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the Montrose Mirror

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MOVING FORWARD WHILE HONORING HISTORY: MADA TO HOLD 2024 FIESTA AUG. 17



MADA Executive Director Bethany Maher teaches a kids cooking class at the MADA Community Center last week. Courtesy photo.

By Caitlin Switzer
MONTROSE-With summer on the way, spending more time outdoors and visiting with friends and neighbors is something many Coloradoans look forward to. Here in Montrose, one of the most popular seasonal gatherings is the Monte de Rosas Fiesta hosted by the Mexican American Development Association (MADA). Organizers say that last year's Fiesta drew more than 1,000 attendees. This year, MADA welcomes community members to attend the Fiesta on Aug. 17, from 1 to 11pm at La Raza Park, near the MADA community center at 17 North 6th Street. The 2024 Monte de Rosas Fiesta will include a parade, car show, three different bands, a contest for Fiesta royalty, and three local dance troupes performing traditional dances. Although the popular celebration is still months away, the search is already on for vendors and volunteers, MADA Executive Director Bethany Maher said. "Our biggest need right now is for volunteers." Since joining MADA to assist with grant writing and development four years ago, Maher has

Continued pg 16

BOARD OF EDUCATION SELECTS PREFERRED OPTION FOR MHS RE-DO

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By Caitlin Switzer
MONTROSE-School's out for the summer, but the Montrose County School District RE-1J Board of Education is hard at work, as directors and district staff consider plans for a possible remodel of Montrose High School. Present for the Board of Education meeting on Tuesday, June 11 were all directors but one, including Board President Sarah Fishing; District A Director Neisha Balleck; District B Director Ted Valerio; District C Director Alice Murphy; District D Director Tom West; and District F Director Jody Hovde. Board Vice President Steve Bush was absent. Fishing called the meeting to order, and all joined in saying the Pledge of Allegiance. The board voted to accept the [meeting agenda](#) as presented.



The RE-1J Board of Education is considering a new facility for MHS.

Continued pg 20



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CITY OF MONTROSE OFFICES TO CLOSE FOR JUNETEENTH

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— City of Montrose offices will close in observance of Juneteenth on Wednesday, June 19, 2024. City Hall, the Downtown Visitor Center, Municipal Court, Animal Shelter, and Public Works will all close in observance of the holiday.

Police Department offices will be closed, but officers will be on duty and responding to calls. The Black Canyon Golf Course will be open. The Rusty Putter restaurant and snack bar, located at the golf course, will be open.

City residential trash customers who would normally receive service on Wednesday, June 19, will instead be served on Monday, June 17, and Tuesday, June 18.

For routes north of East Oak Grove Road, trash pickup will occur on Monday, June 17. For routes south of East Oak Grove Road, trash pickup will occur on Tuesday, June 18.

Recycling customers who would normally receive collection service on Wednesday, June 19, will instead be served on Friday, June 21.

Due to the holiday falling in the middle of the week, City of Montrose water utility customers with issues are advised to contact the on-call water service technician at 970.209.2317.

For more information, contact City Hall at 240-1400 or visit CityOfMontrose.org/Holiday.

For information about the City of Montrose visit CityofMontrose.org.

THE MONTROSE MIRROR

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

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

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

BLACK CANYON QUILT SHOW RETURNS JULY 12-14

Special to the Mirror

MONTRODSE-The Black Canyon Quilt Show returns to the Montrose Pavilion, 1800 Pavilion Dr., Montrose July 12-14, Friday and Saturday 9—5, Sunday 10—3:30. Admission: \$5 for adults, children free. Visit blackcanyonquiltshow.com for more information.

PRAYER GATHERING AT THE PEACE POLE JUNE 20

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-On Thursday, June 20, at noon, there will be a Prayer Gathering at the Peace Pole in Ute Indian Park, (across the street from the museum), to pray for peace in the world and the healing of Mother Earth. Everyone welcome. Bring your drums. Info - 970-252-0908.



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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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JORDAN RAINER
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CityofMontrose.org/July4

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE REPUBLICAN WOMEN LUNCHEON & PROGRAM JUNE 21

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE--Montrose Republican Women Luncheon & Program will be Friday, June 21 at Noon, Hampton Inn Montrose. Come celebrate our High School Graduate Scholarship Recipients. Pizza party and cake provided. Also, Apple the dog and handler Chantelle Bainbridge will give a short program about the MPD Victims Services Program. Donations for stuffed animals are welcome.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

WHY IS RON HANKS SLINGING UNDESERVED MUD AT STEPHEN VARELA?

Editor:

Why is Ron Hanks Slinging Undeserved Mud at Stephen Varela?

Ron Hanks accused Varela of lying about VFAF (Vets for America First) support and wrote several untrue allegations against Varela recently [<https://hanksforcolorado.com/news/varelasstolenvvalor>].

I reached out to Varela's campaign, and was told, "Stan Fitzgerald, who was VFAF's President at the time, conducted the entire interview and protocol over the phone. Stephen shared that there was another veteran in the race [Hanks]. Our campaign was not asked to fill out a survey [which is standard operating procedure]. His campaign has always shared that Hanks is a veteran as well. The current VFAF President recently noticed there was not a written survey in the file and asked Varela to fill one out last week. He complied immediately, and mentioned there was another veteran...again. The President said that they didn't realize there was another veteran in the race and that they do not endorse a candidate if that's the case, thus, they would need to pull the endorsement so as to not pin veterans against each other."

VFAF has not made any statements publicly about this issue. Hanks' campaign is the one complaining about Varela's campaign material with VFAF's endorse-

ment, **NOT** VFAF. Also, VFAF did not make a statement that the Varela campaign did anything wrong or failed to disclose anything. It was an unfortunate misunderstanding as the VFAF leadership changed.

Also, Varela's campaign told me that although the veteran's group pulled its endorsement, the VFAF was told the Varela campaign could not pull the printed campaign materials because they had just printed 10,000 pieces and did not have enough time or money to reprint. The VFAF agreed and understood.

Ron Hanks is slandering Varela about this and calls the situation "akin to stolen valor." Doesn't that sound righteous? If a candidate cannot run on his merits, and feels the need to slander the opposition, that raises a red flag.

By the way, Stephen Varela is not slinging mud at anyone. Look at his record. He has proven his mettle.

This leads to another issue... The opposing party wants this battle. They hope it will divide more conservative voters and enable their choice, Jeff Hurd, to win the election.

Hurd is endorsed by RINO Don Coram, who does not consider himself a Republican and has endorsed harmful legislation to Coloradans while he was in the state senate. That's a red flag. I have seen the divisiveness of Coram and his guard dog

(who will remain nameless!) at work in Montrose County over the years and it has been ugly. Varela addresses the strategy of the Democrats to divide voters so their candidate can win [<https://www.stephenvarelaforcolorado.com/frisch-memo/>].

Finally, the accusations printed against Varela in the *Denver Post* [<https://www.denverpost.com/2024/02/22/stephen-varela-department-of-labor-investigation-union-money/>] that he supposedly committed during his presidency of the Union were all false. Jason Tubbs, Vice President of the union at the time Varela was President, posted the following on Varela's Facebook page afterward: "Stephen Varela, unlike his predecessor, served as president honorably and ethically and always in good faith.... This article was clearly politically driven and a misrepresentation of the facts." Documents can be found at [https://](https://www.stephenvarelaforcolorado.com/resources/)

www.stephenvarelaforcolorado.com/resources/. Please do not be sucked into the false narratives in the media! Can we trust the media today? Everything seems to have political motives.

The U.S. elections are critical this year. It could be the last bastion for freedom. Please vote with the facts.

Sincerely,

L. Vandersluis, Montrose

SEE SOMETHING - SAY SOMETHING



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ANONYMOUS CALL

MONTROSE REGIONAL
CRIME STOPPERS

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

IT'S ALMOST TIME TO VOTE

Editor:

Hunter Biden convicted on all counts of three federal felony gun charges.

Now let's be honest for once.

If you have any common sense you have to already know what the penalty is going to be.

The fake news tv media is already saying, and regurgitating, that he is a good boy who didn't know what he was doing because he was crashed on cocaine and they are continually spewing that he is a good boy who doesn't have a criminal record.

So I expect him to get a very small fine and a few hours of community service. Then his dad will pardon him and grant him clemency so that when he applies for a teaching position around kids he won't have a criminal record.

So I ask.

Almost time to vote.

What are you going to do about it?

Bob Stollsteimer, Montrose

2024 Republican Primary

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

94 KIX SALUTES DORIS VAN NESS OF BEDROCK, COLORADO

Editor's Note:

We are sharing Radio Station 94KIX's tribute to Doris Van Ness, pictured at right. In addition to ranching and volunteer work, Doris has been writing first-person accounts for the Mirror, providing a local viewpoint on the effort by Federal legislators to create the proposed Dolores National Monument in the West End.

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Doris Van Ness, of Bedrock, was the May 2024 winner of the Hometown Heroes Award, sponsored by 1776 Contractors in Delta and Montrose. The Hometown Heroes contest was started by 1776 Contractors and Townsquare Media to honor local unsung heroes for worthy acts of kindness they've performed in their respective communities.

Van Ness is a 27-year Bedrock resident, and a rancher, and has been a board member and an active volunteer for the West End Family Link Center in Nucla for 14 years. She was also a volunteer for the EMT Service in Paradox for 18 years. She is Captain for the Montrose Republican Party and is also a writer for the Montrose Mirror. She is known for her strong work ethic in the West End communities and is said to be one of the most giving people in her area. "If you have something that needs to be done, just ask Doris and she'll get it done."

The West End Family Link Center's mission is to empower the people of the West End of Montrose and San Miguel Counties, by providing low-to-no-cost supportive services, including budget counseling, job placement services, parenting and nutrition classes, rehabilitation assistance, a food bank, and more, to build stronger, healthier families and individuals in the area. For more information visit West End Family Link Center - Food Bank Family Services (weflc.org).

One nominee for the Hometown Heroes contest will be chosen each month; each winner will receive a prize for their efforts and acts of kindness. To learn more about Hometown Heroes, and to nominate someone you feel is deserving, click here: <https://94kix.com/montrose-colorado-hometown-hero/>
Congratulations, Doris, and thank you for the role you play in our community!



94 KIX Courtesy Photo.





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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

HAMS OPERATE IN THE FIELD

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Hams from the Montrose Amateur Radio Club (MARC) will be operating during the 2024 Field Day on Saturday and Sunday, June 22 and 23, 2024 from atop Sunset Mesa just west of Montrose. The public is invited to visit the operation on Saturday any time after 12 noon. There will be an opportunity for non-hams to get on the air and contact other Field Day stations across the country.

Field Day is an annual event sponsored by the American Radio Relay League that showcases ham radio's ability to operate off the grid as hams might be forced to do during emergencies that disrupt normal power supplies and communications. All operations will be self-supported by battery, generator, or solar power.

According to Kathy Joslin, KK6RNV, MARC President, "Anyone interested in ham radio and how it can be of service during power and communications outages is invited to pay us a visit. Hams across the country will be participating in this annual event. While some hams will operate from their home stations, many like MARC will set up in the field to practice and demonstrate their ability to operate off the grid. If you have ever thought about trying the amateur radio hobby, please stop by. We will be glad to show you what it is all about."

To reach the Field Day site, drive West on Main Street to the Road intersection. Turn south on Chipeta. At .7 miles turn left onto the Sunset Mesa Road and climb to the top of the hill. Look for our signs along the way and our antennas on the north end of the Mesa.

For more information contact Lew French, K0LMF, at 970-417-6142.



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MOVING FORWARD WHILE HONORING HISTORY: MADA TO HOLD 2024 FIESTA AUG. 17**From pg 1**

made a material difference for the organization and for the surrounding community. With support from grant funds, MADA has re-focused on its role as heart of the community, with physical renovations that include a restored community kitchen, a new mural in the dining area, and updated office spaces that are available to rent. Siding, windows, and patio work will take place in the fall.

With the physical renovations comes a restored focus on serving the neighborhood as a community center, and MADA has joined forces with other non-profits and community groups to accomplish its goals. The neighborhood where MADA was founded in 1972 has a rich history and is referred to by locals as Tortilla Flats. The site of a Morada that was used by Penitentes here is marked now by a plaque, outlining the historic and cultural context of this area. Maher said that the City of Montrose will be moving forward to seek a national historic designation for the neighborhood and a donation of the land where the Morada once stood, for potential use

as a Morada Cultural Center.

"We've got our eyes on the prize," she said. "We're getting things done here in the neighborhood."

Maher notes that reestablishing MADA's role as a local community center has helped locals maintain their sense of neighborhood identity, honor their own history, and help to shape their own future. She plans to eventually replace herself as director; "My hope is to train someone from within the community."

Meanwhile, Maher continues to lead by example. "We're going to do senior lunches here soon," she said, adding, "I'm teaching a kids' cooking class this afternoon."

Morada Background-Located on a parcel near Grand Avenue and North Ninth Street, the site of the Montrose Morada is important to those whose ancestors first settled here centuries ago. A [Facebook post by the Montrose County Historical Museum](#) dated Aug. 27, 2021, (prior to a presentation by Montrose resident and Morada Historian Chris Trujillo) some

background on the Montrose Morada is given: *"Most of the Morada descendants that moved from the original Spanish colonies in Northern New Mexico and Southern Colorado (primarily the San Luis Valley) left the Morada tradition and joined the mainstream in their new locations. Perhaps because of Montrose's proximity to the San Luis Moradas or perhaps due to the need to move as entire extended families to find work in the depression, the Montrose Morada was constructed and active in the 1930s and 1940s...Most of the history is lost due to the secrecy, but it seems to have served a very necessary purpose for the people of Montrose at that time. It is definitely something very unique to Montrose. Although there are many Moradas that date back to the Spanish 15th Century and the Mexican-American 19th Century in Colorado and New Mexico, the Montrose Morada has ties to those, but served a 20th Century purpose being formed when most Moradas were being destroyed, disbanded and/or abandoned. That makes Montrose very special."*

August
17th,
2024

Save The Date

MONTE DE ROSAS

FIESTA

LA RAZA PARK

Presented By MADA



VOTE

TUESDAY, JUNE 25, 2024

**J. MARK ROEBER
REPRESENTATIVE
FOR CO HD58**

ON THE ISSUES

- I will fight for the values and lifestyle we enjoy in HD 58
- 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
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- I believe in LOCAL control
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

SMPA ELECTION: LOCZY ELECTED, BROWN RE-ELECTED

Special to the Mirror

NUCLA-Last week, San Miguel Power Association held its 85th Annual Meeting at its office in Nucla, CO. The meeting concluded with the reading of results for its board director elections in District #1, which covers parts of Montrose, San Miguel, Ouray and Dolores Counties including Basin, Bedrock, Naturita, Nucla, Paradox, Redvale, and Slick Rock and District #4, which covers parts of Montrose, Ouray and San Miguel Counties including Colona and a portions of Log Hill Village and Telluride.

In District #1, 405 validated ballots were received. 305 votes were for Candidate Tom Loczy. Candidate, Bette Nickell received 100 votes. Tom Loczy was declared the winner of the District #1 board election.

Since incumbent Director Toby Brown ran unopposed, he was deemed re-elected, and no ballots were mailed to members in District #4 per SMPA bylaws.

San Miguel Power Association board members are elected from the membership, by the membership. Members elect their board of directors by secret ballot at the Annual Meeting held each summer or by online or mail-in vote. They are chosen from seven different districts within SMPA's service territory. Each district contains approximately 1,500 members and votes for their specific director representative. SMPA's board members serve four-year terms.

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BOARD OF EDUCATION SELECTS PREFERRED OPTION FOR MHS RE-DO *From pg 1*

There were no advisory committee updates.

COMMUNITY INPUT

Constituent David White addressed the Board of Education. White said that he was unable to locate a district policy concerning student cell phone use.

"...my wife and I are raising one of our grandkids, he was a sophomore...I got a note from one of his teachers that he was getting close to failing his class. And the note, two weeks before school's out, said 'Spends too much time on his phone, if he'd listened to half of what I said in class, he would not be nearly as close as he is to failing.'

"So my question is, why is this happening?"

White said he has already spoken to his grandson's teacher and to his counselor. "I need to bring it to the school board's attention." Another of his grandson's teachers has a cell phone caddy by the classroom door, so that students leave their phones in the caddy as they enter the classroom, White said, a strategy that has proven effective.

"I don't know why they're being allowed to listen to their music or whatever else during what should be a study time...they're not going to pay attention...somehow or another...if there's some way to park the phone at the beginning of class and then get it back..."

White also said that lunch hours off campus are not long enough for students to eat and return.

"...I got more tardies and absences coming through on my phone because he doesn't have enough time. And I told him, I said, 'you're going to eat in the cafeteria.'

"...I'm just, as a parent, asking that you either lengthen the lunch hour or figure out a way to limit these kids from going off campus..."

White was told that his time had run out for making comments.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Montrose High School Conceptual Design Presentation

The Board of Education meeting agenda states that the first discussion item was The Montrose High School "Conceptual"

Design Presentation, but the topic focused on "Conceptual" design rather than conception.

Present for the meeting were members of the design team that includes the Blythe Group (BG+Co), Motley Architecture, Wight, and Dynamic Program Management. The team had created two potential options for moving forward.

The presentation notes that Montrose High School has the district's highest deferred and daily maintenance needs; systems are failing as well as structural components.

Peter Icenogle, director of architecture at BG+Co, presented both options in detail with help from other members of the design team. The full presentation can be viewed here. Of the two options presented, the total project cost for Option No. 1 would be \$239,100,000. The total project cost for Option 2 would be \$221,600,000. Following some discussion, the board reached consensus on Option 2. Superintendent Carrie Stephenson said that staff will narrow its focus to Option 2 and begin to refine different aspects of the proposal.

"By August we will have more information for you," Stephenson said, noting that staff will work with bond counsel to come up with ballot language for a possible bond measure.

CONSENT AGENDA

With Item 9 pulled for further discussion, directors voted to approve Consent Agenda items, including Personnel Report.

Consent Agenda Item 9, Approval of Science Primary Resource Adoption contracts with HMH Into Science in the amount of \$194,856.34 and TWIG Science in the amount of \$479,450.79, was also approved after brief discussion. After asking for the item to be pulled for discussion, District C Director Alice Murphy expressed appreciation for the curriculum selection process, "You did a really good job."

NEW BUSINESS

2024-2025 Budget Presentation

RE-1J Director of Finance Emily Imus presented the first reading of the 2024-2025 Proposed Budget. Imus also discussed the budget's guiding principles, goals, forecasts, changes, and budgetary components. Of the overall budget, 85 percent

goes to salaries and pay increases, Imus said.

Total program revenue is projected to increase by approximately 8.8 percent, Imus said. Also, MCSD and UVEA have negotiated the largest comprehensive compensation package, increasing employee increases over all employee and benefits by \$6M or 12.6 percent.

The 2024-2025 Proposed Budget will be presented again at the June 25 Board of Education meeting for approval.

Resolution 11-2024

Directors voted to approve Resolution 11-2024, naming District Administrator and Secretary to the Board Laurie Laird as the Designated Election Official for the November 2024 General Election.

Review of Revised Board Policies

The Board reviewed on First Reading a number of revised board policies, including: revised Board Policies AC, AC-R-1, AC-R-2, AC-R-3, AC-E-1, AC-E-2, ADC, AEA, GBA, GBAA, GBI, GCE/GCF, GCE/GCF-R, GDE/GDF, GDE/GDF-R, JBB, JLDAC, and JLDAC-E.

Negotiated Settlement with Uncompahgre Valley Education Association (UVEA)

The Board of Education voted to adopt the Negotiated Settlement between Montrose County School District RE-1J (MCSD) and UVEA for 2024-2025.

The implementation of the increase puts the district in a better position to recruit and retain the most highly qualified staff, Imus said. "I'm super excited about the work on the compensation package."

Also adopted were contracts for non-represented staff, using the same parameters as approved through negotiations with UVEA for the 2024-2025 school year.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board of Education voted to enter executive session, to include all Board members present, Dr. Stephenson, and Mrs. Laird for "Personnel to discuss the Superintendent Evaluation and contract in accordance with C.R.S. 24-6-402 (4)(f) and then return to regular session for adjournment"

The next regular meeting of the RE-1J Board of Education will take place at 6:30pm on Tuesday, June 25.



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A CONVERSATION WITH THE CHIEF: GAIL MARVEL CHATS WITH POLICE CHIEF BLAINE HALL



Montrose Police Chief Blaine Hall. Photo by Gail Marvel.

On June 14, the Montrose Police Department (MPD) announced its new Special Mounted Public Patrol Unit. Pictured (L to R) are Montrose Police Officer James Legler, Chief of Police Blaine Hall, and Victim Service Coordinator Chantelle Bainbridge. Hall said, "We're asking for citizen volunteers, along with their equines, to partner with police officers to help patrol our city parks and trails." Courtesy photo.

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE-Today, Montrose Chief of Police Blaine Hall oversees a growing department, with a new public safety facility and the resources needed to serve and protect a local population that continues to grow.

When Hall was sworn in as Chief in 2018, the department was in a cramped, aging facility and struggled to compete for officers with nearby resort communities able to pay higher wages and offer improved benefits. However, in 2019, the City of Montrose voters approved Ballot Issue 2A, [a measure](#) calling for a sales tax increase to fund an additional 20 FTE and provide for new and renovated facilities. Following voter approval, revenue collections began on Jan. 1, 2020. The ground-breaking for a new Public Safety Complex took place in April 2021, and a grand opening celebration was held in September 2022.

I spoke with Chief Hall last week, for insight into the operations of the Montrose Police Department in 2024, and to ask how things have changed.

Hall was born in Grand Junction, attended Grand Junction High School, graduated from what was then known as Mesa State College, now Colorado Mesa University (CMU). Hall took his Peace Officer Standards & Training (POST) at what was previously known as the Delta-Montrose Vocational-Technical College (VO-TEC), now Technical College of the Rockies.

Hall began his law enforcement career in

Montrose in 1997 when he was hired as a police officer. Over the last 27 years, he has climbed the career ladder and had more than a half-dozen different titles (patrol, detective, commander, etc.) before becoming Chief of Police.

When asked if he had made any significant administrative changes since becoming Chief, Hall said, "Yes. I don't know where we would have been without 2A. I don't know how other [law enforcement] communities are making it. Today the greatest need I have is people [employees]. We've had complaints about animal control and not having a law enforcement presence in parks, but we are shorthanded."

Beginning May 1 the salary range for Montrose police officers increased. Hall said, "Do you want to know how many applications were submitted before May 1st...zero. After May 1st I've gotten 60! I have four new officers who will be sworn in next week and three officers are now attending the Police Academy."

The Montrose Police Department (MPD) has open positions for code enforcement, animal control, and digital forensics. Hall said, "We haven't had a code enforcement officer for six months. Our greatest need is for a digital forensic analyst for child sexually explicit material [formally known as child pornography]." Sexual assault is still the highest crime reported in Montrose. Hall said, "That's where our detectives spend most of their time."

Currently MPD has 42 sworn police officers; however, their maximum complement of officers is 61. Hall wants the public to know MPD is hiring.

He said, "Our biggest competitor in hiring is the Colorado Bureau of Investigation [CBI]. They have 200 openings and I've lost people to them, but with these new applications I'm seeing, I have some laterals from across the State." To become a sworn police officer, new cadets must attend the Police Academy for 15 weeks. Hall said, "We have nine participants in the summer academy." Employment opportunities at MPD also occur in civilian positions such as code enforcement and administration.

Recently the MPD lost two polygraphers; one went to the county event center, the other to CBI. Hall said, "It hurt [the MPD organization], but I understand the decisions were best for the employees." Unwilling to again be caught short of a polygrapher, Hall took it upon himself to attend a 10-week school in San Antonio. He said, "I plan on being here for at least another 11 years, so I decided to go to school and get trained. We have another officer in San Antonio going to school now."

Tour

Chief Hall took the *Mirror* on a tour of the facility; however, for security reasons photos of the interior were not allowed. Interestingly, the new building is built around the old police department and that facility is still recognizable and fully functioning. Hall said, "Troop 5C of the Colorado State Patrol had to move out of their facility [environmental remediation] and they are currently using that space."

A CONVERSATION WITH THE CHIEF: GAIL MARVEL CHATS WITH CHIEF OF POLICE

From previous pg

The MPD has a community room available for events. Hall said, "There is no charge to the community. We do ask for a \$200 damage deposit, which is returned after events. There is a fully equipped kitchen, so catered events can take place. We don't allow alcohol to be served, nor do we schedule regular weekly and monthly meetings."

The new facility has an abundance of training, conference, and interview rooms. Some rooms are exclusively for MPD use; however, many others are available for meetings and training with other entities, i.e. state, county, and regional. Glass partitions and cubicles give the workspace an open-air feel, with only the interview rooms having a 'behind closed doors' appearance.

The state-of-the-art evidence room, which is equipped with a refrigeration unit for samples, is now storing more than 13,300 pieces of evidence. The K-9s have their own space where therapy dog Apple, and drug search dogs, Kilo and Floki, enjoy indoor and outdoor amenities. Hall said, "These are no-bite dogs."

The Chem ID (chemical) bay is a vehicle bay that is completely white, including the floor. Specialty designed hoists and sensors hoist vehicles into the air where they can be searched. Bicycles and special vehicles (SWAT) have their own space, as well as storage for vehicles that are in evidence and part of an ongoing investigation.

Employees have spacious locker rooms, a breakroom, weight room, and a mat room. Hall said, "Before, when we needed to train on mats [defense and tactical training] we had to make arrangements and schedule with the schools. Now, when we need to train, we pull out our own mats."

Two positions with the MPD that are not highly visible are the City Emergency Manager (sets up incident command in a disaster) and the Public Safety attorney, (focus only on PD related matters, rather than city administration). Referring to the hiring of Public Safety Attorney Matthew Magliaro in 2020, Hall said, "We were one

of the first in Colorado to use this model."

Legislatively, both on a federal and the state level, law enforcement continues to have their hands tied. Hall said, "More recently the Clean Slate Act requires that we go through all our records. A time is coming when you [the media] will ask me about a case and I won't be able to tell you that there ever was a case. The legislature mandates changes, but they don't fund the changes. There are some proposals being considered, that if passed, will severely limit our ability to enforce the law."

The Chief feels that he personally, as well as MPD, have a physical presence in the community; however, as with many organizations today, they use social media platforms (Facebook and Instagram) to connect and communicate with the public as well.

Hall said, "We have 11,000 followers. I want people to 'like us' and follow us. They can read about what we're doing [programs, projects], learn safety tips, and learn about suspicious activity in the community. Citizens can help us when we're looking for a suspect."

Programs/Projects:

School Supply Drive. Hall said, "We started earlier this year than last year. People can drop off donated supplies [crayons, paper, pencils, glue, etc.] anytime and we'll take them to the Montrose School District." The drive ends Aug. 6.

Community Surveillance Camera Registration. Hall said, "There was some misinformation when we first started this program. The MPD would never ask for access to your cameras. But we would like to know where the cameras are in case there is an incident. It's like putting a pin on a map. If we know where the cameras are and we have an incident in that area, we can go to the resident and ask them if we can get a recording. I need to emphasize; we DO NOT want access to citizens' cameras." Surveillance cameras are a valuable resource and can be useful in solving and prosecuting crimes. Residents can voluntarily register their cameras by contacting

MPD.

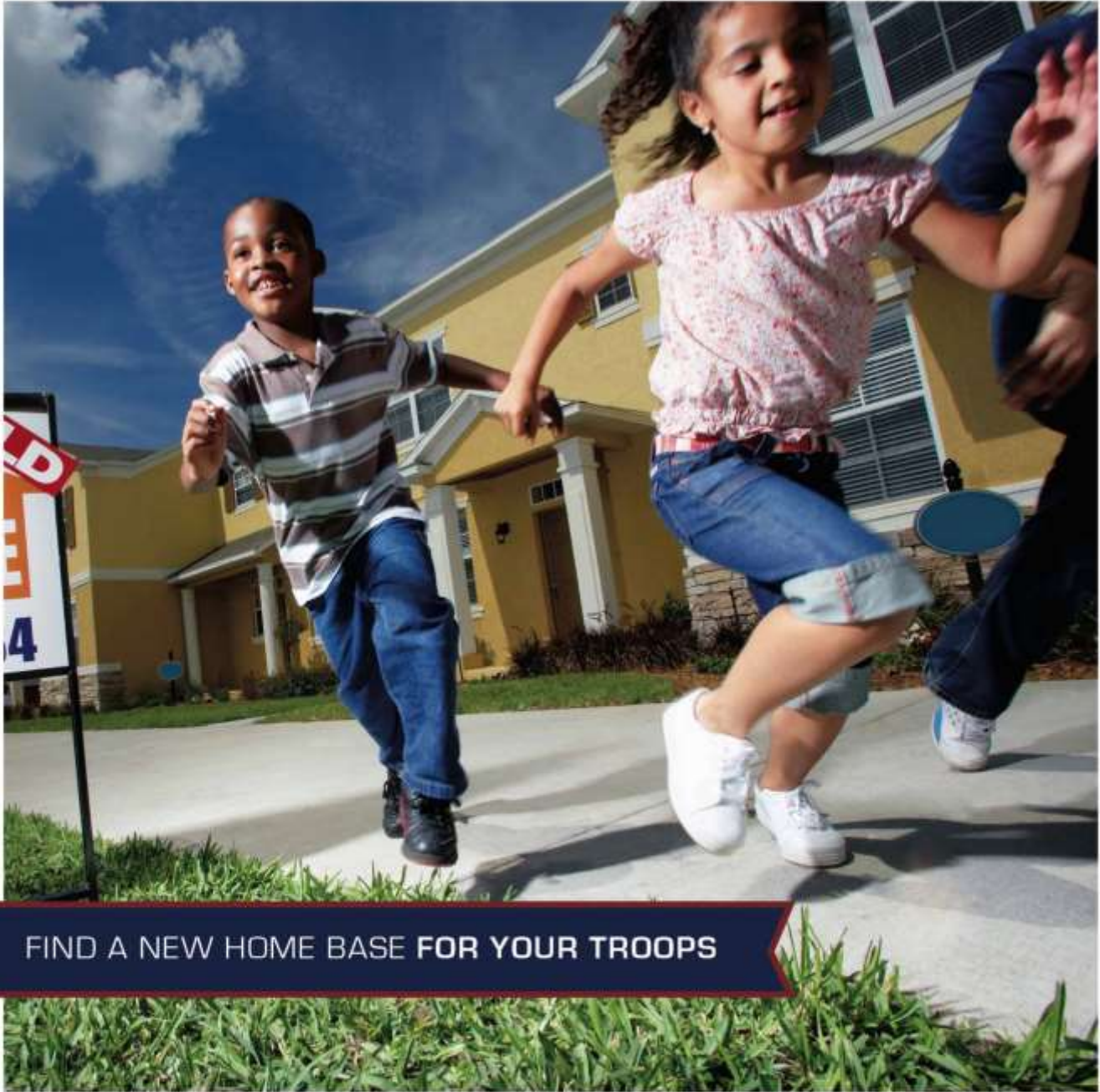
Special Mounted Public Patrol Unit. On June 14 the MPD announced a new mounted patrol unit. Hall said, "Our citizens, leadership, and city council have expressed concern about safety in our parks. We've had an increase in calls in the parks, and we can send officers to them on bikes, but then if we get a high priority call somewhere else, the response time is increased because the officers are on a bicycle. We have 20 miles of walks and river trails to patrol, and we were trying to figure out how to get more eyes and ears in the parks."

Hall continued, "We are asking citizens to volunteer, with their equines, to be a partner with the police to help patrol the parks and participate in events. People will be able to apply online and there will be a selection process. We'll be posting the applicant link soon. We will vet applicants and provide training. They will have a radio, they will not be armed, they will be a reporting tool only. Mounted horses can get into the brush where people like to hide." In the beginning volunteers will be teamed with an MPD representative; once fully trained, volunteers will be on their own to patrol.

Officer James Legler and Victim Services Coordinator Chantelle Bainbridge, who recently returned from Mounted Patrol School in Colorado Springs, will head up the new program.

Hall said, "We'll have training and orientation for volunteers and the Fourth of July will be the first time we utilize the mounted patrol. I think Montrose may have had a mounted patrol back in the 1960's. This program respects our Western Colorado heritage and our roots. I hope to have the program year-round. We will give volunteers a branded blanket, a patch, and weather gear; they provide the saddle and the horse."

Hall paused, "There is a downfall that I haven't yet figured out. I know that sometime the horses will leave poop on a trail and then some bike rider will ride through it!"



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Montrose Police Dept.
434 S. First Street**

**Saturday, June 29th
10:00-11:00 a.m.
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Montrose Police Dept.
434 S. First Street**

Join us for a video and Q & A about plans to open a tuition-free, public charter school in Montrose in Fall 2025. Charter schools present another educational choice and have many advantages for children and their families. Please attend a meeting and visit our website www.montroseclassical.org for more information.

OPEN COMMUNITY MEETING - All are welcome!

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CORONER'S OFFICE INFORMATION RELEASE

Montrose County Coroner's Office

MONTROSE— On June 6, at 12:32 p.m., a 911 call was made for two vehicles involved in a crash on US 550. Both vehicles were traveling northbound toward Montrose. A driver in a truck hit the rear end of a white Nissan Altima at mile marker 124.1, north of Solar Road. Candace Smith, a 34-year-old female of Montrose, Colo., and Trinity Hasse, a 43-year-old female of Montrose, Colo., both died at the scene.

The case is currently under investigation by the Colorado State Patrol and the Montrose County Coroner's Office of Medical Investigation. At this time, the cause and manner of death are under investigation pending the results of an autopsy.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DELTA HEALTH WELCOMES BACK URGENT CARE SERVICES AND INCREASES BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE

Special to the Mirror

DELTA – Delta Health is excited to announce the opening of a new Behavioral Health Center and an Urgent Care Clinic on July 1 located at 70 Stafford Avenue where Delta Health Family Medicine is currently located. Delta Health Family Medicine will be relocating to 296 Stafford Avenue (next to Delta Health Pediatrics) on the Delta Health campus.

“Not only will this move increase the much-needed space for Family Medicine as they continue to grow, but it will also help as we work to create access to care for the community,” said Vickie Moore, Delta Health Executive Director of Clinic Operations. “The community made it clear to us in 2021, when we had to close the

Urgent Care Clinic, that they wanted that option for care. We are happy to be back to a place organizationally where we can reopen.”

Earlier this year, Delta Health recognized the critical importance of quickly expanding behavioral health services when Integrated Insight Therapy closed.

Since then, Delta Health has responded to the urgent needs of patients by adding four Behavioral Health Therapists to the existing primary care clinic team and two Peer Support Specialists in the Emergency Department.

“With all the strides we’ve taken as an organization to address the behavioral health crisis in our communities, it was a natural next step to create a Behavioral

Health Center,” said Moore.

As Delta Health’s commitment to behavioral health within the community grew, the need for a center to be able to provide longer-term therapy options was evident.

“We look forward to expanding behavioral health services even further and eventually recruiting a psychiatric provider to collaborate with Delta Health primary care providers in addressing the psychiatric medication needs of patients,” said Moore. “We are confident that these new clinics will significantly enhance our ability to serve the community, ensuring comprehensive and accessible care for all.”

To learn more about the new clinics, please visit deltahealthco.org or call 970.874.7681.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DELTA HEALTH NAMES JONATHAN COHEE AS CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Special to the Mirror

DELTA— Delta Health is excited to announce that Jonathan Cohee will be stepping into the role of Chief Executive Officer (CEO) starting July 8, 2024. Cohee has served as Delta Health's Chief Operating Officer (COO) since November 2023, bringing with him a distinguished 27-year background in the healthcare industry. His strategic vision and operational expertise have already made a significant impact, enhancing service access and operational efficiency.

"Jonathan's expertise, passion, and dedication will undoubtedly strengthen our team and enhance the quality of care we provide to our community," said Julie Huffman, Interim Chief Executive Officer and Chief Legal Officer. "We are incredibly fortunate to have him take on the role of CEO at Delta Health. His commitment to improving patient access and streamlining operations has already made a profound difference in our organization. Jonathan's vision and innovative approach make him the ideal leader to guide us into the future."

Jonathan Cohee holds a Master's degree in Healthcare Administration and a Bachelor's in Occupational Therapy. Prior to joining Delta Health, he served as President and Chief Operating Officer for a national outpatient therapy provider network and a managed care physical therapy carve-out

program.

His extensive background includes optimizing the operations of nine hospitals across multiple states, spearheading bundled payment initiatives, and establishing and expanding ten hospital rehabilitation programs, outpatient clinics, a wound care clinic, a home health care company, and a hospice program.

"As the newly appointed CEO of Delta Health, I am thrilled to become a part of this exceptional healthcare organization," said Cohee. "Delta Health has a strong reputation for delivering high-quality care, and joining this esteemed team is truly a privilege. I am excited to contribute to the continued growth and success of Delta Health, as we strive to provide excellent patient care, foster innovation, and enhance the overall well-being of our community."

Jonathan and his wife Stefanie, have relocated to the Western Slope after spending the last ten years in Chicago. Stefanie is currently pursuing her certification as a Nurse Practitioner. Together, they have built a beautiful blended family of four children and two grandchildren, and their household includes an adorable miniature schnauzer named Addison. Jonathan and Stefanie enjoy activities such as running, biking, skiing, pickleball, tennis, and golf.

"I promised to serve as CEO until we found a person who embodies our values,

believes in our goals, and cares about our people. I believe we have found that person," said Huffman. "Jon will be the first to tell you that the Admin Team and I have not held back. We have put him through his paces these past six months and 'kicked his tires,' so to speak. We have had some brutally honest conversations and we have watched him carefully – how he handles conflict, how he leads his teams, how he motivates and celebrates, how he practices what he preaches, how he makes difficult decisions and has difficult conversations, how he understands the healthcare landscape, how he uses that knowledge to strategize to our advantage, and most importantly – how he cares about this place and our people. We believe without hesitation that he is the right person to lead our hospital system forward, and our Board of Directors agrees."

Cohee's extensive experience in healthcare management and his passion for patient-centered care position him well to lead Delta Health through its next chapter of growth and innovation. "I am honored and excited to take on the role of CEO at Delta Health," said Cohee. "We have an incredible team dedicated to providing the best possible care to our patients, and I look forward to continuing our work to enhance service access and improve health outcomes for our community."

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

FELONY GUN CHARGES ARE PIDDLING COMPARED TO THE SELLING OUT OF OUR COUNTRY BY JOE BIDEN AND SON

Editor:

Lies. So many lies. The elites in control of today's Democrat party have nothing to sell to the American people that they want. They can't sell hope or optimism. All their goals and policies -- economic, social, world affairs, etc. -- are detrimental to this country and its people. All they have to do to stop Trump is to offer the American people something better, or even pretend to acknowledge their concerns. After Trump's election, the elites realized they can no longer trust the American people to keep them in power. Their desire to hold onto power is now bigger than anything that your grandmother's Democrat party might have once stood for -- like democracy and the rule of law. And they found that lying to the people is easy. They control most of the press, academia, the administrative and security state, and cultural institutions; and there is an overabundance of low-information voters wanting so hard to believe in their party. Thus, the impeachments, the indictments, the endless attacks against Trump for eight years. Their target is not Trump. It is the American people. They believe they can terrorize that portion of the public unwilling to bow down by showing them just how far they'll go to destroy a former president. If they can get away with doing that to Trump, imagine what they can do to you.

This week's lies include the political maneuvering around Hunter Biden. "Look! The DOJ is prosecuting the president's son on gun charges -- proof that no one is above the law!" The low-information voter will eat that up, and ignore how we got here. For years, key players in the Justice Department and FBI systematically sabotaged the real case involving crimes by Hunter and the Biden family. Felony gun

charges are piddling compared to the selling out of our country by Joe Biden and son. Prosecutors ignored and continue to decline to prosecute serious, national security-imperiling misconduct connected to the family influence-peddling business. Prosecuting Hunter on relatively insignificant charges not involving his father is clearly intended to continue to protect the president and give cover to the DOJ.

The administration's gaslighting over Israel and Hamas continues. Biden continues to profess support for Israel as he stabs it in the back by insisting that Israel not defeat Hamas -- totally pandering to the anti-Semites on college campuses and a couple of American cities. Hamas entered Israel and slaughtered 1,200 civilians with horrific sadism, kidnapping 252 innocent people. They have to date murdered 62 of those hostages, and 120 remain in Gaza with fates unknown. Israel just rescued four of those hostages, and the left-wing propaganda machine kicked into action, focusing totally on the resulting Arab casualties. Outlets like CNN even detestably contended the hostages had been "released". The hostages were held in the middle of densely populated areas in civilian homes to dissuade Israel from liberating them, or, if it did, to create as many "martyrs" as possible. Those "martyrs" are the same civilians who continue to love their terrorist government and hate Jews. Among those holding the hostages in their homes was an Al Jazeera "journalist". The neighborhood was under the control of the United Nations -- that same UN whose workers participated in the October 7 kidnapping and whose schools were used for Hamas operation bases. Hamas has had the choice to surrender and return the hostages and end the war. The entire conflict would end if the Palestinians would

stop choosing terrorists to lead them and accept Israel's existence. If you don't want to be placed in harm's way, don't hold hostages in your homes and don't continue choosing a government that intentionally puts your life in constant danger. Then the anti-Semites of the world wouldn't have to make excuses for you each time you pay the price for acting out in some horrific, irrational, and self-destructive way.

The blatant subterfuge also continued this week with Biden conveniently issuing an EO on immigration before the upcoming election. He insults your intelligence in assuming you somehow don't understand that, first of all, it was Biden's open border policies that created the border crisis. Second, when it became apparent how unpopular and harmful 10 million unvetted illegals were, Biden insisted that he had no power to do anything about it. Democrats also attempted to pass a fake "Border Security Act," which would have done nothing to lessen the invasion, but would have only legalized the process. When the Republican controlled House refused to go along, the gaslighting intensified. Suddenly the invasion was Republicans' fault. Now, Biden is embarking on another con, pretending to take action against his own border policies.

His so-called shutdown is a joke, allowing 2 million illegals into the country annually, even if it is enforced, which it will not be. It also still allows Biden's amnesty program amounting to another 30,000 immigrants per month. His EO is just another con that won't have any effect on restricting illegal border crossings and enhancing border security -- more lies so Democrats can say they're doing something about the open border.

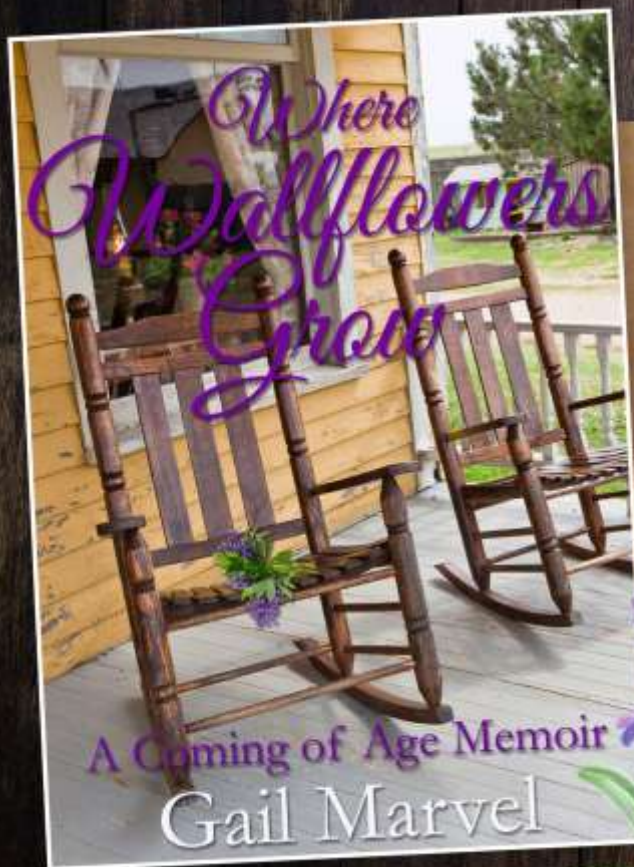
Ed Henrie, Montrose

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

POLICE, UTILITY CREWS RESPOND TO TWO-CAR COLLISION



Photo by Gail Marvel
MONTROSE-On the evening of June 13, the Montrose Police Department closed the intersection of South 6th and South Park due to a two-car collision that required cars to be towed. Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) also responded to the scene to restore power. Aside from weather related incidents, DMEA reports that car/utility pole accidents are a major cause of power outages and disruptions to the co-op electrical system.



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

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

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

GAIL MARVEL
 Montrose Author & Reporter

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





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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

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Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— Montrose County and the Montrose County Veteran Service Officer (VSO) are once again offering a U.S. flag replacement program. Residents can visit one of several sites to retire their old, tattered flags in a designated disposal box. In exchange, they will receive a new 3'x5' U.S. flag that is made in the U.S.

"This program is a favorite of mine," said Commissioner Roger Rash, a U.S. Navy veteran. "It's a way to show respect for our country and the men and women who fight for our freedoms. Our community embraces veterans, and what better way to show it than by displaying a beautiful American flag?"

"Spring winds can be tough on flags," said Phillip Rich, Montrose County VSO. "This program encourages proper disposal of old flags and keeps the stars and stripes flying high in Montrose County."

The U.S. Flag Code advises retiring a flag when it shows the following: frayed edges (exceeding 1.25 times the height of a single stripe), faded colors, holes, and several stains. The flags collected by Montrose County are retired with respect by volunteers through the Veterans Memorial Cemetery of Western Colorado in Grand Junction.

Flags may be retired at the following locations:

- Welcome Home Alliance for Veterans, 4 Hillcrest Plaza Way, Montrose, CO 81401
- Montrose County Administration Office Lobby, 1140 North Grand Ave. Montrose, CO 81401
- Montrose County Sheriff's Office Lobby, 1100 North Grand Ave. Montrose, CO 81401
- American Legion Post 25, 315 5th St, Olathe, CO 81425
- Nucla Co-Op, 995 Main, Nucla, CO, 81424

Want to learn more about the county's support of veterans? Check out the recent episode of Montrose County's podcast County Talk to see Commissioner Sue Hansen talk flags, VSO, and veterans with Commissioner Rash, VSO Phillip Rich, and Contract VSO Specialist Sheldon Smith. To learn more about the VSO, please visit the VSO webpage or call 970-249-2115.



OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

50 MILLION POUNDS OF VANADIUM IN THE URAVAN MINERAL BELT WILL BE LOCKED AWAY WHEN DOLORES RIVER NATIONAL MONUMENT BECOMES A REALITY

Editor:

Suppose that a major copper deposit was discovered in the west end of the Western Slope of Colorado. Would the proponents for the Dolores River National Monument be in favor of developing and mining that deposit? Would the people that demand that the US get all of its energy from generation of electricity from renewable sources, be in favor? Probably not, more likely, hell no!

You would think that everyone would be in favor because if we are going to be carbon neutral and create all of our energy from renewable sources by 2050, we are going to need more copper. We are going to need a lot more copper. In a study conducted by the University of Michigan, we are going to need 118% more copper than has been mined in all of recorded history. One could make a similar case for 34 other mineral commodities that are determined to be "critical" by the US government. Not only copper but uranium and vanadium are also on that list.

If we are going to add more national monuments and eliminate multiple use of public lands that are rich in these "critical" minerals then the quality of our lives are going to suffer and our nation's security will be in jeopardy. Amazingly, our haphazard approach to exploiting domestic natural resources due to stifling regulations and direct opposition have yet to put us completely out of business. Thus the quality of life still remains fairly high but there is a breaking point. Perhaps the greatest reason that we haven't reached the breaking point yet is because a large portion of our "critical" minerals are imported. Forty-five percent of copper is imported. Eighty percent of uranium is imported and 100% of vanadium. I find it extremely disconcerting that there is 50 million pounds of vanadium sitting in the Uravan Mineral Belt and it is going to be locked away when the Dolores River National Monument becomes a reality.

Going without, doing without, should be a real concern. Certainly, being carbon neu-

tral by 2050 is just not going to happen. We simply do not have a mindset as a nation nor available resources to make that happen. It has been an arbitrary and unnecessary goal from the beginning.

A faction of misguided individuals will continue to oppose and protest any attempt to recover natural resources that enables them to protest and oppose.

Otherwise, they will be spending all their time trying to find something to eat and finding a place to stay warm.

That is exactly what our ancestors contended with in our distant past. Then they began using natural resources and bit by bit, we arrived at the amazing place we are today.

We have full bellies, we are cool when it is hot, warm when it is cold, dry when it is wet and then some of us are unhappy because we don't have exclusive access to all the beautiful places.

Oh how blind we have become as a nation.

Don Hemme, Redvale



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is
true

the montrose mirror

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Peg Evanoika, MRP

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

POST OFFICE LOCATIONS TO CLOSE IN OBSERVANCE OF JUNETEENTH HOLIDAY

Special to the Mirror

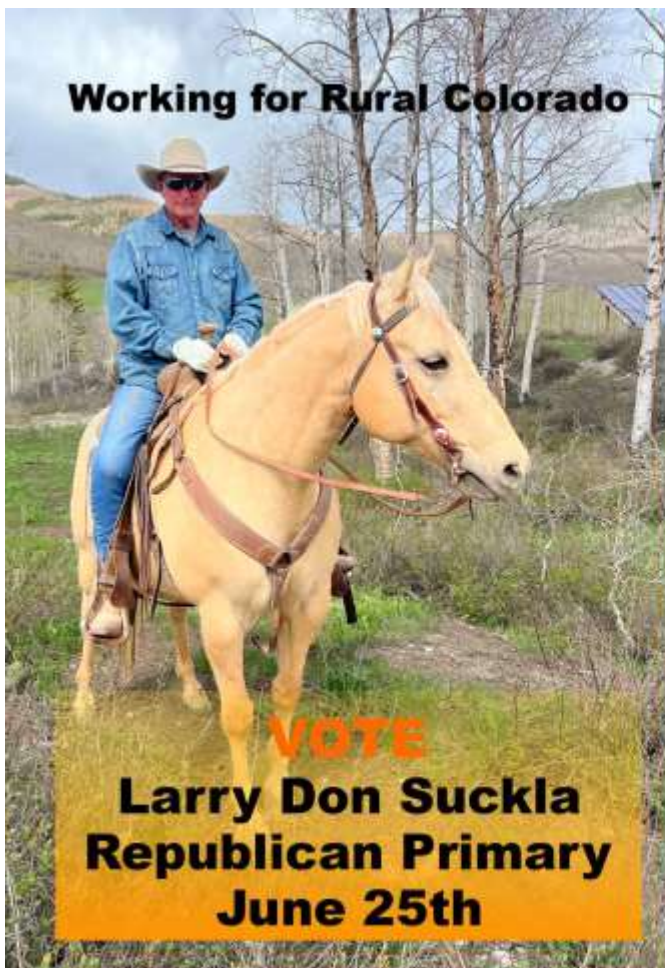
COLORADO – All Postal Service retail locations will be closed, and there will be no residential or business mail delivery on Wednesday, June 19 in observance of the Juneteenth holiday.

Priority Mail Express, which is a premium service, will be delivered in select areas for an additional fee.

Retail locations will be open for normal business hours and regular mail delivery will resume on the next business day, Thursday, June 20.

Customers can purchase shipping supplies, print shipping labels, and purchase stamps online 24/7, including on holidays. Stamps are also available at most major grocery stores, big box stores, and even ATMs.

For the full list of holidays observed by the Postal Service, please visit our [holidays and events webpage](#).



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Why are our County Commissioners at odds with our Sheriff over the Public Safety Sales Tax and Retirement?

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

Why do certain elected officials support progressive groups like Unify Montrose?

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

Scott will not just say what it takes to show he cares, he will do what is required to prove he cares.

Scott Mijares is running for Montrose County Commissioner for the right reasons....because he cares.



Elect Scott Mijares on June 25th as your next County Commissioner

Paid for by Friends of Scott Mijares for County Commissioner – www.scottm4montrose.com

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SOUR GRAPES

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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.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

VOTE FOR RIBA AND MIJARES IN THE JUNE 25 PRIMARY

Editor,

Imagine, if you will, what Montrose County could accomplish if we had two successful businessmen serving as County Commissioners. Perhaps we could have good stewards of our tax receipts and expenditures. Maybe the morale and performance issues in the road and bridge department could be heard and addressed, not ignored, by those elected to represent us. And possibly we would have two adults willing to sit down with Sheriff Gene Lillard and secure the proper funding the citizens of Montrose approved in 2007 that will provide the Sheriff with the resources to provide us with a safe community. Fortunately, we don't just have to imagine this possibility. We have two successful businessmen running in this current primary election. Scott Riba and Scott Mijares are the two candidates that can best represent the interests of the citizens of the county and operate as business men. Vote for Riba and Mijares in the June 25th primary.

Ben Alexander, Montrose

THE CONSEQUENCES OF DISHONESTY

Editor:

Scott Mijares just found out that there is a consequence to being dishonest. Especially on a legal document. I filed a complaint with the secretary of state campaign finance alleging that Scott Mijares was in violation of campaign finance rules and regs. It seems that his lie about being a lifelong republican caught up with him when he filed his affidavit to run in the republican primary on February 9th, 2024. But he was not a republican at that time. The secretary of state kind of frowns on lying on a legal document. As should all the voters that he told that lie to at meet and greet gatherings. This man has a long history of not being honest about his party affiliation. After multiple background checks I can find no record of him ever being registered as a republican before February 12th, 2024. Why is this important? Because he wants to be your next county commissioner. And that position should never be filed by someone who will tell boldface lies in front of several people.

I'm sure he will try to lie his way out of it. Saying he didn't understand how he got registered as unaffiliated. Even though he voted the democrat ballot in the 2020 presidential primary. Most normal people would ask why I am being sent two ballots, one democrat and one republican. His campaign started with a lie and that is all the more reason to not vote for him.

Louis Stark is a good honest man. He has been honest from day one about his tax issues. He grew up here in Colorado unlike his opponent who spent 20 years in the liberal state of Hawaii. Where his unaffiliated voter registration followed him to Colorado through the national change of address. If I knew nothing else about these two men, I would still vote for Louis Stark. Louis Stark was a PCP as part of the Montrose County republican central committee his party affiliation has been verified. He has been an active citizen of the western slope for most of his life. Vote for Louis Stark!

Ray Langston, Montrose

VOTE FOR STEPHEN VARELA FOR CD3

Editor:

The June primary will be a critical election for our 3Rd Congressional District. Since 2020 every citizen regardless of political affiliation has suffered under policies and decisions promulgated by the radical-ultra liberal Democrat party that is destroying this country and our very survival is at risk unless we send a majority of conservatives to Congress in the November election.

On the June Republican primary ballot there are six candidates running for the seat being vacated by Lauren Boebert. I have researched the backgrounds and positions of each candidate and concluded that Stephen Varela of Pueblo is by far the best choice of the six candidates to represent our Congressional District in the future.

I had the opportunity to meet with him personally and was impressed with his background of not only his service to his community but his service to his country. His military service is highlighted by two Airborne combat tours in Iraq. His public service in Pueblo, service on the Colorado Board of Education, and an abundance of common sense which is in short supply in Washington, will enable him to bring a strong voice of reason to Washington to put our country back on track.

If registered to vote, exercise your right and responsibility by voting Stephen Varela for CD3.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

IGNITE IS BACK THIS THURSDAY!

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Come enjoy an evening of free entertainment as your fellow community members present fast-paced five-minute presentations on their ideas, hobbies, travels, interests, expertise, passions and curiosities this Thursday, June 20. The Ignite talks begin at 7:30 pm in the backyard of Canyon Creek Bed and Breakfast (820 East Main, Montrose). Beverage service will be available beginning at 7pm. As always, we have a varied and fun line-

up of speakers. Topics will include: Laughing at Death (honoring dead in an unconventional manor) – Claudia Bishop, Two Weeks in Viet Nam – Anne Schuttig, Mysteries of Montrose- Sally Johnson, Cuba Today – Jetty Spangrude, Civic Governance Unveiled – Barbara Bynum, Blue-Nature’s Rarest Color- Dave Sharrow, Have you ever met a zombie Robot – Bri Lafferty, Estrogen does not cause breast cancer – Gail Frazetta, My Friendship with the *Dine’*- Russel Evans.

Is your interest piqued? Join us – for some fun facts, travel ideas, new information, or to just be entertained! Ignite Montrose has been hosting events three or four times a year since 2012 and is part of a worldwide network of over 350 other Ignites. “We are always looking for presenters willing to share their ideas and enthusiasm for their topics,” stated Nancy Zaenger, event organizer. To learn more about Ignite Montrose, visit the Ignite Montrose (Colorado) Facebook page.

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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE REPUBLICAN WOMEN LUNCHEON & PROGRAM

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE—Montrose Republican Women Luncheon & Program will be Friday, June 21 at Noon, Hampton Inn Montrose. Come celebrate our High School Graduate Scholarship Recipients. Pizza party and cake provided. Also, Apple the dog and handler Chantelle Bainbridge will give a short program about the MPD Victims Services Program. Donations for stuffed animals are welcome. Bring a friend to this exciting luncheon! Call Kerri - 970-209-5170.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

KIWANIS CLUB OF GRAND JUNCTION NAMES 2024 CITIZEN & EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

Special to the Mirror

GRAND JUNCTION – The Kiwanis Club of Grand Junction has selected Dr. Charles Latshaw as their 2024 Citizen of the Year and Breanne Garcia as their 2024 Educator of the Year.

As Music Director of the Grand Junction Symphony, Dr. Latshaw commitment to expose children to orchestral and symphonic music, specifically 3rd-5th graders throughout School District 51, made him an easy choice. Dr. Latshaw created the Grand Junction Symphony Academy, which allows children to receive one on one lessons who otherwise could not afford to do so. His commitment to the development and improvement of the Arts in the Grand Valley to our youth aligns with our commitment to improving our community one child at a time.

Breanne Garcia is a Special Education Specialist for School District 51 where she is an integral part of ensuring students with disabilities have a meaningful education. Bree has worked in special education for over 15 years and has worked in elementary schools as a moderate need’s teacher, helping students that need specialized instruction in math, reading, and social emotional learning. Hundreds of students have benefited from her expertise and have grown socially and academically due to her commitment. Lastly, Bree ensures new special education teachers receive the support they need to ensure special needs students thrive.

Dr. Latshaw and Ms. Garcia were recognized by the Kiwanis Club on Thursday, June 13, 2024 at Warehouse 2565.



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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS: BUSINESS

SNOW CAPPED CIDER'S NEW TAPROOM & WINE BAR TO CELEBRATE GRAND OPENING ON JULY 4TH



The Snow Capped Cider Taproom & Wine Bar, above, opens on July 4, 2024. "Join us as we celebrate the amazing terroir of our beautiful state," said Owner and Head Cidermaker Kari Williams, pictured at right. Courtesy photos Snow Capped Cider.

Special to the Mirror
 CEDAREDDGE – Snow Capped Cider, based in Cedaredge, Colorado, is reaching new heights in the state’s fruit-growing, wine-making and cider-crafting scene. Helmed by Owner and Head Cidermaker, Kari Williams, the award-winning cidery is thrilled to announce the grand opening of its Taproom & Wine Bar on July 4, 2024. The venue is set to boast the most extensive collection of 100% Colorado-made cider and wine, a haven for all cider and wine enthusiasts.

Says Kari Williams, "We're thrilled to unveil our new taproom nestled in the heart of Cedaredge. Our unwavering commitment to showcasing Colorado's finest cider and wine is our mission at Snow Capped Cider. Join us as we celebrate the amazing terroir of our beautiful state."

Snow Capped Cider’s brand-new Taproom & Wine Bar proudly showcases their exclusive, award-winning selections, including

those recognized by the prestigious Good Food Awards, GLINTCAP, and CiderCraft. Williams has personally curated the finest craft ciders and wines from across Colorado, ensuring that every sip is a testament to the state’s Rocky Mountain terroir. This taproom is set to become a must-visit destination, solidifying the recognition of Colorado-grown cider and wine.

In addition to its updated interior, the taproom provides a unique and modern twist on the conventional tasting room experience. Guests can indulge in the flavors of wood-fired pizza, charcuterie, sliders, paninis, and other small bites. The taproom will also host a rotating roster of guest chefs who bring their culinary expertise to the table, showcasing local produce and nearby farms. Expert winemakers will be on hand to discuss their wines, adding a touch of educational entertainment to the experience.

"Inviting guest chefs and winemakers into

our new taproom is central to our plans at Taproom & Wine Bar. By doing so, we aim to elevate the recognition of Colorado’s finest cider and wine. We believe that hearing directly from the experts—those who have crafted these exceptional beverages—will enrich our understanding and contribute to our cause. We are thrilled for our guests to join us!" Stay tuned for further updates and schedule of the exciting events and offerings at Snow Capped Cider’s Taproom & Wine Bar.

WHEN:

Thursday, July 4, 2024

WHERE:

Snow Capped Cider Taproom & Wine Bar
 105 Grand Mesa Drive.
 Cedaredge, Colorado

HOURS:

Tuesday - Thursday 2 p.m. - 8 p.m.
 Friday - Saturday 12 p.m. - 9 p.m.
 Sunday 12 p.m. - 6 p.m.
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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

DON'T MISS THE 22nd ANNUAL PATRIOTIC CONCERT AT PAVILION SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 30

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The Montrose Community Band presents the 22nd Annual Patriotic Concert at the Montrose Pavilion at 3pm on June 30. Enjoy an afternoon of rousing, flag-waving musical selection by your hometown band! Admission is free.

Caring for you like family means THE MOST ADVANCED SPINE CARE IN THE REGION

Montrose Regional Health now features the ExcelsiusGPS and Excelsius3D robotic systems for spine surgery. The revolutionary technology uses advanced imaging, navigation and robotic guidance for the highest quality spine and pain care available.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DELTA COUNTY PRETRIAL SERVICES CELEBRATES THREE YEARS OF SUCCESS AND INNOVATION

Special to the Mirror

DELTA COUNTY – The Delta County Pretrial Services Department is proud to announce its three-year anniversary on June 21st, marking three years of dedicated service to our community.

Since its inception, Pretrial Services has worked tirelessly to ensure fair and effective pretrial practices that maximize release, public safety, and court appearance.

Administered 1,750 risk assessments to those in custody

Provided comprehensive reports to the court, increasing value and meaning to first appearance bond hearings

Provided supervision to over 700 individuals in navigating the pretrial process while at liberty in the community

Collaborated with behavioral health treatment providers and other community partners to improve pretrial outcomes

Provided proven methods of support for individuals, reducing recidivism and enhancing community safety

"We are thrilled to celebrate this milestone and reflect on the impact Pretrial Services has had on our community," said

Leigh Anne Suppes, Pretrial Services Manager. "Our team is committed to continuing our mission of ensuring justice and equity for all individuals awaiting trial while also enhancing public safety in Delta County."

The program has caught the attention of Colorado Attorney General Phillip Wisener for its innovative approach to handling crime in small communities. Instead of incarcerating individuals and risking their jobs, incomes, and housing before a conviction, Delta County Pretrial Services focuses on addressing the root causes of criminal behavior. This approach ensures that community members are not penalized simply because they cannot afford bail, a shift that has effectively eliminated the need for bail bondsmen in Delta County.

For more information or to learn more about Pretrial Services, please contact Leigh Anne Suppes at lsupes@deltacountyco.gov.

Mission of Pretrial Services:

Delta County Pretrial Service's mission is to assist judicial officers in making pretrial

decisions and to provide the court with a range of pretrial release options by providing complete, accurate, and timely information to the Judicial Officer, District Attorney's Office, and the Public Defender's Office via written report, through the use of an empirically developed pretrial risk assessment tool. This tool predicts the likelihood of individuals appearing for all court hearings and remaining law-abiding while on bond. If an individual is released by a judge and court-ordered to participate in pretrial supervision as a bond condition, our case managers will monitor them to ensure compliance with court-ordered conditions designed to maximize release, maximize court appearance, and maximize public safety. The goal is also to minimize the detrimental collateral consequences of pretrial detention. We seek to provide supportive services to meet the pretrial population where they are and help them be successful during their time under pretrial supervision. Each client is assessed for risk and need, and then case managers develop an individualized case plan to respond according to evidence-based practices.

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MONTROSE REGIONAL CRIME STOPPERS

see something, say something



Save the Date

We are now accepting Montrose County Fair & Rodeo Royalty Applications. Please return completed applications to:

randilynmadison25@gmail.com OR
tlgibson15@gmail.com

All applications are due June 28 by 5PM and can be found on montrosecountyfairandrodeo.com



A LITTLE BIT OF FAITH WILL GO A LONG WAY



Above, Kiarra Sheets running her horse "Sweet Pea" in the Run at the Rose. At right, Kiarra with Sugar and mom Keshia Sheets. Photos by Gunnison Clamp.



By Gunnison Clamp

MONTROSE-The Sheets family, from Parachute, have received numerous blessings in their journey through life, and this quote from Mr. Sheets sums that up. The family's story is an incredible one, of faith, hope, and love. Their lives have brought them to today, where Kevin and Keshia Sheets now support daughter Kiarra's biggest dream: To be a barrel racer.

That dream is only possible today because of a miracle which happened years ago to the family. That miracle is covered in detail later on.

In Montrose for the Run at the Rose barrel race, we were able to catch up with the Sheets family and get a look into a truly wonderful story. Kiarra now is in her biggest year of racing yet, having raced since the age of 8, and riding horses all her life.

She talked about how she keeps her mares in good shape for the races. "I kinda make the time for it, with both of the horses I work them two hours a day; depending on how sassy they're being. A lot of times my Mares are the sassiest things in the world."

"Sugar's way crazier, and she's actually older, way older than Sweet Pea, she's about 21. Sweet Pea's 5," Kiarra said. Sug-

ar's age is unusual for a barrel racing horse, but not unheard of.

Kiarra's mother explained that horses this old can race well provided they have the genetics for it and are still in good shape. Sugar's age and patience shows in concern to her

connection to Kiarra, always taking good care of her rider out in the ring.

Kiarra's father, Kevin Sheets, talked about making this dream come true, and how it's affected him. "I actually really enjoy it, it's her dream and I'm willing to follow it with her, we did it with our son with baseball, and we did travel for baseball; and when she started getting into rodeo we said "Well, we're going to do the same thing for her.""

He continued, talking on how the family makes this happen even without the resources some other have. "It is definitely expensive, you've got to cut in places to make other ends meet. For instance we don't have one of those big fancy trailers around here; we make what we have work. We don't have \$100,000 horses, but we have horses that will compete."

Keshia added to this. "It's a dream come true for us parents, honestly; we'll do everything we can to fuel that dream, and make it fun. That's the most important part to us, is, the minute it gets so competitive, it's not fun."

The main goal of Kiarra's parents is not to put the fastest time on the board every time, but to realize their daughter's ambitions. But it's also about caring for and loving the horses that make the journey worth it. "A lot of these folks that do this a lot, they look at these horses as a tool. Well, us, especially the girls look at them as family members," Kevin said.

But what about that miracle that the family experienced? Well, Kiarra is the miracle. According to an initial diagnosis, she wasn't even going to be here in the world today.

Continued next pg

A LITTLE BIT OF FAITH WILL GO A LONG WAY *From previous pg*

Keshia has occasionally been burdened with a condition called trophoblastic disease, a type of tumor that can take over and end a pregnancy. Sparing the details, it's a disease which has caused heartbreak for the family before. "It was a four-year journey, honestly, of several surgeries," Keshia said.

Eventually, hope was on the horizon again. "We did all the treatments, they gave me the clear that I can start trying again, and we conceived," said Mrs. Sheets.

But hope was soon dampened. Another ultrasound was conducted, and a false pregnancy was found. The doctor needed to schedule a surgery the next day to remove the tumor. The surgery effectively meant an abortion if her unborn baby had somehow survived.

She felt exhausted with surgeries, and didn't feel right about the situation. "I wasn't at peace with it at all, neither was my husband. So the end of the week came; before I went down there (to the doctor's office) I called my friends to pray with me. We met at the church and we prayed together."

At the doctor's office, one more ultrasound was conducted. If the tumor was still there, it had to be removed at this point. The outlook was grim.

After the ultrasound image came back, Keshia could tell something was going on based on the nurse's reaction. "And it was kind of hectic, because the nurse had followed my journey for four years, the ultrasound tech, and she started tearing up.", Sheets continued. "(She) went and got my doctor; and he's looking at the previous picture, and he just looked at me with tears in his eyes and he says "I don't know what to tell you, I can't explain this but you have a baby in your womb.""

What seemed impossible had somehow happened. Kevin and Keisha were going to have another child. And they knew it was

by God's hand. When she had her daughter, it was an emotional experience for all involved, including the Doctor. "When she was born he stayed in the room, and he was actually crying, it was cool because he was like "This is your miracle.""

"And I think as a doctor he was thinking "I could have aborted this, what if I hadn't done this ultrasound?", she remarked.

"I'm grateful my husband and I went with where we were at because; we were scared."

She credited the power of prayer as a huge part of it. "There's power in it, and I just, you want people to know that. It doesn't mean you won't have obstacles."

"We pray about everything, we pray before every run, we pray for other barrel racers. Honestly we wouldn't have any of this without God, and I truly believe that. (Kiarra) was born with a gift for horses, and God can shine through that to minister to other people. She actually prays a lot too, she prayed before that run, we prayed by that trailer. I don't know how people do it without that," she stated.

Those prayers, and a strong faith, give her assurance that all will be well in the arena. "As a mother; I just know that this is God's daughter, He loves her more than I do. And it gives me peace knowing that. She had a bad wreck here last year actually, on one of her other horses. It was one of those scarier deals, but she came out of it just a little banged up, and it was surprising. But I know why."

Kiarra talked about that possibility of getting hurt in this fast-paced sport. "You don't really prepare yourself for it, you've just got to know, you come out of the arena with three cans down but you're still on the horse alive, you should count that a blessing."

The barrel races give payouts, sometimes quite good. But to fund the family's ambitions, Kevin Sheets, now retired from a phone company, runs a very successful

business of his own.

That business is 4K taxidermy. The "4K" name comes from the family names, Kevin, Keshia, Kiarra, and the Sheet's son, Kaden. Kevin used to have no interest in mounting any of his trophies from hunting, but a little persuasion changed that, and changed his career direction entirely.

"I've spent my entire life hunting, but I'd never had anything mounted. Never had any interest in it at all.", Kevin stated. "And I went on a hunt in Wyoming with a friend of mine and I ended up killing a buck. And he says "Man, you need to have this thing mounted." Long story short, he kind of guilts me into having the dumb thing mounted, and I took it to a guy down in Grand Junction."

"Got it back, and his ears drove me nuts. So I got to thinking about it, wondering how I could fix that. Long story short, I started looking at how to do taxidermy, and how to fix these ears and everything else. My buddy started bringing me stuff to practice mounting and everything else.", he continued.

Soon, his friend realized that Kevin had a talent he had just never realized yet. "After about 15-20 mounts he said, "You know you can be doing this for a living right?" And that is literally how I got started in it", said Mr. Sheets.

laughing a little with his family about how it all came to be, he said, "It's all I do. And barrel racing. Long story short it was kind of an accident."

Anybody who needs some taxidermy done can contact Kevin at 4ktaxidermy@gmail.com.

Several complex and beautiful stories made for a wonderfully encouraging conversation with this family, who love telling their stories to be a testimony for God. The Sheets family serves as a great reminder to all that "A little bit of faith will go a long way."

OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

WHAT'S THE FINANCIAL TIPPING POINT MONTROSE?

More taxpayer funded restaurants & now a new \$221,000,000 High School...can we keep spending like there's no tomorrow?

By David White

At some point, we're going to run out of other people's money, namely yours!

I have been a vocal critic of our spend-thrift City Management and Council's ways and sadly must say that here we go again! The City Council Work Session being held today will see presentations wherein requests for more taxpayer funding of a private business as well as a Montrose County project are on the agenda.

Greg & David Fishering (father and son owners of the Storm King Distillery located at the corner of N. Grand Avenue and West Main Street in Montrose) purchased the old Montrose Potato Growers Association building next door to Storm King in 2017 and have been working to renovate the building into a useable venue which they have named "The Association." Their new operation will offer a mix of retail, dining (5 new or existing eateries/drinking establishments will be located within the building) and meeting space available to the public. Now nearing completion, a contribution of tax dollars totaling \$418,817 is all that is needed to get them to the finish line. A new sewer mainline with a "grease interceptor" for their kitchen waste, upsizing a water line, a new natural gas line, fire suppression system line, waiving of City fees, parking lot and alley construction, landscaping, etc. are all most likely going to be approved by the City Council and paid for with funds that the City collects in the form of taxes and fees...i.e., YOUR MONEY.

Once an advocate for lower taxes and a fighter against property taxes among other things government related, the Fisherings have found the easy money afforded by our City government too hard to resist. I can't necessarily say that I blame them as our progressive and "visionary" culinary experts (aka, City Manager Bill Bell & Anthony Russo, head of the Montrose Development & Revitalization Team – DART) have advocated for funding many such

private ventures by throwing money at multiple restaurant types with the mistaken theory that such enterprises will ensure the prosperity of our local economy and not one balanced out with ties to manufacturing or material production. They will ultimately be proven wrong, and we will pay the long-term price for their meddling in the private sector.

The cannibalizing of many of our local restaurant's staffs by the City's newly funded entrants into the increasingly more expensive and competitive restaurant business is happening with greater frequency. It's already hard enough to entice those in the workforce to accept a low paying job, albeit one that comes with tips, into a business that is not only cyclical but has become much more expensive for the average person to afford. Yet, as our former Mayor, Barbara Bynum said months ago in a February 7, 2024 interview with the *Montrose Daily Press*, "We are not investing in the business as much, in my opinion, as we are investing in the infrastructure of the city." "There may be a point at which we have a nice saturation downtown of restaurants that are meeting the need, but we're not anywhere close to that right now and I am fully supportive." Really, "investment" in infrastructure that is privately owned? What does this mean for our future, especially in a business segment heavily dependent upon the consumer's discretionary income for survival?

Also on today's City Council agenda is a request from Montrose County to waive \$24,661.40 in utility connection fees for their renovation of the Historic Montrose County Courthouse. This comes on the heels of the City Manager waiving building permit and plan check fees in the amount of \$87,546.94 for this project bringing the giveaways to the County to a grand total of \$112,208.34 in waived fees. Both entities get their dollars from we the taxpayers, so I get it that this is an intra-governmental equivalent of "one hand

washing the other and both hands washing the face" situation, however, somewhere along the way, we're all going to be backfilling this "gift" to the County with fee increases from the City to cover the giveaway. And on and on it goes.

Interestingly, I have had the opportunity to speak with several local residents recently about the millions and millions of dollars the City Council has given away through debt financing, depletion of our water and wastewater reserve funds, fee waivers and so on for the Colorado Outdoors project, multiple speculative restaurant ventures, housing projects, etc. and have come away with two distinct points of view on the subject.

The first point of view is that these public expenditures are wonderful and are doing much to change our quality of life for the better. Long term job creation, regardless of the type of job (almost all are in the hospitality & tourism sector) are good for Montrose and will lift all ships as the saying goes. Most who hold this point of view are fairly wealthy, retired and well educated and believe that whatever our elected officials decide is best for our city is good enough for them.

The second point of view that I've encountered comes from the lower to middle income class of citizens. Many are small business owners or those working in the industries that the city is funding (restaurants, hotels, distilleries, etc.) or are working in the service sector. Most are resentful of the way their dollars are spent and are tired of the spin the city puts on every handout they give to those who can darn well afford to pay their way as well as the City's own largesse such as the \$2,837,467.17 new façade project currently underway on the \$3,000,000++ "new" City Hall that the City Manager claimed was a cheaper way to go than to repair the "old" Historic City Hall. They work hard for their money and just cannot get ahead. They feel that they have no voice.

Continued next pg

WHAT'S THE FINANCIAL TIPPING POINT MONTROSE?

From previous pg

While not having a voice is a common refrain, when the citizens are given the opportunity to vote on public infrastructure that requires public debt financing (schools, fire stations, recreation centers, etc.), the playing field is leveled, and the citizens feel that they're a part of planning the future of our community. As one of the aforementioned citizens told me, when the citizens have voted for a visionary project (like the Montrose Pavilion & Senior Center), the opposition is often proved wrong in their early assessment of the success or failure of that particular project. When City leaders act as central planners and leave the citizens out, discontent and animosity build in the community. Hence, a new crossroad for us will be coming our way most likely in November when we will vote on whether or not to build a new high school.

I attended the Montrose RE-1J school district's school board meeting last Tuesday night, June 11th where a presentation was made to the board by a team of architects, school planners and financial experts wherein two options were given to the school board for either renovating or replacing Montrose High School. Ongoing maintenance issues, the presence of asbestos, a lack of functionality of the school as it exists today primarily because of the hodge-podge of additions to the school since it's original construction in 1940 have led us to the point of needing to remedy these and many other issues.

Meetings with the School Board as well as community input led the presentation team to draw up the two solutions presented. The Board, after hearing the presentation, determined that replacing the school with a new school (with the exception of the "new" gym that was constructed in 1997 and some newer construction financed with a 2003 voter approved sales tax to pay for bonded debt) would be the best route to take. The price

tag? \$199,000,000 - \$221,000,000!

What is staggering about this number is that Columbine Middle School was replaced with a new building in 2017-2018 for approximately \$33,000,000 (\$12M of the price was obtained from a Building Excellent Schools Today grant, or BEST grant) with the balance being paid for through a voter approved property tax increase in the November 2016 general election. The estimated replacement cost of Montrose High School, on the high end, is 6.7 times greater than what it cost to build a new middle school in 2017. If things go as I suspect they will, we will see a ballot question this November asking the voters to approve a property tax increase greater than any ever requested in the history of the City or County of Montrose.

The estimated property tax increase, per the school district, is \$316 per \$400,000 of home value. According to Zillow.com, the current median average value of a home in Montrose is \$442,714 with a median list price on homes for sale of \$575,000 based on data collected through May 31, 2024 ([Montrose, CO Housing Market: 2024 Home Prices & Trends | Zillow](#)). Using simple math, the property tax hit on the average Montrose home will be \$350 in the first year with the mill levy adjusting every year thereafter for other school district needs as well as the bonded debt of \$221M if the voters approve the issuance of debt to build the new high school.

The ramifications of this probable ballot question are huge. Property owners, especially those on fixed incomes, may be priced out of their homes. Owners of rental properties (residential as well as commercial) will, out of necessity, need to increase rents. Sales tax, already among the highest in the State of Colorado, may need to increase if a hybrid funding mechanism is needed to lessen the impact on property owners by spreading the cost of

a new school out amongst a larger share of the population who use the school system. There are a lot of unknowns.

In the meantime, increases in taxes/fees beyond our control as citizens continue to be on the rise. Examples include the 911 surcharge on your phone bill which is adjusted often based upon recommendations from the 911 Committee who determine operating expenses for the system as well as the recommended increases that need to be approved by elected officials and not you, the voters.

The School District is one of several taxing entities that rely on a property tax to fund their operations. Others include but are not limited to the Rec District, Fire District, Library District, Cemetery Districts, Water Districts, etc. Each have elected boards and taxing authority that impact each of us but which most folks are oblivious to relative to their ability to increase our property taxes dramatically as their individual needs increase.

Combine the above with the unfunded mandates that come from the State and Federal governments as well as the financing needed to fund the frivolous spending that the economic development wizards in City Hall foist on all of us and you have a California style "tax the peasants into poverty" scenario playing out.

When it's all said and done Montrose, what is the tipping point whereby those that don't fit the mold of being in a financially comfortable position say enough is enough? The day is coming soon when that question needs to receive an answer.

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.

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

**Mijares on numerous occasions has publicly stated
that he was a lifelong republican. Mijares became a republican
for the first time in his life on February 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.

These men are honest.

Paid for by Ray Langston

So let me get this straight

You want my Mom and Dad to vote for a guy that has over \$83,000 in federal tax liens to manage our \$113,000,000 County budget?

I'll have to give you a big "Heck No" on that one.



**Vote for Scott Mijares for Montrose County Commissioner.
He knows how to manage his money.**



Paif for by Friends of Scott Mijares for County Commissioner



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(970) 417-7117**

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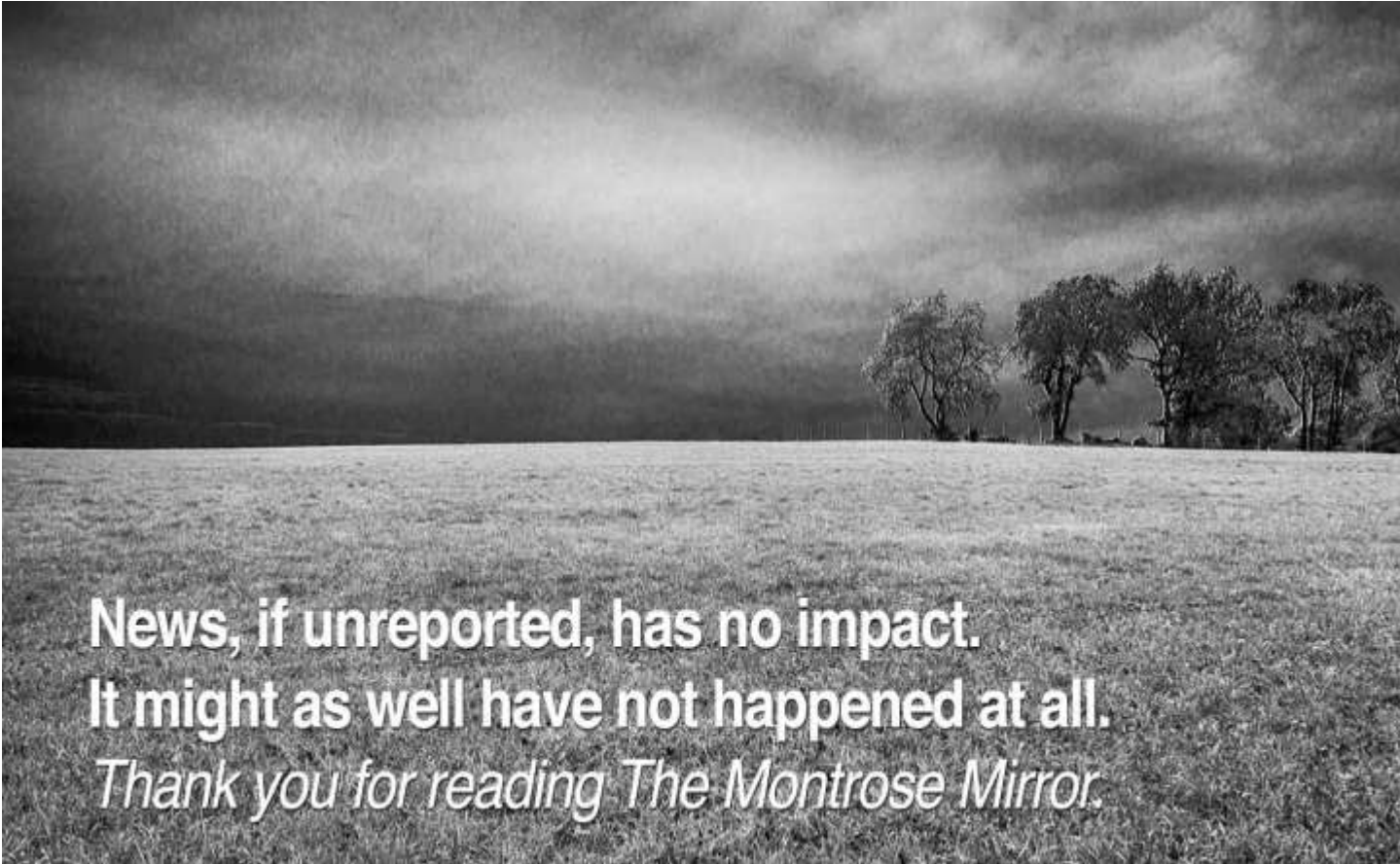
COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

ROBERT "BOB" LEE HOLZMEISTER *August 28, 1942 — June 7, 2024*



ROBERT "BOB" HOLZMEISTER, Sr., age 81, passed away on June 7, 2024 in Montrose Memorial Hospital. Bob was born to Casper and Mildred Holzmeister in Delta, Colorado. He attended local schools, graduated from Montrose High School in 1962, and married his loving and devoted wife of 60 years, Mary (Heavers), on June 6th, 1964. Bob is survived by his wife Mary, sons Robert, Jr. (Julie), John (Michelle), daughter AnnMarie Dutra (John), grandsons Jeremy, Trevor, and Tanner Holzmeister, granddaughter Samantha Hutson, and ten great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents and three sisters. Bob was a hard-working man who owned and operated Grandview Cemetery and proudly worked part-time at the Rosebowl most of his life. Baseball, basketball, and bowling were his passion. He also loved to fish. Bob was a huge New York Yankees' and Colorado Rockies' fan and was a dynamic player himself. He was well-recognized at Montrose High School for his incredible pitching skills. The most important thing he passed on to his children is the ability and drive to work hard.

A mass in memory of Bob will be held at St. Mary's Catholic Church on Friday, July 19, 2024 at 10 A.M. A private burial will take place in Grandview Cemetery immediately following. Cremation has taken place at Crippin Funeral Home in Montrose, Colorado. May Bob Rest in Peace in the loving arms of our Father.



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

ISSUE 473 June 17, 2024

ART & SOL



NEW SINALOA GRILL ON MAIN IN MONTROSE DISAPPOINTS

By Carole Ann McKelvey

MONTROSE -- As if we needed another Mexican restaurant in Montrose! Hey, when do we get a seafood or Italian?

I went to Sinaloa's when it first opened, without a liquor license. What? No margaritas?! And the food wasn't great. While there I did sign a petition that they be allowed a license.

So, my son and I decided to give it another try.

Happy to say they now have secured a liquor license and the margarita was good. But . . .

The food not so much. They also serve sushi (huh?). I decided to let that go.

I guess if you like really authentic Mexican and not the Tex-Mex we are used to in the U.S., then you might like this place. Please don't see me as a snob, but really. I'm from New Mexico and kinda know my Mexican. Now, Sinaloa is very authentic. Even has the side condiment section with different salsas and pickled onions and such; grilled jalapenos also. I don't know, maybe we ordered the wrong things here?

I decided to try the pollo asada burrito. Who can mess that up? Well, it was dry and arrived on the plate in all it's pale glory with no sauce, no beans, no rice. Just a giant burrito filled with rather dry chicken that had likely been marinated in the asada sauce, but it wasn't apparent. To the

condiment counter to put some salsa on it to try to combat the dryness; not good.

Ian ordered tacos – a fairly safe choice in a Mexican place wouldn't you think? Maybe not. Three small tortillas with various meat on them topped with about 2 tablespoons of chopped onions. That's it folks!

He also ordered a side of beans, which arrived before the meal with tortilla chips. Refried beans plain with chips and a little bit of cheese on top. What!?

He said the tacos were "okay" but a bit bland, so he tried upping the game with the condiments. One problem, he hates raw onions. Has since he was a kid; I used to tell him "Mom will be arrested by the onion police if I don't put any onions in anything."

So, altogether not a good meal. My advice, skip it and go to your other favorite Mexican place, you'll have a better meal. Unless you like real authentic (and hot) Mexican food then you might try this.

Menu goes like this:

Appetizers:

Botana de Camaron, \$22; Botana de Camaron & pulpo, \$24; Mar y Tierra (shrimp & scallop) \$24; Camaron y Callo (scallops), \$27; Callo de hacha, \$27; Chicharron de Pargo/Phot, \$25; Camarones Ahogados, \$20 (spicy); Camarones Aguachile, \$23 (spicy); Shrimp Toritos w cheese (con queso), \$18; Oysters Especiales, ½ dozen,

\$18; dozen, \$24; Oystiones Especiales (spicy) ½ dozen, \$20, dozen \$32; Shrimp to peel, \$20; Chicharron de Camaron, \$22.

Tostados de Mariscos:

Tostada de Aquachile, \$8; Shrimp Ceviche, \$9; Ceviche de Camaron & Pulpo, \$11; Del Patron, \$10; Mixta, \$11; Cillo de Hacha, \$10.

Seafood Cocktails:

Shrimp, L: \$22 – S: \$14; shrimp and octopus, L: \$24 – S: \$17; shrimp and oysters, \$24; shrimp and scallops, \$25; Campechana regular, L: \$25- S \$17; Orden de Ceviche, L: \$22 – S: \$16.; El Sinaloense, \$25; Ceviche del Patron, L: \$25 – S: \$17; Campechana Especial, \$27; Molcajete Fresco, \$26; Maleficio, \$25; Coco Natural, \$10.

Whole Fish:

Red Snapper and Tilapia fried, T:\$18 – RS \$22; _Ranch Style, T-\$24 – RS: \$26; Garlic Sauce, T-\$20, RS \$23; Veracruz Style, T: \$24-RS \$27. A la Diabla (spicy) T: \$22 RS: \$26.

Octopus:

Garlic Octopus, \$25; Deviled Octopus (spicy) \$25; Grilled Octopus, \$25.



Continued next pg

NEW SINALOA GRILL ON MAIN From previous pg

Platters:

Mexican Platter, 1 P \$24- 2 P, \$38; Molcajete Barba Roja, \$28; Seafood Nest, \$24; Seafood Rice, \$25; Parrillada Mixta, 1 P \$29- 2 P \$46; Salmon & Shrimp, \$26; Steak & Shrimp, \$24; Paquete de Carne Asada, 1 P \$25- 2 P \$40; Seafood Platter, 1 P \$29- 2 P \$46;

Soup:

Shrimp Soup, \$20; Fish Soup, \$20; Shrimp Meatballs Soup, \$21; 7 Seas Soup, \$24; Shrimp & Octopus, \$21; Shrimp & Fish, \$20; Plain soup, \$6.

Fish Fillet:

Grilled, \$17; Grilled Blackened Salmon, \$22; Ranch Style \$20; Garlic Sauce, \$20; Fish & chips, \$15; Fish, Shrimp & Chips, \$18; Breaded, \$20; Chef Specialty, \$25; Deviled, \$20; Veracruz Style, \$20; Chipolte Style, \$20; Filete "Don Beto", \$23; Mushroom, \$23; Culichi Style, \$20.

Mexican Dishes:

Chicken Breast, \$17; Carne Asada Steak, \$22; Tampiquena, \$22

Fajitas:

Chicken, \$21; Steak, \$22; Shrimp, \$22; Fajitas Sinaloa, \$25; Mixtas,

\$24.

Shrimp:

Wrapped in Bacon, \$23; Grilled, \$17; Breaded, \$19; Chipotle Style, \$22; Deviled, \$20; Culichi Style, \$22; Ranch Style, \$22; Camarones Divorciados, \$24; Garlic Sauce, \$21; Shrimp in Mushroom Sauce, \$25; Veracruz Style, \$22; Camarones a la Mexicana, \$21; Camarones a la Boston, \$24; Philadelphia Shrimp, \$22; Bacanora Shrimp, \$22.

Combinations:

1 Taco, \$10; 2 Tacos, \$13; 1 Enchilada & 1 taco, \$13; 2 Enchiladas, \$13; 3 Flautas, \$15; 2 Enchiladas del Pacifico, \$16.

Tacos:

Carne Adada, \$4; Chicken, \$4; Shredded Beef, \$4; Fish, \$5; Shrimp & Cheese, \$5; Breaded Shrimp, \$5; Smoked Marlin, \$5.

Burritos:

Carne Asada \$12; Chicken, \$12; Shredded Beef, \$12; Shrimp, \$14; Beans & Cheese, \$8;

Side Orders:

Sour cream, \$3; Chiles Toreados, \$3; Rice or Beans, \$5; French fries,

\$6; Avocado, \$8; Cooked Salsas, \$5; Cooked creams, \$6; Guacamole, \$10; Tortillas, \$2; Papas Redondas, \$5.

Quesada's:

Plain with Salad, \$12; Carne Asada, \$15; Shredded Beef, \$15; Chicken, \$15; Shrimp, \$16.

Chimichangas:

Chicken, \$14; Shredded Beef, \$14; Carne Asada, \$14; Shrimp, \$16.

Salads:

Garden, \$11; Chicken, \$14; Shrimp, \$16.

Nachos:

Cheese, \$12; Carne Asada, \$15; Shredded Beef, \$15; Chicken, \$15; Asada fries, \$15; Papas Con Queso, \$12.

Kids Menu:

Quesadilla w/fries, \$8; Chicken Nuggests w/fries, \$9; Fish Sticks w/fries, \$9; Fries, \$6; Breaded Shrimp w/fries, \$10; Mac & cheese, \$6; Mac & cheese w/fries, \$9.

Sinaloa is located at 305 E. Main Street, call 970-417-4544.



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Montrose, CO 81401
970-249-2211

MontroseHealth.com



2024 MONTROSE HIGH SCHOOL HONOR ROLL: 2ND SEMESTER

The following students were named to the Honor Roll for the 2nd Semester 2023-2024 School year at Montrose High School. To be eligible for Honor Roll, students must be enrolled in at least five classes and earn a grade point average of 3.5 to 3.74.

9th Grade

Andres Alvarado, Lilah Bahn-Ricker, Aryanna Baugh, Caden Beard, Preston Bercillio, Emma Braaten, Wesleigh Brown, Autumn Cerise, Jacob Clowers, Sheylen Downs, James Dumit, Fletcher Flower, Jasmine Garcia, Lucas Hesse, Ruby Jackson, Trevor Johnson, Emily Kersen, Brooklyn Kolb, Grey Lesure, Brayden Leu, Simon Martinez, Jylliane Meiners, Arianna Mora, Isabelle Mott, Niyati Patel, Ty Robillard, Everlee Rodriguez, Kayleb Rogers, Omar Rosales- Gutierrez, Siera Santos, Aubrie Scott, Luken Senior, Ridge Smith, Joaquin Trujillo, and Caylie Velasquez.

10th Grade

Faith Breshears, Gretchen Brumley, Misty Castle, Nickolas Deisig, Reese Fenton, Nyah Green, Ayla Gross, McKenna Holman, Phineas Howe, Olivia Jenkins, Matilda Johnson Freeman, Lizbeth Ledesma, Kailana Lewis, Mason Lutz, Christopher Martinez Dela Cruz, Carter Miller, Jace Mitchell, Mayce Oberg, Isabel Ortega Leon, Sydnee Pomeroy, Vivika Printz, Jayden Pryor, Hannah Rehard, Jack Schwartz, Jackson Shumway, Jordyn Simo, Raymond Stamm, Kacy Stewart, Kyle Whitcomb, Elijah Womak, and Lillian Yender.

11th Grade

Ernesto Almanza Nieto, Emily Barker, Paige Beretta, Jolisa Bryson, Bailey Christie, Lauren Clark, Brody Cooling, Gabriel Dominguez, Osmar Encarnacion, Aretxy Espinosa Quintana, Daniel Franco Carrasco, Maya Frasier, Johans Garcia, Genesis Gaxiola Avila, Christopher Gonzalez Muniz, Reagan Goodwin, Aidan Grijalva Castro, Avjanna Gross, Matthew Hafen, Hayden Hensley, Ginger Hughes, Victor Ibarra Sanchez, Maria Jayme, Klahan Jewell, Kaston Kail, Skyler Key, Joshua Maddox, Parker Maestas, Emma Mengenhause, Ashlin Mitchum, Christopher Mock, Aidan Paider, Keegan Peelo, Wesley Riley, Macayla Roberts, Angelica Rubello, Jennifer Safken, Van Spiker, Savanna Tougaw, Lily Towle, Viet Tran, Aprielle Trujillo, Cassidy Westergren, and Ariana Wilkes.

12th Grade

Jagger Andrade, MacKenzie Brown, Skyler Catt, Gloria Dullea, Lillian Fitzgerald, Bo Foster, Mercedes Gonzalez Martinez, Elliott Highland, Zoey Kasamis, Ariana Najar, Violet Noel, Ana Quintero,, Blake Reule, Allison Romines, Chyanne Storrs, Vanessa Washington, Ashley Whitcomb, Jady Wood, and Felix Zeferino.



8500

ANONYMOUS

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MONTROSE REGIONAL CRIME STOPPERS

see something, say something

2024 MONTROSE HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL'S HONOR ROLL: 2ND SEMESTER

The following students were named to the Principal's Honor Roll for the 2nd Semester 2023-2024 school year at Montrose High School. To be eligible for the Principal's Honor Roll, students must be enrolled in at least five classes, excluding pass/fail classes, and earn a grade point average of 3.75 and above. An asterisk denotes all A's.

9th Grade

Ayla Adamson, Liliana Almanza Mendez*, Sophia Benner, Matthew Bergstrom*, Dyllan Blair*, Maya Blake*, Kayla Braaten, Bailee Broyles*, Yazmin Cortes Aguilera, Violeta Cortez*, Anna Countryman*, Chance Culver*, Noah Dupre, Riley Embrey*, Kiara Fowler, Devynn Fritz, Jade Garretson*, Isabelle Giroir*, Wyatt Gleason*, Fernando Gonzalez*, Jaylee Good*, Erica Haddock, Trevin Hatch, Samantha Jennings*, Bryton Johnson, Gracelynn Jones, Katelyn King, Karah Kohout*, Avila Lanford*, Conner Luttrell*, Logen Mantos*, Evan Marshall, Benjamin Meaker*, Marcella Mendoza, Chazz Miller*, Isabella Miller*, Abbey Neary*, Lauren Neubaum*, Keira Oldroyd, Noah Osorio, Deagan Pelham*, Tatiana Perez, Aspen Pottorff*, Gavin Ranstrom, Dane Roberts, Trip Ross*, Cade Saunders*, Annie Schroeder*, Namgyal Sherpa*, Sauder Stock*, Mason Swallow, Clorinda Townsend*, Alejandro Vargas Nunez*, Graysen Vidmar*, Aidan Vorseggern, Robert Walker*, Henry Wilson, and California Ybarra.

10th Grade

Evelen Baltazar Figueroa, Joshua Bayless*, Elizabeth Bircherm, Brandon Blacker, Bailey Blackford*, Charles Boschen*, Jaiden Bressett*, Madison Collin*, Caitlin Cowley*, Presely Davis, Claudia Diaz, Zoe Greear, Jazmin Gutierrez Hernandez*, Kinsey Hadlock, Anika Harris*, Addison Howell, Reign Jellise Icasiano, Kathryn Jakino, Robin Kittell, Teagan Kulbeth*, Maggie Kusar*, Layla Lambert, Alana Lasley, Magdalene Legg, Marisha Lutz, Brooklynn Martinez, Ashton McClure, Karlie Mejia, Ally Metzger*, Noel Mireles Rodales, Dulce Moreno Palma, Willem Plumhoff, Chad Rocco, Olivia Rosentreter, Analicia Ruedas, Olivia Schmidt*, Evie Sherman, Abigail Svacha, Carissa Trask*, Shea Vincent, Maiya Wagner, Shiloh Warthen*, Mya Wilcox, Rachel Williams, and Jaylee Wilson.

11th Grade

Barnabas Algacs, Fernanda Almanza Garcia, Yuliana Almanza Mendez, Joseph Benitez, Meredith Cervantes, Jose Chavez Alvarez*, Maggie Cline, Maddison Coca, Paola Cortez Suarez, Caroline Countryman*, Amberly Craft, Maggie Cross, Olivia Dillon, Ellie Duncan, Ethan Efird*, Evelyn Eilts*, Georgia Ficco, Vivian Ficco*, Gabriel Fleetwood*, Nadya Forest, Hayden Fox*, Cali Fulks, Ignacio Gadeo Echandi, Taylor Gibson*, Connor Gregory Cluts, Hunter Gurule, Diego Gutierrez Garcia, Austin Hanak, Drake Hawkins, Charlotte Hellyer*, Emily Huffman, Paxton Hughes, Brekin Hutto, Avery Kingsbury, Elizabeth Kistler*, Andrew Kistler*, Aidenne Ludwig, Andrew Luquin, Aloera MacFarlane, Baeli Minerich, Joseph Montonati, Joshua Mott, Will Neuman*, Ryan Nicholes*, Ethan Osorio*, Leslie Owens, Jack Pankey, Katie Pariseau, Gabrielle Parkison, Jakai Pfifer, Grace Piquette, Elliott Poore, Elizabeth Reed, Audrey Righter, Luke Robertson*, Cooper Ross*, Shayla Saunders, Ava Silverberg, Dathan Stewart, Walter Talamantes, Indica Taylor, Summer Thibeau, Artemio Verdin, and Brooke Williams*.

12th Grade

Giada Amundson, Ivana Arellano Villegas, Hunter Barton, Andie Blowers, Karinna Bogarin, Kinzie Bush, Kolton Cohick, Chiara Coronado Rosales, Ruby Crane, Jonathan Dreitlein, Mia Duncan*, Ivan Edstrom, Hayley Eldridge, Abygayle England*, Joaquin Eudave, Landon Farley, Shandra Findley, Kenneth Flanders, John Flower, Vaughn Gann*, Samantha Go, Emma Gomez, Aleah Goodwin, Yarisbel Hernandez Serrano*, Trevor Hill, Cutter Hudson, Carter Hughes, Trevor Hutson, Dylan Jessop*, Jaxon Kattner, Jaxon Killen, Bridget Kingery, Savannah Kolb, Abigail Lambert*, Kale Leach, Elizabeth Lee*, Gabrielle Lewis, Madison Lucero, James Maunakea*, Rhyann Neary, Leonor Nieves Chavez, Maria Ortega Leon, Ashlee Petranovich, Daisy Ramirez, Noah Richmond, Rachel Robuck*, Ilse Rosales, Roberto Ruedas, Amy Scriffiny, Victoria Serna Uscanga, Breyana Shipley, Alexandra Stambaugh, Kathryn Story, Sierra Tafoya, Danielle Thole, Natalie Trask, Tahlia Trevino, Kyle Ullmann, Christopher Vargas Gomez, Colton Ward*, Aubrielle Weaver*, Jack White*, Denae Wilson, Tiffany Wu*, Melaina Yender*, and Austin Zimmer.



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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE BOTANICAL SOCIETY INSPIRES WITH SELF-GUIDED GARDEN TOUR



Robin Freed and some of her Harp & Hammer students enhance the garden party vibe. Photo by James P. Cencer.



Prince's plume (*Stanleya pinnata*) was in its full glory for tour participants at the Botanic Gardens. Photo by James P. Cencer.



An example of a crevice garden which mimics a natural planting tucked in the cracks between boulders. Photo by James P. Cencer.

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Five local homeowners opened up their gardens to the public for a self-guided tour to benefit the Montrose Botanical Society on Saturday, June 8.

The MBS Home Garden Tour showcased a range of landscaping ideas to illustrate what's possible in our high desert climate. The event allowed 135 participants to meet the homeowners whose vision and hard work created their gardens, and so hopefully inspire ideas of their own.

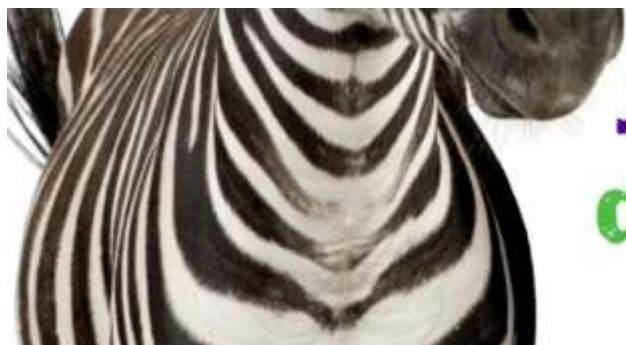
The tour started at the Montrose Botanic Gardens, but many of the participants quickly spread to four of the homes that were within easy striking distance belonging to Susan Chandler-Reed and Alan Reed, Anne and Dave Schuttig, Linda and Dave Brisco, and Maggie Ogilvie and Don Mace. The tour offered everything from a crevice garden that aims to mimic a natural planting tucked in the cracks between boulders, to another landscape that's a

haven for birds, having hosted 84 different species and counting!

The fifth stop on the tour – hosted by Gayle Johnson and Steve Manis -- is a 6-acre farm on Spring Creek Mesa, where attracting pollinators (including their numerous hives of bees) is one of their primary goals. They've also invested heavily in conservation measures and renewable energy to power their endeavors.

But the Garden Tour wasn't only about plants and landscapes. Tour participants delighted in watching *plein aire* artists as they captured garden highlights in pastels, oils and watercolor. These generous and talented artists included Gina Grundemann, Jean Munro, Jennifer Riefenberg, Stephanie Rody, Virginia Unseld and Anita Winter. The musical students of Robin Freed's *Harp & Hammers* added a garden party mood at two of the gardens. At another, an informal group of musicians composed of Marv Ballantyne, Karin

Freudenberg, George Layton, Paul Louer, Vick Rosar and Dave Stannard played country and old timey tunes. Tour participants were also encouraged to take time to explore the Montrose Botanic Gardens. MBS is always excited to share this inspirational and educational place, free of charge. It is cultivated by volunteers and funded by donations, grants and special events like this tour. Learn more at MontroseGardens.org.



Journalism of a different stripe.

montrosemirror.com

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

FREE MULTI-DAY YOUTH SCULPTURE WORKSHOP TO BEGIN LATE SEPTEMBER 2024

Special to the Mirror

TELLURIDE-On the heels of the successful 2023 eight-day youth sculpture build, Rocky Mountain Arts (RMA), will again be producing this creative sculpture building workshop, with the help of professional artists. We will work to inspire, teach, build self-confidence and offer all a place to express themselves during this creative process.

Free to all youth participants, RMA provides tools, materials, safety gear, and lunch for each of the workshop days. Additionally, transportation for those who wish to participate but may be too far away for the commute is free for participants.

Said Erin Ries, Executive Director, "Our goals are to reach the under-served communities of Montrose, Ouray, and San Miguel Counties to come together in the creation of a large-scale sculpture, which will ultimately be on permanent display in Norwood. This program is open to anyone...students, families, and more".

RMA will begin their month-long free program September 28 & 29 in Robert Hoehn's Norwood workshop.

"We are excited to see this opportunity come to Norwood. Our kids, and their parents, will have a great opportunity to create an art installation that the entire community can enjoy," said Deana Sheriff, Norwood Town Manager.

Key Partners, Collaborators, Artists, Experts

True North Youth Program (TNYP)

True North serves the teen population in the rural San Juan Region. Their five year-round programs are available to all teens in the Norwood, Telluride and West End school districts and are free of charge.

TNYP is working to help promote the program to teens.

Norwood Town Council

Town Manager Deana Sherriff and members of Council are supportive of the project and helping to make it a reality.

Norwood High School

The Shop Department taught by Paul Pyles will offer students class credit for attending the multi-day workshop. Mr. Pyles will also be instructing during the program.

Dan Gundrum

Dan Gundrum specializes in immersive digital art through projection mapping, lasers and special effects through his company Pivotal Effects. He regularly shares his talent through artist workshops and holds an annual welding workshop through Rocky Mountain Arts. Dan works with Telluride Theatre, helping direct the cogs behind the scenes to make the show go on seamlessly. He is a member at Deep Creek Experimental, and fine tunes his plethora of creations in a studio built in an old limestone mine.

Robert Hoehn

Robert Hoehn was born in Harlem and grew up in Denver. He attended several schools before graduating from CalArts with a degree in Music Composition. He worked for decades as a composer/sound designer on award winning films & documentaries, commercials and art installations.

Recently he makes kinetic interactive sculptures shown at multiple festivals, galleries and museums across the US. Locally he designed and built the *Prairie Wind Chapel* at Camp V in Naturita, a windmill-powered pipe-organ installation.

Sarah Lewiecki

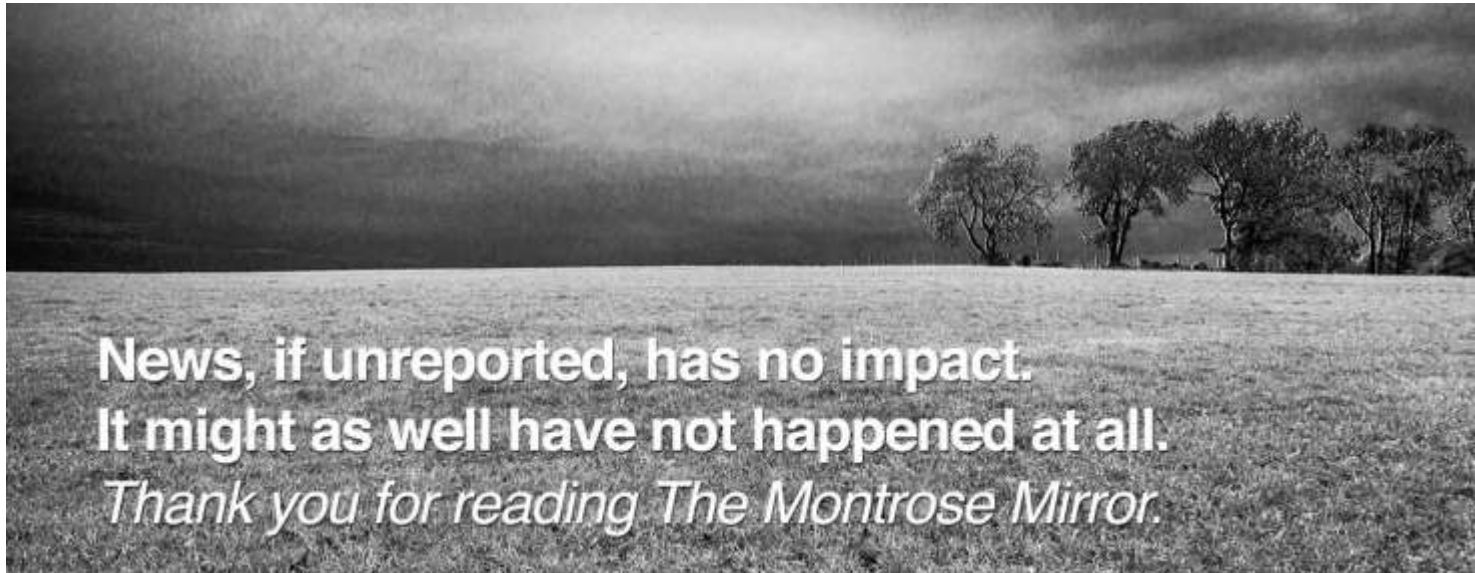
A multi-faceted artist, Sarah resides in Norwood, CO and is eager to share her knowledge of mixed media art and sculpture with students.

Maciej Mrotek

Maciej, a resident of Carbondale, is an accomplished fire performer and fire sculpture artist. He participated in all eight Telluride Fire Festivals bringing his talent as a fire spinner as well as his many "fire toys" to the joy of all who attended.

The project is made possible through the support of funding from Commission for Community Assistance, Arts, and Special Events (CCAASE) and Just For Kids (JFK).

For more information about the workshop and how to participate, please visit rockymountainarts.org/workshops or contact erin@rockymountainarts.org.



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

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 20-Thursday, June 20, noon, Prayer Gathering at the Peace Pole in Ute Indian Park, (across the street from the museum), to pray for peace in the world and the healing of Mother Earth. Everyone welcome. Bring your drums. Info - 970-252-0908.

June 21-Montrose Republican Women Luncheon & Program will be Friday, June 21 at Noon, Hampton Inn Montrose. Come celebrate our High School Graduate Scholarship Recipients. Pizza party and cake provided. Also, Apple the dog and handler Chantelle Bainbridge will give a short program about the MPD Victims Services Program. Donations for stuffed animals are welcome. Bring a friend to this exciting luncheon! Call Kerri - 970-209-5170.

June 22-Hams from the Montrose Amateur Radio Club (MARC) will be operating during the 2024 Field Day on Saturday June 22 from atop Sunset Mesa just west of Montrose. The public is invited to visit any time after 12 noon. There will be an opportunity for non-hams to get on the air and contact other Field Day stations across the country. To reach the Field Day site, drive West on Main Street to the Road intersection. Turn south on Chipeta. At .7 miles turn left onto the Sunset Mesa Road and climb to the top of the hill. Look for our signs along the way and our antennas on the north end of the Meas. For more information contact Lew French, K0LMF, at 970-417-6142.

June 22-On Saturday June 22, at 7 pm, Meditation for Today, free lecture by Buddhist monk, Geshe Kami Rita Sherpa, Ute Indian Museum, hosted by Western Colorado Friends of the Himalayas, Meditation Spaces and Art Gallery, and Ridgway Spirit Fest. Chai and refreshments, donations appreciated. 970-275-3671 for information.

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.

June 30-On Sunday, June 30th, 3pm - Patriotic Concert: Montrose Community Band **Free Concert** at the Montrose Pavilion. Come for a rousing selection of patriotic music. More Info <https://montroseband.com/concert-schedule>

July 12—14 Black Canyon quilt Show at the Montrose Pavilion, 1800 Pavilion Dr., Montrose. Friday and Saturday 9—5, Sunday 10—3:30. Admission: \$5.00 for adults, children free. Visit blackcanyonquiltshow.com for more information.

COLORADO CLASSIC BARREL RACING



Photos from Colorado Classic Barrel Racing event on June 14 at the Montrose County Fairgrounds Event Center are by Gunnison Clamp.

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