

Please support our advertisers!

© Issue No. 577 March 18, 2024



[www.montrosecounty.net](http://www.montrosecounty.net)



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



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



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



<https://the-res.com/>



[www.norris-snell.com](http://www.norris-snell.com)



CIMARRON CREEK

<https://cimarroncreekcommunity.com/>



Hidden Lake

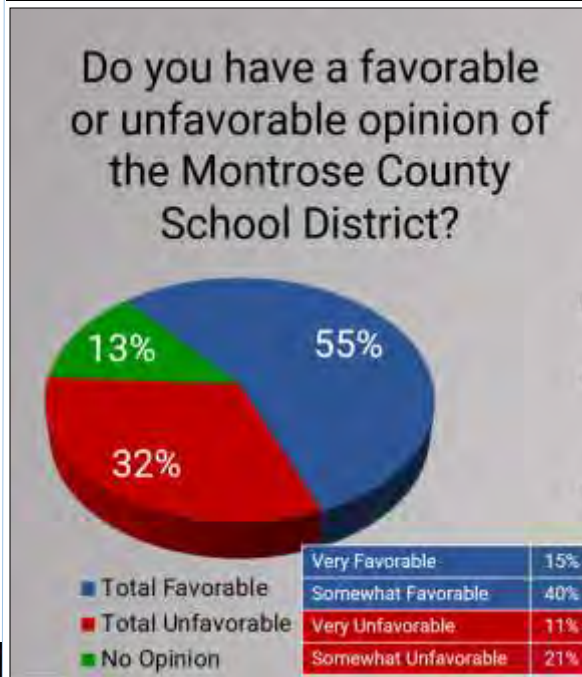
<https://thehiddenlakecommunity.com/>



<https://www.whiteyshomeimprovement.com/>

# the Montrose Mirror

## RE-1J HEARS SURVEY RESULTS, TABLES TEACHING AND LEARNING ACADEMY DECISION UNTIL MARCH 19



By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-All directors but one were present for the [regular meeting](#) of the Montrose County School District RE-1J Board of Education at 6:30pm on Tuesday, March 12. Board President Sarah Fishing called the meeting to order and asked all to rise for the Pledge of Allegiance. Also present were Board Vice President Stephen Bush; District A Director Neisha Balleck; District B Director Ted Valerio; District D Director Tom West, and District F Director Jody Hovde.

District C Director Alice Murphy was absent. Constituents were present, with every chair filled and a number of individuals waiting outside the district office meeting room to be allowed in as others exited.

Fishing said that normally the Board of education does not take comment for more than 15 minutes on any single subject, "However, given the interest in certain topics on the agenda and that we have received comment slips for,

RE-1J directors heard the [results of the recent stakeholder survey](#), above, at the March 12 meeting.

[Continued pg 47](#)

## RED HAWKS GIRLS SOCCER SHUTS OUT ROARING FORK RAMS

By Cliff Dodge

MONTROSE-The Montrose Red Hawks girls' soccer team found the home field advantage to their liking on Saturday afternoon as they shut down the Roaring Fork Rams by a score of 3-0. Head coach Matt Imus noted that the team started slowly which was not usual. Imus said the team's passing and possession of the ball were just not up to par in the beginning. Ellie Duncan hit the score sheet first as she scored from close in. This was the only score in the first half.

The second half of the contest was much improved over the initial effort. The coaches made some adjustments at half time and the passing and possession changed from good to outstanding. Ellie Duncan scored her second goal of the game in the second half. Ulena Almanza also dented the score sheet for her second goal in two games.

The Red Hawks improved their season record to 3 wins, 0 losses and 1 tie. League action has not yet started. The Red Hawks travel north to Delta to take on the Panthers on Tuesday.



[Red Hawks Baseball Splits Twin Bill!](#)  
By Cliff Dodge

[Matt Smith Joins Montrose County as Fairgrounds and Event Center Director!](#)

[Candidate Bio:](#)  
[HD 58 Hopeful Larry Don Sukla!](#)



# UNITED STATES NEWS BRIEFS

**Not Just a Better Deal. A Better Dealership!**  
**Montrose Ford-Nissan** SINCE 1986!

**Make Your Service Appointments Online**

**ANY Make, ANY Model!**

Or, to discuss any service-related issue, please call 970-249-4576  
 The choice is yours - click or call!

**We will not be undersold on tires! Backed by Ford's National Network of Dealers**

**Why buy tires anywhere else?**  
**Montrose Ford offers all of this:**

- 16 major name brand tires
- 30-day price guarantee
- All makes and models
- FREE Alignment Check (with the purchase of your next set of tires)

**LOW PRICE TIRE GUARANTEE**

**Voted BEST in EIGHT different categories - Repeat Winner for 2023!**

- BEST New Auto Dealer
- BEST Oil Change Shop
- BEST Tire Store
- BEST Auto Salesperson (Manny Vargas)
- BEST Used Auto Dealer
- BEST Auto Parts Shop
- BEST Auto Repair
- BEST Mechanic (Greg Ellis)

**2023 BEST OF THE VALLEY**  
 READER'S CHOICE AWARDS  
 MONTROSE PRESS

**970-249-4576**  
**MontroseFordNissan.com**

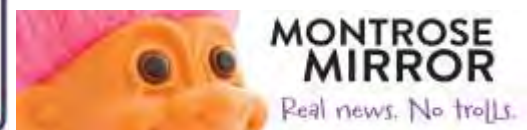
**Ford MONTROSE FORD - NISSAN, INC. Nissan**

## BLM ISSUES PUBLIC LAND ORDER TO SUPPORT MCPHEE DAM AND RESERVOIR

*Special to the Mirror*

LAKEWOOD – A public land order publishing in the *Federal Register* withdraws 953 acres of public land from settlement, sale, location, and entry under the general land laws, including the mining laws. It also withdraws 309 acres National Forest System from location and entry under the mining laws. The withdrawal reserves the lands for use by the Bureau of Reclamation in connection with the McPhee Dam and Reservoir Dolores Project for 100 years.

The Dolores Project stores and regulates flow of the Dolores River for irrigation and municipal use through operation of McPhee Reservoir. The project also provides hydroelectric power generation, salinity control, flood control, recreation opportunities, and fish and wildlife habitat enhancements. The McPhee Dam and Reservoir was constructed in 1984 as part of the Dolores Project and is operated by the Bureau of Reclamation.



## 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.

For additional information and advertising opportunities, please contact:

Editor@MontroseMirror.com  
 970-275-0646

www.MontroseMirror.com  
 www.Facebook.com/MontroseMirror  
 www.Instagram.com/MontroseMirror  
 www.Twitter.com/MontroseMirror

Copyright © 2010 - 2024. All rights reserved. Content may not be reprinted, distributed, or re-used without the permission of the publisher.



**MEMBER OF THE  
 ONLINE NEWS  
 ASSOCIATION**



## Weaving Program

**Saturday, March 23,  
11 AM—12 PM  
Montrose Regional  
Library**



Learn how to go from wool to finished product with activities from special guests, The San Juan Weavers Guild. This program is designed for youth 4-16 years of age along with their families but everyone is welcome. Sponsored by the Elevate Foundations for the Future Grant.

**ELEVATE**  
FAST INTERNET ▶ (for real)



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

MONTROSE REGIONAL  
LIBRARY DISTRICT

## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### PRAYER GATHERING AT THE PEACE POLE IN UTE INDIAN PARK

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE—There will be a prayer gathering at the Peace Pole in Ute Indian Park on Tuesday, March 19, the Spring Equinox, at noon to pray for peace in the world and the healing of Mother Earth. Everyone is welcome. Bring drums and prayers for peace. Sponsored by the Spiritual Awareness Center and the 100 Peace Pole Project. Call 970-252-0908 for more information.

### MONTROSE COMMUNITY BAND TO PLAY FREE CONCERT APRIL 7

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE—On April 7-3pm - Celestial Sounds: [Montrose Community Band Free Concert](#) at the Montrose Pavilion. Grab your eclipse glasses for an afternoon of music inspired by the wonders of the stars, planets, and outer space.



# BEST Of The VALLEY

- Daily Press

## 19 years RUNNING

2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006,  
2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011,  
2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016,  
2017, 2018, 2019, 2020

**Commercial Offset & Digital Printing** »  
Black and white, spot color, and full color printing  
physique and UV coating capabilities

**Trade Bindery & Finishing** »  
collating, stapling, folding, stitching, sewing, embossing,  
die-cutting, perforating, numbering, hole-punching,  
laminating...to name a few

**Innovative Screenprinting** »  
traditional silk screen capabilities from single to seven color  
designs, plus simulated and 4-color process methods

**Custom Digitizing & Embroidery** »  
in-house digitizing with hundreds of thread colors to  
choose from, with single-lined to multi-lined capabilities

**Direct-to-Garment Printing** »  
direct digital printing in thousands of colors  
on multiple blends of garments

**Creative Design & Prepress** »  
in-house graphic design and prepress department  
utilizing the latest technologies and software

**Promotional Marketing** »  
AST certified distributor with access to thousands of  
promotional items available to market your brand ideas

**Your project; Our priority. We put it in print.**

315 South 12th Street  
Montrose, Colorado 81401  
tel 800.211.2038  
tel 970.249.2611 | fax 970.249.7068  
[www.scottsprinting.com](http://www.scottsprinting.com)  
[contact@scottsprinting.com](mailto:contact@scottsprinting.com)

**#51**  
in Printing News'  
"Top 100"  
Small Commercial  
Printers in  
North America

**TOP  
100**  
SMALL  
COMMERCIAL  
PRINTERS  
2020

WhatTheyThink PrintingNews



**Scott's  
PRINTING**  
COMMERCIAL OFFSET PRINTING



# RED HAWK GOLFERS 4<sup>TH</sup> IN CHIPETA KICKOFF

By Cliff Dodge

MONTROSE-The Montrose Red Hawk girls' golf team kicked off their spring season with a road trip to participate in the Chipeta Kick Off Classic in Grand Junction on Monday, March 11<sup>th</sup>. The Montrose contingent placed a solid 4<sup>th</sup> place, trailing the winning school, the Durango Demons (224 strokes) by 26 strokes. Closely bunched behind Durango was Fruita-Monuments (248), Rifle (249) and the Montrose Red Hawks (250). The rest of the field was closely bunched, making for a difficult fight for league honors.

The Red Hawks team finished as follows:

8 <sup>th</sup>	Giada Amundson	80
9 <sup>th</sup>	Sydney Bell	81
21 <sup>st</sup>	Salah Mason	89
25 <sup>th</sup>	Hailey Geary	90
30 <sup>th</sup>	Abigail Svacho	93
43	Abigail Hines	99

The Red Hawks next scheduled match will be on April 1<sup>st</sup> at the Bookcliffs Country Club in Grand Junction. The top five Red Hawk players will tee off beginning at 11 a.m.



Professional



Skilled Trades



Office Services



Light Industrial

WHETHER YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A  
**NEW JOB** OR NEED **MORE STAFF**  
 TURN TO THE LEADING EXPERTS ON  
 THE WESTERN SLOPE

**Express**<sup>®</sup>  
 EMPLOYMENT PROFESSIONALS  
 OF GRAND JUNCTION AND MONTROSE

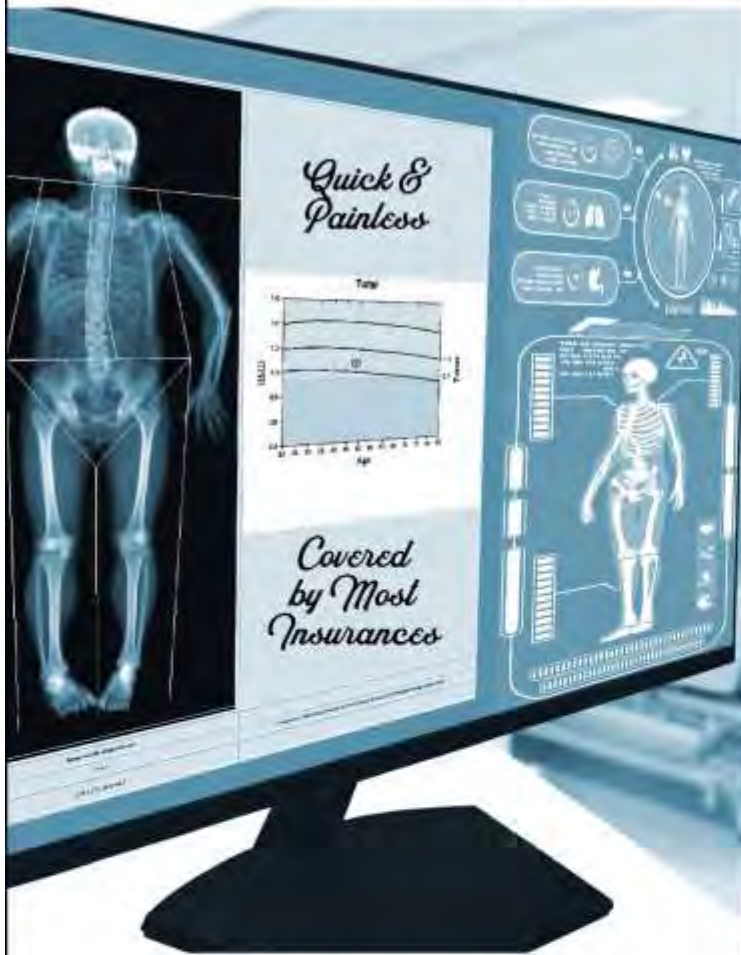
Nina Anderson, Owner/CEO  
 970-242-4500

We are a full-service staffing, recruiting, and human resources company, with the ability to place people in a variety of positions all across western Colorado.

**ExpressPros.com/GrandJunctionCo**

**Email us at: [jobs.grandjunctionco@expresspros.com](mailto:jobs.grandjunctionco@expresspros.com)**

**QUALITY MATTERS, ESPECIALLY  
WHEN IT MAY AFFECT TREATMENT  
DECISIONS ABOUT YOUR HEALTH.**



## **METABOLIC WELLNESS**

230 S. Nevada Ave. • Montrose, CO

About the same number  
of women die annually  
from breast cancer as  
osteoporotic fractures.  
**Don't wait** for a fall  
and fracture to know  
you have osteoporosis.

Research has shown that having  
your bone density test done on the  
**same machine**, using a **certified**  
technologist, improves the accuracy  
and precision of your test.

**METABOLIC WELLNESS** and  
Dr. Gayle Frazzetta are the **only** fully  
certified bone density testing center  
on the Western Slope. The technologists  
who perform the tests are certified by the  
International Society of Clinical  
Densitometry (ISCD) and have over  
**20 years experience each**,  
in bone density testing.

**Dr. Frazzetta is a Certified Clinical  
Densitometrist** and was recognized at  
the Society's annual meeting for her  
research on bone improvement using  
testosterone in women. She has over  
**25 years experience** in bone health and  
testing and is an **expert** in her field.

# QUALITY MATTERS

*For bone density testing, call* **970-787-9647**



## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### LOCAL SURGE ENFORCEMENT OPERATION

*Special to the Mirror*

DURANGO-As we look forward to welcoming the first day of spring, the Colorado State Patrol is dedicated to keeping everyone safe on our roads. To help ensure this, the Colorado State Patrol and partnering law enforcement agencies will conduct a local surge enforcement on March 15th. You can expect more law enforcement presence on area roads to ensure safety. As Captain Angela DeGuelle, CSP Troop 5A Commander based in Durango, points out, speeding, lane violations and distracted driving are the leading human-caused fac-

tors for accidents in our communities. Law enforcement officers will focus on stopping and ticketing drivers who commit these dangerous violations and those who drive while impaired or recklessly. The Colorado State Patrol is committed to traffic safety, and we remind you to stay focused, avoid distractions, and obey traffic laws. By working together, we can make our roads safer for ourselves and our loved ones. Thank you for joining us in this effort. For more information about the [this topic], please visit the [FAQ, website, article]. To learn more about the Colorado



*CSP Courtesy photo.*

State Patrol follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

## NEW LISTING!

101 Vista View Dr.  
Montrose, CO 81401

\$439,000 - MLS-811637

### Home Features:

3 Bedrooms  
2.25 Bathroom  
3 Car Garage - Heated  
0.39 Acre Corner Lot  
2,028 Sq. Ft.  
RV Parking  
No HOA / No Covenants  
Mature Landscaping / Sprinkler System



**Holly Hensley**  
970 | 208 | 4689







# WHITEY'S

## HOME IMPROVEMENT, INC.

### Replacement Windows

- Vinyl Insulated Low E Glass
- Windows & Patio Doors

### Entry Door System

- Insulated Steel & Fiberglass • Many Styles

### Storm Doors

- Heavy Duty • Many Styles & Colors

### Exterior Siding - Low Maintenance

- Insulated Vinyl • Aluminum or Steel

### Eaves & Overhang Coverings

- Vinyl-Aluminum • Low Maintenance

### Seamless Rain Gutters

- 5" & 6" Aluminum, Steel, and Copper
- Over 30 Colors Available

### Gutter Leaf Guard

### Patio Covers & Lattice Pergolas

- Steel & Aluminum - Any Size
- Attached or Freestanding

### Mobile Home Improvements

- Roofing, Windows, Doors, & Siding

### Skylights & Suntubes

- Many Sizes & Styles

**Before You Buy, Give Whitey's a Try!**  
"Serving the Local Area Since 1947"

**Montrose**

**970-249-9603**

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

**Delta**

**970-874-3665**



## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### BLACK CANYON LADIES GOLF LEAGUE TO HOLD 2024 KICK OFF APRIL 17

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-The Black Canyon Ladies Golf League is holding their 2024 kick off social at the Rusty Putter at the Black Canyon Golf Course on Wednesday, April 17 from 5 -7 pm. All members and new ladies interested in joining the league are invited to come hear what is planned for this season. If you are a prospective new member wanting to attend please RSVP to Jackie at 303-746-0849 by calling or texting.



**Looking for La-Z-Boy ?**  
 Flairmont Furniture in Montrose is  
 proud to be a long time partner with La-Z-Boy.  
 America's first choice in quality and comfort.

**LONG LIVE THE Lazy™**  
 LA Z BOY®



**Delivering happiness & comfort to customers in our large service area since 1963.**  
 We deliver to Grand Junction, and most other communities in this area.



**Locally Owned & Operated**

**12 Months 0% Interest**

**Store Hours**  
**Mon. - Sat.**  
**9:00-5:30**



**Floor Covering**  
 Serving this  
 area since  
 1963



**MLS# 811012**  
**20091 Sol Vista**  
**Delta, CO 81416**

**FOR SALE**



Offered at **\$543,000**

### Property Details



Welcome to your dream home nestled in the picturesque Delta County of Colorado! This charming property boasts 1604 square feet of living space, featuring 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, and an office, perfect for those who value both comfort and functionality. The split floor plan ensures privacy, while the open floor concept invites warmth and connectivity throughout. Lovely cabinets and high end appliances add value to the kitchen space. Smart switches in the home allow you to use your phone to operate or even alexa! Enjoy the convenience of a 2-car garage and a large fenced yard, complete with a delightful hot tub for relaxation under the Colorado skies. Built in 2019, this home offers modern amenities alongside the tranquility of country living. Situated in a peaceful subdivision close to the town of Delta and conveniently accessible from Hwy 50, it's an ideal retreat for those balancing work and leisure. Plus, with solar panels on the home, electric bills become practically negligible, contributing to both sustainability and savings. But that's not all! A newly constructed, expansive 3500 square foot shop built in 2021 provides ample space for RVs, boats, and all your recreational gear. Whether you're a hobbyist or a car enthusiast, this workshop offers endless possibilities for creative pursuits. The shop boasts (2) 18 ft high roll up doors that are 16 ft in width. Plenty of room to pull in a semi if needed. With 1.97 acres of land and irrigation water available for less than \$50 per year, you'll relish the freedom and flexibility to make this property your own. Experience the epitome of modern living with Elevate Fiber internet service, ensuring seamless connectivity for remote work or entertainment needs. And let's not forget the breathtaking views of the surrounding mountains, a constant reminder of the natural beauty that defines Colorado living. Don't miss this opportunity to embrace the cherished lifestyle of Colorado. Come and make this your home – you'll love every moment of it!



**The Real Estate Store**

500 E Main St, Montrose, CO | the-res.com



**Michelle Klippert**

Broker/Owner

970-275-3016

michelleklippertrealtor@gmail.com



## RED HAWKS SOCCER STILL UNBEATEN

By Cliff Dodge

MONTROSE-The Red Hawks girls' soccer team continued their unbeaten streak with a win and a tie this past week. The team traveled to Coal Ridge and nabbed their second win of the season by the score of 4-0. Coach Matt Imus said, "It was a cold, windy game. It seems like that will be the norm this year for our games. We started off a little bit slow as we had to figure out their formation. They did a good job defensively plugging up the middle."

Imus continued, "We led 1-0 at the half. We made some adjustments during the halftime break to try and widen the field and move their defenders out a little bit more. This gave Ellie and Mia Duncan a lot more room to work and gave us a lot more opportunity to take shots on their goal."

Imus then talked defense. He noted that goalkeeper Rachel Robuck probably didn't have more than a couple of shots to save because the Red Hawk defense did such a great job changing our shape and focus.

The Coach was very pleased with the tempo of the contest to open the second half of action. He said, "We started off the second half really fast, scoring 2 quick goals in about four minutes which opened up the game and we started controlling it. We started moving the ball around a lot better and we ended up winning 4-0. Mia Duncan had 3 goals and an assist. Ellie Duncan had a goal and an assist. Mayce Oberg had an assist as did Ulena Amanza."

The JV team also played a good game vs the Titans of Coal Ridge. They scored 4 goals in the first half and ended up winning the game by that 4-0 score.

On Thursday the Red Hawks hit the road once again, this time to Grand Junction, to take on the Fruita-Monument Wildcats at a neutral site. The game was a defensive struggle from the opening kickoff to the final whistle. Both defenses played extremely well and clogged up the middle of the pitch as they disrupted the offensive attack of both teams.

The Red Hawks record sits at 2 wins, 0 losses and 1 tie. The team hosts the Roaring Fork Rams on Saturday afternoon.

## COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

### TBI MEDSLP, INC. LAUNCHES TO REVOLUTIONIZE BRAIN INJURY CARE AND ADVOCACY



**Founder Tracie Bearden.**  
*Courtesy photo.*

*Special to the Mirror*  
COLORADO-Did you know that in the United States, someone sustains a brain injury every nine seconds? Education and advocacy are the foundation for providing high quality brain injury services.

TBI MedSLP, Inc., a newly-formed 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, announces its commitment to revolutionizing brain injury care through education, advocacy, and support for speech pathologists and healthcare providers. Founded by Tracie Bearden, a speech pathologist and private practice owner formerly from Montrose, TBI MedSLP is poised to make a profound im-

pact in the healthcare landscape.

Tracie Bearden, a veteran medical-based speech language pathologist and brain injury specialist with fourteen years of experience, embodies the mission of TBI MedSLP. Her journey, marked by personal triumph and professional dedication, stems from her own experience as a brain injury survivor. In 2018, Tracie survived a traumatic brain injury following a physical assault. Her resilience and resolve in overcoming adversities have fueled her passion for improving brain injury education and awareness.

"At TBI MedSLP, we are driven by the belief that enhanced education and awareness can transform patient outcomes and mitigate the risks associated with brain injuries," stated Tracie Bearden, Founder and CEO of TBI MedSLP, Inc. "Our organization is dedicated to fostering fairness in the profession while advocating for those affected by brain injuries."

TBI MedSLP is a grassroots organization committed to bridging gaps in brain injury

care through a diverse array of initiatives. From comprehensive webinars to invaluable resources and speaking engagements, the organization aims to empower healthcare providers with the knowledge and tools necessary to deliver optimal care. Central to its mission is the promotion of Brain Injury awareness month through its campaign, "Don't Bulldoze my Boundaries."

To learn more about TBI MedSLP's transformative initiatives, the "Don't Bulldoze my Boundaries" campaign, or to make a tax-deductible donation to our organization, please visit [www.tbimedslp.com](http://www.tbimedslp.com).

As TBI MedSLP forges ahead, it aspires to redefine standards of care and foster a more compassionate and informed healthcare ecosystem for individuals affected by brain injuries.

**Contact Information:**

**Media Relations**

**TBI MedSLP, Inc.**

**Email:** [tracie@tbimedslp.com](mailto:tracie@tbimedslp.com)

**Website:** [www.tbimedslp.com](http://www.tbimedslp.com)

**Instagram:** [@tbimedslp](https://www.instagram.com/tbimedslp)



# BUSINESS

# EXP

Join the 100+ members of the Greater Montrose Chamber of Commerce at their biggest event of the year and connect with the region's leading businesses.

**THURSDAY, APRIL 11th - 4 to 7 PM**

- 250+ Attendees
- 60+ exhibitors
- Giveaways
  - Food
  - & More!

## MONTROSE PAVILION

1800 Pavilion Drive  
Montrose, CO 81401



[info@greatermontrosechamber.com](mailto:info@greatermontrosechamber.com) | 970.765.0914





# Hello! I'm Trisha Murray

Your Unaffiliated Candidate  
For Montrose County  
Commissioner District #3

**Inclusivity:** Every voice matters. Trisha is committed to listening to all residents, regardless of political affiliation, to ensure that everyone's concerns are heard and addressed.

**Collaboration:** Rather than adhering to party agendas, Trisha is focused on working collaboratively with local leaders and residents to find innovative solutions to the challenges we, as a community, face.

**Accountability:** Trisha believes in open and honest communication. She is committed to keeping constituents informed about decisions made and actions taken on their behalf.

**TALK TO ME**  
***murray4montrose@gmail.com***  
***(970) 275-6139***

WWW.MURRAY4MONTROSE.COM



## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### FIND YOUR FUTURE AT THE MCSO: UPCOMING HIRING FAIR

#### *Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE— The Montrose County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) is seeking qualified candidates to join their team and help protect and serve Montrose County!

The MCSO will be hosting a Hiring Fair on Saturday, March 23rd from 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm at the Montrose County Event Center located at 1036 North 7th Street.

Are you looking for a rewarding career? The MCSO is hiring for both Corrections Deputies and Patrol Deputies.

Corrections Deputies: Starting pay of \$25.12+ per hour.

Patrol Deputies: Starting pay of \$30.63+ per hour.

The MCSO offers a comprehensive benefits package including:

- Paid sick leave and vacation leave
- 100% paid employee medical, dental, and vision insurance
- County-matched retirement plan
- Get paid to learn! Sponsored police academy placement available.

"Now is the time to make a difference," stated Commander Cam Boldan. "We are looking for passionate individuals who are dedicated to serving our community. Join us at the Hiring Fair and learn more about how you can Find Your Future at the MCSO!"

For more information, contact Commander Cam Boldan at 970-252-4023 or email [cboldan@montrosecounty.net](mailto:cboldan@montrosecounty.net).

Don't miss this opportunity! We look forward to meeting you at the Hiring Fair!

*Dedicated to Caring*  
for patients based on their individual needs, the medical oncologists at Delta Health Oncology and Hematology provide advanced treatment across a wide variety of diagnoses.

**DELTA HEALTH**  
**ONCOLOGY & HEMATOLOGY**  
A DEPARTMENT OF DELTA HEALTH

**DORINDA ROUCH, MD**  
MEDICAL ONCOLOGIST  
BOARD CERTIFIED HEMATOLOGIST

**CHRISTINE URBANSKI, MD**  
MEDICAL ONCOLOGIST

**ANN HEDDERMAN, MD**  
BOARD CERTIFIED HEMATOLOGIST

Our goal at Delta Health Oncology and Hematology is to provide the most exceptional care by focusing on the physical, mental and emotional aspects of each patient.

Our team of doctors, nurses and treatment professionals who have one thing in common:

**RELENTLESS DEDICATION TO YOUR HEALTH.**

WHEN OUTCOMES ARE MEASURED IN MOMENTS -

**TRUST DELTA HEALTH**

1501 E 3RD ST • DELTA, CO • 970.399.2895 • [DELTAHEALTHCO.ORG](http://DELTAHEALTHCO.ORG)



# CRAFT & FAIR

**SATURDAY,  
APRIL 20  
9am-5pm**

**62650 LASALLE RD.  
MONTROSE**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL  
970-615-9412**

*Enter to Win  
Door Prizes*



**Hidden  
Lake**



## **FEATURING:**

- Mother's Day Gifts • 30-min. Facials • Candles
- Bath Bombs • Body Butter • Hand Towels
- Home Decor • Fresh Herbs & Flowers
- Woodworking • Hawaiian & Resin Jewelry
- Native American Jewelry & Prints • And MORE!



## COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

### MARC CATLIN'S ADULT EDUCATION BILL BECOMES LAW WITH HIGH APPROVAL

*Special to the Mirror*

DENVER— “We all want to obtain the ‘good-life,’ for some of us that means having the opportunity to obtain the skills that we feel we need to better our lives,” says Representative Marc Catlin who is a prime sponsor of SB24-051, Adult Education. The bill became law on March 6, 2024.

This law allows the State Board of Community Colleges and Occupational Education (SBCCOE) to implement minimum graduation requirements for students to receive a high school diploma. A community college can award a student with a high school diploma who successfully completes these requirements. Also, this bill funds the Adult Education and Literacy Grant Program through the 2028-2029 fiscal year. The bi-partisan bill received 95% approval from all state legislators.

Representative Catlin says, “In Rural communities, especially, opportunity is the spark that keeps our way of life going. Access to education should not be what holds you back from bettering your life or bettering your family’s life. This bill delivers more opportunity to individuals to obtain that ‘good-life.’”

The prime sponsors in the Colorado House of Representatives were Marc Catlin (R-HD58) of Montrose County and Cathy Kipp (D-HD52) of Larimer County. The prime sponsor in the Colorado Senate were Rachel Zenzinger (D-SD19) of Jefferson County and Barbara Kirkmeyer (R-SD23) of Weld County.

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

AS A PARENT,  
**YOU ARE A CRUCIAL**  
MEMBER OF YOUR CHILD'S CARE TEAM.



- Wellness exams to ensure your child stays healthy and strong.
- Immunizations available during check-ups for optimal preventive care and to make sure your child has everything they need before going to school or daycare.
- Sports physicals to make sure your child gets off on the right foot during practice.
- As a parent, you know your child best. If your child is not meeting the milestones for his or her age, or if you think there could be a problem with the way your child plays, learns, speaks, acts, and moves talk to your child's doctor and share your concerns. Don't wait.



**DELTA  
HEALTH**

**CALL YOUR HOMETOWN CLINIC  
TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT**

**FAMILY  
MEDICINE**  
970.874.5777

**DELTA HEALTH  
PEDIATRICS**  
970.546.4000

**WEST ELK  
HOTCHKISS**  
970.872.1400

**WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED!**

Our clinics offer in-person or virtual appointments to help get your child the care they need.





## LET'S WORK TOGETHER TO...

- Maintain our Culture of Success
- Keep our County Safe
- Spend our Money Wisely
- Preserve our Hometown Heritage
- Continue the High Level of Professionalism this County Deserves



Vote Big Lou Stark  
For Montrose County Commissioner  
District 1 Heck Yea!!

-REACH OUT ANYTIME-

**Lou Stark**

970.620.0086 | BigLouStark@gmail.com  
BIGLOUSTARK.COM



# RED HAWKS BASEBALL SPLITS TWIN BILL

By Cliff Dodge

MONTROSE-The 2024 edition of the Luke Oeltjenbruns Memorial Tournament was held last weekend, hosted by the Montrose Red Hawks baseball team. Despite the cold and sometimes wet weather the game proceeded, and the tournament was completed despite some changes due to weather conditions.

The Montrose Red Hawks had their schedule changed and ended up playing a pair of games on Saturday. The first game pitted the Red Hawks against the Falcons of Falcon High School which is located to the northeast of Colorado Springs. This was a defensive affair which was played with only two runs scored in the contest. The Falcons pushed across a run in the top of the first inning on a single, a couple of outs and a pass ball. The Falcons second run was scored on a wild pitch in the 5<sup>th</sup> inning.

The Falcons had two runs on five hits and only two runners left on base. The Red Hawks scored no runs and only three hits and they left three runners aboard. The Red Hawks managed to load the bases in

the second inning but were unable to plate any of the baserunners. Tatus Weese pitched a complete game scattering two runs on five hits. Short stop Gage Wareham collected two of the three Red Hawk base hits. The Liberty Lancers provided the opposition for the Red Hawks in the nightcap of the twin bill. The difference between the two games was like night and day. The Red Hawks sent 10 men to the plate in the bottom half of the first inning and scored 4 runs on five hits along with a couple of bases on balls. Gage Wareham threw a complete game win, giving up just one run and allowing only three base hits. The Red Hawks pressured the Lancers throughout the contest as they added two runs in the second inning, three runs in the third inning, a single run in the 5<sup>th</sup> inning and two more runs in the sixth. Jaxon Kattner led the



Red Hawks Kortlan Nelson prepares to hit against the Liberty Lancers. Photo by Cliff Dodge

Red Hawk offense with three doubles and a single. Gage Wareham had a single and two doubles as part of the Red Hawks' 15-hit attack. The Red Hawks overall record stands now at five wins and one loss. The Red Hawks have yet to play a league game. The Red Hawks hit the road for the next four games. They travel to Grand Junction to take on Castle View High School at Sam Suplizio Field before heading to the Eastern Slope for Thursday and Friday games with Berthoud and Loveland.



## Caring for you like family means COMPLETE CANCER CARE CLOSE TO HOME

A diagnosis of cancer is stressful and overwhelming. We know you would prefer to stay home, surrounded by friends and family.

With both Radiation Oncology and Medical Oncology, the San Juan Cancer Center offers complete cancer care close to home.

Meet our expert Medical Oncologists:

**SAN JUAN**  
CANCER CENTER  
A DEPARTMENT OF MONTROSE REGIONAL HEALTH

600 S. 5th Street  
Montrose, CO 81401

MontroseHealth.com



Steven P. Emmons, M.D.

Medical Oncology  
& Hematology  
Board Certified



Dan W. Hill, M.D.

Medical Oncology  
& Internal Medicine  
Board Certified



Christopher Jordan, D.O.

Medical Oncology  
& Internal Medicine  
Board Certified



Paolo Romero, M.D.

Medical Oncology  
Board Certified

# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## MONTROSE COUNTY NAMES MATT SMITH AS NEW FAIRGROUNDS AND EVENT CENTER DIRECTOR

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE—Montrose County is pleased to announce Matt Smith as the new Fairgrounds and Event Center Director.

Matt brings a unique combination of public service experience, management expertise, and local knowledge to this crucial role.

Matt boasts a 23-year career in public service, spanning both municipal and county levels. His early experience honed his skills in facility management, overseeing daily operations, event coordination, and administrative tasks at a golf course. Matt most recently served in the regional criminal justice field.

Matt's academic background further strengthens his qualifications. He holds an Associate of Applied Science degree in Turfgrass Management and Soil Science, a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice and Administration, and a Master's degree in Industrial and Organizational Psychology. Matt prioritizes employee training and

fostering team and individual development.

"We are excited to welcome Matt Smith to lead the Fairgrounds and Event Center," stated Montrose County Commissioner Keith Caddy. "His leadership, management skills, and deep understanding of our community will be invaluable assets. We look forward to his contributions at the Fairgrounds and Event Center."

A native of the North Fork area, Matt and his wife are deeply rooted in the agricultural community. They have called Montrose home since 2003. "Public service is a driving force for me," said Matt. "I am incredibly grateful for this opportunity to make a positive impact on this organization."

In their free time, Matt, his wife, and their son actively embrace the outdoor adventures Montrose County offers. From fly fishing and rafting to mountain biking and camping, they enjoy the diverse recreational opportunities in the region. "We feel

privileged to live and recreate in such a magnificent place," Matt shared.

"Montrose County truly is a special community."

The Montrose County Fairgrounds and Event Center offers a versatile event space for fairs, concerts, meetings, conferences, trade shows, rodeos, and more. It plays a significant role in showcasing agriculture, promoting tourism, and fostering community spirit.

For more information, please visit the [montrosecountyeventcenter.com](https://montrosecountyeventcenter.com).



**Matt Smith. Courtesy photo.**



**ELECT RICK DUNLAP**

For

**MONTROSE COUNTY COMMISSIONER  
District #3**

**FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE & COMMITTED  
TO ALL OF MONTROSE COUNTY**

**PROVEN  
Leadership  
& Integrity**

### Professional Service

- 28 years Law Enforcement, Retired (including 3 terms as the Montrose County Sheriff)
- Past President of County Sheriffs of Colorado
- 21 years U.S. Army, Retired - Awarded Bronze Star

### Volunteer Service to Montrose Community

- Current President of West Montrose Sanitation District
- Current Board Member for Welcome Home Alliance for Veterans
- Current Board Member of Grace Community Church
- Past Montrose County Fair Board Member
- Past Volunteer Firefighter - Montrose Fire Protection District
- Past Member of Montrose County Sheriff's Posse
- Past Board Member CASA of the 7<sup>th</sup> Judicial District

### More About Rick

- Associates Degree in Business Management
- Married to my wife, Karen, for 52 years
- Proud father of 3 sons, with 8 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren
- Resident of Montrose County for 42 years.

**VOTE FOR PROVEN LEADERSHIP!**

**PAID FOR BY COMMITTEE TO ELECT RICK DUNLAP**



# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## SCOTT MIJARES WILL MAKE AN EXCELLENT COMMISSIONER

Editor:

I am proud to have known Scott Mijares for the past 17 years. Our relationship began over a phone call when Scott had reached out to me to introduce himself and inquire into licensing visual artwork from my publishing company.

Over the ensuing years, our business relationship grew, and a friendship blossomed, so much so that our families have become very close. I have been privileged to witness an amazing husband, an incredible father and bear witness to his children blossoming into successful and independent adults. One of the most difficult jobs in life is raising successful and independent conservative children. Scott and his lovely wife Juli have accomplished this.

In addition to Scott being successful in business and family life, he possesses the

rarest of traits, courage. Scott is a born leader; his ability to think beyond the stated narrative forming intelligent options is testament to his critical thinking skills. Scott loves being challenged and won't back down from conflict. His ability to analyze a situation and determine the best approach to solving an issue is directly related to his years of experience in business. Scott has never been one to say that something can't be accomplished, rather he will turn over every rock to achieve the goal at hand, and he will be successful.

Just tell Scott that something can't be done, and his mind will start churning out ways that it can be. I have witnessed this firsthand and many times over. One of Scott's many strengths is his ability to reach out to others asking the pertinent

questions to understand other perspectives before determining the best course of action.

Today we are facing an unprecedented wave of destruction in our country directed from the Federal government and being distilled down to the local level. I was present at the recent Montrose County Commissioner Candidates Forum. If any of you were there and watched and listened to the candidates answering the questions posed to them, then enough said.

We the taxpayers deserve a candidate that has spent their life being financially responsible, transparent and successful. Scott Mijares will make an excellent Commissioner.

Sincerely,  
Greg Young, Ridgway

**CONGRATULATIONS for Being  
Elected a Delegate to the Montrose  
County Republican Assembly!**

**Please support Scott Riba for  
Montrose County Commissioner District 3**

**SCOTT  
RIBA FOR**

970-596-9998



scott@scottformontrose.com

**MONTROSE COUNTY COMMISSIONER**  
Paid for by the Committee to Elect Scott Riba Montrose County Commissioner

Looking to the future of Montrose County  
with Representation, Accountability, Smart Growth,  
and Responsible Fiscal Policies

**Caring, Concerned, Committed, and  
Connected to the County and  
Communities of Montrose County**



## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### MONTROSE COUNTY WELCOMES PHILLIP RICH AS NEW VETERAN SERVICES OFFICER

#### *Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-Montrose County is proud to announce Phillip Rich as its new Veteran Services Officer. Phillip brings a wealth of experience and dedication to this important role, ensuring our local veterans receive the support they deserve.

Phillip is a native of Colorado, growing up in Olathe where he participated in 4H and FFA before graduating from Delta High School. Following graduation, Phillip enlisted in the U.S. Army (Infantry). He served a total of four years, spending two years stationed in Germany before transferring to Fort Carson, CO. Phillip deployed to fight in Operation Iraqi Freedom from 2003-2004. After his military service, Phillip attended Colorado State University where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration. Phil-

lip's commitment to service continued after college, serving three years in the Peace Corps in Sub-Saharan Africa. He is actively involved in multiple veteran organizations and activities. "We are incredibly grateful for Phillip's willingness to serve our veterans," said Montrose County Commissioner Roger Rash. "His military experience, combined with his dedication to community service, makes him a perfect fit for this role. Montrose County is committed to supporting our veterans, and we are confident Phillip will be a valuable resource for them."

Phillip is excited to return home and serve the veterans in his community. "I'm looking forward to giving back to the place I call home and helping those who have served our country," Phillip said. "I enjoy hunting, fishing, riding motorcycles, and

spending time with friends and family, and I'm looking forward to connecting with fellow veterans."

The county would also like to express its sincere gratitude to Sheldon Smith for his dedicated service as the previous Veteran Services Officer. Sheldon's commitment to Montrose County veterans has been invaluable, and we wish him all the best in his retirement.

The Montrose County Veteran Services office provides a variety of services and resources to veterans and their families. These services include assistance with filing VA claims, educational benefits, healthcare, employment, and more. For more information, please contact the Veteran Services office at 970-249-2115, [vso@montrosecounty.net](mailto:vso@montrosecounty.net), or visit [montrosecounty.net](http://montrosecounty.net).

*Thank You*

*Scott Mijanes*

Your candidacy for Montrose County Commissioner has given the citizens of our county a choice to vote for who they feel is best qualified to serve on our BOCC.

Thank you for stepping up to offer your time, talents and experience as a successful entrepreneur from the private sector to serve our community.

[scottm4montrose.com](http://scottm4montrose.com)

Scott Mijares for County Commissioner District 1

Paid for by Joe and Tamara Stucky



RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL • RECREATIONAL • FARM &amp; RANCH

Happy


  
**NORRIS-SNELL**
  
 REAL ESTATE

Spring

Visit our associates at 306 East Main Street in Montrose, Colorado.

**MANDY NORRIS-SNELL**

*Owner/Broker*  
 (970) 209-6326  
 mandy@norris-snell.com

**DARRELL & JULIA BOREN**

*Broker Associates*  
 The Boren Team  
 Darrell (970) 768-3399  
 Julia (970) 380-3783  
 darrellboren@gmail.com

**JUSTIN & DANA GLEASON**

*Broker Associates*  
 The Gleason Team  
 Justin (970) 275-5930  
 Dana (970) 209-2451  
 danagleasonrealtor@gmail.com

**DOUG PHILLIPS**

*Owner/Broker*  
 C: (970) 209-0135  
 Dphillips@montrose.net

**JENNIFER WEBER**

*Broker Associate*  
 C: (970) 589-2999  
 wno501@aol.com

**CAROL CRAWFORD**

*Broker Associate*  
 C: (970) 596-4470  
 carolann@montrose.net

**TERRI FLETCHER**

*Broker Associate*  
 C: (970) 275-4679  
 terrifletcher1980@gmail.com

**HALLEY COMBS**

*Broker Associate*  
 C: (480) 252-2063  
 havalonnec@yahoo.com

**SARA WOODWARD**

*Broker Associate*  
 C: (303) 990-7271  
 sarawoodwardrealtor@gmail.com

**KENZIE VANARSDALE**

*Broker Associate*  
 C: (720) 361-7305  
 kenzievanarsdalerealtor@gmail.com



Visit our website to see current listings, request a showing, or schedule a tour! Sign up with an account to save searches and get new listings.

**WWW.NORRIS-SNELL.COM**



## ARE PARENTS OR ADULT CHILDREN COMING TO LIVE WITH YOU?

Do you feel overwhelmed with needing more space for your multi-family living? If you would like to hear options to help you reduce the stress, call or text me today to learn more. I am here to help! I am your Local Accredited Buyer Representative!



**LESLIE GORE | GRI, CRS, ABR**

Associate Broker

C: 970-275-3195

O: 970-249-7653

LeslieGoreRealtor@gmail.com



The Real Estate Store



## The Real Estate Store

500 E. Main • Montrose, CO 81401 • [www.The-RES.com](http://www.The-RES.com)

### MLS #807970

**LOT 1 & LOT 2, U67 TRAIL  
MONTROSE, CO 81403**

For everyone looking for a view lot and still close to downtown Montrose, the newly expanded airport, medical, and more, this 3.16-acre property is worth the look. There is irrigation with Ouray Ditch Company with enough to water the lot and grow a fantastic crop of hay or grass. The lot fronts the seasonal canal and is on a small cul-de-sac. Beautiful views are to be had here offering a beautiful building site. Tri-County water taps are available. Gas and electric are near the lot. Montrose is growing and beautiful lots are few and far between.



**DIANE HAYNES | CRS, GRI, E-PRO, REO**

Associate Broker

C: 970-596-3521

O: 970-249-7653

DianeHaynes@outlook.com

DianeHaynesRealtor@gmail.com



Certified  
Residential Specialist  
The Power To Sell Smarter



# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## REASONABLE CONSERVATION

Editor:

Teddy Roosevelt once wrote, "We have become great because of the lavish use of our resources. But the time has come to inquire seriously what will happen when our forests are gone, when the coal, the iron, the oil, and the gas are exhausted, when the soils have still further impoverished and washed into the streams, polluting the rivers, denuding the fields and obstructing navigation." He went on to say "It is also vandalism wantonly to destroy or to permit the destruction of what is beautiful in nature, whether it be a cliff, a forest, or a species of mammal or bird." Roosevelt's premise is a simple one, unless measures are taken to protect the lands and waterways all creatures that rely on them, for life and simple pleasure,

those lands and waterways will be lost to eternity.

It's unfortunate that a conservation effort in Montrose County has to be a political one. The County Commissioners and Don Coram (President of Gold Eagle Mining) prefer economic value over the natural wonders God bestowed upon all of us. The Commissioners will have you believe conservation efforts such as designating the lands around the Dolores River will further erode the rural lifestyle of the county. I'm not sure that is true. The lifestyle they fear losing has already been diminished with an influx of people relocating here. Many farmers and ranchers are selling off their land because it is no longer a rewarding lifestyle, it has become too difficult to make a living, and their kids simply want a

different life.

When my wife and I moved here we enjoyed having an abundance of wildlife around the city. We would have deer, foxes, skunks, and racoons running free. You don't see that too much anymore. Instead, we see the carcasses of those animals because their freedom of movement has been encroached upon by growth within the county.

So, my fellow nature lovers, we can save a fawn by adopting a simple conservation effort or we can relegate all future wildlife to a zoo.

I encourage you to write senators Bennett and Hickenlooper and ask for their support in designating the Dolores River Canyon area as a National Monument.

*Dave Stockton. Montrose*



*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).





# 2024 Flea Market Craft Show

**Friday April 5<sup>th</sup> | 10am-6pm**

**Saturday April 6<sup>th</sup> | 9am-4pm**

Friendship Hall, Montrose County Fair Grounds



Free admission | Hourly door prizes

Over 70 vendors for your shopping pleasure

For Vendor information call Debbie 970.531.2438 or email: [montrosefootwear@aol.com](mailto:montrosefootwear@aol.com)



# LOCAL CANDIDATE BIOS: LARRY DON SUKLA

## INTERVIEW WITH LARRY DON SUKLA -CANDIDATE FOR HD 58

*Interview conducted by Doris VanNess*

### **TELL ME A LITTLE BIT ABOUT YOURSELF.**

I'm 59 years old. I am married to Julie, have two daughters, my daughter Delta is 18 and a senior in high school this year, my oldest daughter, Smoki is 26 and she has a Masters Degree in Behavioral Science and is a teacher at a school for the deaf and blind in Salt Lake City, Utah. I was a county commissioner for Montezuma County for eight years, 2012 to 2020. My wife and I own Altitude Auctions, selling cattle, equipment, land and estates, we also own Altitude Reality in Cortez. My family has owned the Cortez Livestock Auction for the past 67 years. We have a ranch in Gypsum Valley south of Naturita, I also have a summer ranch at Ground Hog reservoir. We raise Angus cattle, Crown Royal grass, Olathe Sweet Corn, and winter wheat. I am a conservative that grew up with guns on a very remote ranch, where I had my values taught to me by my two sets of grandparents, as well as my mom and dad. I am a very high energy person, can't set still quick on my feet individual, and want to put my energy towards getting back our values and freedoms.

### **ARE YOUR WIFE, GIRLS AND PARENTS SUPPORTIVE OF YOU RUNNING FOR HD 58?**

Yes, they are 100%. They are as passionate about it as I am to do this job, they know the alternatives if I don't run.

### **HOW ARE YOU GOING TO MANAGE YOUR RANCH, AND REALTY COMPANY IF ELECTED?**

I have leased out farm and cattle. My wife runs the realty company, so I will be 100% full time Representative for HD 58.

### **IF ELECTED, HOW WILL YOU DEAL WITH THE TRAVEL BACK AND FORTH TO DENVER?**

I will fly out Sundays and back on Friday nights. I did this when I was county commissioner and chairman of the Public Lands Committee.

### **WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO RUN FOR HD58?**

I am running for HD58 because I have been watching what is going on over the last three years in Colorado, and the rest of the United States. They have been destroying the freedoms and the future of our children and I want to do something about it. I want to be your voice on the Western Slope... fighting back for our Conservative rural values, and freedoms, stop the unfunded mandates, the assault of Tabor, and our water rights. I have talked to a lot of people around the state and the West as a whole and I believe that we all want the same thing. The left wants us to believe that we are the minority and we are NOT. It seems to me that our state and country is going so far away from our values, you need a representative that is not going to beat around the bush. You need someone who is going to say it like it is, and I believe I am that person.

### **WILL YOU CONTINUE TO TALK TO THE PEOPLE OF HD 58, AND ASK FOR THEIR ADVICE AND THOUGHTS ON BILLS YOU HAVE TO VOTE ON?**

Yes, I will, and I will put out my phone number so anyone and everyone can send me text messages at any time. I'm going to ask a question of the good people of HD 58; What do you want me to do, what policies and laws are the passing and repealing that are hurting and harming your way of life? I think the majority of good ideas come from the people. I was successful as a commissioner because I listened to the people and if I do the same thing as your Representative I will be successful there as well.

### **WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO ACCOMPLISH WHILE YOU ARE IN DENVER FOR YOUR FIRST TERM?**

I don't want to blend in, I will not be owned by any special groups. The only special interest group is the people who elected me. I want to fight for yours and my freedoms that have been taken away.

### **ARE YOU GOING TO BE A ONE TERM REPRESENTATIVE OR TRY TO RUN AGAIN?**

Yes, I plan to run again; if I don't make a difference then I would step down.

### **WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED SINCE YOU HAVE BEEN ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL THE PAST COUPLE OF MONTHS?**

I have learned that the people from the 8 counties that I will represent all feel that we live in the most beautiful place on earth and they want to keep it that way. They have given me suggestions on laws that are affecting them in a very negative way. They want someone who is going to go the Denver and fight for them.

### **IF YOU DO NOT WIN THE PRIMARY, WILL YOU SUPPORT YOUR OPPONENT?**

Yes, I will, and I will offer my help.

### **IF YOU DO NOT WILL THE GENERAL ELECTION, HOW WILL YOU INTERACT WITH THAT PERSON?**

I will challenge their position and try and get them to change that position.

I would like to add that I will fight for the halt of the Dolores River Monument, my family owns private land in the proposed area. I fought the NCA when I was commissioner, and I will fight harder as a Representative.



### Where Quality Meets Affordability

**Our Five-Star community offers large open common areas, scenic walk paths, playground, community center, park, RV storage, and on-site management.**



**TAKE A TOUR OF THIS HOME AND HEAR  
ABOUT ALL OF OUR MARCH SPECIALS!**



**Lot #1605 \$186,000**

**New Champion Home**

**1500.8 SF— 3 Bedroom/ 2 Bathroom**

**Lovely Open Concept Home**

**Kitchen Island WITH Tile Backsplash**

**Stainless Steel Appliances**

**Shiplap Accents in Kitchen / Dining Areas**

**Garden Tub in Master Bathroom**



## CIMARRON CREEK

### **Welcome Home**



970-249-0493 MONDAY-SATURDAY 8 –5 901 6530 Rd MONTROSE, CO 81401

MANAGER@CIMARRONCREEKCOMMUNITY.COM WWW.CIMARONCREEKCOMMUNITY.COM



*Welcome home to a refreshing and peaceful community with breathtaking views!*



**Hidden  
Lake**

**(970) 615-9412**

*Call to schedule your home tour today!*

## *Affordable High-Quality Living*

The Hidden Lake community is tucked away in the Uncompahgre Valley just below the majestic San Juan Mountain Range, which makes us accessible to many recreational activities. Our beautiful "Lock and Leave" community offers affordable, move-in-ready, owner-occupied homes with upgrades and curb appeal throughout, in a peaceful and relaxing atmosphere sure to enhance your quality of living. Only minutes from Montrose and close to Ouray and Telluride, an outdoor paradise awaits!

## *Amenities*

### **Our Abundant Amenities Include:**

- A Catch & Release Fishing Pond for Residents
- Basketball Court
- 2 Pickleball Courts
- 2 Dog Parks
- A Large Enclosed Children's Playground with a Zip Line

### **Our Bright and Open Community Center is also the Home Office and Includes:**

- A Meeting/Party Room
- 2 Kitchens
- An Outside Picnic Area for Residents to Enjoy

### **Our Homes Include:**

- Refrigerator
- Range & Microwave
- Dishwasher
- Washer/Dryer Connections

### **Each Site Comes with:**

- 2-Car Parking Pad
- 8'x16' Deck Under a 20' Awning
- Storage Underneath

**Our maintenance team** takes care of all the beautiful landscaping in the community, including the home lots, which are equipped with in-ground sprinkler systems.

**62650 LaSalle Road • Montrose, CO 81401 • [www.TheHiddenLakeCommunity.com](http://www.TheHiddenLakeCommunity.com)**





## OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

### REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES FOR COUNTY COMMISSIONER - DISTRICT 1 – SCOTT MIJARES & STEVEN “BIG LOU” STARK

By David White

The Montrose County Republican Party is having their bi-annual County Assembly this coming Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> where the delegates selected at the GOP Caucus on March 7<sup>th</sup> will determine if there will be a primary election on June 25, 2024, between the four (4) candidates for Montrose County Commissioner leading up to the General Election on November 5, 2024. Of course, this coming November election is bigger than just a county election as it includes electing a U.S. President, Congressional District 3 Representative, State Senate District 5 Senator, State Representative for the 58<sup>th</sup> District and the Commissioner seats.

There are two (2) candidates for Commissioner in District 1 (basically the City of Montrose) and two (2) for District 3 (southern, northern & western Montrose County west of Highways 50 & 550 to the Utah state line. Local business owner and entrepreneur Scott Mijares is challenged by Steven Louis Stark, aka “Big Lou”, a local radio station programmer/DJ and former bail bondsman in the GOP race for District 1. Former Sheriff Rick Dunlap who served our County for 12 years is challenged by businessman, entrepreneur and GOP party leader Scott Riba for the District 3 seat.

The focus of this editorial is on the District 1 Commissioner race leading into the GOP County Assembly. While both candidates for the District 3 race come into the GOP Assembly with a long list of accomplishments and a record of community service, the District 1 candidates are new to the local political scene and deserve to be vetted by the GOP and the Montrose City & County community as it appears that, in all probability, one of them will become a County Commissioner in November as there are, at this time, no other identified candidates for this District 1 seat.

I have attended two GOP candidate forums and came away from both with feelings of hope as well as perplexion. Let me explain:

I'll start with Mr. Mijares. He has presented himself to be an entrepreneur, successful businessperson and family man. Upon performing a review of his stated back-

ground and comparing that to readily available public information, I found both to be congruent in nature. He and his wife Juli have been married for 40 years. A notable accomplishment in today's world. He is a college graduate holding a Bachelor of Science degree in Marketing. He has been a stockbroker and worked in the hedge fund sector of the financial markets. He is adept at accounting and finance. He has started businesses, built them into profitable entities and prepared their success for acquisition by other entrepreneurs. He understands budgeting and finance. He has managed people as well as money – cornerstones of what is expected of a County Commissioner.

He has, like so many Montroseans today, lived around the country experiencing life and cultures that have given him the knowledge and understanding needed to interact and relate to people from all walks of life. He is, by all appearances, a genuine person with nothing to hide. He and his wife are currently City of Montrose residents, investors and business owners. They take their commitment to our City and County seriously and have invested time and much capital in the renovation of an historic Montrose downtown building transforming it into a destination location as the home of their Wildhorse Wine & Whiskey business.

As with most individuals running for public office, questions arise about events that take place during one's life. Mr. Mijares worked for a financial firm 30+ years ago where his boss came under scrutiny by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). Mr. Mijares as well as others in the firm were investigated by the SEC. Mr. Mijares was exonerated of any wrongdoing along with several others. All of this has been verified through public records. In addition, Mr. Mijares has faced personal hardship with the loss of one of his three children several years ago and has spoken out recently about it as so many of us have faced similar losses only made worse by the ongoing border crisis allowing cartels easy access to our country. Mr. Stark (Big Lou) is, in many ways, the antithesis of Mr. Mijares. While I have known of and met Big Lou in the past, I

didn't know much about him or his qualifications for the office of County Commissioner. Through the forums, I came to learn from him, of his life's experiences which led to an effort to research and verify the information that was shared by him, or in his case, not shared with the public at these candidate forums.

I learned from Big Lou that he dropped out of high school. That he lived in his car for some time after making that decision. That he joined a family member in the bail bonds business and eventually owned his own bail bonds business from which, according to him, he walked away and “couched surfed” for quite a while living with family, friends and acquaintances while looking for another vocation as the job of a bail bondsman and the clientele he dealt with became too much to handle. He eventually went to work for a radio communications company as a program coordinator and director (scheduling music, commercials, etc. on days and times that he oversaw scheduling) as well as being an on-air personality. He states in a printed resume that he has “some college” but does not identify what school or schools he attended other than stating that he attended “the school of hard knocks.” He identifies two businesses that he claims to have started but which closed within months of opening. He listed on his resume a local medical practice that he was working for beginning in 2022 but he was released from that job sometime in the last couple of months.

Most problematic for me is Big Lou's propensity to **NOT** pay his taxes like most law-abiding citizens. I, like many of you, have a disdain for our federal government and their waste of our tax dollars, however, that doesn't give us license to not pay what the law says we should pay. **Discovered in public records filed in Mesa County (Grand Junction) were tax liens by the IRS for tax years 2002, 2004, 2005, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 & 2016 totaling \$83,487.01** As of this writing, it is unclear whether some or all of these liens have been paid as I can find no evidence of the IRS filing an abatement or release with the authorities in Mesa County. He recently claimed that the



## DISTRICT 1 – SCOTT MIJARES & STEVEN “BIG LOU” STARK From previous pg

amount he owes today is “just over \$9,000 and not \$84,000.” If you’re on Facebook, you can watch his explanation of why he didn’t pay his taxes here and decide if his stated reason that he was “protesting taxes” is a legitimate reason to do so: <https://fb.watch/qTAzoyzDPi/>

In addition to the IRS issues, public records show that Big Lou purchased a home in Grand Junction in March of 2004 under his given name of Steven Louis Stark borrowing six-figures to finance this purchase. A year later, on March 3, 2005, a 2<sup>nd</sup> mortgage was placed on the property in the amount of \$46,200. Seven months after taking out this loan, on October 27, 2005, the Mesa County Public Trustee issued a foreclosure notice to Big Lou and on January 4, 2006, the home was sold at public auction. Since that time, there is no record of him owning a home.

The above, combined with (again, in the public record), multiple traffic tickets, a DUI, a short stay in jail, lead me to conclude that while Big Lou is, by all accounts, a “nice guy” with an affable personality, he is simply not equipped to handle the responsibilities and duties of a County Commissioner.

While I admire all who put themselves “out there” to run for public office regardless of their current or past issues, I believe that it is incumbent upon the public and, if the person running for office is affiliated with a political party, that there be some measure of vetting of candidates to determine if a person is qualified to hold public office or not. Personalities aside as well as circumstances, the past is almost always an indicator of future behavior and actions.

One must be careful with one’s vote. Your tax dollars are “on the line” in more ways

than one. Anyone elected as a County Commissioner this year will receive a starting salary of \$101,180 per year plus benefits. With a number that big, it is prudent to ask if our candidates are running for office for the paycheck or are they truly running for a public service purpose. I believe that Mr. Mijares is running for the latter. Big Lou for the former.

***In my opinion, Big Lou is Big Trouble!***

*Mr. White is an active citizen & community servant as well as a business owner, entrepreneur, former Montrose City Councilmember and Mayor as well as a two term County Commissioner and has served on many boards and commissions during his career. He & his wife are the parents of six children and have 10 grandchildren & 1 great grandchild.*

## Experienced, Educated, Certified, Smart



The following certifications can be found at The Real Estate Store

- Certified Residential Specialist (CRS)
- Graduate Realtor Institute (GRI)
- Senior Real Estate Specialist (SRES)
- Resort & Second Home Property Specialist (RSPS)
- At Home with Diversity Certified (ATWD)
- Short Sales and Foreclosure Resource Certified (SFR)
- REO Certified (REO)
- Certified Pricing Strategy Advisor (PSA)
- GREEN Certified (GREEN)
- Military Relocation Professional (MRP)
- Accredited Buyer's Representative (ABR)
- Seller Representative Specialist (SRS)

Wouldn't you feel more comfortable using a broker with both the education and experience for your Real Estate Transaction?

**Personal, Professional, Property Brokers**



**The Real Estate Store**

500 E. Main St. Montrose, CO 81401  
(970)249-SOLD (7653) Office  
[www.the-RES.com](http://www.the-RES.com)





Vote 

J. DAVID  
REED

*Experienced  
Committed  
Knowledgeable*

For Montrose City Council



FIND OUT MORE:

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



Return your Montrose Municipal election ballot by April 2nd  
For more information about the election visit: [www.cityofmontrose.org](http://www.cityofmontrose.org)



# YOUR BRAIN ON NATURE - CREATIVITY PART 1



**By Lauren Hall Ruddell, Ph.D.**

## *Greetings Mirrorites!*

I recently visited the home of an artist who lives in the North Fork Valley on Redlands Mesa. The brightly sunlit windows drew the eye to the stunning, snowclad peaks and mesas surrounding this remote property. One of the other guests asked the artist how she could ever get anything done because the view was so magnetic it was hard to tear your eyes away. She replied that it was hard indeed, but when she succeeded, her creativity exploded, and the avalanche of new ideas and design concepts was almost too much to handle.

Creativity refers to a process of generating new and useful ideas. It is understood as having multiple dimensions, including flexibility, fluency (the number of unique ideas generated), originality, and the ability to unify disparate (or remotely associated) ideas. Creativity is a process with multiple stages: preparation, incubation, idea generation (illumination), and evaluation (verification). Incubation commonly occurs following initial preparation for the task: conscious work on a problem stops, but conscious or unconscious cognitive processes enable new ideas to emerge without apparent additional effort. At least in theory.

Nature-based experiences that lead to creativity appear to be composed of multiple neurobiological pathways that mostly affect steps 2 & 3 of the creative process. Some researchers believe that the bene-



***The road to inspiration. Photo courtesy of V. Bagacian.***

fits of nature begin in the preparation phase, but I disagree, as do some other researchers. Preparation means that you know a problem or project requires an original solution, so you conscientiously bend your voluntary, focused, executive attention in that direction. This is an internal process that may or may not work. When the artist, or engineer, or website designer, or novelist gets stuck in this phase and no new ideas are generated, that is the time that pleasing natural environments can provide the brain vacation needed for that ah-ha moment.

Let me give you an example. Once when hugely stuck on a plot design for a particular scene in a novel I was writing, I knew that all of the preparation in the world was not going to result in a breakthrough. I chose a glass-enclosed tower with a view to the Wild Atlantic Way on the west coast of Ireland to escape this mental trap. I knew this structure was seldom used and that visitors mostly enjoyed the main dining area of this historic hotel and restaurant. A sweeping panorama of sea, ships, and cliffs was hard to tear my eyes from, but I managed. I was left alone with this stunning view for 5 hours, during which time I had progressed from preparation

through to verification and the chapter was suddenly written. I recall having to come up for air about every ½ hour and take in that engaging marine view, so different from my home office, to get a fresh hit of soft fascination. I could literally feel my brain progressing through these phases, getting stuck again and uninspired, then resting my voluntary attention through fascination with a natural scene that included scope, extent, and compatibility. And like magic, an insight appeared out of nowhere, allowing me to proceed onward.

What was happening was an interplay between attention restoration and mind-wandering. When it comes to attention restoration, natural scenes can rejuvenate our exhausted executive attention ability. The soft fascination sends the fractious student out to the playground for a while to cavort in the default mode network (DMN). The restored student can then return to the classroom (or office) and resume focused attention tasks with renewed vigor and accuracy. But improved creativity? Not necessarily, not unless a different but complementary process is occurring in the background. That process is mind-wandering of a certain type and

***Continued next pg***



## YOUR BRAIN ON NATURE - CREATIVITY PART 1 *From previous pg*

will be described in part 2 of this topic in the next installation.

For now, back to the creative process progression.

Let's assume that the preparation phase for the project at hand has been a bust. Now in desperation, you head into a pleasant natural landscape. What begins happening in the brain pan is a transfer of attentional resources. Focused, voluntary attention takes place in the prefrontal cortex, specifically the anterior cingulate cortex (ACC).

That's where the preparation phase also takes place. This place can become like that tired student at the end of a long, challenging lesson. It is emptied of the fuel needed to maintain voluntary thought processes. At some point, it needs a nap and a snack.

The DMN (discovered only recently) is comprised of a bunch of different regions and pathways that do not include the ACC.

So when the ACC is refreshed, it can perform cognitive miracles, but when exhausted needs to rest. Attentional resources march from the ACC to the cafeteria and then study hall with a good book. The DMN acts as cafeteria, study hall, and playground all in one. The preparation phase of creativity takes place in the classroom, while the incubation phase takes place on the playground. There are many playgrounds (meditation, exercise, music) that can help with the incubation phase, but none are as rich, fast, and effective as immersion in natural scenes that invoke soft fascination.

Once attention has parked itself in the DMN to rest for a bit, it eventually feels good enough to play. That's when the complementary process of mind-wandering makes an appearance. And it's got a lot of work and commuting to do even though it may not feel like it. Mind-wandering is also a function of the DMN,

which is composed of regions that are all over the place inside the cranium, plus it taps into visual processes. This may be why mind-wandering while viewing softly fascinating natural scenes is so productive for the creative process, but more on that next time.

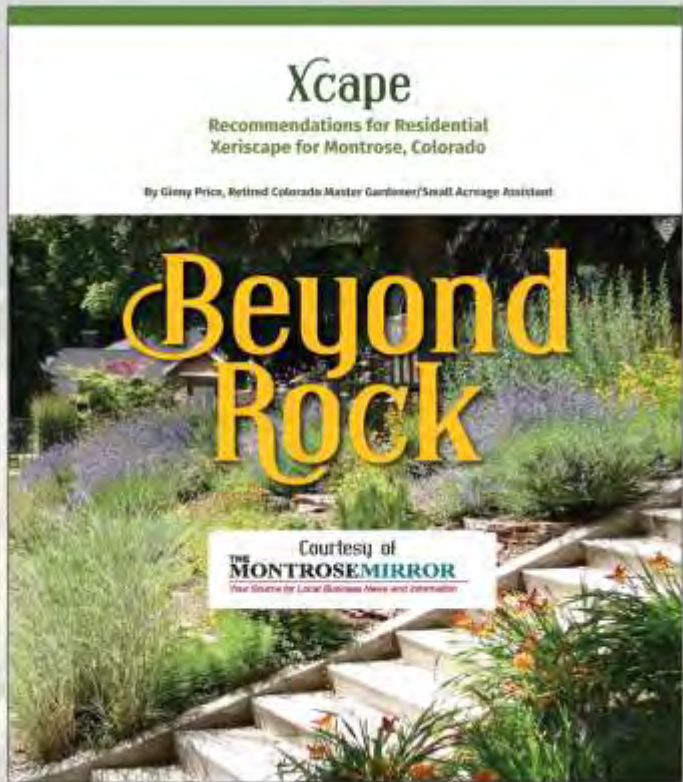
When I am at home and fried, feeling drained and uninspired, I go to the very end of my new deck where I can get a somewhat unobstructed view of the San Juans. Even in that constrained viewshed, I still have the occasional insight that eluded me just 15 minutes earlier. Try it, or something like it, and see if you don't find that the equivalent of silly persons smacking each other with water balloons doesn't happen at some point inside your head, and that these random silly thoughts are just the breakthrough you needed.

Until next time, be well and incubate in nature.

**Click on this ad to  
Download your FREE copy  
of Beyond Rock today!**

**This Xeriscape Guide is made  
just for Montrose, put together  
by Ginny Price, Retired  
Colorado Master Gardener/  
Small Acreage Assistant.**

Courtesy of  
**THE MONTROSE MIRROR**  
*Your Source for Local Business News and Information*



# JUNE STAR

BALTIMORE MD



"June Star is that band you won't believe you're just now hearing about. With a bulls-eye Americana style, thoughtful lyrics, brilliant guitar, and the most gentle heartfelt harmonies you've ever heard."  
American Highways

"Honest, heartfelt storytelling, and outright kick-ass songs that make the worst of times more manageable..."  
Baby Robot

## SAT APRIL 6

**HEALTHY  
RHYTHM**  
ART GALLERY

33 N. UNCOMPAGNE AVENUE, MONTROSE CO

**DOORS 7:00**  
**SHOW 7:30**

**SCAN CODE  
RESERVE SEATS**



[HTTPS://HEALTHYRHYTHM.NET](https://healthyrhythm.net)



## COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

### PRAYER GATHERING AT UTE INDIAN PARK ON MARCH 19

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE—There will be a prayer gathering at the Peace Pole in Ute Indian Park on Tuesday, March 19, the Spring Equinox, at noon to pray for peace in the world and the healing of Mother Earth. Everyone is welcome. Bring drums and prayers for peace. Sponsored by the Spiritual Awareness Center and the 100 Peace Pole Project. Call 970-252-0908 for more information.

**OPEN**  
*for Business*

**It's Your  
Business!**

**Let's Grow  
Together.  
Advertise  
with  
The Mirror!**

**970-275-0646**



*Caring for you like family  
means*

**HEART HEALTH EXPERTS  
& THE LATEST TECHNOLOGY**

You want the best for your family.

Montrose Regional Health's Cardiology experts are dedicated to delivering the critical response you need with the latest technology.

800 S. 3rd Street  
Montrose, CO 81401  
970-249-2211

**MontroseHealth.com**



**MONTROSE**  
REGIONAL HEALTH

*Caring for you like family.*



# DUST CITY OPERA

Thursday, April 4th, 2024  
1:00 PM

*at the Montrose Pavilion  
Events Center Auditorium  
1800 Pavilion Drive*

Winner of Best  
Rock Album at the  
2023 NM Music  
Awards

Named Gold Artist  
of the Year by  
Modern Musician

Releasing the EP  
Cold Hands this  
spring



FREE! BROUGHT TO US BY THE BLUE SAGE CENTER  
FOR THE ARTS NEXT50 GRANT  
NO TICKET NEEDED; DOORS OPEN AT 12:30 PM

Hosted by the Montrose Recreation District's  
Active Adults Program.  
All ages welcome to this event!



# **SCOTT MIJARES**

## ***County Commission District 1***

What will your vote for Scott Mijares get you?  
A representative with:

- ★ Defender of Family Values
- ★ Free Market Entrepreneur-Decades of Business Experience
- ★ Montrose Home Owner & Commercial Property Owner
  - ★ Business Owner Downtown Montrose
  - ★ Strong Advocate for Conservative Values
  - ★ Conservative Radio Talk Show Host
  - ★ Community Association Board Member
- ★ BS Degree in Business Marketing Degree USF
  - ★ Vigorous Supporter of Law and Order
- ★ Articulate Spokesman for Water & Property Rights



Guided by Conservative principles this  
local entrepreneur offers a fresh perspective  
to our communities challenges



**FOR MORE INFO GO TO : [SCOTTM4MONTROSE.COM](http://SCOTTM4MONTROSE.COM)**

# CARING TOGETHER



**Unlock more moments. Alpine Online™ and  
Alpine Mobile® give you the gift of time.**

Online Banking and Alpine Mobile® are not available to minors under the age of 13. Alpine Bank does not charge you a fee for using Alpine Mobile®; however, your wireless carrier's standard web access and text message rates may still apply. Mobile Deposit limitations apply. Please refer to product terms and conditions. Certain transaction fees and limitations apply.



**Alpine Bank**

alpinebank.com • Member FDIC



## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### BLM PROPOSES TO TRANSFER URANIUM MILL SITE TO DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

#### *Special to the Mirror*

LAKEWOOD— The Bureau of Land Management is taking public input on an application to permanently transfer approximately 70 acres of BLM-managed land to the Department of Energy.

The application relates to the Durita Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Disposal Site, which contains four buried uranium mill tailings disposal structures and associated drainage features. The transfer would allow the Department of Energy to safely administer and monitor the site, which is no longer operating.

Tomorrow, BLM will publish a *Federal Register Notice of Withdrawal Application*, kicking off a 30-day opportunity to comment on the requested withdrawal and transfer of jurisdiction. Comments can be sent electronically to [jjardine@blm.gov](mailto:jjardine@blm.gov) or delivered to the BLM Colorado State Office, P.O. Box 151029, Lakewood, Colorado 80215. Comments must be received by April 13, 2024.

For more information, please contact Jennifer Jardine, BLM realty specialist, at 970-385-1224.

*If you have foot & ankle issues*  
**GET BACK TO  
WHAT YOU LOVE**



**Dr. Joshua Bagley**  
Orthopaedic Surgeon

*The Western Slope's expert  
for foot and ankle issues.*

Dr. Bagley is your resource for all things  
foot and ankle, including the innovative  
Total Ankle Replacement.



*For more information, call*

**970-249-6641**



see  
many  
views

hear  
many  
voices

only in  
the  
montrose  
mirror



**Lot #2831 \$182,000**

**New Skyline Home**

- ⇒ 1608 SF- 3 Bedroom/ 2 Bathroom
- ⇒ Lovely Open Concept Home
- ⇒ Kitchen has Large Island with Plenty of Storage
- ⇒ Stainless Steel Appliances
- ⇒ Home has a Livingroom and Family Room
- ⇒ Backs up to Open Space for ultimate views



**Where Quality Meets Affordability**

**Our community offers large open common areas, scenic walk paths, playground, community center, park, RV storage, and on-site management.**



**970-249-0493 MONDAY-SATURDAY 8 AM TO 5 PM**

**901 6530 RD MONTROSE, CO 81401**

**MANAGER@CIMARRONCREEKCOMMUNITY.COM**

**WWW.CIMARRONCREEKCOMMUNITY.COM**



# COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

## COLORADO CHAIN LAW IGNORED IN SPRING STORM, RESULTING IN MAJOR ROAD CLOSURES

*Special to the Mirror*

COLORADO – Despite extensive warnings from the Colorado State Patrol, Colorado Department of Transportation and local emergency service agencies, some professional drivers failed to comply with Colorado chain law. One of the most severely impacted areas was the I-70 corridor from Silverthorne to the Morrison exit, which resulted in an extended closure in both directions on Thursday, trapping motorists until lanes could be cleared and safely reopened late in the afternoon.

The Colorado State Patrol takes a proactive approach to chain compliance before storms hit. Since the beginning of this chain season in September 2023, over 800

citations have been written for noncompliance. To ensure the safety and expedient removal of hazards, enforcement during a storm is sometimes limited to CMVs that can be issued a citation without further delaying the removal of the vehicle from traffic lanes after a trooper has arrived on the scene. During the spring storm Colorado just experienced, troopers wrote 12 citations to commercial drivers for non-compliance and responded to 100 motorist assists; 32 on I-70 and 28 on US H285. Based on current data, it is not possible to separate commercial vehicles and passenger vehicles in the “motorist assist” category, and more detailed information regarding who required a public tow, who



*Colorado State Patrol courtesy photo.*

hired a private tow without our assistance, and who was removed prior to our arrival is not available.

All motor vehicles with a GCWR/GVWR of 16,001 pounds or more are required to carry tire chains from September 1 through May 31 when traveling on any portion of I-70 between mile point 259 (Morrison) and mile point 133 (Dotsero). The vehicle must be equipped with enough chains or alternate traction devices (ATDs) to be able to comply with the Commercial Vehicle Chain Law if it is put into effect.

If it is discovered that a driver is not carrying chains or ATDs with them during a truck inspection at the port of entry or around the state by troopers, they are subject to a \$50 fine. If truckers fail to put on chains or ATDs when required, these professional drivers can receive a citation for \$100. If they cause lane closures, the fine jumps to \$500; if they shut down traffic completely, the fine increases to \$1,000. In every instance, they can also receive a negative report on their USDOT number.

Chain law restrictions are announced through the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT). At a minimum, they will notify the public on static and electronic variable message roadway signs. In addition, this information is regularly announced through 511 traveler information, the official CDOT travel website ([www.cotrip.org](http://www.cotrip.org)), and media outlets.

When the chain law is implemented, troopers often times begin actively seeking chain violations to avoid road closures, but proactive efforts are often replaced by emergency calls for service.



**Spencer Hamner**  
PA-C

*Se habla Español*

### Spencer Hamner provides safe, sophisticated care featuring:

- Precancer & Cancer Screenings
- Skin, Nail, & Hair Disease Treatment & Management
- Non-Invasive Repair of Damaged Skin
- MOHs Surgeries
- Cosmetic Procedures
- TeleDerm Appointments
- Parking Lot Check-Ins
- Monthly Specials

*Make Integrated Dermatology of Montrose  
your skincare destination of choice!*

3480 Wolverine Dr.  
Suite F  
Montrose, CO 81401

Open M-F 8AM-5PM

Call today at

**970-252-7444**

or visit us at:

**[www.IntegratedDermatologyofMontrose.com](http://www.IntegratedDermatologyofMontrose.com)**





**Lot #2836 \$187,000 New Cavco Home**

**1200 SF- 3 Bedroom/ 2 Bathroom**

**Beautiful Home with Vaulted Ceilings**

**Abundant Counter and Cabinet Space**

**Stainless Steel Appliances**

**Tile Shower and Double Vanity sinks in Master Bath**

**Our community offers large open common areas, scenic walk paths, playground, community center, park, RV storage, and on-site management.**



**CIMARRON CREEK**

**970-249-0493 MONDAY-SATURDAY 8 AM TO 5 PM 901 6530 RD MONTROSE, CO 81401**

**MANAGER@CIMARRONCREEKCOMMUNITY.COM WWW.CIMARRONCREEKCOMMUNITY.COM**



## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

### IT'S OBVIOUS WITH BIDEN'S INCOMPETENCE HE IS NOT RUNNING THE COUNTRY

*Editor:*

There is now ample proof Joe Biden stole classified documents from the secured "sciff" "read only" room when he was a Senator and continued to remove classified documents over the years even as Vice President. He knowingly and deliberately continued stealing classified documents. He had no authority to remove any of these documents. He also revealed classified information to his "ghost writer" for his book. Documents were found in multiple locations and multiple states stored in boxes falling apart with no security. He did not have Presidential Privilege; he committed Federal Crimes punishable with jail time. Why shouldn't he be impeached, tried and sent to jail? If he's not competent to be charged how is he competent to be President during the most dangerous times our country has ever experienced all due to his policies. His policies, purposefully implemented, have put every American Citizen in grave danger starting with the Border; which is one of the primary responsibilities of the Federal Government; to safeguard our borders, the people and the country. You can't have it both ways; incompetent to be charged, then incompetent to be President.

Donald Trump had Presidential Privilege, documents were stored in secure boxes in one location in a locked room and had Secret Service 24-hour protection, was cooperating with the FBI and yet he is charged and not Biden????

Any "reasonable" person can see the injustice. It's obvious with Biden's incompetence he is not running the country. It's the bunch of inexperienced, academics, and UNELECTED Bureaucrats who hate America. Elections matter.

*Carol McBride, Montrose*

### VOTE SCOTT MIJARES FOR COUNTY COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 1

*Editor:*

I had never met Scott Mijares until September, 2023 when we were assigned to the same Unify Montrose 'Trust,' which included 5 other delegates. I am so fortunate that I was able to get to know Scott through Unify Montrose. Scott is willing to spend one on one time with anyone at his Wild Horse Wine and Whiskey Bar, 439 E Main, Wednesdays through Fridays, 4-9PM or by appointment. Check out Scott's website [scottm4montrose.com](http://scottm4montrose.com). You can email him at [scottm4montrose@gmail.com](mailto:scottm4montrose@gmail.com).

Several things stood out to me about Scott during the Unify Montrose process:

1. Scott did a lot of research on his own regarding the child care situation in Montrose. He also spent time on his own verifying the information we were presented by the Unify Montrose staff. He doesn't just accept anything at face value without doing a deep dig into the issue.
2. Scott spent many hours one on one with Harry Gottlieb, the founder of both Unify America and Unify Montrose. He also spent time with other delegates to hear their ideas outside of our 2 hour weekly highly structured Unify Montrose meetings. Scott respects everyone, even those whose ideas and opinions differ from his.

3. Scott is very experienced in cost analysis ([policygenious.com](http://policygenious.com))

work. He has been involved in business planning, and he knows what is involved in determining if a business plan will work. He has been and currently is an entrepreneur. Scott and his wife renovated his business space with no public funds. Scott has both formal education and real-life experience in this area.

4. Scott is always willing to talk to those with opinions that differ from his own. He challenges both himself and others to fully investigate ideas to determine what is best for him and his community.

5. Scott is conservative. He will be as responsible with our tax money as he is with his own money. He will conduct his due diligence before voting to spend our tax money. Through research Scott discovered and published the following:

a) The cost of living in Montrose is 32.9% higher than the national average for housing, food, and transportation ([salary.com](http://salary.com))

b) The median household income in Montrose is 21% below the national average and 30.5% below Denver ([datausa.io](http://datausa.io)) (Montrose \$54,260, National \$69,021, Denver \$78,177)

c) Homeowner insurance rates in Colorado are 3rd highest in the nation

d) Seniors in Montrose represent 20% of the population with a medium household income of \$33,354, which is 51% below the national average. 11% earn less than \$10,000 per year, and 12.9% live below the poverty rate ([seniorcare.com](http://seniorcare.com))

e) Scott learned from my research that Montrose has a higher sales tax (8.53%) than 81% of Colorado localities ([salestaxhandbook.com](http://salestaxhandbook.com)).

Scott concluded that 'as a community we can acknowledge that we have a childcare problem without endangering a vulnerable block of our citizens. Let us take a look at what has already been appropriated with the state, county, and city budgets and ask our lawmakers to work within those budgets.

No new taxes or fees.' High tax rates are a disincentive to community growth and make for a fiscally irresponsible government.

Scott will approach the needs of our county with the same research and fiscally responsible solutions as he recommended for Unify Montrose.

Please join me in supporting and voting for Scott Mijares for County Commissioner, District 1.

*Carol Antolovich, Montrose*



## THE REVENUE GENERATOR

**Did you know that we are  
a local company that offers  
the following services?**

- Digital Loyalty Systems
- Text Message Marketing
- NEW!** • Digital Mobile Coupons
- NEW!** • Waitlist System & Birthday Club  
(Restaurants/Delis)
- Database Builds for any Organization
- Help Wanted Broadcasts
- NEW!** • Text Reminder System  
(Physicians, Chiropractors,  
Massage Therapists, Mechanics, etc.)

Call/Text: **970-417-1516**

Email: **support@970vip.com**

Or Visit: **www.TheRevenueGenerator.com**  
and fill in contact form!







**FREE  
CONCERT**

# CELESTIAL SOUNDS

**Sunday, April 7  
3:00pm  
Montrose Pavilion**

Grab your eclipse glasses and join the Montrose Community Band for an afternoon of music inspired by the wonders of stars, planets, and outer space



## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

### CD3 CANDIDATE STEPHEN VARELA IS INNOCENT OF ALL ACCUSATIONS!

*Editor:*

*The Denver Post* recently accused Mr. Varela of several misdeeds which have proven to be false. None of the allegations were supported by documents or interviews with fellow union officials who worked with Mr. Varela.

He was accused of misusing a debit card to pay for items and tried to circumvent expenditure limits and requirements. The problem with this allegation is that the same debit card was used by all the union officers. All expenditures were documented and followed the union's internal procurement rules, and were audited annually. All audits were clean during Mr. Varela's presidency, and the Department of Labor gave the local union a clean bill of health at the time Mr. Varela left on January 2020.

Second, Mr. Varela was accused of excessive travel at a time when the Trump administration's Department of Labor heightened security of unions with new regulation, during the time Mr. Varela took office as president. He complied with all regulations, and when he traveled, kept expenses as modest as possible.

Third, Mr. Varela was accused of unilaterally

purchasing items, such as "beer-making equipment" which was approved by a membership vote and used for union business.

Fourth, Mr. Varela was accused of changing his party affiliation 18 times. The reality is he changed his party affiliation a few times before becoming a Republican for good.

There are two documents which I am glad to supply to anyone who asks. The first is the Local Clearance Memorandum from A.F.G.E Local 2430 that states Mr. Varela left in good standing and fulfilled all his responsibilities as union president; that he returned all union equipment, etc. Witnessing the document was the Incoming Secretary-Treasurer, Andrew Pearson, and the Southern Colorado Vice President, Nicole Setser. Their signatures attested that Mr. Varela returned all union property and documentation of the Local and they accepted all responsibility on the day Mr. Varela left his position.

The second document is the Complete Audit Report for 2019 for AFGE Local 2430 that shows everything was done correctly: disbursements, receipts, cash/equipment assets. It states, "The Local is using good

internal financial controls and is complying with financial practices and procedures." So, why this attack on Mr. Varela? I suggest it is because he is a threat to the opposition. He has served faithfully on the Colorado Board of Education (not a paid position, by the way) as our representative, and has physically visited almost 75% of the school districts that make up CD3 to assess the needs and issues of each county (which is rarely done by board members). He has told me that he will visit the remaining 25% before his term is up at the end of the year.

Mr. Varela has already proven that he works hard for our country and Coloradans.

He is an army combat veteran, and has served on a charter school board and the Pueblo Planning Commission. He is a proud Hispanic family man and father of four. He is battle-tested! He is the right choice to represent us in Washington, D.C. Those who will serve as delegates in the county assembly should make sure he gets on the ballot!

Sincerely,  
*Leah Vandersluis*  
Montrose, CO



**249** 8500 *ANONYMOUS*

Download The APP. **P3TIPS** 

**MONTROSE REGIONAL  
CRIME STOPPERS**

*see something, say something*





## LOT #815 • \$185,000

- 1,500 Sq. Ft.
- Corner Lot Adjacent Cul-de-Sac
- 3 Bedroom, 2 Bathroom
- Vaulted Ceilings
- Separate Living Room, Dining Room, and Entertainment Area
- Master Bath has Double Vanity and Walk-In Shower



# Hidden Lake

62650 LaSalle Road • Montrose, CO 81401  
[www.TheHiddenLakeCommunity.com](http://www.TheHiddenLakeCommunity.com)



## RE-1J TABLES TEACHING AND LEARNING ACADEMY *From page 1*

we will be extending that time and we will hear all of the comments that we have received." All would be held to the three-minute time limit, she said.

There were no changes to the meeting agenda.

### STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

RE-1J PIO Matt Jenkins introduced School Resource Officer Jeremy Payne, who presented the SRO Citizenship Award to Outer Range Third Grader Braxtynne Bengford.

The agenda notes that Montrose High School Senior Leonor "Leo" Nieves Chavez was to be honored at the meeting as well, however, Chavez had lost her voice, Jenkins said.

The third annual Building Futures Construction Trade Fair will take place on April 10.

Honored with Altrusa Apple Awards for February were Oak Grove Fifth Grade Teacher Nathan Kay and Centennial Middle School Eighth Grade English teacher Jennifer Easton. Honored with Altrusa Awards for March were Columbine Middle School Eighth Grade Math Teacher Leslie Maddox and Black Canyon High School Teacher Hydee Parker.

The KREX Golden Apple Award for March has been awarded to Columbine Middle School 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher Sausa Christensen.

During the time for board advisory committee updates, District A Director Neisha Balleck said that she attended the District Accountability Committee (DAC) meeting, where the committee heard a presentation by Columbine Middle School Seventh Grade Teacher Russell Evans on [Digital Citizenship](#). Balleck said she had previously seen the presentation as a parent, "...It was just so valuable for me, because he helped me understand some more things about how do I help my kids with digital citizenship..."

Now, the DAC is looking at bringing the digital citizenship program to all schools for more discussion Balleck said, "to talk about how that might look in our schools, to see what it might look like to have more discussion and more focus on digital citizenship for the kids." Evans had shared a website for those interested in learning more, commonsense.org, she said.

District D Director Tom West said that the

Facilities Committee will have a presentation for the Board of Education at a future meeting.

### COMMUNITY INPUT

Fishing reminded those who had signed up to speak during Community Input of the rules and the three-minute time limit.

First to speak was Michael Head, "...I have a comment on your new teaching diagram...for Johnson," Head said. "My son is supposed to go there...However, I was also a participant of something similar to this when I was in third grade, with two teachers. They had 60 kids, and I was left out of it...they thought I was behind." Head said that his mother had pushed to have him tested, only to find that he was not behind at all but surpassed the requirements.

"So how did they miss that? With this large group they cannot seem to keep track of all the kids. I was a prime example of that. So, I really feel that this large group is not a great idea," Head said.

Next to speak were RE-1J Principals Kirsten Bloomfield of Johnson Elementary, Dana Edwards of Oak Grove Elementary, and Chris Lehmann of Pomona Elementary. The three principals gave a joint statement, "We are here today to express our unwavering support for the establishment of the Montrose County School District Teaching and Learning Academy," Bloomfield said, "and the team-based staffing model within our school district...the Teaching and Learning Academy would serve as a beacon of innovation and excellence, providing a dedicated space for professional development, collaboration, and the exploration of cutting-edge teaching methodologies. By fostering a culture of continuous learning among our educators, we can assure that they remain at the forefront of educational best practices, equipped with the skills and knowledge needed to inspire and engage our students...this opportunity allows us to address and eliminate the silos that often occur in traditional school settings...by investing in the professional growth of our educators, we show our dedication to providing them with the tools and support they need to thrive in their roles as mentors, guides, and champions of learning.

"With this investment in our staff mem-

bers' professional growth, we will facilitate the establishment of well-trained, effective future educators...we urge you to give careful consideration to the proposal...we ask that you and the MCSD community do not get caught up in the rumors and untruths that have circulated...by embracing this opportunity, we can reaffirm our commitment to educational excellence and lay the foundation for a brighter future for generations to come..."

Johnson Elementary School Parent Tiffany McClemons spoke. She stressed the importance of communication with parents and said that meetings have been held during working hours when the majority of parents who work are unable to attend. A total of 30 parents attended both meetings. McClemons asked that the board of education not make a final decision at the meeting, but allow more time for parental involvement. "...I really feel that this is very, very important, because this is a drastic change for our children, this was only presented to the parents one week ago...they need more time."

Parent Jessica Johnson said that she was deeply concerned about the impacts of the Teaching and Learning academy on children with special needs. "...I feel that this model may hinder them and actually cause them to go backwards..."

Emily Ploussard read a letter from a parent who was unable to attend the board meeting, Dana Roesener. Roesener wrote that she had done her own research, and eventually came to agree with the model. "I am a past, present, and future Johnson parent, who fully supports this model."

Johnson Elementary School Teacher Debbie Robuck spoke. "I want to speak to you tonight to express my concern about the staffing model proposal," Robuck said, "I'm a first-grade teacher at Johnson and I've been there for 19 years. While it's undeniable that there is a teacher shortage, I strongly disagree with the school-wide implementation of this staffing model as currently proposed as a way to solve that problem. I believe the staffing model is not fiscally responsible, it will create overcrowded classrooms, it will reduce the number of years of teaching experience in our building drastically, and at the expense of teachers that have many years



## **RE-1J TABLES TEACHING AND LEARNING ACADEMY** *From previous pg*

many years of valuable teaching experience.

"This has been presented as a way to resolve the teaching shortage and lack of teachers entering college programs to become educators. However, the proposal fails to address the problem of funding.

Dr. Stephenson admitted that the implementation of this model is not cost neutral. In fact it will cost at least \$200,000 more than is in our current budget, maybe more in future years of implementation...she did not identify any potential sources for funding but did say it would not be grant-based as that is not a permanent resource.

"It's very likely that the true cost of implementing this staffing model will rest on the shoulders of all district employees who will receive less salary compensation because so much money is being spent on this model," Robuck said. "It's just not fiscally responsible to go ahead with this plan without having the funds to hire all of the teachers, facilitators, and assistants that it requires. In addition, the staffing model will add students to the size of primary classrooms at Johnson, reducing first grade from four to three classrooms. Even though the student-teacher ratio will be lower, more children and adults will be in those classrooms. It will be very difficult to simultaneously have multiple focused lessons going on within that classroom. More importantly, this model of staffing will reduce the overall years of experience of teachers in the building—teaching experience is one of our greatest assets...and that wouldn't change because that's the main part of this model, always having new facilitators and assistants..."

"...The message the district is sending to us is that our years of experience are not valued, which is disrespectful and not acceptable..."

A similar program in a district comparable to Montrose has not produced quality teachers or improved test scores, Robuck said. She urged the board to take more time.

Others who spoke included Johnson Elementary School Fourth Grade Teacher Renee Atencio, "I am here to speak in support of the teaching and Learning Academy...I know it would force a lot of changes on a lot of people, big changes. But it's

also important to understand even though change is messy and ugly, change is also important—it's how we grow. I've been an educator now for 17 years. I have experience in several different districts across the State.

"I can see that in education things need to change. This is not just a Montrose issue...few districts are willing to take an opportunity to change an entire model," Atencio said. "We finally have an opportunity to produce a new education model, and we might have some great results because of it...right now student achievement is low, student engagement is low, teacher burnout is high...I'm overstressed, overwhelmed. I have so many wonderful ideas I would love to do with my class but there's not enough me, and there's not enough time...I can see the model being a great chance for meeting the individual needs of all my students...It's a great opportunity for students to build relationships with more than one adult...the model also would have a positive benefit for the community...this is a great opportunity to funnel from our high school teaching cadet program directly to our own school district to keep our educators local and part of the community. It's a great chance that students may never have..."

Next to speak was Dane Stewart, a physician and specialist surgeon who said he is about to turn 40, "...Which means I have spent my entire life in higher education and academia."

"...I know how academia works," Stewart said, "and I know the culture. I know this is being presented as a budget issue, but I don't think it's a budget issue. This to me sounds like a social engineering project disguised as a budget issue...I also own two successful businesses, and if there's anything that experience has taught me, it's when you have good talent you don't let 'em go—that's corporate malpractice in my opinion.

"And we have some amazing teachers," Stewart said, "They're tried, they're true, they're objectively excellent, they're part of Montrose, we love them, they've done an awesome job. And we're letting 'em go? It just doesn't make sense until you consider who we're replacing them with...they're novice teachers...straight

out of Denver, straight out of Arizona or Phoenix, straight out of academia..."

Stewart said that he did his surgical intern year in Arizona, "As soon as I finished my education I ran as fast as I could to get away from those educational programs because they are a trainwreck; they are a nightmare. The thought of those programs funding the exportation of that education model is very discouraging, and frankly it's terrifying to me..."

Stewart thanked the board members for their service and said they have his support. "But any vote to make Montrose more like the educational model in Denver, and that support is going to be gone--and I have yet to talk to a parent that doesn't feel the same way. Thank you for your time."

Former school board member Mark Bray spoke. Bray asked how this program would fix student achievement, which has been an issue since he served on the board.

"...I am concerned with the proposed Teaching and Learning Academy...no data has been given (or) shown that proves that this works," Bray said. "Since your work session, this proposal has changed at least four times, which gives the appearance that they're making this up as they go...while they have been planning this for at least four months, your administration did not engage the most important stakeholders, which is your parents, until March 1<sup>st</sup>, which is exactly 11 days ago. That's poor. This proposal will cut somewhere around ten to 12 teaching jobs, some of those through attrition, district-wide.

"There aren't enough open teacher positions in the district to place these teachers, causing many to take lower-paying jobs in the district or just leave for other districts. How do you get these people back if this proposal fails?

"This proposal will require hiring close to 30 instructional support staff," Bray said.

"What happens if you can't hire these people? You're struggling to get para's right now. They've been touting that this will create a good hiring pool—how? The base teacher job description says five years of teaching or less preferred...the issue is retaining teachers and their burn-out...teachers are so seriously overloaded

## RE-1J TABLES TEACHING AND LEARNING ACADEMY *From previous pg*

with extra stuff, unrealistic expectations, and goals, that they lose their desire and their ability to actually teach...I think more research needs to be done and I think you need to do it on more of a smaller scale...ask yourselves, what's the rush? Why do we have to do this today? I highly recommend that you table this proposal and resolution until more research is done, data is obtained, and all stakeholders are properly engaged. The teachers, the parents, and the taxpaying public will thank you for it."

Johnson Elementary School Parent Bethany Nehring said she does not feel that that she has enough information about the proposed plan. There was no Spanish literature for any of the Spanish speaking families, she said, no printouts, and presentations were only held during working hours. "...If there's no communication behind it, there's a problem...it feels like we are not given a chance to connect and to walk alongside to make this change..."

Nehring said her concerns over classroom size, occupancy, fire safety and building codes were laughed at. "They laughed and said, they do this already with the houses when they put them together...if my child can't get out of a room because there's 80 people are in there, that's a problem...there's so many more questions beyond this...what I need to propose is more time...we need more time."

Parent and district teacher Michelle Cimaglio said she appreciates innovative thinking but disagrees with how the proposal is being implemented. "...I do feel rushed in this situation...I'm concerned with losing certified staff...I'm concerned with finding the right people..."

Cimaglio suggested starting small, building momentum, and solving problems before going K-5. "I'm very happy with Johnson right now...if this passes and Johnson implements K5 I will be looking for a different school..." She requested that parents be informed so they can make decisions as to the coming school year.

Pomona Elementary School Alternative Licensure teacher Rebecca Johns said, "In my experience as an alternative licensure teacher, this level of support would have been beneficial to my success as a brand

new teacher; the opportunity to be in the same room as my mentor would have provided me with quick feedback and coaching during a tough year of teaching....our current staffing model makes this very challenging as teaching often happens in isolation...a model like the one presented could give new teachers the support and feedback they need and deserve...this type of support would have made me feel successful instead of over-worked..."

James Stetson thanked the board and administration. Stetson said it would be great if there were more transparency, "...Please do your due diligence, and support not just the kids and the parents but the teachers."

Johnson Elementary School Teacher Kim Martin said, "...I have been at Johnson for seven years and an educator for over 25; what we are currently doing is not working...school is broken but not for lack of trying...at Johnson we are currently using a co-teaching model with success...the problem is we are only doing this for 40 minutes a day, four days a week. With this new model we would be able to co-teach all day long in every content area...school needs to change...our students deserve us to do better and reimagine school. We can do better for them."

Fishing thanked all of those who spoke.

### MAGELLEN SURVEY UPDATE

RE-1J Superintendent Carrie Stephenson introduced Director of Operations James Pavlich and Ryan Winger of Magellen, who presented the [results of the recent stakeholder survey](#) on possible ballot measures to fund capital improvements. The primary purpose of the survey as stated, "was to measure voter support and opposition to a \$146 million bond initiative, or a \$180 million bond initiative paid for with property tax increases."

Responses showed that 39 percent of Respondents Feel the District is on the Right Track, while 41 percent of Respondents Feel the District is on the Wrong Track.

"The money's not there like it used to be," District D Director Tom West said.

**TEACHING AND LEARNING ACADEMY** Superintendent Carrie Stephenson discussed the proposal to implement the

[teaching and Learning Academy](#). Stephenson said that there are "a lot of rumors and misinformation out there."

The current system has "silos," Stephenson said. Teachers are the district's number one resource. "We have to support them to grow in their craft."

Stephenson spoke about collectively planning to meet student needs. "We can train our instructional facilitators and educational assistants in very scientific methodology." The proposal involves boot camps and teacher cadets.

In a "collaborative response to feedback we have been getting," the proposal was altered prior to the board of education meeting, Stephenson said, to allow parent choice and more efficient data collection. "We have listened, and we have been listening, to parent groups," Stephenson said. She proposed a collaboration with Colorado Mesa University (CMU).

Stephenson presented slides outlining the proposal, and discussed the changes made since it was presented at a work session and to parents.

The board spent time in discussion.

District B Director Ted Valerio said that right now, he is hearing that a large sector of stakeholders are unsure about the Teaching and Learning Academy proposal, and the district needs to spend time building trust and communication. "I need more information...I'd like to see more support from our stakeholders." There has been very little data presented, he said.

District F Director Jody Hovde said that she was glad to see that adjustments were made to the proposal, but a lack of communication has hindered acceptance, "We have to have our parents be part of this for it to be successful."

District D Director Tom West said, "We've got to include parents in this."

District A Director Neisha Balleck asked for funding comparisons, to show the costs of implementing the Teaching and Learning Academy compared to the cost of the school district's current strategy.

Superintendent Stephenson aggressively countered every argument against immediate implementation.

Board of Education President Sarah Fishering expressed support of the proposal as presented, "...Our students are not doing



## RE-1J TABLES TEACHING AND LEARNING ACADEMY From previous pg

well in this district...I feel it needs to go through all grades..."

### NEW BUSINESS

As discussed in previous board meetings and work sessions, the board voted to approve a Recommendation to approve Revised Board Policy BDA, Board Organizational Meeting on Second Reading.

### CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda items were approved, with Item 3, AVID Elective job description, the Teaching and Learning Academy job descriptions, and the personnel report pulled for further review.

### NEW BUSINESS

The Personnel Report was approved by separate resolution. Following some dis-

cussion amongst the board, the job descriptions were approved as well.

Directors considered the second New Business item, "a recommendation to approve Resolution 08-2024, Support for the Adoption of the Teaching and Learning Academy. Information supporting this resolution was presented earlier in the meeting."

District A Director Neisha Balleck moved to table Resolution 08-2024 for one week, to allow more time for stakeholder engagement, input, board consideration. With Fishing and Hovde voting "No," and District C Director Alice Murphy absent from the meeting, the motion to table Resolution 08-2024 was approved in a

4-2 vote by Bush, Balleck, Valerio, and West.

A special meeting of the board will take place on Tuesday, March 19 at a time to be determined by the Board of Education.

### DISTRICT UPDATES

RE-1J Director of Finance Emily Imus presented the current district enrollment report. There are 6,080 students district-wide, an increase of nine students since last month and 30 students more than last year at this time.

Information on the Early Childhood Center (ECC) update is included in the agenda packet.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:48pm.

## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

**Editor's Note-**The following letter was shared with the Mirror by Montrose Republican Party official Scott Riba with permission of the sender, who asked that his last name be withheld for privacy concerns:

To whom this concerns.

The other night, Thursday March 7th, I attended the Republican Caucus meeting at Montrose High School. I was there to donate my time and become a volunteer or delegate for my party. As soon as I arrived to my precinct's #7 location, there was a person there whom appeared to be in charge and directing people as to where they needed to be and how to conduct themselves. He introduced himself as Ray Langston. I sat down in the front row just in front of the table and the two people in charge of our meeting and waited for it to begin. As I sat there waiting, Ray told everyone in our precinct that the two individuals that were seated at the table in front of us were not qualified to run our meeting. Someone in back, stood up and said that the two people selected to run the meeting were in deed qualified to conduct the meeting. Ray then began to argue with the two individuals at the table about past issues and making threats of suing them. This took place in front of the entire precinct. Then Ray was asked by the two individuals to please take a seat so that they could begin the meeting, Ray refused to sit down and continued to interfere during the entire meeting which made it extremely difficult for the two designated individuals to conduct the meeting.

It was at this point that it was obvious that this meeting was not being run efficiently due to Ray interfering.

I started to rethink my participation with volunteering and came to the conclusion that I didn't want to be part of a process where people are arguing and being bullied. My time is better spent with my family and focused on people who appreciate one another.

I wanted to communicate what I witnessed so that this could be brought to light.

Sincerely,  
Cannon

CELEBRATING LOCAL BEAUTY.



**Mosaic Montrose**  
**21 N. Cascade Ave.**



**5:30-7:30 pm, Thur., March 21**

# Beginning Watercolor



Step-by-step instructions to paint a beautiful watercolor San Juan Mountains scene. No experience necessary. Everything included plus a drink. \$45 (\$40 with discount)

*with Kate Burke*



Register in store or online <https://kathrynrburke.com/product/032124m>



# ***For Sale*** \$549,500

## **69557 Highway 50 East**

*Live in the country. Have animals, toys, room for projects AND be close to town!*



**MLS #**  
**801165**

*3+ bedrooms  
2 baths  
large shop  
9.8 acres/  
6.5 irrigated  
NO covenants*



What a stunning rural property with a beautiful home, GREAT SHOP/garage



(1385 sq ft), sheds, hay storage, frost free waterer for the animals. This property is so nicely landscaped with ilium, iris' and more. Notice the aspens lining the drive, just part of the mature landscape. This beautiful modular has oak cabinetry, wood grained vinyl plank flooring , carpet and wonderful windows for light and views. The split floor plan shows a spacious main suite with soaker tub. So much storage in this home, even the laundry is roomy.



**Peg Evanoika, SRES, Associate Broker**

(970)279-SOLD (7653) Office

**(970)209-3934 Cell**

realtor@PegEvanoika.com

www.the-RES.com





# GEORGIA RAE

**LIVE AT**

**HEALTHY  
RHYTHM**  
ART GALLERY

**3.21.24**

**\$15 ADVANCED  
\$20 DAY OF SHOW  
TICKETS AT  
HEALTHYRHYTHM.NET**

**DOORS 7:00  
SHOW 7:30**



Georgia Rae performs solo, alone on stage with a pedal board and some fancy footwork. She loops the tracks right in front of you and builds each song into flight with beautiful sounds, grooving bass lines, and mystic fiddle solos. Come looking to answer your curiosities and leave inspired and full of creativity.



# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## ASK YOUR DOCTOR ABOUT ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE PROTOCOL

Editor:

R U SELF ADVOCATING? Asking questions is part of that equation...ASK YOUR DOCTOR

ARE YOU UTILIZING AN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE PROTOCOL when you compose my treatment/diagnosis? I found out the hard way...the answer was YES. I only discovered this when I changed PCP and requested notes for my own file. THIS WAS NOT DISCLOSED TO ME....there was no transparency and when I read the PCP notes, I found omissions and errors . those errors would have been in my patient file and another PCP would have had erroneous information. BE VERY CAUTIOUS, A.I. is being utilized extensively in many areas of your life Ask, DO NOT ASSUME IT WILL BE DISCLOSED TO YOU...a word to the wise.

Lynn Stockton, 3<sup>rd</sup> gen. Coloradoan

## COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

*DineOutMontrose.com*

Mimo's  
970-249-0616

Pahgre's  
970-249-6442

Rib City  
970-249-7427

Stone House  
970-240-8899

Double Barrel Taco Co  
970-417-4340



Fiesta Guadalajara  
970-249-2460

Alpen Confections  
970-648-0609

Remington's at the Bridges  
970-252-1119

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



Beer Barn II  
970-249-5550

### SONSHINE PATCH PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR WINS STATEWIDE WORK PLACE WELLNESS AWARD

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE- Sonshine Patch Preschool Director Daisy Chell has been honored with the Workplace Wellness Champion Award by the Rocky Mountain Early Childhood Conference. The award recognizes a preschool or child care center owner, director, or administrator who prioritizes their staffs' health and wellness by providing a positive and supportive work environment that supports work-life balance and offers personal wellness and strong professional development opportunities.



Receive The Mirror  
directly in your  
email!  
Sign up at  
**MontroseMirror.com**

**WE HAVE CATERING OPTIONS: WEDDINGS, REUNIONS,  
FOOTBALL PARTIES, RECEPTIONS, OR YOUR EVENT**



# Paint Your PET



## Paint & Sip with Kate Tues., April 16. 6:30-8:30 pm

Everything provided + drink & snack  
Decker Community Room  
610 Clinton St., Ridgway



Register <https://weehawkenarts.org/education/adult-art-classes/>



## OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

### CITY OF MONTROSE 2024 ELECTION INTEGRITY *Conflict of Interest – Urban Renewal Authority & Candidates*

By David White

MONTROSE—There's an interesting bit of political drama going on in the Montrose City Council District 3 race this year that should be brought to the public's attention.

J. David Reed, current Mayor Pro Tem (aka Vice Mayor) of the City of Montrose is up for reelection this year. He faces opponent Bart Larmouth in the April 2<sup>nd</sup> election. Mr. Reed, in addition to his City Council duties, also sits on the Board of Directors of the Montrose Urban Renewal Authority (MURA) which is the roughly 165-166-acre City financed development across from the Montrose County Justice Center, Sheriff's Office and County Jail known as Colorado Outdoors.

Over the course of the last three (3) weeks, I've noticed many campaign yard signs for Mr. Reed within the MURA/Colorado Outdoors development as well on private land where Mayfly Outdoors is located. Mayfly Outdoors is one of the operating companies that is owned by Colorado Outdoors investors Doug and David Dragoo. The Dragoo's along with MURA Executive Director Bill Bell (aka the

City Manager of Montrose) control the ongoing day-to-day taxpayer funded project and often meet in "off the grid" settings to discuss their plans out of sight of the public eye.

While Mr. Reed does have some nice yard signs, he and/or his campaign staff or perhaps the Dragoo's are out of line by placing Mr. Reed's signage on any property located in the MURA development. Can anyone say, "conflict of interest?"

What adds some intrigue into the apparent bias of the Colorado Outdoors staff and investors is the fact that Mr. Reed's opponent, Bart Larmouth, was once the International Marketing Director for Mayfly Outdoors until being unceremoniously shown the door by the Dragoo's some years ago.

A call to the Montrose City Clerk last week prompted her to visit the area and issue Mr. Reed a warning that he needed to remove his yard signs from the public rights of way within the Colorado Outdoors project. That warning most likely doesn't apply to those signs located on private land there. However, last I looked (late last week), most of them were still

there.

Mail in ballots go out very soon – within the next week. In the only contested City Council race, I believe it's time for a change in who sits on City Council for the next four years representing District 3. Mr. Reed has had his day in the sun. As an attorney, he and/or his supporters should know better than to allow him to be in a position where an obvious conflict of interest exists. But then again, like most of our City's leadership, they do what they want and no one says a thing, so who knows what else is going on that we're not aware of. Let's stop that attitude from being the norm. Vote April 2<sup>nd</sup> for a freshening of the aged City Council. God knows new blood is in order!

*Mr. White is an active citizen & community servant 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.*

# SEE SOMETHING - SAY SOMETHING



## 970-249-8500

ANONYMOUS CALL

### MONTROSE REGIONAL CRIME STOPPERS

# SAVE THE DATES

Friday, April 26<sup>th</sup> 9am - 4pm &  
Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup> 9am - 4pm

FREE  
ADMISSION

DOOR  
PRIZES!



OVER 100 TABLES OF BARGAINS

Kick off the spring season with  
Crafts • Antiques • Collectibles • Flea Market Tables  
Spring & Summer Holiday Items & Decor • Gifts  
Food & Goodies • Boutique Items • Etc

FRIENDSHIP HALL  
1001 N SECOND STREET • MONTROSE, CO



## MONTROSE DEMOCRATS HOST PRESENTATION ON PROPOSED INITIATIVE 89

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-Cobalt President Karen Middleton spoke to a gathering of about 30 people at the Montrose County Democrats Headquarters on Saturday, March 16 to promote Proposed Initiative 89, a ballot measure that would put abortion rights into the Colorado Constitution. Cobalt, an abortion and reproductive rights advocacy group, and the Colorado Organization for Latina Opportunity and Reproductive Rights (COLOR) are the lead partners in a coalition called Coloradans for Protecting Reproductive Freedom, the issue committee formed to run the campaign.

The text of Proposed Initiative 89 states: "A change to the Colorado constitution recognizing the right to abortion, and, in connection therewith, prohibiting the state and local governments from denying, impeding, or discriminating against the exercise of that right, allowing abortion to be a covered service under health insurance plans for Colorado state and local government employees and enrollees in state and local governmental insurance programs."

The campaign will need 124,238 valid



**Karen Middleton of Cobalt spoke to Democrats in Montrose on March 16.**

signatures to qualify for the ballot, including two percent of the total registered electors in each of Colorado's 35 state senate districts. Given voters' strong record of supporting abortion rights in Colorado, this campaign intends to collect well over that number, ensuring Initiative 89 makes it onto the 2024 ballot.

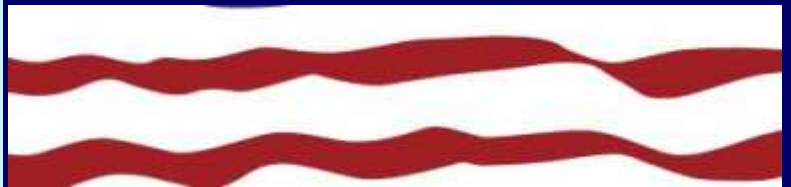
Petitions are due by mid-April, and anyone interested in signing can stop by the Montrose Democrats between 10 am -4 pm Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday. Additional signing locations can be found on the campaign website, <https://coloradansforreproductivfreedom.com/>.



## MONTROSE COUNTY DEMOCRATS CELEBRATE SHARING ON ST. PATRICK'S DAY

*The Montrose County Democratic Party took part in their annual celebration of Saint Patrick's Day at Shepherd's Hand (left).*

*Phoebe Benziger ( MCDP Community Outreach Committee Chair) and Cher from Shepherds Hand display Corned Beef from the bag that was donated. We hope all had a great dinner of Corned beef and cabbage.*





Warrior Resource Center  
4 Hillcrest Plaza Way

Get ready to garden

# Paint Flower Pots

1:30-4:00 pm, Sat., March 23

With Kate Burke  
Open to the public



Pot and paint  
provided plus soft  
drink or coffee. \$25/pp.

\$20 with Military Discount

Extra pots avail. for \$5 each, or bring your own.

Register <https://kathrynrburke.com/product/032324whafv/>



# OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

## COLORADO LEGISLATURE IN 2024 – ANOTHER OUT-OF-CONTROL SESSION LOSING MORE OF YOUR RIGHTS IS A CERTAINTY!

By David White

Former State Senator Kevin Lundberg has put together a list of the most controversial and concerning bills currently moving through the Colorado Legislature's 2024 session. As of Friday, March 8, 2024, 544 bills have been introduced in this legislative session. No doubt some more are coming.

So many sane bills that would improve election integrity, keep us somewhat energy independent, protect families, stop the transgender craziness and more have already been shot down by the Democrat majority who control both houses in the legislature. Colorado gets "bluer" by the day. Call us "Colofornia" because that is what we've become.

Here's a breakdown, courtesy of Mr. Lundberg, of what's in the hopper that we should be most concerned about:

"The inevitable list of really bad bills, and some good ones (that are probably destined for a party-line defeat) is growing at a very fast pace. Please note that the bad bill list is not exhaustive, these are just the worst ones I have snagged," said Mr. Lundberg.

**NOTE:** PLV means "**Party Line Vote**" as you will see below.

### Good Bills

[HB24-1022](#) **Publish Bill Drafts Online before Session** This will help the citizens to get a better view of upcoming bills. Passed first committee.

[HB24-1023](#) **Civil Forfeiture Reform** This is a system that needs much reform. **Killed in first committee.**

[HB24-1026](#) **Local Government Taxpayers' Bill of Rights Prior Voter Approval Requirement** Getting back to what TABOR is intended to require. **Killed in first committee, PLV.**

[HB24-1029](#) **Prohibit Foreign Ownership Agriculture & Natural Resources** The title says it all. **Killed in first committee, PLV.**

[HB24-1041](#) **Streamline Filing Sales & Use Tax Returns** Doesn't do much, but every little bit helps. **Passed senate committee.**

[HB24-1065](#) **Reduction of State Income Tax Rate** Lowers rate from 4.4% to 4.0%. **Killed in first committee.**

[HB24-1106](#) **Require Information about Abortion Pill Reversal** Would require this information to be available with chemical abortion products. **Killed in first committee, PLV.**

[HB24-1128](#) **Enforcement of Federal Immigration Law** This bill would return Colorado law to a saner approach to immigration law. **Killed in first committee, PLV.**

[HB24-1142](#) **Reduce Income Tax Social Security Benefits** Reducing taxes is a good idea.

[HB24-1145](#) **Modify Voter Registration Page on Secretary of State Website** Gives the voter the option to vote in person rather than receive a mail ballot. **Killed in first committee, PLV.**

[HB24-1166](#) **Expand Homestead Exemptions** Some additional property tax relief. **Killed in first committee, PLV.**

[HB24-1224](#) **Personhood of Living Unborn Human Child** Good bill, little chance of surviving. **Killed in first committee, PLV.**

[HB24-1279](#) **Vote Tracking Number Elections** Creates some election security. **Killed in first committee, PLV.**

[SB24-092](#) **Cost Effective Energy Codes** Finally, common sense legislation that recognizes that laws may cost the individual citizen more than the law is worth. **Killed in first committee, PLV.**

[SB24-098](#) **Safety Clause Use Review** This is a great idea! It requires all safety clauses on bills to be reviewed for their appropriateness. **Killed in first committee, PLV.**

[SB24-144](#) **Real Property Valuation** Limits property assessment to no more than 6% per year. **Killed in first committee, PLV.**

### Bad bills

[HB24-1014](#) **Deceptive Trade Practice Significant Impact Standard.** As I read this bill it is an open door for lawsuits. It eliminates the requirement that a deceptive trade lawsuit "significantly impacts the public." **Passed House.**

[HB24-1017](#) **Bill of Rights for Foster Youth** This bill will cut out foster families who are not supporting the transgender ideology. **Passed House, PLV.**

[HB24-1028](#) **Overdose Prevention Centers** Drug injection sites are back. **Passed first committee, PLV.**

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

[HB24-1040](#) **Gender-Affirming Health-Care Provider Study** This is a "study" designed to encourage and increase the number of medical facilities that transition kids with life changing drugs and mutilation surgeries.

[HB24-1057](#) **Prohibit Algorithmic Devices Used for Rent Setting** This is one more slap at landlords. It won't change much, but it is a typical nanny government bill. **Passed House, PLV.**

[HB24-1061](#) **Marijuana Industry & Social Equity** "Social equity" is a very dangerous, and, ironically, inequitable concept. It is also a concept Polis is integrating into our state government systems and this is one more step in that direction.

*Continued next pg*

## ***COLORADO LEGISLATURE IN 2024 – ANOTHER OUT-OF-CONTROL SESSION From previous pg***

[HB24-1071](#) **Name Change to Conform with Gender Identity** The bill states that when incarcerated a person can change their legal name to conform with their new “gender identity.” **Passed House, PLV.**

[HB24-1075](#) **Analysis of Universal Health-Care Payment System** Here we go again; this could become the worst bill of the year. This system will cost several times the general fund budget (\$50 billion+) and it will inevitably put in place more rationing of medical care, while diminishing the quality of available care. If you doubt this, just look at the Canadian medical system. **Passed committee, PLV.**

[HB24-1080](#) **Youth Sports Personnel Requirements** More mandatory reporters on the way... **Passed third reading in House.**

[HB24-1083](#) **Construction Professional Insurance Coverage Transparency** Makes contractor AND subcontractors disclose workers comp insurance. This is nanny government creating much more red tape and therefore higher costs for everyone. **Passed first committee.**

[HB24-1124](#) **Discrimination in Places of Public Accommodation** This makes nonprofit organizations subject to Colorado’s discrimination laws. It looks like a way to force nonprofit organizations to capitulate to the LBGT ideology. **Passed first committee.**

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

[HB24-1163](#) **Pet Animal Registration System** Will require all pets to be registered with the state and an additional fee will be levied as well. **Killed in first committee.**

[HB24-1169](#) **Repeal Divest from Companies with Israel Prohibitions Law** Another slap at Israel. **Killed in first committee.**

[HB24-1170](#) **Rights for Youth Division of Youth Services Facilities** More transgender ideology in state statute. **Passed third reading in House.**

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

[HB24-1175](#) **Local Governments Rights to Property for Affordable Housing** This is called socialism, where the government is given extra power to own and control more property. **Passed first committee, PLV.**

[HB24-1229](#) **Presumptive Eligibility for Long-Term Care** Will allow all illegal aliens long-term care. **Passed first committee.**

[HB24-1245](#) **Fair Labor Practice Requirements for Broadband Projects** Favor unions for government projects.

[HB24-1270](#) **Firearm Liability Insurance Requirement** Requires specific liability insurance for all gun owners.

[HB24-1280](#) **Welcome, Reception, & Integration Grant Program** More sanctuary state laws. **Passed first committee, PLV.**

[HB24-1292](#) **Prohibit Certain Weapons Used in Mass Shootings** Among many other prohibitions, bans the sale or transfer of most, if not all types of AR rifles.

[HB24-1296](#) **Modifications to the Colorado Open Records Act** Pretty much guts Colorado’s open records act. This is a big step backward in government transparency. **Passed first committee.**

[HB24-1310](#) **School Safety Measures** Another gun control bill. This one repeals the current law allowing schools to authorize concealed carry by school employees and sets up a new one with more stringent rules.

[HB24-1330](#) **Air Quality Permitting** More regulations and restrictions on the oil and gas industry. **Passed first committee, PLV.**

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

[HB24-1339](#) **Disproportionately Impact Community Air Pollution** More “Green New Deal” policies are on their way.

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

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

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

[HB24-1349](#) **Firearms & Ammunition Excise Tax** creates a new tax on guns and ammunition. At least (thanks to TABOR) it will require a vote of the people to go into effect.

[HB24-1353](#) **Firearms Dealer Requirements & Permit** Creates required statutory firearms permit for all firearms dealers.

[HB24-1363](#) **Charter Schools Accountability** This is a complicated bill that looks like it was written to make it more difficult to run a charter school and give local school districts the ability to shut down charter schools.

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

[SB24-053](#) **Racial Equity Study** This is the first step toward the reparation’s madness. **Passed second committee, PLV.**

[SB24-059](#) **Children’s Behavioral Health Statewide System of Care** This looks like a huge bureaucracy to monitor and manage all minors in Colorado, just waiting to be created... **Passed first committee.**

[SB24-065](#) **Mobile Electronic Devices & Motor Vehicle Driving Banning** hands-on mobile phone use for all drivers in Colorado. **Passed first committee.**



## ***COLORADO LEGISLATURE IN 2024 – ANOTHER OUT-OF-CONTROL SESSION From previous pg***

**SB24-084 Attorney General Duties to Prevent Mis- & Dis-information** It is quite appropriate that this is numbered 84, as in the book by **George Orwell: 1984**. Whatever happened to the First Amendment? **Passed first committee, PLV.**

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

**SB24-123 Waste Tire Management Enterprise** One more “enterprise” to work around TABOR. **Passed first committee, PLV.**

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

**SB24-159 Mod to Energy & Carbon Management Processes** Designed to shut down the oil and gas industry in Colorado by prohibiting any new drilling permits after December 31, 2029. This is economic and scientific insanity! This bill would end the largest, most productive industry in Colorado. It would also drive up the costs of what energy might be left for the people of Colorado to incredible levels.

**SB24-165 Air Quality Improvements** It is aimed at shutting down or restricting Oil and gas operations in the North Front Range and restrict some transportation from May through September in 2025 and for all following years.

**SB24-166 Air Quality Enforcement** Significantly increases penalties for violations of the ultra-strict emission standards in Colorado law.

Write to your State Legislators about these bills and the impacts they’re going to have on you should they pass. The regulatory and associated financial cost of all these bills will be passed on to you in one way or another. If you think that your tax burden isn’t sufficiently high enough as it is, just wait. These political idealogues want you down and out and broke. Just wait and see if you think that statement is over the top. You’ll be living it in short order.

*Mr. White is an active citizen & community servant as well as a business owner, entrepreneur, former Montrose City Councilmember and Mayor as well as a two term County Commissioner and has served on many boards and commissions during his career. He & his wife are the parents of six children and have 10 grandchildren & 1 great grandchild.*



# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## MONTROSE AND OLATHE HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS GET A BITE OF REALITY!

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-NuVista Federal Credit Union & Black Canyon Rotary Club hosted the Annual Financial Reality Fair for the seniors of Montrose High School, Olathe High School, Vista High School, Black Canyon High School and VISTA Charter School on Thursday, March 7, 2024, while underclassmen were PSAT/SAT testing.

During the event, powered by the Bite of Reality platform, more than 300 students gathered in McMillan Gymnasium, to learn about what goes into a monthly budget as an adult. Kimberli Cota, a senior at Montrose High School said, "I learned about the reality of spending money wisely, and how it can determine the way you live your life. I know now that you have to make sacrifices in order to pay the bills for housing, cars, utilities and food."

Each student was given a hypothetical life circumstance—a job, monthly salary, spouse and child, credit score, and student loans. They then had to navigate through different stations to make purchases for their monthly budget. "It was interesting having all these real-life professionals explain and teach us how to manage our money. It showed me that in reality, situations occur that you don't expect, and you have to be prepared for them. Now I want to learn more about how to manage my money," explained Charlie Tejeda, Montrose High School senior.

The different stations included housing & utilities, transportation, childcare, entertainment, household needs, clothing & personal care, groceries & dining and shopping. "The Montrose Workforce Center was proud to participate in the Financial Reality Fair! Our staff was impressed by the students that we interacted with and the direction many are taking in life; we were excited to hear that many seemed to be making good financial decisions at our table—as much as we tried to *upsell* them! A number of kids were interested in learning how the local workforce center can help them *in real life* as well! We look forward to following up and helping them navigate their career choices," said Montrose Workforce Center Assistant Director Amanda Waltrip.

In each station, students were guided by real, local, adult volunteers who helped the students make difficult, but appropriate choices among a variety of options to determine what would fit in with their hypothetical monthly budget.

"My favorite part of the event was being able to experience a real-life scenario and managing my money in that sense. I think we're aware that budgeting is a thing, but most of us haven't really had to experience it yet. So just learning how to be smart about that and the reality behind it was very helpful," said Olathe High School Senior Jenna Schenck.

The students watched as each choice; nice clothes, a brand-new car payment, a home, childcare, etc. slowly dwindled their monthly income. "It is always so much fun volunteering at the Financial Reality Fair and helping high school seniors in our community learn some real-world lessons about finances. It's great being able to challenge them to really think about the impact of their financial decisions," said Jane Marie Amundson, Director of Community Outreach for Alpine Bank.

After being tested to consider real-world decisions, students shared their experiences in a group Q & A session where the students were able to win some fun prizes! The students also had the opportunity to ask NuVista's CEO BJ Coram questions about the Credit Union, budgeting, and credit scores. "Our NuVista Team always enjoys the interactions with the students and community leaders. We are proud to be a title sponsor for the Annual Financial Reality Fair and to see this event continue to grow each year. Financial Literacy continues to be important to us, that is why we are excited to be able to add the new post event learning opportunity for the students with Money EDU," said NuVista CEO BJ Coram.

Students learned about money and then had the chance to win some money. Twenty lucky students won \$100 in the form of a Montrose Bucks gift card. Students also had the chance to apply for one of six, \$1,000 scholarships. To apply for the \$1,000 award, senior fair participants complete a Scholarship Application and submit an essay explaining what they



**Volunteers try to upsell cars to students participating in the Bite of Reality Financial Fair. Courtesy photo.**

learned from the Financial Reality Fair. The submission deadline is April 5<sup>th</sup>. The generous support of our event sponsors continue to make the scholarships possible. The following businesses also sponsored stations and prizes at the event:

### **SPONSORS**

Alpine Bank  
DMEA/Elevate  
City of Montrose/Police Department  
Montrose County  
Horn Family Foundation  
Camp Robber  
Jimmy Johns  
ElderAdo Financial  
Flower Motor  
Maxfield Peterson CPA  
Timberline Bank  
Turner Toyota  
Back Street Bagels  
Dalby, Wendland & Co  
Devor & Plumhoff LLC  
Montrose Recreation District  
Montrose Workforce Center  
PEER Kindness  
Pepsi  
Real Estate Store

Thank you to all who made financial donations making it possible to run the event and give out scholarships! Also, thank you to the many volunteers giving up their time to guide students through these life choices of budgeting, saving, and understanding credit scores. Thank you to the Montrose/Olathe community, for your continued support.





**MOSAIC MONTROSE**  
**21 N. Cascade, Montrose**

# Garden Gnome Home

Look what  
you can  
plant in  
your garden!



With  
Kate  
Burke

**Thr. April 11. 5:30-7:30 pm**

Decorate a whimsical, wooden Gnome Home. Windows cut out so you can light it and plant it in your garden! Gnome homes, paint, template ideas and decals provided. Plus an adult beverage or soft drink and magical snack. \$50. \$45 for Welcome back. Totally fun class.

**Signup in store or online.**

**<https://kathrynrburke.com/product/041124m/>**



## MIRROR CLASSIFIEDS: FOR SALE

**For Sail:** Sailboat-1990 Vanguard Lazer-14 ft. In excellent condition. Plus trailer-in great shape. Boat includes everything-sail, tiller (with extension), battens, centerboard, cover. \$1,500 OBO. Great summer fun! Call 970-209-1260.

### *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.

**Return to the life you want  
with the most advanced care available.**  
Right here in Montrose.



*Featuring the revolutionary  
Excelsius3D and ExcelsiusGPS  
robotic systems for minimally invasive  
and complex spine surgeries*



**MONTROSE**  
REGIONAL HEALTH

Spine & Pain Center

800 S. 3rd Street  
Montrose, CO 81401  
970-252-2584

MontroseSpineAndPain.com







# FIND YOUR Future at the MCSO

## ★ **HIRING OPEN HOUSE!**

**March 23rd, 12-5pm**

**Montrose County Event Center  
1036 North 7th Street**



## ★ **Corrections Deputy**

- \$25.12+ hourly
- 100% paid employee medical, dental, vision
- County-matched retirement
- Vacation and sick leave



## ★ **Patrol Deputy**

- \$30.65+ hourly
- 100% paid employee medical, dental, vision
- Get paid to learn! Sponsored police academy placement
- County-matched retirement
- Vacation leave and sick leave



**CONTACT  
COMMANDER BOLDAN**

**970-252-4023**  
**cboldan@montrosecounty.net**  
**montrosecountysheriffsoffice.com**

# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## WHY IT IS A BAD IDEA TO CREATE ENEMIES WITHIN YOUR OWN PARTY

*Editor:*

I just attended the Montrose County Republican party central committee meeting (March 14<sup>th</sup>). Some party officials and candidates are a bit miffed that I would call them out publicly for their corruption, dishonesty, and hypocrisy. Well, do not do these things and I will not have to call you out for it. Our local and state republican party is in a downward spiral into irrelevance. And what is causing this? Two men using the party to promote their personal political ambitions. Scott Riba, the current county party chair is running for county commissioner district three. This is a clear violation of the county party bylaws. Dave Williams the state party chair is running for congress in CD5. And when asked about the preprimary neutrality clause they both said that because Ken Buck ran for reelection to congress while being state party chair that that negated the preprimary neutrality clause. To this I call B S Ken Buck was not in a contested primary in 2020. The end results of this corruption within the republican party is that our assembly process is coming to an end. Candidates are now preferring to petition on to the ballot rather than trust the assembly process and the back room deals that go with it. The rest of the central committee has the power to remove these men from their position, but they lack the will. I am not the only one complaining about this. Multiple people throughout this state are complaining about the hypocrisy of this situation. And some large donors are refusing to contrib-

ute because of this. The definition of corruption "dishonest or fraudulent conduct by those in power"

Scott Mijares was at the meeting and took issue with me calling him a pathological liar on Facebook. And this is why I call Scott Mijares a pathological liar. He did not become a republican until 32 days ago even though he continues to say publicly that he has been a republican his whole life. The definition of a pathological liar is someone who continues to lie in the face of overwhelming evidence to the contrary. The other thing that concerns me is he keeps saying Scott Riba verified his party affiliation. But Riba remains silent on that subject. So once again, on February 8th, 2024, Scott Mijares stood in front of the Montrose County republican central committee and announced his candidacy for county commissioner district one on the republican ticket. And then changed his party affiliation from unaffiliated to republican on February 12th. This creates a serious breach of protocol for the Montrose central committee. That they allowed a non-republican to use the central committee to launch his campaign. And stunts like this is why people are losing faith in the local republican party.

In a recent Daily press article Scott Riba stated that I was disruptive at a meet and greet on February 29<sup>th</sup>. That is an inaccurate statement. Ken Konkel is the one who started that outburst because he did not like the question that Joe Carabetta asked. And the question Joe asked was about the preprimary neutrality clause that forbids

members of the executive committee from running for office in a contested primary. And, in that article Scott Riba alluded to the possibility of legal action. To that I say BRING IT! A lot of things get exposed in a lawsuit, like a treasurer committing perjury to the secretary states office to get out of a \$750.00 fine. And then there is the counter suit for violating my constitutional right to free speech. And it is difficult for a public figure or entity to have standing in a court of law because they disagree with what someone said publicly. And this is why it is a bad idea to create enemies within your own party. People within your own party know where all the skeletons are buried, they also know all the ins and outs of how the party operates. As well as the laws and procedures that govern party politics. Look at what Ken Buck just did to Lauren Boebert. By leaving the office early he eliminated the possibility that she could participate in the special election. Because she promised the citizens of CD3 she would finish her term. So, in the upcoming regular election she will be facing an incumbent rather than an open seat. And Scott Riba violated my constitutional right to freedom of speech not once but twice. And therefore, made a bitter enemy out of me. So, if me and Riba did not have this history would I still support Rick Dunlap? Absolutely, Rick Dunlap is a man of integrity and honesty and has previous experience in county government. Scott Riba does not possess those qualities.

*Ray Langston, Montrose*





# CARTOON BY TIM JONES

## WEEKLY CARTOON

### SOUR GRAPES

by Tim Jones



## DineOutMontrose.com



Lighthouse Eatery  
970-964-7570

Double Barrel Taco Co.  
970-417-4340

Trattoria de Sofia  
970-249-0433

Rib City  
970-249-7427

Stone House  
970-240-8899

Mimo's  
970-249-0616

Sidelines Sports Bar  
970-765-0129

Amelias Hacienda Restaurante  
970-249-1881

Delta: Pour Ernie's  
970-546-0074



Alpen Confections  
970-648-0609

Remington's at the Bridges  
970-252-1119

Crash Burger  
970-249-0825

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

Tacos & Beer  
970-964-4448

Pahgre's  
970-249-6442



**Premier Sponsor:**  
Montrose Farmers Market  
970-249-0705

Horsefly Brewing  
970-249-6889

Rio Bravo  
970-964-4477

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

Fiesta Guadalajara  
970-249-2460

El Jimador  
970-249-8990

Busy Corner White Kitchen  
970-323-6215

Delta: CB's Tavern  
970-399-3570

## COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

### EASTER VIGIL INVITATION TO MONTROSE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-Easter Vigil invitation – Drop by the United Methodist Church at 19 S. Park anytime from 8 p.m. March 29 until 8:30 a.m. Easter Sunday to listen during our 15th annual Easter Bible reading vigil. The Bible is read aloud continuously in the sanctuary over the weekend. The sanctuary door facing South First will be open 24 hours. It's a meaningful and spiritual way to bridge the gap from the Crucifixion to the Resurrection! [www.montroseumc.org](http://www.montroseumc.org)

## Senior Real Estate Specialists

Seniors Real Estate Specialists® or SRES® designees are REALTORS® qualified to address the needs of home buyers and sellers age 50+.



Let me  
help you.  
Give me a  
call today!

Peg Evanoika  
970-209-3934

SRES



The  
Real Estate Store

(970) 249-7653

500 E Main St, Montrose





## COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

### **FELIX 'GENE' DEVINCENTIS** ***July 12, 1942- March 9, 2024***

FELIX 'GENE' DEVINCENTIS, a beloved husband, father, brother, and friend to many, passed away in his home on March 9th, 2024 in Montrose, Colorado. He was born on July 12th, 1942 in Ouray, Colorado to Rose (DiCamillo) DeVinentis and Felix DeVinentis.

Throughout his life, Gene's primary occupations included working as a rock crusher operator and a meat cutter. He also worked as a high scaler at the Crystal and Morrow Point Dam in the '60s. His adventurous spirit extended beyond work as he loved fishing, hunting, prospecting for gold in the mountains of Colorado and golfing with friends. Those who knew him well remember him as a stubborn man with an infectious sense of humor that could light up any room.

After graduating from Montrose High School in 1960 where he made lifelong friendships that lasted until his passing, he married Bonnie Flannigan with whom they had their two children together before parting ways in the mid 70s. Later on he married Marge Moore, who had three daughters (Charlene, Donna, & Rhonda) that Gene was extremely fond of.

For the past 25 years, Gene shared his life with his beloved wife, Judy, exploring the great outdoors and embarking on countless adventures. Together, they journeyed to captivating destinations such as Alaska, Newfoundland, the Tetons, the Grand Canyon, and beyond..

Gene is survived by his son Kevin DeVinentis; daughter Gina DeVinentis (Kim Hussong); wife Judy DeVinentis, and her children Kirsten Garrett (David) and Chris Koch (Amanda); brother Joe DeVinentis (Mary); and sister Roseann Dukart (Don); and several nieces and nephews. His memory will also be cherished by his fifteen grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Gene is preceded in death by his mother Rose McKean (DiCamillo); father Felix DeVinentis; sister Concetta Ricketts, and sister Irene Sharon.



### **THOMAS LEE KIMBLE** ***June 26, 1941- February 8, 2024***

Thomas Lee Kimble, aged 82, passed away peacefully on February 8, 2024, at Elk Ridge in Montrose, Colorado. Born on June 26, 1941, in Denver, Colorado, to Sherman F. and Helen M. Kimble, Tom was a beloved son, veteran, and a cherished member of his community.

From his adventurous childhood in Wyoming and Colorado to his later years, Tom's life was a tapestry of vibrant experiences. His early love for the outdoors, exemplified by memories at his father's ranch and roller skating in Hotchkiss, evolved into a passion for touring the country on his Harley Davidson and working as a wildcat on an oil rig, until a severe accident marked the end of his professional journey.

Despite the challenges he faced, Tom's

spirit remained unbroken. He spent his later years at Elk Ridge, where his presence was a source of joy and inspiration. He was known for his love of bingo at the Elks Lodge and his storytelling during tours around Montrose with his best friend, Anthony.

Tom cherished his neighbors and the sense of community they shared. He enjoyed simple pleasures like sitting on the street curb, sharing green chili, and basking in the warmth of the sun or the coolness of the shade. His neighbors reciprocated this affection, often bringing treats, home-grown tomatoes, fruits, and deserts. A testament to the love and respect he garnered, the neighborhood once organized a birthday BBQ party for Tom and Anthony, complete with gifts and a chorus

of 'Happy Birthday,' a memory that highlighted the community spirit he so deeply valued. Tom's bold, outspoken nature, coupled with his resilience and joy for life, left a lasting impression on everyone he met. His favorite sky blue color and Easter lilies mirrored his vibrant and spirited personality.

As we bid farewell to Tom, we remember a man whose life was as colorful as the stories he told. His legacy of courage, joy, and community spirit will continue to inspire all who knew him. A celebration of Tom's life was held at Elk Ridge on March 16, 2024. Tom's story of bravery, warmth, and an enduring spirit will forever be cherished by those who had the privilege of knowing him.

## COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

### CONNER DOMINADOR TURMON

***March 28, 1998 - March 05, 2024***

***Beloved son, brother, uncle, nephew, cousin, and a friend to all***



*"Music is a moral law. It gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, a charm to sadness, gaiety and life to everything. It is the essence of order, and leads to all that is good, just, and beautiful, of which it is the invisible, but nevertheless dazzling, passionate, and eternal form."*

~ Unknown

Conner Dominador Turmon, age 25, died

March 05, 2024 in Montrose Colorado.

Conner was born March 28, 1998 in St. George, Utah to Andrew David Turmon and Maria Christina Morales.

Conner spent his early years in Mesquite, Nevada, and Cedar City, Utah. His childhood was spent between Pacifica, California and Palm Coast, Florida. He graduated high school with High Honors from Oceana High School, earning a Subject Field Award in Mathematics and a scholarship from the Pacifica Moose Lodge. He attended the College of Central Florida and San Francisco State University before answering the call to pursue his dream of being a musician and video game programmer. Conner was also a skilled photographer and loved taking trips with his friends to photograph them in beautiful places.

Conner was a gifted musician. He seemed to be able to pick up any instrument and figure out how to make it sing. He taught himself to play guitar, bass, drums, and piano. He also taught himself to edit and

produce electronic music. He was in the process of composing music for a new video game and a small album. He had previously uploaded some of his music to Spotify, Apple Music, Instagram, and YouTube. Conner's love of music included learning to play his favorite songs. He loved music from just about every genre. He could play all kinds of music from Debussy's Clair de Lune to Metallica's Blackened, and so much more.

Conner is survived by his parents: his father Andrew Turmon (stepmother Cajsa Turmon), and mother Maria Morales (stepfather Rodil Hidalgo), his siblings: Sean Bronsema, Natasha Bronsema, Elysia "Sol" Turmon, and Drake Turmon, and his grandparents: Terrie McArthur (Randy McArthur), Randy Bunnell (Elise Bunnell), and Carlene Holm. He is preceded in death by his grandfather Dave L. Turmon, grandmother Christie Bunnell, grandfather David Holm, and aunt Stacia Holm Sheffer. His light burned brightly and fiercely and is gone too soon!

*Now more than ever...*

*Thank you for reading*

**THE MONTROSE MIRROR**



ISSUE 461 March 18, 2024

# ART & SOL

## AUDITIONS TO BE HELD FOR *ALL MY SONS* BY ARTHUR MILLER

### From the Magic Circle Players

MONTROSE-Auditions for Arthur Miller's award-winning play *All My Sons*, will be held Sunday, March 24 and Monday, March 25, 2024, at 6 pm at the Magic Circle Players Community Theatre, 420 South 12<sup>th</sup> Street in Montrose, Colorado. Bill Bottomly will direct the production of this play, assisted by John Lange. There are parts for nine (9) people: four (4) women aged 25-60, and five (5) men aged thirty 30-60. Rehearsals start June 4, 2024, and performances are Friday and Saturday on September 6, 7, 13, 14, 20, and 21, 2024, at 7 pm, and Sunday on September 8 and 15, 2024, at 2 pm. Audition information is available at <https://magiccircleplayers.com>, or you may e-mail Bill Bottomly at [bbott68@gmail.com](mailto:bbott68@gmail.com) for more information, or call the theatre at (970)249-7838.

This 1947 Tony Award winning, American classic, is based on true events that occurred in Ohio, and tells the story of two families during WWII, whose lives are intertwined professionally and privately. Joe

Keller and Steve Deever, both fathers and business men, cause the death of 21 U. S. Army Air Corps pilots by supplying faulty airplane engine parts to the military. Joe is exonerated, and allows Deever to be the scapegoat. Deever's son, George, is convinced of his father's guilt, until he visits him in prison, and learns that both men are culpable. Joe's son, Chris, previously believed in his father's innocence, but is conflicted when confronted with the truth. Intertwined in the story are Kate Keller, a wife and a mother, who struggles to accept the painful reality that has befallen her; Larry, the Keller's missing-in-action son and WWII pilot, and his former girlfriend, Ann Deever, who is about to marry Larry's brother. Two neighbor couples, the Baylisses and Lubey's, with their own struggles and triumphs, round out the cast.

Director, Bill Bottomly saw *All My Sons* produced by the Minerva West Theatre Company in Ridgway, Colorado. Being an Arthur Miller fan, he loved the show and submitted it to the Magic Circle Season

**MAGIC CIRCLE PLAYERS**  
Celebrating 65 Years of Live Theatre Magic

arthur miller's  
**ALL MY SONS**

DIRECTED BY BILL BOTTOMLY / ASSISTANT DIRECTOR JOHN LANGE

**AUDITIONS**  
SUNDAY, MARCH 24 @ 6PM  
MONDAY, MARCH 25 @ 6PM  
ALL MY SONS OPENS FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6  
Casting: 5 Males (25 - 65) & 4 Females (25-65)

COME Audition WITH US

TEALP AlphaQuest MESSORE BREW LOEWEN Reddy Creek

MagicCirclePlayers.com • 420 S. 12th • Montrose, CO • 970-249-7838 • [info@magiccircleplayers.com](mailto:info@magiccircleplayers.com)

Selection Committee, saying, "I just know it will be embraced by live theatre-goers in Montrose and the region." *All My Sons* will bring high-drama and excitement to the stage and will surely hold audiences spellbound. Bill and John are excited about this show and invite interested thespians to come and audition.

**SHAFER**  
FARM & RANCH  
REAL ESTATE

**Western Colorado  
Farm & Ranch Brokers**

Burton Bullington (970) 596-4744  
John Fowle (970) 417-1666  
[www.SHAFER.land](http://www.SHAFER.land)

Since 1990

REALTORS  
LAND  
INSTITUTE

OWNER MEMBER  
COOP

# COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

## FOSTER CONNECTIONS – SERVING OUR FUTURE TODAY!



*Courtesy photo by Joshua Bowsher*

MONTROSE-The StoneHouse restaurant recently hosted a benefit wine dinner supporting Foster Connections, a non-profit support service and a valuable part of our community. Foster Connections provides much-needed support to foster care homes and their children in need.

Have you heard of Foster Connections? This local benefit supports children placed

in kinship or foster care homes, with three key goals: to provide initial support during placement; to bring people together, allowing a space for connection to develop lasting and supportive relationships; and to provide ongoing support.

What does that look like? Shane and Joanna Daly have four children (ages 18, 7, 3, 3) - three were adopted through foster care, and one is biological. Here's what Foster Connections support has meant to them, in their own words: "Imagine a 2-year-old boy being dropped off at your home at 6 pm with nothing but the PJs, diaper, and the slippers he's wearing, with a 'Good Luck' from the social worker. Being a foster family is totally worth it, but it can also be really hard. Foster Connections fills a huge need in the foster care world, and we are so thankful that StoneHouse highlighted this organization to our Montrose community".

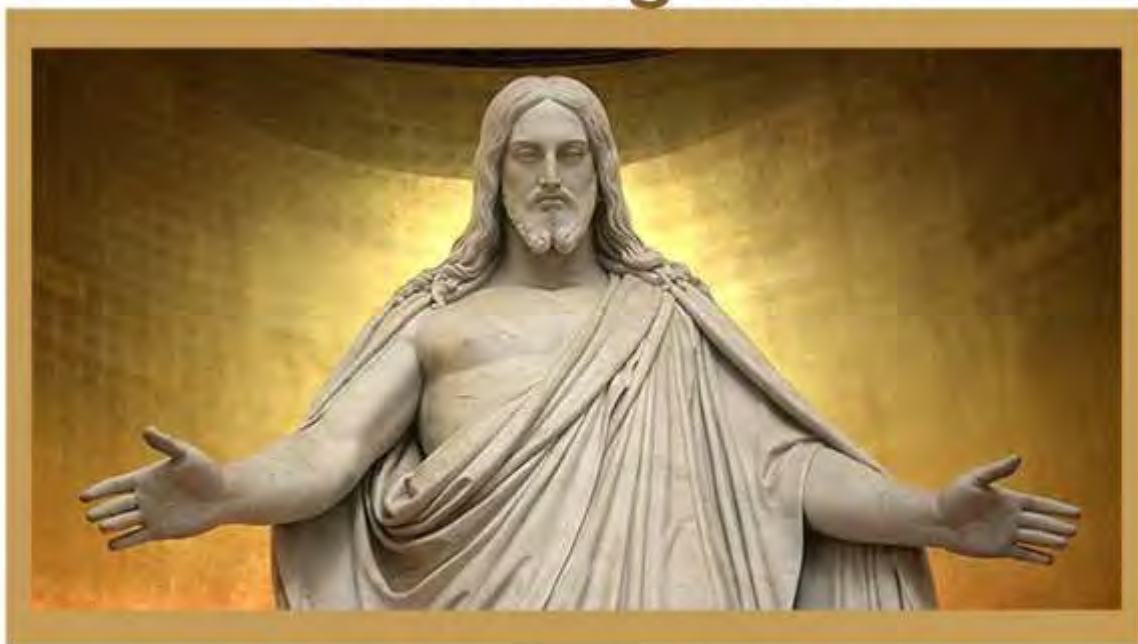
Rebekah Lansdown, Director of Foster Connections and its founder, reflected on the evening, and summed up her gratitude by sharing "I am so thankful for each person that attended this wine dinner, and took the time to learn more about Foster Connections. We truly believe that if we can service at-risk children well today, we will ultimately be serving our future community. So much appreciation goes to the StoneHouse, and the fabulous food!"

Seventy attendees learned more about Foster Connections and provided invaluable support to this important organization, while enjoying a delicious dinner and wonderful evening with friends within our community.

There are many ways to learn more and help! Find out more about how you can help be a part of the solution for the future at:

<http://WWW.FOSTERCONNECTIONS.ORG>

## Easter Musical Celebration The Living Christ



Join us March 24, 2024 @ 5:00pm  
1521 S. Hillcrest Drive, Montrose

Light refreshments



## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### WOMEN'S GIVING CLUB AWARDS \$13K TO BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB

#### Montrose Women's Giving Club

MONTROSE-Black Canyon Boys and Girls Club is the recipient of \$13,000 from the Montrose Women's Giving Club. Members voted at their February 8 meeting to award their quarterly funds to the Black Canyon Boys and Girls Club after a presentation by Jennie Tidwell, a Board Member, and Amy Stollen, Grant Manager. The funds will be used for remodeling of their building at Hillcrest and East Main. The Boys and Girls Club, in Montrose since 1999, provides childcare for school-aged children after school until 7 p.m. and during the summer as well. Care is available at no charge and they have a very large waiting list. They are currently serving 40 and expect to increase that number to 200 kids this summer. The Boys and Girls Club offers social and emotional learning opportunities as well as recreational and educational activities.

Also chosen to present that evening was Magic Circle Theater. Doris Chamberlain,

Jenny Spaven and Sarah Plumhoff spoke in support of their lobby restoration project which is currently underway.

The final presenter was the CMU Business Closet. Kim Jones, Tammy Duncan, Campus Operation Manager, and Kathy Heavers talked about their new project to provide business clothing for students to borrow for interviews and new jobs. It is an extension of their career counseling program.

The prior recipient, Mrs. Claus for a Cause, was represented by Mallory Shaffer who reported to the Giving Club about how they used their funds for their Christmas event where children were able to pick several gifts of toys and clothing and were served a lunch.

The Women's Giving Club is proud to serve our community and welcomes all local women.

Everyone pays \$100 and gets to vote. A drawing takes place where three local non-profits are given the opportunity to pre-

sent their mission and need to the group. Winner takes all the money collected for that quarter.

Meetings are fun, energizing and include drinks and appetizers (\$10 facility fee). It is amazing to make such a big donation to groups that serve our community. From many comes much!

The Montrose Women's Giving Club meets quarterly on the first Thursday of February, May, August, and November at the Bridges.

Be sure to follow us on social media as occasionally schedule changes need to happen. The next meeting is Thursday, May 2, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.

To date, the Giving Club has donated over \$350,000 to local non-profits. For more information contact Phoebe Benziger at 970-209-9598 or [phebena-tor@hotmail.com](mailto:phebena-tor@hotmail.com). You do not have to be present to participate. Your \$100 donation may be mailed at any time to P.O. Box 1403, Montrose, CO 81402.

Save a tree –  
Read the Mirror!

THE  
MONTROSE MIRROR  
Your Source for Local Business News and Information

Call For Ad Rates: 970-275-0646








MAGIC CIRCLE PLAYERS

*The MAGIC of Live Theatre*

SINCE 1959

Neil  
Simon'sBy Neil Simon  
and Anton  
Chekhov




# The Good Doctor

Directed by Kim Santich

*The Good Doctor* dramatizes short stories written by Russian author and playwright Anton Chekhov. Each scene exposes the ridiculous, tender, outlandish, ludicrous, innocent, and weird frailties of human beings.

**APRIL 2024****FRI, APRIL 5 & SAT, APRIL 6 @ 7:30PM****SUNDAY, APRIL 7 @ 2PM**"The Good Doctor" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals in behalf of Samuel French, Inc [www.concordtheatricals.com](http://www.concordtheatricals.com)COME *Play* WITH USDavid & Gaynelle  
MIZEDREW LOEWEN  
CREATIVERediger Group  
REALTOR WILLIAMS COLORADO WHITE REALTY, LLC
[MagicCirclePlayers.com](http://MagicCirclePlayers.com) • 420 S. 12th • Montrose, CO • 970-249-7838 • [mcp@montrose.net](mailto:mcp@montrose.net)



# COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

## MONTROSE CENTER FOR ARTS INTRODUCES CHOPPED – MONTROSE STYLE

### *Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-Montrose heats up on April 13 at 5pm when Montrose Center for Arts introduces Chopped – Montrose Style. This is a new fundraiser for Montrose Center for Arts. Chopped – Montrose Style features Chef Zach Lamb of Arrowhead Lodge, Chef Dalyn Richardson of Elk Mountain Resort and Chef Kerstin Kimbriel of The Lodge at Needle Rock. Each will complete using local produce in an appetizer and an entree. Judges will select the Best Chef in the Valley.

In addition, each chef is preparing their signature soup for attendees to taste, vote and purchase. A People's Choice will be awarded based upon those votes!

LaNoue DuBois will present a wine pairing. Silver Basin Brewing will tap their spring pale ale for Chopped – Montrose Style.

A Silent Auction will feature induction cooktops, chopping and charcuterie boards and an original framed Bob DeJulio watercolor painting.

For more information and tickets go to [www.choppedmontrose.com](http://www.choppedmontrose.com).

This is going to be a fun, tasty, new event for Montrose!



## CHANGING NEEDS?

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

Call or text me today to learn more. I am here to help; I am your local Senior Real Estate Specialist!



**Michelle Klippert | SRES**  
Broker/Owner

C: 970-275-3016 O: 970-249-7653  
[michelleklippertrealtor@gmail.com](mailto:michelleklippertrealtor@gmail.com)



**The Real Estate Store**



500 E. Main St. Montrose, CO 81401



# 2024 Eckert Crane Days Festival



**Friday, March 22 • 6pm**

**Presentation: Taking a Closer  
Look at Sandhill Cranes**

Erin Phillips, Biologist Colo. Parks & Wildlife

**Grand Mesa Arts & Events Center**

**195 W Main St, Cedaredge**

**Saturday, March 23**

**9am to Noon**

**Birdwatching:**

**Fruitgrowers Reservoir**

**Community BBQ: Western States Ranches**

**North of the Causeway in Hart's Basin**

**Sunday, March 24**

**9am to Noon**

**Birdwatching:**

**Fruitgrowers Reservoir**



—SPONSORED BY—

**Black Canyon  
Audubon Society**



**Western States Ranches**



Go to the **Eckert Crane Days** Facebook page to follow local sandhill crane activity.



# Pillow Painting

Sat., April 13, noon-4 pm

631 Sherman Street

Downtown Ridgway, Colo.



## Dragonfly Creative Downtown Ridgway

With Kate Burke

Demonstrations.  
Examples. Detailed  
instruction and lots  
of help. No experi-  
ence necessary.



Descriptive Pillow Covers.  
Design your own or use  
our iron-on patterns.

Sewing machines avail-  
able so you can finish  
project in one afternoon.



Includes pe-washed  
fabrics, paints, art  
tools, templates.

18x18 Pillow inserts  
not provided.  
Bring your own, or,  
available, my cost.



Register with DragonflyCreative

Info: <https://kathrynrburke.com/product/041324D/>





## COLORADO WEST PERFORMING ARTS COMPANY RECEIVES STANDING OVATIONS FOR RECENT PERFORMANCES OF THE LITTLE MERMAID BALLET

*Dr. Mark Hoffman*

REGIONAL-- In a mesmerizing showcase of talent and artistry, the Colorado West Performing Arts Company (CWPAC) left audiences awestruck with their exceptional rendition of *The Little Mermaid Ballet*. The performances, held in both Grand Junction and Montrose, dazzled theatergoers, earning thunderous standing ovations and an outpouring of appreciation.

As Grand Junction's in residence, premier ballet company, CWPAC's recent production of *The Little Mermaid Ballet* lived up to its promise, captivating audiences of all ages.

From the very first act until the final curtain call, CWPAC's dancers enchanted the audience with their perfect execution of choreography, breathtaking lifts, and passion. The production seamlessly blended the ethereal beauty of ballet with the enchanting storyline of Hans Christian Andersen's beloved fairy tale.

Executive Director, Theresa Kahl spearheaded the production, and her vision and attention to detail were clearly evident throughout the performance. Under her guidance, the dancers' movements appeared to effortlessly convey the emotions and intricacies of the story, making it come

alive on stage. The stellar performances of the lead dancers, corps-de – ballet and youth dancers contributed greatly to the success of the production. The role of Ariel, the curious and enchanting mermaid, was masterfully portrayed by Alyssa Pankey. Her graceful movements and expressive face captured the essence of Ariel's yearning for a life beyond the sea. Additionally, the role of Prince Eric was played by Jeremy Rohm, who delivered a stunning performance filled with charisma and poise. The chemistry between Pankey and Rohm on stage was palpable, adding an extra layer of magic to their pas-de-deux.

The *Little Mermaid* cast, who were auditioned from all over the country to form CWPAC, included, Poseidon-Drake Simon, Triton-Zephan Holt, Sea Witch- Katherin Grace-Shamburek Flounder-Shannon Mul-lany, Sebastion-Mindy Lasko, Mermaid Sisters- Christina Bargelt, Serenity Blee, Holly Herrerra, Taylor Schimek, Merman-Caleb Knight, Jeremy Rohm and Drake Simon, Eels- Livia Diener, and Valerie Garcia, Shipmates-Zephan Holt, Caleb Knight and Drake Simon- Courts People- Christina Bargelt, Serenity Blee, Holly Herrerra, Caleb Knight and Drake.

The set design and costumes were equally praiseworthy. Elaborate underwater backdrops and video transported the audience into Ariel's underwater kingdom, while the vibrant and intricate costumes transformed the dancers into mermaids, sea creatures, and humans seamlessly.

With its remarkable rendition of *The Little Mermaid Ballet*, Colorado West Performing Arts Company has once again proven their commitment to bringing world-class ballet to the local communities of the Western Slope.

In case you missed *The Little Mermaid Performance*, CWPAC will be performing "Classics, Romantics, and Modern Day Works" at the Avalon Theater on May 11th. and 12<sup>th</sup>. in Grand Junction at the Avalon Theater. Join CWPAC for a mixed repertoire performance. The night will be showcasing the exquisite company dancers and nationally acclaimed, choreographers, Theresa Kahl, Dina Duckworth, Kety Vandervelde, Maeva Ward, and Nicole Wilkinson.

You are assured that this performance will be a night of dance that you will never forget. Get your tickets before it is too late at [Ticketmaster.com](https://www.ticketmaster.com) or the Avalon box office.





# MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY

## ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

**Office Hours:** By appointment.

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

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

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

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

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

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

## BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Olathe, Co 81425

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

Pastor Gabe Skillo

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Sunday 6 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Study/Prayer 7 p.m.

## CELEBRATION CHURCH

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

**Address:** 2900 Sunnyside Road, Mont-  
 rose, CO 81401

**Office Hours:** By appointment

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

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

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

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

**Senior Pastor:**

Pastor Brandon Mathis

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

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

**Demographics:** Multi-generational

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

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

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

## CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

**Denomination:** Christ Lutheran Montrose  
**Affiliation:** Lutheran Church Missouri Syn-  
 od

**Address:** 1980 N. Townsend Ave., Mont-  
 rose, CO 81401

**Contact:** 970-633-0226

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

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

**Pastor:** Tim Onnen

**Worship:** Sundays at 9 AM

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

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

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

## FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

**Denomination:** Church of the Nazarene

**Address:** 705 South 12th Street

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

**Contact Information:** Office Phone 970 249  
 -9213, [mncfirst@gmail.com](mailto:mncfirst@gmail.com),  
[www.montrosenazarenechurch.org](http://www.montrosenazarenechurch.org)

**Pastor:** Buddy Cook

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

Wednesday: Prayer Boot Camp - 7 PM

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

*disciples in Montrose Colorado and around  
 the world.*

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

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MONTROSE

**Affiliation:** Presbyterian

**Address:** 1840 E Niagara Rd. Montrose CO.

81401 **Office Hours:** M-Thu 9AM -

12PM **Contact:** 970-249-4732, [in-](mailto:in-)

[form@fpcmontrose.com](mailto:form@fpcmontrose.com),

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

**Pastor:** Jesse Mabanglo

**Worship Service times:** 9:30AM,

Student Worship at 6PM. *We strive to en-  
 courage, challenge and support one another*

*er through spiritual growth, worship, and  
 service in our community, country, and  
 world. We also encourage children and  
 youth to grow their relationship with Christ  
 through our children and student minis-  
 tries.*

# MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY From previous pg

## HILLCREST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**Denomination affiliation:** United Church of Christ

**Address:** 611 South Hillcrest Drive, Montrose, CO 81401

**Office hours:** By appointment

**Contact information:**

Phone number: (970) 249-9047

Email address: [office@montroseucc.org](mailto:office@montroseucc.org)

Website: [montroseucc.org](http://montroseucc.org)

**Current Pastor:** Rev. Wendy Kidd

**Worship service times:** Sunday, 10 a.m.

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

on life's journey.

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

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

## MONTROSE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**Denomination Affiliation:** United Methodist

**Address:** 19 S. Park Avenue Montrose CO. 81401

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

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

[montroseumc.org](http://montroseumc.org)

**Current Senior Pastor:** Rev. Kevin Young

**Worship service times:**

8:30 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual

9:45 a.m. Christian Education & Fellowship

11 a.m. Sanctuary

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

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

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

## ROSEMONT BAPTIST CHURCH

**Affiliation:** Southern Baptist

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

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

**Contact information:**

Phone: 970.249.4887

website: [www.RosemontBaptist.org](http://www.RosemontBaptist.org)

email: [office@rosemontbaptist.org](mailto:office@rosemontbaptist.org)

**Senior Pastor:** Rolland Kenneson

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

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

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

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

matter what stage of life they are in.

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

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

## SPIRITUAL AWARENESS CENTER

**Denomination affiliation:** Independent Interfaith

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

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

**Office** – 970-252-0908

**Contact information:**

Rev. Dr. Arlyn Macdonald,

970-252-0908,

[arlyn@spiritaware.org](mailto:arlyn@spiritaware.org),

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

**Name of current pastor:** Rev. Dr. Arlyn Macdonald, Senior minister; Rev. Ruby Salaz, Assistant Minister. Spiritual Counseling available.

**Worship service times:** In-person Sunday Unity Service at 11 a.m., (Social Time begins at 10 a.m.); Quiet Meditation at 10:30 a.m. Virtual Afternoon Service on Zoom at 2:00 p.m.; Chai Chats, a Wednesday morning midweek informal gathering at 10:30 a.m. at Pun Hill Himalayan Restaurant, Montrose; Thursday Empowerment Circle at 10:30 a.m. on Zoom. Everyone is

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

## ST. STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

**Denomination:** Anglican-Reformed Episcopal Church (REC)

**Address:** 2405 Sunnyside Road, Montrose 970-249-4868

**Contact:** [ststephensmont-](http://ststephensmont-)

[rose@yahoo.com](mailto:rose@yahoo.com)

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

**Rev. Dec.** Garrett Agajanian

St. Stephen's is a community of caring Christians rooted in the godly traditions of the past, focused on the challenges of the

present, hopeful for the future, continuing in the Faith once delivered to the saints, using the 1928 Book of Common Prayer.

**Sunday:** Holy Communion 10 am.

Fellowship following service.

Children's nursery available (unstaffed).



## MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY From previous pg

### SUMMIT CHURCH OF MONTROSE:

#### Denomination affiliation:

Southern Baptist

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

**Office hours:** Varies

#### Contact information:

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

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

**Senior Pastor:** Interim Pastor.

**Worship service times:** Sunday Worship is

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

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

*Summit Church Montrose is a new church plant that preaches the Word of God, reaches the lost with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and equips Christians to serve the*

*Lord. Summit Church has people of all ages! 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 for prayer at the church every Wed. at 6:30.*

### VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH OF MONTROSE

**Denomination Affiliation:** Independent Baptist

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

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

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

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

website: [vbcmontrose.org](http://vbcmontrose.org)

**Current Pastor:** Roland Kassales

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

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

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

#### Church Directory

#### Mirror Editorial Staff

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

#### information to the Montrose Mirror:

Name of church

Denomination affiliation

Address Office hours

Contact information (phone number, email address, website)

Name of current Senior Pastor

Worship service times

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

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

Do your church services include Sunday School and childcare?



## Local Immunization Providers

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

# TMS COMPUTER SERVICES

## — WE OFFER:

- Affordable Computer Maintenance, Sales, and Design
- Web Development and Maintenance
- Data Protection Strategies
- Backup Strategies
- Security
- Affordable Monthly Business Maintenance Solutions
- Mobile & Remote Support

## — WE SPECIALIZE IN IT SERVICES FOR:

- Fire Departments
- Police Stations
- Government
- Area Businesses

## — CONTACT IVAN AT

**970.708.1014**

[telluridemaintenancesolutions@gmail.com](mailto:telluridemaintenancesolutions@gmail.com)

SERVING MONTROSE, OURAY,  
SAN MIGUEL, MESA, AND  
SURROUNDING COUNTIES





## COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

### CPW'S SOUTHWEST REGION ANNOUNCES STATE PARK BOAT RAMP OPENING DATES FOR 2024 SEASON

*Special to the Mirror*

RIDGWAY – The boat ramp is open for the season at Navajo State Park, and more openings are soon to come at state parks in the Southwest Region of Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

Ridgway State Park will be next to open, on March 15. The ramp will be open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

CPW reminds the public that Paonia State Park's boat ramp will be closed on Tuesdays in 2024 for wakeless days. Hand-launched boats will still be permitted.

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

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

All boats are also required to have one Coast Guard-approved life jacket for each person on board. Life jackets can save lives when they fit properly and are worn when recreating on the water. Boaters are also encouraged to take a boating safety



*The boat ramp at Ridgway State Park is pictured in 2017. CPW photo/Dustin Dorskocil.*

course with CPW to learn navigation safety and what to do in case of an accident.

Opening dates:

Crawford: Saturday, May 4

Mancos: TBD after April 9

Navajo: Friday, March 1

Paonia: Wednesday, May 22

Ridgway: Wednesday, March 15

Sweitzer Lake: Monday, April 22

Boat ramp hours will be limited from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. until late May when hours are extended. For more information about state park boat ramp hours, go to [cpw.state.co.us](http://cpw.state.co.us)



8500

ANONYMOUS

Download The APP. **P3TIPS** 

**MONTROSE REGIONAL  
CRIME STOPPERS**

*see something, say something*



The poster features a light blue background with a subtle pattern of Easter eggs. At the top, a string of colorful egg-shaped lights hangs across the width. In the center, a white Easter bunny's head and pink ears are visible, with a yellow banner across its face. The banner contains the text "2nd Annual Easter". Below the banner, the word "Eggstravaganza" is written in a large, dark blue, cursive font. Underneath the title, the date and time "SATURDAY MARCH 30TH 2024 10 AM - 1 PM" are printed in a bold, dark blue, sans-serif font. The location "Western Colorado Botanical Gardens" is written in a bold, dark blue, sans-serif font, followed by the address "655 Struthers Ave. Grand Junction, CO 81501" in a smaller, dark blue, sans-serif font. In the middle section, the text "Please Bring an Easter Basket" is centered. Below this, the activities "Activities include: Bump n' Jump, Face Painting, Raffle, Cake walk & more." are listed. To the left of the activities, the price "\$10 PER PERSON" is displayed in a large, bold, dark blue font. To the right, the price "\$20 PER FAMILY" is displayed in a large, bold, dark blue font. At the bottom, there are three illustrations: on the left and right, a colorful scene with a Ferris wheel, a star, and various Easter eggs; in the center, a white Easter bunny's head and pink ears.

2nd Annual Easter

# Eggstravaganza

**SATURDAY MARCH 30TH 2024**  
**10 AM - 1 PM**

**Western Colorado Botanical Gardens**  
655 Struthers Ave. Grand Junction, CO 81501

Please Bring an Easter Basket

Activities include:  
Bump n' Jump  
Face Painting  
Raffle  
Cake walk & more.

**\$10**  
**PER**  
**PERSON**

**\$20**  
**PER**  
**FAMILY**



CELEBRATE WINTER  
WITH OUR

# Winter Sale

Don't miss out  
on great deals!

*D'Medici*  
Footwear & Clothing

UP TO  
75% OFF!



VISIT US AT 316 E. MAIN STREET IN HISTORIC DOWNTOWN MONTROSE • 970-249-3668

**SHOES & BOOTS • CLOTHING • ACCESSORIES**



# SAVE THE DATE! LOCAL EVENTS CALENDAR

## ONGOING-

**MONTROSE FARMERS MARKET** (970) 249 0705 Centennial Plaza, 433 S. 1st St. Montrose, CO 81401

[www.valleyfoodpartnership.org](http://www.valleyfoodpartnership.org). Year-Round Farmers Market, Saturdays 9am-1pm (Summer), every other Saturday 10am-1pm (Winter). Accepts SNAP and Double Up Food Bucks.

**MONTROSE CENTER FOR ARTS FIRST FRIDAY**-New Art Exhibit opening with featured artists. 4:30 - 7 pm First Friday of every month. 11 S Park Ave., Montrose. Free Admission. For more information: 970-787-9428 or [info@mc4arts.com](mailto:info@mc4arts.com)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## MONTHLY

**Feb. 1-April 12**-AARP Foundation Tax-aide in Montrose – Feb. 1 - April 12, Tue, Thu, Fri 9am - 2pm at the Montrose Pavilion Senior Center. Free income tax preparation for anyone, free of charge, focused on individuals over 50 or low/moderate income. Appointments are required, call 970-252-4889, M-F 9-2. More information about the program is available at: [taxaide.aarpfoundation.org](http://taxaide.aarpfoundation.org)

**March 20**-Do you dig dinosaurs? Come and hear professional archaeologist Glade Hadden present Dinosaur Tracks of Western Colorado. March 20th at 7pm at the United Methodist Church - 19 S Park in Montrose. Free.

**March 22-24**-The 24<sup>th</sup> annual Eckert Crane Days Festival will be held March 22-24, 2024. All events are free. **Fruitgrowers Reservoir** Directions: From Delta, drive east on CO 92 to CO 65. Take CO 65 north to Eckert and make a right on North Road. Take North Road east until you see the reservoir.

**March 28**-Montrose United Methodist Church at 19 S. Park Ave-7 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service.

**March 29**- Montrose United Methodist Church at 19 S. Park Ave-7 p.m. Good Friday Service.

**March 29**-Easter Vigil invitation – Drop by the United Methodist Church at 19 S. Park anytime from 8 p.m. March 29 until 8:30 a.m. Easter Sunday to listen during our 15th annual Easter Bible reading vigil. The Bible is read aloud continuously in the sanctuary over the weekend. The sanctuary door facing South First will be open 24 hours. It's a meaningful and spiritual way to bridge the gap from the Crucifixion to the Resurrection! [www.montroseumc.org](http://www.montroseumc.org)

**March 31**-Montrose United Methodist Church at 19 S. Park Ave- Sunday, March 31st 8:30 a.m. Easter Service; 9:45 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt; 11 a.m. Easter Service.

**April 7**-3pm - Celestial Sounds: [Montrose Community Band Free Concert](#) at the Montrose Pavilion. Grab your eclipse glasses for an afternoon of music inspired by the wonders of the stars, planets, and outer space.

**April 17**-The Black Canyon Ladies Golf League is holding their 2024 kick off social at the Rusty Putter at the Black Canyon Golf Course on Wednesday, April 17 from 5 -7 pm. All members and new ladies interested in joining the league are invited to come hear what is planned for this season. If you are a prospective new member wanting to attend please RSVP to Jackie at 303-746-0849 by calling or texting.



## Western Colorado Farm & Ranch Brokers

**Burton Bullington (970) 596-4744**  
**John Fowle (970) 417-1666**  
[www.SHAFFER.land](http://www.SHAFFER.land)

*Since 1990*

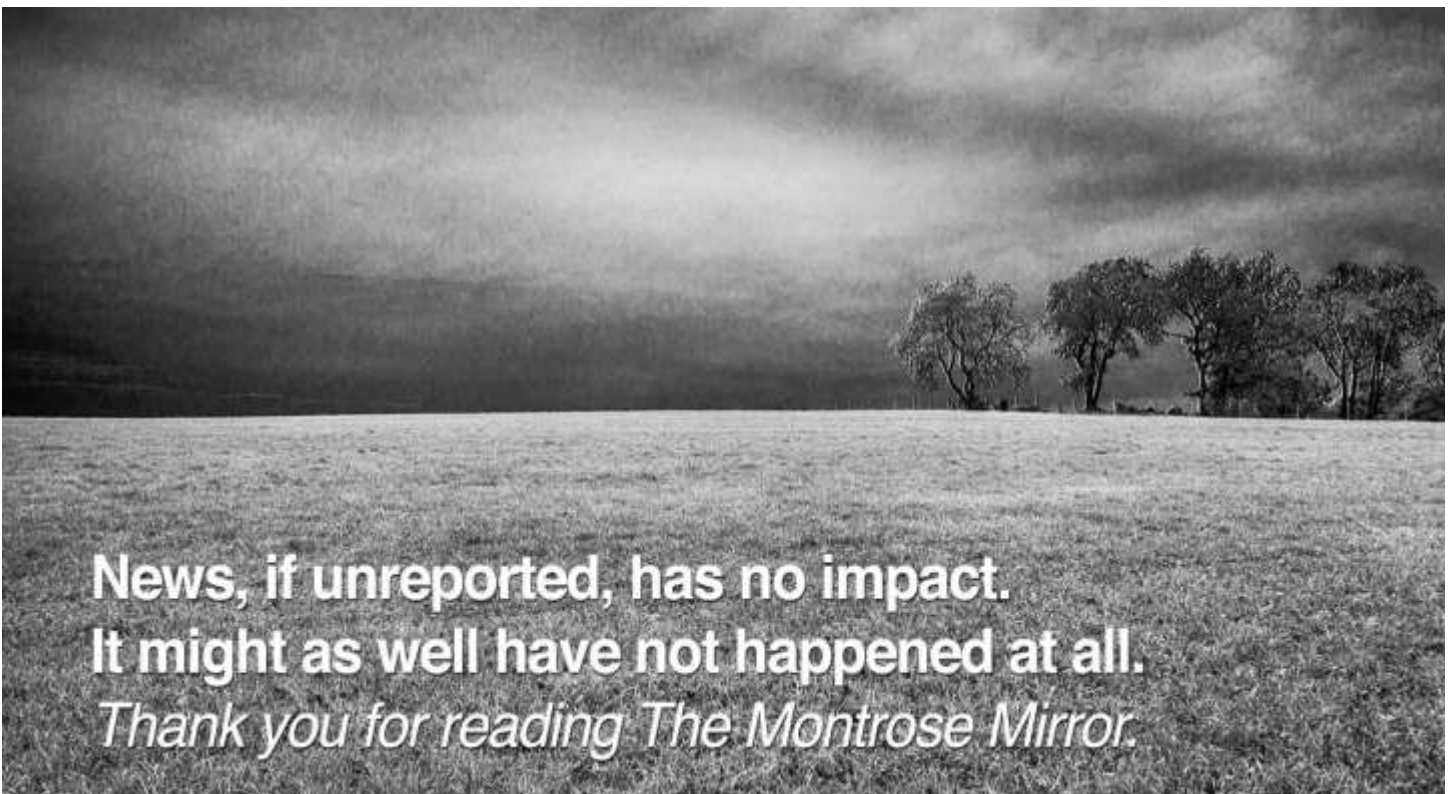




## MONTROSE HIGH SCHOOL DIVISION AWARD WINNERS



*L-R Benny Algacs, Everett Brewer, Jack Schwartz, Ally Metzger, Addison Howell, Keira Oldroyd, Avery Kingsbury, Anthony Gonzales, and Prisilla Gutierrez Courtesy photo.*



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