Boulder County and Rep. Marc Catlin (R-HD58) of Montrose County, respectively. In the Senate, the Agriculture & Natural Resources Chair Dylan Roberts (D-SD8) of Eagle and Ranking Member Cleave Simpson (R-SD6) of Alamosa County were the prime sponsors. Representative Catlin says, "Every iteration of this legislation funds a lot of the needed water projects in the state, but this year's bill appropriated \$20 million to

the Shoshone Power Plant project. The Shoshone is one of, if not, the most important projects in water during my lifetime.

The fund-raising effort of the over 20 different entities on the Western Slope, along with the state's contribution, puts the project in a position to ask our federal partners to commit to preserving the way of life on the Western Slope." Colorado State Representative Marc Catlin represents the eight counties of Dolores, Delta, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montezuma, Montrose, Ouray, and San Miguel. Representative Catlin is the Vice Chair of Agriculture, Water, & Natural Resources Committee, is a member of the Capital Development Committee, and is Ranking member of the Transportation, Housing & Local Government Committee.

GOVERNOR POLIS SIGNS MARC CATLIN'S UNANIMOUS GRAYWATER USE BILL

Special to the Mirror

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS-On Wednesday, May 29, 2024, Colorado Governor Jared Polis signed the bi-partisan Measure to Incentivize Graywater Use bill (HB24-1362) into law. This law authorizes the installation of graywater treatment works in new construction projects.

Graywater systems recycle in-home water from laundry, shower, bath, or sinks. Though below drinkable standards, this graywater can be reused for toilets and watering lawns. The bill passed the legislature with unanimous approval. The bill was signed into law at Colorado Mountain

College in Steamboat Springs. The prime sponsors in the house are Representative Marc Catlin (R-HD58) of Montrose County, and Meghan Lukens (D-HD26) of Routt County.

The prime sponsors in the senate are Senator Dylan Roberts (D-SD8) of Eagle County and Senator Cleave Simpson (R-SD6) of Alamosa County. Representative Catlin says, "Newer and newer technologies are becoming available to the market. The state of Colorado needs to look at these technologies to help people conserve water in their daily lives.

People in Colorado are cognizant of the

realities of water in the west and they want to do their part. It is time that the state of Colorado steps up to allow and even incentive our residents to help conserve water."

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

The Mirror:
Coverage with vision for the future.



REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

GOVERNOR POLIS SIGNS MARC CATLIN'S UNANIMOUS WATER CONSERVATION MEASURE BILL

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS-On Wednesday, May 29, 2024, Colorado Governor Jared Polis signed the bi-partisan Water Conservation Measures bill (SB24-197) into law. The law implements the recommendations proposed by the Colorado River Drought Task Force. The Colorado River Drought Task Force was created by SB23-295, which directed the task force to recommend state legislation and programs to address drought in the Colorado River Basin through water conservation. SB24-197 requires the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) to establish agricultural water protection programs in each water division. The law also changes conditional water rights consideration of abandonment if the water rights may be used for future energy generation tech-

nologies. The bill passed the legislature with unanimous approval. The bill was signed into law at Colorado Mountain College in Steamboat Springs. The prime sponsors of SB24-197 are the same prime sponsors of the original Colorado River Drought Task Force bill.

The prime sponsors in the house are Representative Marc Catlin (R-HD58) of Montrose County, and the Colorado Speaker of the House, Julie McCluskie (D-HD13) of Summit County.

The prime sponsors in the senate are Senator Dylan Roberts (D-SD8) of Eagle County and Senator Perry Will (R-SD5) of Garfield County. Representative Catlin says, "The Colorado River Drought Task Force was put together, so the state of Colorado continues to look forward on ways to con-

serve water and to meet the goals of the Colorado Water Plan. For a bill like this to go through the state legislature, unanimously, shows that state entities are moving in the same direction. This is a critical time in water for the state of Colorado and the west, as whole, we need to continue to ensure that we make the right decisions for our future."

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

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All donations will go towards medical expenses for the family and a portion will go to EBeauty Community, an organization that provides free wigs to women during their cancer journey.

Cash donations are accepted and tax-deductible donations may be made via check to OCPAG (Ouray County Performing Arts Guild) with a memo noting the donation purpose.



REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

16TH ANNUAL RIDGWAY RIVERFEST SET FOR SATURDAY, JUNE 29

Special to the Mirror

RIDGWAY-16th annual Ridgway RiverFest, Saturday, June 29, Noon to 5 p.m., Rollans Park, Ridgway: The Ridgway RiverFest is a family-friendly celebration of the Uncompahgre River, our watershed and river recreation with all-age river races includ-

ing the Junk of the Unc homemade watercraft competition, live music by The Cross-Eyed Possum, local food and drink, kids' activities, watershed education, and cultural programs. NEW in 2024: 11am early silent auction sales and parking with free shuttles from Ouray County 4H Event Cen-

ter. The event benefits the Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership, a Ouray County nonprofit watershed group dedicated to helping protect the economic, natural, and scenic values of the Upper Uncompahgre River Watershed. Info: <https://ridgwayriverfest.org/>

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

GMUG RECREATION SITE PROSPECTUS COMPLETED

Special to the Mirror

DELTA- The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests have announced the completion of the recreation site prospectus.

The GMUG has awarded the forest-wide concession permit to Recreation Resource Management of America (RRM of A). RRM of A has been a valued partner for many years and will continue to serve in this capacity for the next five years.

The concession permit covers 61 developed recreation sites, which include campgrounds, day-use areas, rental cabins and an RV dump station. This year, 16 new sites have been added to the permit to improve facility maintenance, enhance

services and provide better visitor experiences. RRM of A will be responsible for collecting fees for all sites covered by the permit, although this is not new for most sites.

Apart from offering operation and maintenance services, RRM of A will also reinvest a portion of all collected fees into the recreation sites.

“We’re excited to continue our partnership with RRM of A,” said Jim Cuthbertson, GMUG Public Services Staff Officer.

“The new and expanded concession permit will allow us to keep more of our recreation sites operational so we can provide the safe, enjoyable recreation opportunities that our visitors desire.”

A complete list of the recreation sites included in the permit and the 2024 fee schedules can be found online: https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd1177092.pdf. RRM of A will assume the operation of most sites as they open for the 2024 season.

A few sites will be deferred until pending improvements are completed.

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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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

CENTENNIAL MIDDLE SCHOOL 2ND SEMESTER HONOR ROLL 2023-2024

8th grade students with a GPA of 4.0

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All other 8th grade students with a GPA of 3.99-3.50

Oliver Algacs, Elliot Andress, Maxx Bahn-Ricker, Lynette Balderrama, Aubrey Blacker, Wyatt Campbell, Cyan Casselberry, Emma Chavez, Saray Jimenez, Kylee Jones, Reo Kato, Laila Keep, Caroline Latham, Brooklyn Lee, Lucy Maxwell, Lily Mengenhause, Olivia Miller, Aaron Mundell, Adriana Munshaw, Nicasio Ortega, Annabelle Otto, Lily Padilla, Jadyn Robertson, Summer Senior, Colton Sheridan, Curtis Sherwood, Shaun Smith, Ryan Soucy, Sariana Wagner, Abram Walker, Elizabeth Whitcomb

7th grade students with a GPA of 4.0

Harlie Archuleta, Luella Boisen, Arianna Desgrange, Monarch Faragher, June Freese, Juliette Giroir, Ava Godbe, Carson Hatch, Zachary Knight, Kathryn Leu, Naomi Lokey, Blake McKenna, Amelia Miller, Corbin Miller, Benjamin Omvig, Ines Ortega-Leon, Sophia Parkison, Jessica Pimentel, Bentley Schiller, Avery Thompson, Elaina Williams

All other 7th grade students with a GPA of 3.99 – 3.50

Jayden Anderson, Aspen Alberts, Shayne Clarisse Amurao, Angelina Baughman, Sabra Busby, Morgan Carls, Bentley Carr, Colton Custer, Lily Davis, Liam Dillon, Aritzel Erives – Cervantes, Cali Espinoza, Genevieve Evans, Danika Gallegos, Fayanna Garcia, Cara Good, Abigail Gordon, Joseph Graff, Scarlett Hodgman, Allison Jaime-Mayorga, Landree Johnson, Beckham Maher, Jaime Maldonado-Flores, Erik Maldonado-Flores, Alexia Moore, Jonathan Nieto-Villagomez, Ricky Pacheco, Dakota Romero, Angelo Rufolo, Kaiden Skowronek, Kimberly Tagle – Holguin, Yaritza Tejada, Orion Tyler, Giselle Valdez-Chavez, Elayna Valenzuela, Seth VanDerwalker, Peyton Yehling

6th grad students with a GPA of 4.0

Jaxson Benner, Noa Brown, Tienlada Burrows, Ellen Curtis, Madison Dean, Nadira Dorzweiler, Emily Gomez, Kennedy Harris, Abel Heckman, Natalee Kelln, Emma Kuehn, Hattie Maher, Kara-leigh Nielsen, Tess Phillips, Trinity Sweetin, Braden Tobler, Bryce Velasquez

All other 6th grade students with a GPA of 3.99 to 3.50

Charlie Alvarez, Layla Anderson, David Brown, Cordelia Bryan, Emmett Byrnes, Zurich Casselberry, Anastazia Chavez, Jesus Contreras- Padilla, Cruz Delgado, Dannaly Gonzalez, Jesus Gonzalez-Muniz, Chloe Heckmaster, Maya Hernandez-Lopez, Sophia Hindman, Evan Jakeman, Kara Jakino, Bridger Jaramillo, Christopher Jimenez, Luke Judkins, Brett Lee, Elizabeth Lyon, Kaylie Metcalfe, Paiten Ostaszewski, Desmond Otto, Lizary Rosario-Nieves, Belinda Saldana-Morales, Koen Scheidegger, Aliece Schieldt, Cole Taylor, Tanner Thiel, Krew Tobler, Lucia Tollini, Easton Tomlinson, Rebekah Whitcomb

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DELTA POLICE DEPARTMENT RECOGNIZED FOR EXCELLENCE IN POLICY MANAGEMENT AND TRAINING

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The Delta Police Department announced today that it has been recognized for excellence in policy management and training by Lexipol, the nation's leading provider of policy, training and wellness support for first responders and public servants. This is the second consecutive year Delta Police Department has been recognized.

The Lexipol Connect program tracks Delta Police Department's performance on five

metrics proven to measure success in policy management. Delta Police Department achieved Gold, the highest level of recognition offered, for consistent and effective policy dissemination to personnel, timely policy updates as laws change, and officer training on policies.

"Policies are the foundation of law enforcement operations; having and regularly training on good policies are essential in our service to the community. We are proud to be recognized by Lexipol Connect

for our dedication to continuous improvement, professionalism and safety," says Lucas Fedler, Chief of Police for Delta Police Department.

Delta Police Department's excellence in policy and policy training enhances community safety by ensuring consistent, effective response based on state and federal law and nationally recognized best practices.

For more information, visit www.lexipol.com.

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

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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

DEER LAKES CAMPGROUND CLOSES TEMPORARILY FOR RECONSTRUCTION

Special to the Mirror

GUNNISON— The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests’ Gunnison Ranger District, in partnership with the National Forest Foundation (NFF), announces the continuation of the campground rehabilitation project at the Deer Lakes Campground and day-use area. The project is funded by the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA). The following areas will temporarily be closed during reconstruction.

The purpose of the closure is to protect public safety during the reconstruction activity. The closure area encompasses the Deer Lakes Campground and day-use area, including National Forest System Road #788.1E and National Forest System Trail #458.0A–Deer Lakes Cutoff trail.

The site reconstruction project will address deferred maintenance by removing and replacing three vault toilets.

Campsites will be upgraded with new fire rings, tables, and tent pads, as well as new kiosks, signage and barrier rocks. The road and campground spurs will be improved with new aggregate and drainage, and foot traffic areas will be enhanced with crusher fines for walkways, stone retaining walls and steps as needed. The day-use area will be furnished with a new kiosk, tables and barrier rocks, and the parking area will be expanded for additional parking, along with new signage and wheel stops. Additionally, an accessible fishing area will be created with easy access from the newly constructed ADA parking and day-use lot.

"The ongoing reconstruction of the Deer Lakes Campground is intended to tackle the deferred maintenance issues on the GMUG," said Dayle Funka, Gunnison District Ranger. "Thanks to the funds awarded through GAOA, this crucial project will

improve the recreational experience for visitors and upgrade outdated facilities." The GAOA was enacted in 2020 and is the single largest investment in public lands in U.S. history. GAOA funding provides federal land management agencies with critical resources to address deferred maintenance and improve infrastructure on our public lands.

For more information on GAOA funded projects in the Rocky Mountain region, visit [here](#).

For questions or additional information, contact the Gunnison Ranger District at (970) 641-0471. For detailed information and a map of the closure, visit [here](#).

For information on current fire restrictions, conditions and recreation opportunities, visit the forest website or www.westslopefireinformation.com. Connect with us or follow us on social media ([Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)).



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COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

DAVID DAN DUNN

December 27, 1946 — May 2, 2024



DAVID DAN DUNN Ridgway, Colorado. David (Dave) was born in Gunnison County hospital on December 27, 1946 to William Henry and Martha A Hutchison Dunn and died May 2, 2024 of a cerebral hemorrhage. He was 77 years old.

Growing up on a ranch in Powderhorn he was responsible for milking five cows before school and after school. In the summertime he helped hay on the family ranch, and they used teams of horses to run the equipment. He loved ranch life and when the ranch sold, he was very sad. In later years he visited the ranch often with his family.

After graduating from Gunnison County High school in 1965 he joined the US Navy. He would go three times on an aircraft carrier to Vietnam. After those three tours he spent one year in country in Da Nang, Vietnam. Dave spent 11 years in the Navy. He was an aviation ordnance.

In 1972 Dave married Carol Gray of Gunnison. On August 19, 2024, they would have celebrated 52 years of marriage.

After getting out of the Navy he worked on various ranches in Gunnison, Woody Creek and Hotchkiss. He also did some custom haying. Dave then worked for CDOT in Ouray County as a heavy equipment operator for 20 years. He retired from CDOT after 20 years. He continued helping hay on ranches in the Ridgway area. He was a resident of Ridgway for 41 years.

David is survived by his wife Carol of the family home. He is also survived by sons Bryce Dunn (Angelena) of Chesapeake, Virginia, Brandon Dunn (Jenny) Coaldale, Colorado. Also 4 grandchildren Colten Dunn, Justin Dunn, Kinsley Dunn, and Sophia Dunn as well as numerous nieces and nephews. He also has 2 sisters Virginia Pearl of Medford, Oregon and Dorothy Wieben of Silt, Colorado. He was preceded in death by his parents, a sister who died at age 12, and brothers Frank Dunn, and William (Bill) Dunn.

In lieu of flowers please make donations to Welcome Home Alliance for Veterans, 4 Hillcrest Plaza Way, Montrose, Colorado 81401.

Now more than ever...

Thank you for reading

THE MONTROSE MIRROR

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

NORMAN SWAIN BROOKS *January 15, 1933- May 27, 2024*



NORMAN SWAIN BROOKS was born on January 15, 1933 to Swain and Bernice Brooks in Montrose, Colorado. He passed away peacefully on May 27, 2024 at Montrose Regional Health surrounded in love by his wife and children.

Norman worked on the family farm while growing up, graduating from Montrose High School on May 24, 1950. He enlisted in the Navy in 1953 during the Korean War and proudly served for 4 years as an Aircraft Engine Mechanic. He was in charge of getting the planes up the ship elevator and prepared for takeoff. He was awarded the Good Conduct Medal and the National Defense Medal.

In December of 1953, he gave a good Navy buddy a ride home from Tennessee to Twin Falls, Idaho for his wedding, where he met the love of his life Dena Arlene Brooks, a cousin of the bride. Norman and Dena married on December 26, 1954 in Twin Falls, Idaho. They would have celebrated 70 years of marriage this December.

While stationed in San Diego, California,

Norman took Jesus as his Savior and was baptized on April 3, 1955.

He attended Del Mar College while in the military, and then University of Colorado until he was called home to manage the family farm in 1958.

They were blessed by the births of Kevin Swain on May 10, 1958, David Lee on April 22, 1959, Michele Jolene on April 13, 1969 and Ginger Leann on April 28, 1971.

Norman farmed most of his life, purchasing his own farm in Shavano Valley in 1968. Even after retirement he had a hay field that he worked. In 1969 he delved into the insurance world part time. He later merged his company with another which then grew into the largest Montrose firm, The Insurance Center of Montrose. After retiring from there in 1988, he began land development projects. In 2011 he went to work as a salesman for his son Kevin at Big O Tires.

Norman has been a member of the Grange since 1959 and was elected to several state officer positions.

He served on the Montrose Planning Commission for 17 years, on Tri-County water Board since 1988 and on the Project 7 Board. He was a precinct committeeman of the Republican party and a past county chairman.

He served as president of the Montrose Sports Booster Club, a past officer of the Western Colorado Independent Insurance Agents. He was a Rotarian and a member of the Elks for 61 years.

He was 4-H Leader, a driving force of the best of the West Food Fest Events, member of the Montrose United Methodist Church, Potato Growers Association, Chamber of Commerce, Montrose Red Coats, Consumers Coop, and Soil Conservation District. He was a volunteer driver for the Disabled American Veterans in his

80's, sometimes making two trips to Gunnison per day to get people to their doctor appointments.

He beat Lymphoma Cancer in 2013, and a serious lung infection in 2014. He was valiantly fighting skin cancer. In the end it was his heart that was exhausted, most likely from loving everyone he knew so much.

He was preceded in death by both of his parents, an infant brother Kent, his sister Joyce Herbst, and his sister Viola Jutten, his brothers in law Bobby Ford, Woody Herbst, and Buster Jutten.

Surviving family members include his loving wife of almost 70 years, Dena, children Kevin (Valerie) Brooks of Grand Junction, David (Carol) Brooks of Missouri, Michele Brooks of Montrose, and Ginger (Troy) Holloway of Arkansas. Grandsons Swain, Tommy (Minnie), Michael (Kelsey), Alec (Emily) and Granddaughters Whitney (Ryan), Chantel (Martin), Amber (Nick), Kaitlyn, and Lizzy. Great grandchildren Tatyanna, Nayeli, Hadley, Isaac, Ryker, Henry, Piper, Lucy, and Mackenzie.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Welcome Home Alliance for Veterans, 4 Hillcrest Plaza Way, Montrose, Co 81401 to support the Montrose Veterans Memorial project.

Service Information

Saturday June 8th

Graveside Service with Military Honors at Grand View Cemetery at 9:30 am, everyone is invited

Celebration of Life at Montrose United Methodist Church, 19 S Park, Montrose at 11 am

Reception at Montrose United Methodist Church following the service.

You are invited to wear red, white and/or blue to honor his service in the Navy that he was so proud of.

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

RAMONA PAULINE GOOD

September 27, 1929 — September 6, 2023



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

A celebration of life for Ramona P Good, will be held on Thursday, June 13, 2024, at 11 am at the Montrose Christian Church, 2351 Sunnyside Road, Montrose, CO 81401.

A luncheon will follow.

Ramona's children will participate in a musical tribute to honor Ramona's love and encouragement of music. A trio comprised of Janice at the piano, Carol on the bassoon and Paul, on the euphonium will present favorite hymns.

Family and friends are invited to join in to remember a remarkable woman who devoted herself to her family and those around her in gentle caregiving.

Ramona Pauline Larabee was born in Eastland, TX on September 27, 1929, the only child of Dennis T and Irene (Patterson) Larabee. She was raised in Anderson, IN. Both parents attended Anderson College, the headquarters for the Church of God. It was there that Ramona

met Phil Good, a Church of God man from Merino, CO. The couple married in September of 1949 and moved to Greeley, CO where Phil completed his teaching degree in science. In the fall of 1954, Phil applied for a teaching position at Montrose High School, where he taught for the next 36 years.

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

Music played a special role in Ramona's life and as a child, she played the accordion for solos and in a little band that performed for PTA's and other community events. She was a contributor to the local Valley Symphony Orchestra where her children, Paul, and Carol, played in the orchestra. Carol continues to be an active bassoonist with the symphony. Paul enjoys playing his euphonium with groups in Ohio, where he currently lives. Daughter, Janice, is a music teacher where she lives near Melbourne, Australia.

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

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

Over the years, Ramona taught Sunday School, VBS and participated in prayer chains and helped with funeral dinners. Her other ministry was to the elderly. She

was a caregiver and was pleased that her children had followed her example by serving others.

Ramona was a 24/7 nurse to Phil for 4 ½ years after his cancer diagnosis. Following his death, she moved her mother to Montrose from Florida and cared for her until her death, 10 years later at age 98. Ramona was a Montrose County resident for 69 years.

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

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

A family graveside service will precede the celebration of life at the Grandview Cemetery, assisted by Crippin Funeral Home.



COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

CLIFFORD EUGENE KASTENDIECK *November 20, 1925 — May 25, 2024*



CLIFFORD EUGENE KASTENDIECK, 98, of Montrose, Colorado, passed away May 25, 2024.

Clifford was born on November 20, 1925,

to August B. and Imo Ora (Osborn) Kastendieck, in Canon City, Colorado. He spent his childhood in Westcliff, Colorado, before moving to Ridgway, Colorado when he was a young man. He worked with his father on the family farm and briefly worked for the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad.

Clifford moved to Montrose, Colorado, in his early twenties, where he met the love of his life, Katherine R. McCunniff. They married on July 24, 1948, made their home in Montrose, and had three children, Darrell, Karen, and Gary. They celebrated 68 years of marriage before Kay passed away in 2016.

Clifford and Kay were lifelong members of the Church of the Nazarene, where they were very active and served in various capacities.

Clifford was employed for 42 years in the automotive industry. He was a parts man for Hartman Brothers for 18 years, then

worked for Carrington, Hahn, Turner Davis and Turner Chevrolet Dealerships as the parts department manager until his retirement from Turner. Clifford and Kay spent their retirement camping and fishing. They also enjoyed making crafts for craft shows. Clifford was preceded in death by his parents, infant son Melvin, stepmother Mary (Anderson) Kastendieck, wife Katherine, brother Carl (Margaret) Kastendieck and sister Imogene (Bud) McCreery.

Clifford is survived by children Darrell (Mary) Kastendieck, Karen (Robert) Flowers, Gary Kastendieck, 12 Grandchildren, 28 Great-Grandchildren and sisters Joan Kastendieck of Montrose and Elaine (Myles) Brownlow of Scottsbluff, Nebraska. Services will be at the Montrose Church of the Nazarene on June 7, 2024, at 10am. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the Montrose Nazarene Church for the 3 B Community Fund.



ISSUE 471 June 3, 2024

ART & SOL

THE BAREFOOT LAUREATE: THE ELUSIVE ART OF PRAISE, GRACE AND PAYING ATTENTION

By Wendy Videlock

For today's column I thought I would share a few poems by Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer, who lives in Placerville, right here in Western Colorado.

When I first met Rosemerry some 25 years ago, little did I know she would become, one of my closest friends and a source of inspiration and revelation.

Because I was older and more seasoned in the publishing world, she thought of me as her teacher. It's funny how all these years later, those tables have turned and I think of her as my teacher.

I recall early on discovering that this young woman's remarkable strength as a poet and as a person seemed to lie in her vulnerability.

This seemed the ultimate paradox to me, having been raised to believe that strength was steely, impenetrable, deliberately defensive, intent on certainty, volume, bravado and generally accompanied by a stiff upper lip.

Rosemerry has been a real lesson in unlearning those particular cultural conditionings. I used to think she possessed a unique willingness to remain entirely receptive to experience, sensation and feeling. But over time I've come to see these qualities aren't things Rosemerry possesses, but are rather seeds she plants in the soil, tends to with care, and cultivates in earnest.

It is the ongoing nature of learning, of seeking wisdom, of praising the simplicities and complexities of ordinary life that she so beautifully embodies. She swears by the practice of writing a poem a day in order to deepen her mindfulness practice.

Here she is with her poem, *There is an Old Woman Inside Me*:

*There is an old woman inside me
with long gray hair and fuzzy green eyes.
She is soft in the way stones are soft
when tumbled by waves for a hundred years.*

*She is still as I run from room to room
content to listen to my bluster,
to watch the day unfold.
Her smile is gentle as dawn light
as she hums a wordless tune.
And as I make calls and check schedules,
she curls in the lap of my busyness
like an ash-colored cat,
her body warm and relaxed.
I love the old woman inside me,
gnarled as the branches of an old peach tree.
She is no stranger to how the world changes.
Every day I practice to be more like her,
slow as honey, quiet as moonlight,
familiar as the woman in the mirror.*

Rosemerry's sensibility reminds us how remaining open to the ordinary moments of our lives is one of the greatest gift we give ourselves. Here she is noticing one such moment:

Today's Sermon

*was a single drop
of melted snow
that clung to the tip
of a tight red bud
at the end
of a naked branch.
It didn't have to
shout or sing
to make me fall in love
with the way afternoon light
gathered inside it.
Such a simple pulpit,
such humble gospel,
this radiant preacher,
this silence in which
the prayer is made
of listening.*

Years later, Rosemerry, who had now become an internationally known poet and beloved teacher in her own right — not just to myself

but to thousands, continues to inspire me and continues to write a poem a day as a mindfulness and creative practice. I leave you with another lovely poem from Rosemerry, who even shifts a word like "ambition" into something new:

Ambition

*I am so far from the woman
I want to be, so far
from humility and simplicity.
I dream of clearing
not only the shelves,
not only the closets,
but also the cluttered inner rooms
that crowd out the divine.
Every day I search for ways
to best meet the day—
with poems, beautiful meals,
with songs, with praise—
so many ways to be radiant,
but I suspect all the day wants
is for me to meet it
and all that comes into my path
with kindness, with spaciousness.
In my effort to be good, to be whole,
I make it so difficult, this life.
The day doesn't seem to hold
my exuberance against me.
It shows up as always,
generous as a new tomorrow,
quiet as dawn.*

Wendy Videlock serves as poet laureate of the Western Slope. She teaches and advocates for the arts in public spaces. Reach her at westernslopeword@gmail.com



Western Slope Poet
Laureate Wendy
Videlock.

DIY Summer Arts & Crafts with Kate Burke

Choose your date, time, materials



My Home Studio & Workshop
Morning or Afternoon, 2 hrs.
\$20/pp plus materials (cost varies)

ART SESSIONS

Painting & drawing: watercolor, acrylic, alcohol ink, pastels, charcoal, pencil

CRAFT WORKSHOPS

Birdhouses, solar garden houses, holiday ornaments, wind-chimes.

Time & Day Available-June

Sat., June 8. **Art** 10 am, **Crafts** 1 pm

Wed., June 12. **Art**, 1 pm.

Sat., June 15. **Art** 10 am, **Crafts** 1 pm

Wed. June 19. **Crafts** 10 am, **Art** 1 pm

Sat., June 29. **Crafts** 10 am, **Art** 1 pm

July and Aug, dates & times or Tue/Thr classes at Mosaic, see website

1-4 persons per 2-hr session

All can be working on different projects.

Choose one or several in your session session.

Ages 16 and up. (12-15 with adult)

Includes all materials, helpful instruction, water or soft drink.

My studio is in downtown Montrose. (Address supplied when you register.)

\$10 non-refundable credit card deposit required at least 48 hrs in advance.

Deposit may be applied to class or materials cost. Balance, cash at the door.

For more information or to schedule a class, **text 970-729-1188** or visit <https://kathrynrburke.com/product/2024-summer-art/>

YOU CAN ALWAYS COUNT ON A GREAT MEAL AT APPLEBEES IN MONTROSE



By Carole Ann McKelvey

MONTROSE – Felt like getting a substantial meal, with a tasty margarita of course, so my son and I headed to Applebee’s. In Montrose you can always count on a nice sizzling meal coming out of the Applebee’s kitchen.

I decided to try the fiesta lime chicken, a chicken breast covered with sauce and cheese and served on a bed of tortilla strips with rice. And it was happy hour, so ordered the current featured margarita, yum! Not driving but they are large so only one. Delicious!

I ordered the chicken and shrimp dish with garlicky mashed potatoes. He devoured his; I had leftovers, so will have dinner for tonight!

So many choices here and the place was packed at 6:30 pm when we arrived. This meal was one of the twofer’s dinners Applebees features which means we also received an appetizer of our choice – artichoke/cheese dip with tortilla chips and salsa. Also yum. We were both too full to order dessert although there are some great ones.

Applebees has many, many choices. It is

a great choice for the kiddos with a full kids’ menu.

Appetizers & Bar Snacks

Brew Pub Pretzels & Beer Cheese Dip, \$7.29; Spinach & Artichoke Dip, \$7.99; Mozzarella Sticks, \$8.29; Double Crunch Bone-In Wings. \$10.59; Boneless Wings, \$10.49; Chicken Quesadilla, \$7.99; The Classic Combo, \$14.49; Chips & Salsa, \$2.99.

Menu With Price Menu Applebee’s Menu

Fire-Grilled Salads:

Grilled Shrimp Avocado & Grapefruit Salad, \$10.99; Grilled Chicken Avocado & Grapefruit Salad, \$9.99; Crispy Chicken & Cornbread salad, \$10.99; Grilled Chicken & Corn Bread Salad, \$9.99.

Fire-Grilled & Chef Selections (all served with two sides):

8oz Top Sirloin, \$14.99; 6oz Top Sirloin, \$11.99; Cedar-Grilled Salmon. \$13.59; Grilled Chicken Breast, \$9.99; Double-Glazed Baby-Back Ribs. \$17.99; Half Rack Double-Glazed Baby-Back Ribs, \$12.99; Shrimp ‘N Parmesan Sirloin. \$17.99; Bourbon Street Steak, \$15.29.

Chicken:

Bourbon Street Chicken & Shrimp, \$12.99; Fiesta Lime Chicken, \$11.99; Chicken Tenders Platter. \$10.79; Chicken Tenders Basket, \$9.29; Grilled Chicken Breast. \$9.99

Lighter Fare:

Shrimp Wonton Stir-Fry. \$11.49

Salads:

Oriental Chicken Salad, \$10.49; Oriental Grilled Chicken Salad. \$10.49; Grilled Chicken Caesar Salad, \$10.29.

Pasta, Seafood, & More:

4-Cheese Mac & Cheese with Honey Pepper Chicken Tenders. \$12.49; 3-Cheese Chicken Cavatappi. \$11.99; Double Crunch Shrimp. \$12.89; Shrimp Wonton Stir-Fry. \$11.49; Hand-Battered Fish & Chips, \$12.29; Cedar Grilled Salmon, \$13.59.

Handhelds

Clubhouse Grille, \$10.49; Chicken Fajita Rollup, \$9.29.

Burgers

All-Day Brunch Burger. \$10.99; Classic Burger, \$8.99; Quesadilla Burger, \$10.49.

Desserts

Brownie Bites, \$1.00; Blue Ribbon Brownie, \$5.49; Triple Chocolate Melt-down, \$5.79; Hot Fudge Sundae Dessert Shooter. \$2.49.

Extras

Side Green Goddess Wedge Salad, \$5.49; Tomato Basil Soup, \$3.69; Side Chicken Tortilla Soup, \$3.69; Side House Salad, \$3.69; Side Caesar Salad. \$3.69; Side Crispy Cheddar Bacon Potatoes. \$1.99; Side 4 Cheese Mac & Cheese. \$2.99; Side Fire-Grilled Veggies, \$2.99; Side Garlicky Green Beans. \$1.99; Side Garlic Mashed Potatoes, \$1.99.

Kid’s Menu

Kid One Cheeseburger. \$4.99; Kid Cheesy Bread Pizza. \$5.99; Kid Grilled Cheese. \$4.99; Kid Chicken Tenders. \$4.99; Kid Corn Dog. \$4.99; Kid Fried Shrimp. \$5.99; Kid Macaroni & Cheese, \$4.99.

Applebee’s is located at 1501 Oxbow Dr, Montrose, CO 81401.

Call (970) 249-1214.



THURSDAY, JUNE 20TH

BROTHER AND THE HAYES LIVE AT HEALTHY RHYTHM



**HEALTHY
RHYTHM**
ART GALLERY

7PM DOORS 7:30PM SHOW

33 N. UNCOMPAHGRE AVENUE, MONTROSE, CO

FOR TICKETS VISIT WWW.HEALTHYRHYTHM.NET

WWW.BROTHERANDTHEHAYES.COM



COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS: EDUCATION

RIDGWAY STATE PARK HIKE AND STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Special to Art & Sol

RIDGWAY-Learn about Ridgway State Park hike and stewardship opportunities on June 10, 1pm at the Dallas Day Use area, south end. (The trail starts at the bridge, 1 mile loop) Enjoy friendship, flora and fauna plus information about stewardship opportunities. (Amanda Clements, retired BLM ecologist will talk about the grazing monitoring.)

- Bighorn Sheep Monitoring
- Grazing Monitoring
- Solitude Monitoring in wilderness areas
- Raptor Monitoring
- River Watch water quality sampling
- Adobes monitoring

(Members that are involved in the above monitoring activities will be attending to answer questions and demo some equipment.)
Questions? Call (970) 209-3703

KENNETH GIFFORD NAMED TO MSOE DEAN'S LIST FOR SPRING SEMESTER 2024 WITH HIGH HONORS

Special to the Mirror

MILWAUKEE, WI- Kenneth Gifford, from Montrose, was named to the Milwaukee School of Engineering's Dean's List with High Honors for the 2024 Spring Semester. Gifford is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering.

MSOE encourages excellence in academic achievement and, as a result, publishes the Dean's List and Honors List each fall and spring semester. Students taking undergraduate courses who have earned at least 12 credits in residence at MSOE, are in good academic standing, and have a

cumulative GPA of 3.20 or higher are on the Dean's List. Students on that list who have maintained a 3.70 or higher receive "high honors." Students with a term GPA of 3.20 or higher, who are not on the Dean's List, are on the Honors List.

Milwaukee School of Engineering (www.msoe.edu) is the university of choice for those seeking an inclusive community of experiential learners driven to solve the complex challenges of today and tomorrow. The independent, non-profit university has about 2,800 students and was founded in 1903. MSOE offers bache-

lor's and master's degrees in engineering, business and nursing.

Faculty are student-focused experts who bring real-world experience into the classroom. This approach to learning makes students ready now as well as prepared for the future. Longstanding partnerships with business and industry leaders enable students to learn alongside professional mentors, and challenge them to go beyond what's possible. MSOE graduates are leaders of character, responsible professionals, passionate learners, and value creators.

SEE SOMETHING - SAY SOMETHING

970-249-8500
ANONYMOUS CALL

**MONTROSE REGIONAL
CRIME STOPPERS**

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

DRY CREEK FARMS CONSERVATION AGREEMENT PRESERVES UNCOMPAHGRE VALLEY'S AGRICULTURAL LEGACY AND WATER

Special to the Mirror

OLATHE-Colorado West Land Trust is pleased to announce the successful conservation of Dry Creek Farms, a pivotal step in preserving the rich agricultural heritage and vital water resources of the Uncompahgre Valley. This conservation effort is in thanks to the Anderson family, fourth-generation Uncompahgre Valley farmers and owners of Dry Creek Farms, which encompasses 345 acres of fertile agricultural land and natural habitat. The agreement underscores the Anderson's commitment to sustainable land stewardship and CWLT's mission to safeguard critical lands and water for future generations. The Uncompahgre Valley holds a special place in Colorado's landscape, renowned for its fertile soils, diverse ecosystems, and stunning vistas. This region, historically rooted in agriculture, faces growing development pressures and decreasing water availability, making conservation efforts like this easement crucial for maintaining the area's rural heritage and water security.

"As I drive around the valley, I see subdivisions going in and houses. In fact, I am looking at one right now built right out in the middle of prime farmland," said landowner Steve Anderson, "Conservation is a win-win. It's a win for the individuals doing it monetarily and it's a win for the valley in the long run for conserving farmland and our way of life."

Preserving Agricultural Heritage and Water Resources

At the heart of the conservation easement are 250 acres of prime cropland, irrigated with water shares from the Uncompahgre Valley Waters Users Association, under agricultural operation since the 1900s. These fields, recognized as prime farmland and farmland of statewide importance, play a crucial role in sustaining local agriculture and food production. Crops includ-

ing corn, beans, spelt, and hay are grown on a rotational basis and sheep graze the land in the winter months. The partnership between CWLT and Steve Anderson underscores a shared commitment to preserving the agricultural legacy of the Uncompahgre Valley while conserving water ensuring it will remain on the farm. Anderson expressed his love for the land, explaining that even after farming his whole life, he still looks forward to working in the fields.

Safeguarding Wildlife Habitat

Beyond its agricultural significance, Dry Creek Farms is a haven for wildlife, boasting diverse habitats that support a myriad of species. The property's semi-desert shrubland, scrubland, woodlands, and wet meadows provide critical food and shelter for game and non-game wildlife alike. Mule deer, a resident population on the property, find refuge in its winter and severe winter ranges, highlighting the importance of maintaining connectivity and habitat integrity in the face of habitat fragmentation.

Celebrating Scenic Beauty

The conservation easement on Dry Creek Farms not only protects vital resources but also celebrates the region's scenic beauty. The property's bucolic fields, visible from nearby public lands and county roads, offer a glimpse into the agricultural character that defines the Uncompahgre Valley. Preserving these scenic landscapes is not just an act of conservation but a testament to our collective responsibility to safeguard the intrinsic beauty of our rural environment.

"CWLT is committed to undertaking additional projects in the Uncompahgre Valley that protect the valley's agricultural land and water resources, as they are funda-



Steve Anderson at the newly conserved Dry Creek Farms. Courtesy photo.

mental to the success of farming in this area. This ongoing effort acknowledges the necessity of maintaining a critical mass of protected lands to sustain viable farming operations within the region," said Nick Jacobson, Conservation Specialist with CWLT, "We express gratitude for the Anderson family's collaboration, a testament to our collective resolve to keep the Uncompahgre Valley productive for generations to come."

The establishment of the conservation easement on Dry Creek Farms comes at a critical juncture, amplifying the urgency of addressing farmland conversion and maintaining the integrity of rural landscapes. Water conservation is paramount in this effort, as it is vital for sustaining agricultural productivity and ecosystem health. Increasing development pressure on farmlands has underscored the need for collaborative conservation efforts, bringing public attention to the delicate balance between development and conservation in our communities. CWLT extends its heartfelt gratitude to Steve and Patricia Anderson for their vision, dedication, and collaboration towards land and water conservation in the Uncompahgre Valley.

CARTOON BY TIM JONES

WEEKLY CARTOON

SOUR GRAPES

by Tim Jones



DineOutMontrose.com



Lighthouse Eatery
970-964-7570

Double Barrel Taco Co.
970-417-4340

Trattoria de Sofia
970-249-0433

Rib City
970-249-7427

Stone House
970-240-8899

Mimo's
970-249-0616

Sidelines Sports Bar
970-765-0129

Amelias Hacienda Restaurante
970-249-1881

Delta: Pour Ernie's
970-546-0074



Alpen Confections
970-648-0609

Remington's at the Bridges
970-252-1119

Crash Burger
970-249-0825

Coffee Trader
970-249-6295
970-787-9021

Tacos & Beer
970-964-4448

Pahgre's
970-249-6442



Premier Sponsor:
Montrose Farmers Market
970-249-0705

Horsefly Brewing
970-249-6889

Rio Bravo
970-964-4477

Jimmer's BBQ,
Burgers & Beer
970-252-1227

Fiesta Guadalajara
970-249-2460

El Jimador
970-249-8990

Busy Corner White Kitchen
970-323-6215

Delta: CB's Tavern
970-399-3570

Kate's Summer Art at Mosaic Tue. & Thr. afternoon or evening You choose your date, time, materials



Painting & Drawing: watercolor, acrylic, alcohol ink, pastels, charcoal, Pen & pencil. Try one, experiment with several
Ages 16 and up. Available times on my website.

Includes all materials, helpful instructions, and a drink.
Class size: 4-14 afternoon. 6-16 evening. Tuition \$45/pp



For more information or to schedule a class, inquire in store,
text Kate at 970-729-1188, or visit website
<https://kathrynburke.com/product/Mosaic-24summer>



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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

RIDGWAY STATE PARK HIKE AND STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Special to the Mirror

RIDGWAY—On June 10, 1pm at Dallas Day Use area, south end. (The trail starts at the bridge, 1 mile loop). Enjoy friendship, flora and fauna plus information about stewardship opportunities. (Amanda Clements, retired BLM ecologist will talk about the grazing monitoring.)

- Bighorn Sheep Monitoring
- Grazing Monitoring
- Solitude Monitoring in wilderness areas
- Raptor Monitoring
- River Watch water quality sampling
- Adobes monitoring

(Members that are involved in the above monitoring activities will be attending to answer questions and demo some equipment.)

Questions? Call (970) 209-3703

MAYOR DESIGNATES 2024-2025 AS 'YEAR OF OUR CITIZENS'

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— To highlight the importance of the relationship between the citizens of Montrose and their local elected officials, Mayor J. David Reed has created the “You Make a Difference” award as part of a “Year of Our Citizens” campaign to celebrate the contributions of local residents to the Montrose community.

Throughout Reed’s term as Mayor, residents will be recognized for their contributions to the community by receiving an award from the City Council.

To nominate someone for the “You Make a Difference” award, recognizing a Montrose resident or group of residents whose service to their community goes above and beyond, contact the City of Montrose City Clerk’s office via email at cityclerk@ci.montrose.co.us or by phone at 970.240.1430.

Mayor Reed will then review the applications and once an award is announced, recipients will be notified and invited to attend a City Council meeting where the award will be officially bestowed.

“I am hopeful that this will become a time-honored tradition even after the “Year of Our Citizens” has come and gone,” Reed said. “As your elected officials, we are merely one of you, entrusted for a short

period of time to be caretakers of this gem that we all call home. We need your help to keep this gem shining brightly.”

To make the most of his one-year term as Mayor, Reed has prioritized his efforts to increase transparency with the community as the City Council continues its work to improve transportation infrastructure, economic development, tourism, housing, and child care and promote a vibrant downtown. “In my opinion, every citizen needs to feel a part of this community because every citizen is an integral part of this community,” Reed said. “Regardless of race, creed, color, national origin, or sexual preference, if you live here, work here, are raising your children here, or retired here, you are a part of the very fabric of this community and you and your opinions and input are important, wanted, and needed.” Reed said the critical issues facing the Montrose community need to be addressed “proactively rather than reactively” in the best interests of all Montrose residents. “During the course of my term, I want to focus on our citizens and our citizens’ relationship with their municipal government,” Reed said. “I declare this to be the “Year of Our Citizens.”

Reed said he wants to determine areas where there are disconnects between the

council and community and create new pathways to reconnect by enhancing communication between citizens and their city government and working together, in partnership, to address important issues.

Reed said the City Council encourages all Montrose residents to participate in local government and provide the Council with constructive input and suggestions.

“Healthy, constructive debates and listening sessions should be encouraged to gather as much public feedback as possible and work through the most challenging community issues,” Reed said, adding “Even if our decision does not reflect the decision that you might have made if you were serving in our role.

“While I can’t assure you that each and every suggestion will necessarily be implemented, I can assure that each resident will have the opportunity to have their voice heard,” Reed said. Members of the City Council are, first and foremost, citizens of the Montrose community, elected to represent the entire city and all its residents. Reed said there can be times “when we will disagree on the proper course of action to address a particular problem. That has always been and that will always be. It’s what makes our democracy great.”

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY

ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

Office Hours: By appointment.

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

 don@allsaintsmontrose.org)

Worship Service Times: Sundays 9AM,

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

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

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

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

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Olathe, Co 81425

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

Pastor Gabe Skillo

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Sunday 6 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Study/Prayer 7 p.m.

CELEBRATION CHURCH

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

Office Hours: By appointment

Phone: (970) 497-4925

Email: celebrationmontrose@gmail.com

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

Worship Service Times: 9am and 10:45am

Senior Pastor:

Pastor Brandon Mathis

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

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

Demographics: Multi-generational

Celebration Kids: (age birth to 5th grade)
 programs offered both services.

Student (middle & high school) at 9am.

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

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

Website: www.montroselutheran.org

Email: montroselutheran@gmail.com

Pastor: Tim Onnen

Worship: Sundays at 9 AM

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

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

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

FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

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

Pastor: Buddy Cook

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

Wednesday: Prayer Boot Camp - 7 PM

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

*disciples in Montrose Colorado and around
 the world.*

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MONTROSE

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

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

 form@fpcmontrose.com),

www.fpcmontrose.com

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jesse G. Mabanglo

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

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

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY *From previous pg*

HILLCREST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

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

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

MONTROSE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

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
 email: office@rosemontbaptist.org
Senior Pastor: Rolland Kenneson
Worship Service Times: Our engaging and relevant Sunday Worship Service is at

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

matter what stage of life they are in.
Children's services: *We have a fun Sunday School for children from four years old through youth. We provide Children's Church during the Sunday Worship Services where children four years old through 9 years can learn to be 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,
www.spiritaware.org

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

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

ST. STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

rose@yahoo.com
www.ststephensmontrose.com
Rev. Dec. Garrett Agajanian
 St. Stephen's is a community of caring Christians rooted in the godly traditions of the past, focused on the challenges of the

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

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY From previous pg

SUMMIT CHURCH OF MONTROSE:

Denomination affiliation:

Southern Baptist

Address: 10977 60.75 Rd. Montrose, CO 81403

Office hours: Varies

Contact information:

email:summitchurchmontrose@gmail.com

website:

www.summitchurchmontrose.org

Senior Pastor: Interim Pastor.

Worship service times: Sunday Worship is

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH OF MONTROSE

Denomination Affiliation: Independent Baptist

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

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8am-12pm

Contact Information: Phone (970) 249-

6874; email at info@vbcmontrose.org; website: vbcmontrose.org

Current Pastor: Roland Kassales

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

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

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

Church Directory

Mirror Editorial Staff

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

information to the Montrose Mirror:

Name of church

Denomination affiliation

Address Office hours

Contact information (phone number, email address, website)

Name of current Senior Pastor

Worship service times

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

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

Do your church services include Sunday School and childcare?

Local Immunization Providers

Visit www.montrosecounty.net/immunizations for updated information on immunization providers.

Questions? Call (970) 252-5011

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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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MONTHLY

June 3--Community Meeting: Historic Designation for Tortilla Flats/La Raza Park Neighborhood. Everyone is invited to this important community meeting to discuss designating the neighborhood, known affectionately by residents as "Tortilla Flats," a nationally recognized historic district. This meeting will be on Monday, June 3 at 6 p.m. at the MADA Building located at 17 N 6th Street. This is a chance to learn more about what this designation would mean and share your thoughts. This neighborhood has a rich history that deserves recognition! Your opinions will help guide the decision-making process. Free pizza will be provided!

June 3-Monday June 3rd at 5pm- Citizens' Climate Lobby monthly meeting Montrose Safety Complex meeting rm (police 434S 1st) nonpartisan, national, environmental. All Welcome. info at 970-765-9095.

June 4 – 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 6-7 p.m. No reservation is required. 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.

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

June 8 - Self-guided Home Garden Tour starting at the Montrose Botanic Gardens (1800 Pavilion Drive) from 9 am to 2 pm. More information and tickets at MontroseGardens.org/garden-tour

June 8-Montrose Pride will take place June 8, 2024 from 3 pm to 8 pm at the Cerise Park Amphitheater. Featuring: blankslate. Food, vendors, Live Music, Comedy and Drag. This is a family-friendly event and all are welcomed!

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

June 9-Senator Michael Bennet will be in Nucla on June 9 at 1 PM at the Nucla High School Gym for a meeting for the Halt the Dolores. Please come and help us stop this monument. Visit Halt the Dolores.com for information or [click here](#).

June 15- 8 am to 1 pm, 19 S. Park Ave. Come Join Us for the Annual Granny's Attic at the Montrose United Methodist Church sponsored by the United Women In Faith. Lots of great items to choose from! Free coffee and homemade cinnamon rolls!! Baked goods for sale!

June 29-16th annual Ridgway RiverFest, Saturday, June 29, Noon to 5 p.m., Rollans Park, Ridgway. The event benefits the Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership, a Ouray County nonprofit watershed group dedicated to helping protect the economic, natural, and scenic values of the Upper Uncompahgre River Watershed. Info: <https://ridgwayriverfest.org/>

June 29-Montrose Children’s Museum will officially open to the general public at 9 a.m. on June 29th at 221 Colorado Ave., Unit A, Montrose, CO. Get your admission tickets in advance at www.montrosechildrensmuseum.org.



BRIGHT LIGHTS, BIG WATER...

2019 Photo of spillway release at night is by Tim Frates, shared with us courtesy of Bureau of Reclamation Facilities Manager Dave Klein.

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