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the Montrose Mirror

CITY LOOKS AT RECYCLING AUDITS, RIGHT-OF-WAY DONATION

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-Although a recent interactive work session focused on the Montrose Recycling Advisory Committee, the topic was once again explored at the regular Council work session on Monday, April 1.

Mayor Barbara Bynum said, "Work sessions are a time that Council sets aside and we use the work sessions to go over agenda items that we're going to be working on with staff or that staff have already done a lot of work on and they're going to be bringing forward to the city council at a future date for a decision oftentimes in the form of a formal vote.

"Because the work session doesn't involve any voting we also don't have public comment during work sessions but anyone is allowed to be here in person for the work sessions, anyone is allowed to watch



City right-of-way at West South 1st Street and Water Avenue, above, will be donated to the new property owner VNR Holdings. VNR Holdings is an LLC that includes Don Vincent of Montrose and Trade Hub International, a business owned by City DART Director Anthony Russo. Photo by Harry Switzer.

Continued pg 28

'L'État, c'est moi?' MONTROSE MAYOR BARBARA BYNUM USED CITY TITLE, LETTERHEAD IN PERSONAL LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR DOLORES CANYON NATIONAL MONUMENT



Briana Greer asked about Bynum's Letter.

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE-During the regular Montrose City Council meeting on April 1, Montrose Resident Briana Greer spoke during the time for Public Comment, calling attention to the proposed Dolores Canyon National Monument and to a letter of support for the project on official City letterhead from Mayor Barbara Bynum.

Greer, who said that she spent her career predicting, reducing, and remediating mining impacts to water quality, spoke to the importance of minerals in our area. She said, "Minerals are essential and used in energy and defense. Uranium is a mineral belt." Greer noted that today, minerals are often sourced from high-conflict regions of the world and from regions with substandard human rights protections.

Greer said that after researching the proposed National Monument, she realized that she will never know what government agencies, i.e., Bureau of Reclamation, Department of Defense, Department of Energy, think about the proposal. She said, "There is no need for process under the Antiquities Act. Proclamations are signed by the President and agencies don't weigh in until the management plan is written."

When Greer first requested a map of the proposed project from Montrose County

Continued pg 30

[David White on the Ongoing Corruption at City of Montrose!](#)

[Western Slope Poet Laureate Wendy Videlock-The Barefoot Laureate!](#)

[Vince Farnsworth Captures Nature's Beauty in Real Time!](#)

[Letters to the Editor! Regional News Briefs!](#)

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DRIVE-BY SHOOTING UNDER INVESTIGATION IN ROCKY FORD

Special to the Mirror

ROCKY FORD, CO – On April 3, 2024, at approximately 11:30 p.m., Rocky Ford Police Department (RFPD) Officers were dispatched to the area of the 0-100 block of Yucca Dr. in Rocky Ford, CO, on reports of shots fired. RFPD Officers with the assistance of the Otero County Sheriff's Office (OCSO) Deputies who responded to assist, were able to determine that an occupied residence was struck with multiple rounds, and evidence was located nearby along the road.

No residents within the home were injured, but extensive property damage occurred. A neighborhood canvas was conducted, and a small black SUV or sedan, along with a white sedan, were observed leaving the area at a high rate of speed shortly after. At this time, it is unknown if either vehicle was involved or fleeing the area due to the gunfire.

RFPD has requested the assistance of the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in investigating the incident. Anyone with information on the incident or who might have video surveillance, which may have captured vehicles leaving the area, is asked to contact the RFPD at 719-254-3344.



THE MONTROSE MIRROR

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

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

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

REGULAR CITIZENS WANTED!!

Editor:

Calling "regular" citizens to take our city back! Where are the modern day, brave men and women who can stand up to the attack on our America? We don't want greedy, power hungry "Professional Politicians"!! We are looking for "ordinary" citizens who actually CARE about our citizens; can manage our roads and budget; spend our money wisely; shield us from WOKE agendas and attacks on our citizens by terrorists that come in the form of illegal aliens; actually STAND by our Constitution; and continue to keep Government LITTLE! We don't want to be BOUGHT AND SOLD by fancy grants with controlling conditions!

Did you know the Democrats know they can take over our city by getting on all different kinds of local boards? Look at our local library: completely invaded! Want to know a "secret"? If you have the above qualifications, please apply [here](#) (click on link) to any boards (our County Commissioners are over ALL of these!!!) OR run for City Council next time around. Did you know that only 3,621 votes were received last City Council election on April 2? Really?!! My assumptions: A) either people don't care anymore about what happens to our city, or B) the Candidates available to us were NOT good choices. We can do better, Montrose! Perhaps people don't trust the voting process?? If not, have you contacted our County Clerk? WE need to do something--- whether it's actually VOTING!!!, getting on a local board, running for office (thank you to the current County Commissioner Candidates for stepping up!!!), or helping spread the word. If you don't get a ballot in the mail this June, then go get one at our County Clerk's office and straighten the details out!!

Lastly, before anyone calls me a "hater," "spreader of fear," "unloving," or any other virtue signaling name that people use to manipulate and control with, I believe in protecting the people of our city and our nation. If you don't love America, then please move to the Country that supports your values! Thank you for listening to my rant. Montrose, we can do better!

Jodi Woodden (a concerned 5th generation Montrose citizen)

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

CULTIVATED MEAT IS CURRENTLY TOO EXPENSIVE TO MASS PRODUCE

To the editor,

With avian flu spreading to humans, our political leaders should support increased public funding for cultivated-meat research. For those who aren't familiar with the term, cultivated meat is grown from

animal cells, without slaughter. By removing livestock from the process, we can lower the risk of zoonotic pandemics.

Though the private sector has made admirable progress in developing the field of cellular agriculture, further government

investment is needed to overcome technological hurdles. The most significant of these is cultivated meat is currently too expensive to mass produce. Our leaders can help fix this with money for research.

Jon Hochschartner, Granby, CT



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE REGIONAL AIRPORT ANNOUNCES CANCELLATION OF 2024 TRIBUTE TO AVIATION

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE- -Montrose Regional Airport (MTJ) announced today the cancellation of the 2024 Tribute to Aviation event due to unforeseen global circumstances that could impact the participation of military aircraft. The Tribute to Aviation is a highly anticipated community event showcasing a stunning display of military and civilian aircraft. Military participation is a cornerstone of the event, offering attendees a unique opportunity to see these impressive machines up close.

“The decision to cancel this year's Tribute to Aviation was not an easy one,” said Montrose County Director of Aviation Lloyd Arnold. “Global events may affect our ability to secure the military presence that is such a central part of the event experience. We wouldn't want to disappoint our community with a scaled-back version of this popular event.” While disappointed about the 2024 cancellation, MTJ is already looking forward to next year. “We are committed to bringing back a bigger and better Tribute to Aviation in 2025,” said Arnold.

“We are actively planning and will work diligently to secure a diverse range of military and civilian aircraft for the next event.” The Montrose Regional Airport extends its gratitude to the community for its ongoing support of the Tribute to Aviation. “We appreciate the incredible enthusiasm for the Tribute to Aviation,” said Arnold. “We look forward to celebrating aviation with our community again in 2025.” For updates on Tribute to Aviation, please visit the [Montrose Regional Airport website](#) or follow [MTJ on social media](#).

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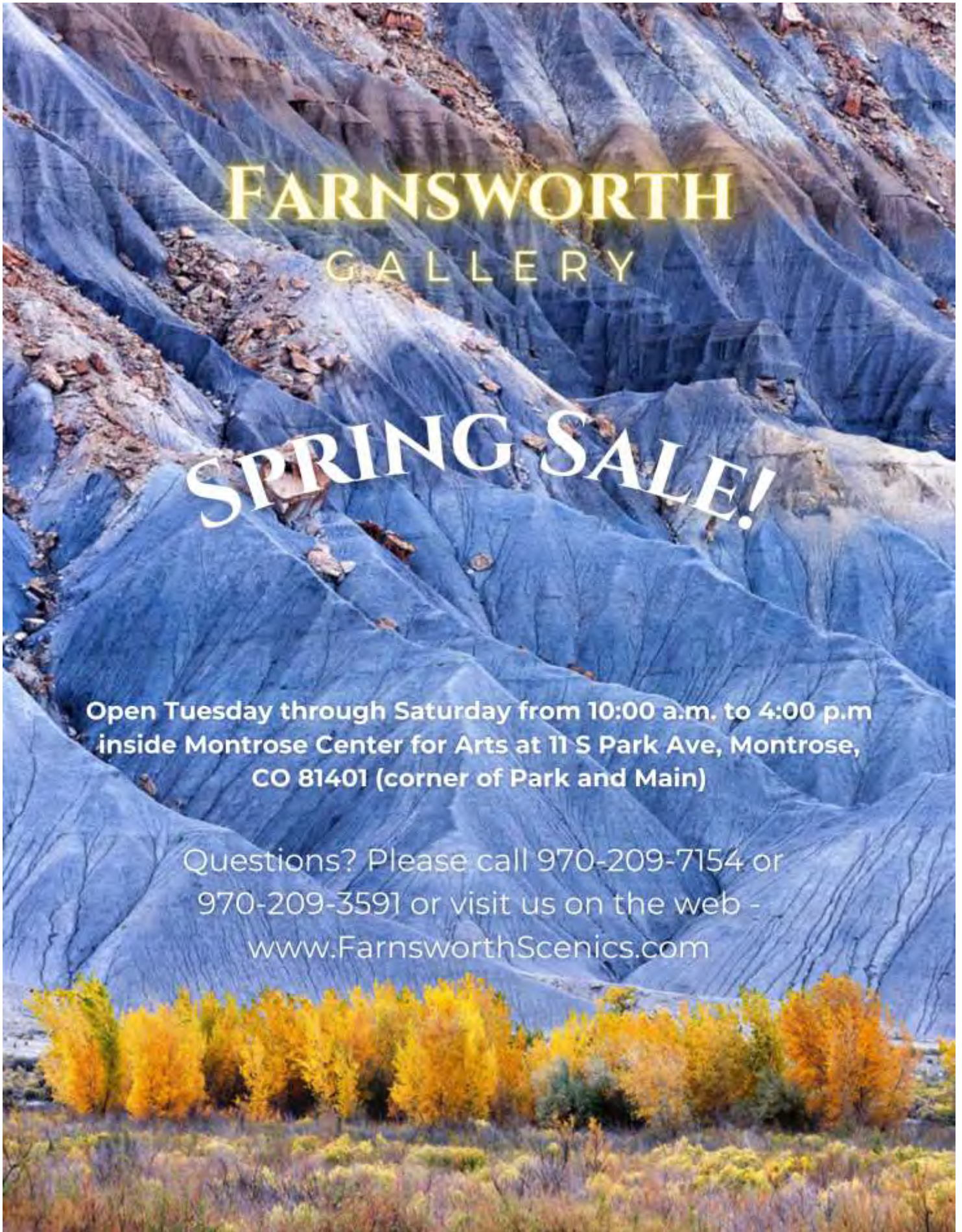
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REDHAWKS GIRLS' SOCCER STILL UNDEFEATED

Cliff Dodge

MONTROSE-The Montrose Redhawks girls' soccer team continued their undefeated streak last week as the girls won a pair of games, one on the road and the second at home. The road victory came at Basalt with a 9-0 whitewashing. The home victory, 2-1 over the Fruita-Monument Wildcats, broke a 10-game winless streak vs the Wildcats.

The win at Basalt saw the Redhawks completely dominate the control of the pitch and stymied the Longhorns offense before it could even mount an attack on the Redhawks goal. The Redhawks stout defense in front of their goal kept the Longhorns off balance the entire contest.

Seven Redhawks dented the scoring column with Senior Mia Duncan leading the way with three goals and an assist. Other scorers included Rylie Cohick, Gabrielle Parkison, Yuliana Almanza, Addison Shipley, Jaylee Wilson and Goalie Rachel

Robuck, who was moved up to forward for the second half of the contest.

The second game of the week proved to be a far different affair as the Redhawks found themselves in a glove tight contest with the Fruita-Monument Wildcats. The visitors scored first midway through the first half of action with a shot from the right side that found its way into the back of the Redhawks goal.

The Redhawks fought back gamely in the second half as Junior Forward Ellie Duncan found opening within the Wildcats defense and pounded home two goals to secure the victory and break a 10-game winless streak against the Wildcats. Senior Mia Duncan assisted on one of Ellie Duncan's goals while Senior Rachel Robuck had the other assist. Robuck had several tough saves in the match which preserved the victory for the home team.

The twin wins increased the Redhawks overall record to eight wins, one loss and



Wildcats and Redhawks players fight for a 50/50 ball. Photo by Cliff Dodge.

one tie. Their league record stands at three wins and zero losses. Things don't get any easier for the Redhawks as two league opponents come to visit. On April 10 the Central Warriors of Grand Junction invade Montrose and then on April 12 the Demons of Durango will attempt to end the Redhawks undefeated streak. Kickoff for both games is scheduled for 5 p.m.



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RED HAWKS SPORTS SCOREBOARD

By Cliff Dodge

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April 5th Fruita-Monument 15, Redhawks 4

BOYS LACROSSE:

April 2nd Crested Butte 11, Redhawks 6

GIRLS LACROSSE:

April 2nd Grand Junction 14, Redhawks 4

GIRLS TENNIS:

April 2nd Grand Junction 5, Redhawks 2

April 5th Fruita-Monument 5, Redhawks 2

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

MONTROSE VETERANS MEMORIAL COALITION MOVING FORWARD

Letter to the Editor:

Just a brief update on what is going on with the Montrose Veterans Memorial. If you heard that the memorial location has been relocated from Cerise Park to near the Pavilion, you heard correctly. We are happy to have this new location.

Moreover, we have other news that our Montrose Veterans Memorial Coalition has teamed up with the City of Montrose and Montrose County to get this memorial built. We are pleased with this new team and are excited to move this project forward. This merger will, however, change the time we had anticipated for the installation of our honor bricks. When we get sidewalks completed, we will schedule the first ceremony.

The Bald Eagle we posted on the MVMC Facebook account was donated by Richard Arnold of Carbondale, Colo. We asked for naming suggestions from all our FB friends and the folks did not disappoint. We had wonderful names submitted but in the end the name "Freedom"

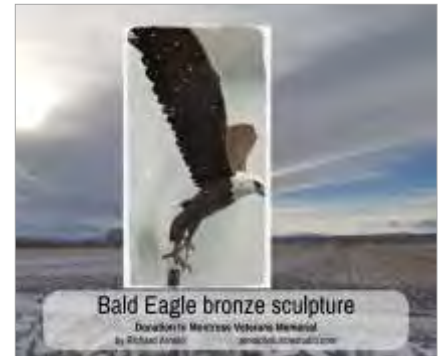
is the winner. We hope to place this large bronze sculpture at the entrance of the memorial positioned on a large sandstone rock. Freedom will be the first feature greeting all who visit the Montrose Veterans Memorial.

That's it for now and I will keep you all informed with our progress as we move forward. Thank you to those who have donated toward this impressive project that benefits our city, entire county and state. We still need to continue our fund-raising campaign and hope this good news moves citizens, service organizations, corporations and retail stores to help us get this memorial completed. Please donate in person at the Welcome Home Alliance for Veterans, 4 Hillcrest Plaza Way, Montrose, CO 81401, or by going to our website <http://montrosevmc.us/>

Sincerely,

Les Williams

Montrose Veterans Memorial Coalition President




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Kelly Morfitt
Certified Pharmacy Technician, CPhT



PHARMACY

THE REASON WHY I LOVE WORKING AT DELTA HEALTH



I am a Certified Pharmacy Technician, CPhT, at Delta Health and I prepare, distribute, and deliver medications, and IV's throughout the Hospital. I've worked at the hospital for 18 years. I graduated from Delta High School, and I attended college at Colorado Mesa University and the Technical College of the Rockies.

I love hanging out with my family and friends, attending my boys' sporting events, baking, boating, fishing, and volunteering within the schools and community. I enjoy helping on our family farm and canning all the vegetables that we grow.



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RED HAWKS DROP TENNIS MATCH TO TIGERS 5-2

By Cliff Dodge

MONTROSE-The Montrose Red Hawks girls' tennis team took on the Grand Junction Tigers at the Montrose Tennis Pavilion next to the Field House on Tuesday afternoon but came up short. The Red Hawks prevailed in only two of the seven matches (three singles and four doubles matches).

Montrose Varsity Head coach Tony Ryan said, "The Red Hawks team lost the overall match 5 -2 but the girls fought hard and showed some determination and improvement. Our objective is to improve the players' performances every time out."

The results of the matches are as follows:

- # 1 Singles Andie Blowers (Mont) over Beth Kimmell 6-1, 6-1
- # 2 Singles Melaina Yender (Mont) lost to Abby Kearl 2-6, 1-6
- # 3 Singles Hayley Eldridge (Mont) lost to M. Amera 1-6
- # 1 Doubles Go & Oldroyd (Mont) lost to DeHerra/Harper 1-6, 0-6
- # 2 Doubles Fulks & Owens (Mont) won over Aida/Emmalne 6-3, 6-4
- # 3 Doubles Amundson/Kusar (Mont) lost to Bell/Young 3-6, 3-6
- # 4 Doubles Wu/Erickson (Mont) lost to Pinger/Kimmell 0-6, 0-6



Red Hawk Melaina Yender serves to her opponent during the first set of her match Photo by Cliff Dodge.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE REGIONAL HEALTH COMPLETES FIRST INSPIRE PROCEDURE IN MONTROSE

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE – Otolaryngologist Dr. Mark Noel and the Surgical Services team at Montrose Regional Health have successfully completed the first Inspire® Therapy Procedure in Montrose.

"As we celebrate the successful completion of our first Inspire implant procedure, we are proud to offer our patients a revolutionary solution for obstructive sleep apnea," said Jeff Mengenhausen, CEO of Montrose Regional Health. "This milestone reflects our commitment to advancing healthcare and improving lives within our communities."

"Sleep apnea is such a prevalent condition, so having this procedure available means the potential for helping people is huge," says Dr. Noel. "The great thing about it is that you don't need any external device—it's part of you and goes with you wherever you go and can be used in any setting."

The procedure involves the insertion of a small implant under the skin of the neck and chest. Once implemented, Inspire

works inside the body with a patient's natural breathing process to treat sleep apnea. Mild stimulation opens the airway during sleep, allowing oxygen to flow naturally. The patient uses a small handheld remote to turn Inspire on before bed and off when they wake up. The procedure is brief and minimally-invasive: most patients will be able to return home the same day and use over-the-counter pain medication as needed. The procedure is FDA-approved for patients suffering from obstructive sleep apnea (OSA). It is a treatment option that is specifically designed for those who cannot use Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) Therapy due to certain sleep complications.

Obstructive sleep apnea is an incredibly common issue in the United States, affecting around 22 million Americans belonging to all age groups. It occurs when air cannot properly move through the windpipe during sleep. When OSA is left untreated, it can cause workplace accidents, stroke, heart attack, and death. People may be suffering from OSA if they



Otolaryngologist Dr. Mark Noel and Montrose Regional Health have completed the first Inspire Therapy Procedure in Montrose. Courtesy photos.

are experiencing symptoms such as excessive daytime sleepiness, headaches shortly after waking up, gasping for air during the night, or if they have been observed with paused breathing during sleep. To learn more about Inspire implants, contact Dr. Mark Noel's office at [\(970\) 787-4710](tel:9707874710).

Greetings Friends of the Black Canyon National Park & Curecanti National Recreation Area!

Meeting Notice

Tuesday, April 16, 2024 at 6:30 pm.

Meet at "The Campers Hub" • 18265 US 550, Montrose

(The old country school a short distance south of Montrose that has been opened as an RV Park.)

The purpose of this second meeting is to recruit new people interested in joining with us and to work on reorganization tasks.

Contact Joel Evans for more information at 970-596-4523.



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BOCC REVIEWS RESOLUTION FOR 2023 COUNTY ROAD MAP, CONTINUES SPECIAL USE HEARING ON GRAVEL MINE OPERATION

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-All commissioners were present, with a [full house in attendance](#) for the [regular meeting](#) of the Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) April 3. BOCC Chair Roger Rash called the meeting to order; BOCC Vice Chair Keith Caddy led all in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

Delivering the invocation was Pastor John DeSario of Summit Church.

"...We pray that truth would prevail in all of the proceedings this morning...we pray that you would bring peace and reconciliation where there are two sides that are not in agreement...we pray for wisdom for the Commissioners and all involved and we are grateful for the peace that we have and the order that we have, we pray for it to continue and we are thankful for this day..."

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

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

COUNTY MANAGER

County Manager Jon Waschbusch had no changes to the meeting agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioners voted to approve Consent Agenda items, with Resolution No. 20-024 assigned to Consent Agenda Item 8.

GENERAL BUSINESS & ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Rash opened a public hearing as Finance Director Cindy Dunlap presented for consideration **Resolution Number 21-024**, regarding a [supplemental budget appropriation](#) to the budget for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2024 in the amount of **\$4,672,370**.

Following the hearing commissioners voted to approve Resolution 21-024

Human Services Director Jennifer Sher-

wood presented the [Services Agreement](#) for State General Funds (SGF) and Organized Health Care Delivery Systems (OHCDs) between Montrose County Human Services and Community Options, Inc. as approved by County Attorney, effective March 1, 2024.

The services agreement was approved.

Also approved as presented by Sherwood was the [Essential Education Corporation Terms of Services agreement](#) establishing the use of their website and Essential Education's courses for Montrose County Human Services Colorado Works Program, as reviewed by county attorney, effective April, 3, 2024, this reflects a budgeted expense of \$790 for a one year license.

During a brief public hearing, Public Works Director Keith Laube presented a [Resolution](#), to be adopted at a subsequent meeting, regarding the approval of the [official 2023 County Road Map](#). Commissioners approved the resolution for adoption at a subsequent meeting.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT ITEMS

Commissioners held a public hearing for the first Planning & Development item, the **Serendipity Ranch Waiver [WV23-004] proposal for waiver** of the Montrose County Subdivision Regulations, Section 3.20.B.a: Lots in Minor Subdivisions shall have a minimum road frontage of two hundred (200) feet at Parcel 376535300043, 60245 Oak Grove Rd, which is zoned General Agricultural. Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the proposal for waiver.

Commissioners voted to approve the [Peach Valley Estates Large Tract Exemption \[EX23-013\] proposal](#) to divide three lots from a 113.325-acre parcel at Parcel 372117300030.

The Zoning is General Agricultural.

Also approved was the [East Valley Minor Subdivision Extension \[EXT24-001\] proposal](#) to extend the time period to file an approved plat for recording at 372313200024, 6111 6125 RD. The Zoning is General Agricultural.

Commissioners voted to approve the approve the East Valley Minor Subdivision Extension based on the findings of fact.

The BOCC approved the [West Valley Estates – Final Plat \[MA24-002\] proposal](#) to divide 22.25 acres into eight lots at 376535112001. The Zoning is General Agricultural.

BOCC Chair Roger Rash then re-opened a continued Public Hearing on the **Haynes Excavation Inc Storage Area Special Use [SU23-006]** proposal to establish a gravel mining operation at Parcel 399317208001. The Zoning is General Agricultural.

Applicant Todd Haynes was present, as were interested constituents.

Additional public comment was taken; the discussion was focused on details, including the time frame for removal of the remaining tonnage in the pit (80,000), the possibility of allowing gravel to be sold to the public, and the possibility of a performance bond. Commissioners agreed on an expiration date for the SUP of Sept. 20, 2028.

After hearing from County Attorney Marti Whitmore, the BOCC agreed to continue the matter to May 1 for final action, allowing county officials and staff to finalize additional specific terms and conditions.

BOARD OF HEALTH

The Board of County Commissioners left regular session to reconvene as the Montrose County Board of Health.

Following a public health report from Public Health Director Jim Austin, the BOCC reconvened and voted to adjourn.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

US 550 PACO - BILLY WILDLIFE & SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

Special to the Mirror

REGIONAL-Single-lane closures are expected April 8-12 on US Highway 550 south of the Pa-Co-Chu-Puk Campground, along Ridgway State Park (Milepoints 110 -112).

Motorists can expect 15-minute delays from 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Trucks carrying aggregate will be frequently entering/exiting the highway and utilizing the single lane closure, travelers are urged to use caution and watch for workers and heavy equipment.

Motorists are urged to plan ahead as delays may also occur north of this project zone at an additional safety improvements project located on US 550 between Otter Road and the Montrose-Ouray County line.

Work this Week:

This week's work will consist of crews ex-

cavating material along the highway shoulder in order to build a new passing lane.

Travel Impacts

Motorists and area residents can expect these general impacts for the duration of the project: Working daytime hours Monday to Friday; Single lane closures and shoulder closures will take place within the work zone; Reduced speeds in the work zone; Plan ahead and expect 15-minute delays; Construction schedules are weather dependent.

Project Overview:

CDOT and contractor FNF Construction are making wildlife and mobility safety improvements to an 8-mile section of US 550 bordering Ridgway State Park from MP 109 - 117. Work includes the installation of a wildlife underpass, wildlife fencing, and minor shoulder widening for

a southbound passing lane just south of the Pa-Co-Chu-Puk Campground.

The project will improve wildlife mitigation features including an underpass, fencing, jump outs, and deer guards. These improvements are expected to reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions by 85 percent. Additionally, the project will connect three miles of new deer fencing to existing features and will create seven miles of wildlife safety corridor. Vehicles will be able to pass safely with the addition of a southbound passing lane.

Project Contact Information:

For additional information about this project, contact the project team.

Project Hotline: 970-360-1411

Project Email: us550wideningproject@gmail.com

Project webpage: www.codot.gov/projects/us550pacobilly

\$ 83,487.01

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

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

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CITY LOOKS AT RECYCLING AUDITS, RIGHT-OF-WAY DONATION *From pg 1*

the recording, ask us questions, follow up on any items that they want...sometimes we have residents join us like we will this morning..."

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Joining Council for a presentation of the Montrose Recycling Advisory Committee Update and goals for 2024 were members of the City's Recycling Group, Lesley Hallenborg and Claudia Rogers, wearing matching Montrose Recycles t-shirts. Hallenborg shared a list of tasks that the group has accomplished in 2023 and said that Public Works Manager Jim Scheid will include Montrose Recycles in the department's budget next year.

The group's mission is to "encourage recycling, educate the public on practices to create a clean, sustainable, community and environment through rethinking how we use our limited resources responsibly by refusing, reducing, reusing and recycling," Hallenborg said. The group has begun performing recycle audits once more. "Everyone who has a can wants to recycle correctly," she said, "And it's kind of hard to know exactly how to do that because it does change."

Three neighborhoods, the police department, and city offices have so far been audited. Results were stapled to bins. "It's an ongoing process, because we want to get feedback," Hallenborg said. "We're still trying to figure out to reach people, it's the hardest part..."

Cans are not dumped; auditors review the

top materials in cans, she said.

Rogers said that among the budget items for Montrose Recycles are t-shirts that are more attractive and more visible. "Maybe safety lime green, or orange, so we can be recognized when we're dumpster diving." In April Montrose Recycles will provide information to the public during the City's Spring Cleanup.

Public Works Manager Jim Scheid shared information on rebates received from Waste Management. After paying a tipping fee on recycling over the years; the value of materials has gone up and down but recently amounts to more than what it costs to process, Scheid said.

"...Hopefully we'll see it continue in that direction."

After further discussion, Council moved on to the second discussion item, the West South First Street Right-of-Way Vacating.

A memo from City Attorney Chris Dowsey to Council and staff notes that the right-of-way property will be donated to the property owner who recently acquired the adjacent parcel, an LLC called [VNR Holdings](#). The LLC includes several parties including Don Vincent of Montrose and Trade Hub International, which is a business owned by Anthony Russo.

Background-The memo from Dowsey states, "During the sale of this property, it was found that a building on the property is encroaching into the City's right-of-way. The subject property is located at West

South 1st Street, between South Water Avenue and South Grand Avenue. Part of the existing north building on the parcel at 123 S. Water Avenue encroaches into the West South 1st Street right-of-way. City staff is proposing vacating 460.90 square feet of the City's right-of-way to remedy this problem. This is to clear a title issue. The earliest photo of the building is from the 1960's, showing that it was built prior to modern surveying equipment. The current owner does have an encroachment permit to allow for the encroachment into the City's right-of-way. City staff has determined that the right-of-way is not needed for public access or utility purposes. City staff is recommending that the right-of-way strip be vacated at no cost to the adjacent owner, as an incentive to create a commercial business on the property...City staff recommends that Council approve the [accompanying Ordinance](#), which would authorize conveyance of a portion of West South 1st Street right-of-way to the adjacent owner."

GENERAL CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Councilor Doug Glaspell commended the Police Department for a fantastic Citizens Police Academy. "...Everybody did a great job, it really gave each of the departments an opportunity to get out and speak to the people, so I think it was extremely successful."

Bynum reminded all that the regular meeting would be held that evening due to the Municipal Election on April 2.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DISTRACTED DRIVING IS NO JOKE

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO – April is National Distracted Driving Month, and the Colorado State Patrol doesn't want you to be fooled; if a trooper sees you driving distracted, a citation for improper, reckless or careless driving could soon be on your way.

Last year, Colorado State Troopers issued 15,553 of these citations, a 4.5% increase over 2022.

"Distraction starts from within us; our impatience, boredom, stress, or even fatigue and distractions can become deadly when a person is driving a vehicle," stated Col. Matthew C.

Packard, chief of the Colorado State Patrol. "It is up to all of us to be aware of the temptation of distraction. Driving needs to be the sole focus, no matter how experienced at driving you believe you are." When looking at 2023 citation data from the Colorado State Patrol, inattention to driving showed up in every age category, but the top five were:

- 1) 22-29 year olds (3,637)
- 2) 30-39 year olds (3,443)
- 3) 18-21 year olds (2,253)
- 4) 40-49 year olds (2,162)
- 5) 50-59 year olds (1,495)

In addition, the Colorado State Patrol ranked

the most common roads for improper, reckless or careless citations. While I-25 and I-70 claimed the top two locations, the third location could not be specifically identified as rural roads and neighborhood streets superseded any other national or state highways in Colorado.

"When you see someone leave their lane or fail to stop at a light or stop sign, these behaviors are considered improper, reckless or careless," stated Col. Packard. "We take these 'simple' violations seriously because they can lead to the worst kind of crashes with the biggest cost being the loss of human life."

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MONTROSE MAYOR BARBARA BYNUM USED CITY TITLE, LETTERHEAD IN PERSONAL LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR DOLORES CANYON NATIONAL MONUMENT *From pg 1*

Commissioners, none was available.

A map has since surfaced and in Greer’s opinion this map is being used to lobby legislators.

Greer said, “The map suggests the National Monument boundaries will restrict the ability to explore and extract critical minerals, because extraction work requires utilization of leasing rights from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), which could be hindered by the National Monument [designation].”

Speaking to the appearance that the City of Montrose supports the proposed project, Greer said, “The proposal packet contained a letter of support from Mayor Bynum to Senators Hickenlooper and Bennet. The letter is on City letterhead. However, when I tried to find [council] discussion or an agenda in support of this national matter, I don’t find anything. So, maybe I missed something. I’m here to understand how the support decision was

reached. If not today, then as an agenda item on an upcoming meeting.”

Because the Montrose City Council does not respond to comments made during Call for Public Comment, Mayor Bynum moved on to the next agenda item.

However, in response to a later request for Public Records (CORA) filed by *the Mirror* and questions regarding whether all of council had discussed support for the proposed Dolores National Monument, Mayor Bynum responded in an email:

“Dear Gail Marvel, I’ll save you a little trouble and do my best to answer your questions. A letter of support from me is not an official act of the city and therefore does not require council discussion nor a vote. My letter is attached. Thank you, Barbara.”

Bynum’s Dec. 8, 2023 letter of support to Senators Hickenlooper and Bennet for the

Designation of the Dolores National Monument states that she supports the project as an individual.

However, legal departments for governmental entities are known to caution elected officials against using their titles and official letterhead to express individual opinions/support.

According to the City Charter (Article I, Section 10) Mayors for the City of Montrose, *“...shall serve at the pleasure of the Council. The Mayor shall preside at meetings of the Council and shall exercise such powers and perform such other duties as are or may be conferred and imposed upon him or her by this Charter or the ordinances of the City. He or she shall have all of the powers, rights and privileges of a Council member. He or she shall be recognized as the head of the City Government for all ceremonial purposes, by the courts for serving civil process and by the government for purposes of military law.”*



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PUBLIC COMMENTS TAKE AIM AT BYNUM DURING FINAL COUNCIL MEETING AS MAYOR



Mayor Barbara Bynum, second from right, took heat from concerned constituents during her final council meeting prior to being term-limited.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-Mayor Barbara Bynum called the regular meeting of the Montrose City Council to order at 6PM on Monday, April 1, and led in saying the Pledge of Allegiance. All councilors were present, as were Youth City Councilors Robin Kittell and Graysen Vidmar.

Mayor Pro Tem J. David Reed had no changes to the meeting agenda.

Council issued proclamations in support of National Donate Life Month and in support of A Day of Awareness for Sexual Assault and Child Abuse.

CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Bynum introduced the call for public comment on non-agenda items, "...So we have agenda items, and we have an opportunity for public comment on all of those agenda items..." She asked for a show of hands for those who wished to comment on non-agenda items and read the rules for comment into the record. Three minutes are allotted for comment. "We don't go and have a discussion with you because it's not an agenda item," Bynum said. "So, it's really just your opportunity for you to tell us what's on your mind and for us to listen..."

Brian White spoke first, "At your last city council meeting, two of your people on your council did something wonderful, Ed Ulibarri and Doug Glaspell, you stayed with what you had previously voted on, on sanctuary cities...and I thank you. There was a large gathering here that night, there was probably 200 people alto-

gether, in the sense of in the hall, down the hall, down the stairway, and in two other locations. Overwhelmingly the people that were here wanted you to say this was a non-sanctuary city. Also, there was a few people here concerned about immigrants, and rightfully so..."

White noted the conditions caused by the influx of migrants in larger cities, "...What is going on in these sanctuary cities? We're seeing it all on the TV...there's ten million new people that have come in our country; not all of 'em are good people. There's 160 countries that these people represent. They're all given...phones, food, health care..."

White recalled the comments made at the previous meeting by former Mayor Rex Swanson, who now serves with Neighborhood Watch, "He said, 'hey there's cartels here and in Grand Junction'...the people, the voters, the taxpayers, are fed up... where are these people going to go...that night on March 19 there were three in here that voted...they left the door open...it's an open door, and you created the open door here policy..."

"Sir your time is up," Bynum said.

Next to speak Briana Greer, who said she was there to comment on Montrose City support for the proposed Dolores National Monument.

"...In 1991 at 17 years old I took my first overnight rafting trip on the Dolores River. It was a transformational experience, leading me to study chemistry and geology at Fort Lewis College while working summers as a raft guide," Greer said.

"I spent my career predicting, reducing, and remediating mining impacts to water quality. The geology of the Dolores area is equally interesting, posting large vanadium deposits in the Uravan Mineral Belt," Greer said.

"Vanadium is a DLE critical mineral, uranium and copper are also present--and key to a lower carbon, electrified world. These minerals are necessary for energy and defenses, both ours and our allies' defenses. They are often sourced from high-conflict regions with lax environmental regulations and substandard human rights protections. You can see why recent news about the Dolores National Monument would intrigue me.

"As I began to research, I realized that I will never know what the Bureau of Reclamation thinks about this proclamation, what the DOD, DOE, or other agencies think about it, because there is no NEPA process required under the Antiquities Act," Greer said. "...the map suggests the national monument map boundaries will restrict the ability to explore and extract for critical minerals, because extraction would require the utilization of leasing rights from the BLM that could be hindered by the National Monument. I personally don't believe extraction of critical minerals should be hindered without a NEPA process..."

Greer said that she had requested materials on the Dolores National Monument from the Montrose County Commissioners, and the National Monument proposal package contained a letter of support from Mayor Barbara Bynum to Senators Hickenlooper and Bennet (see article by Gail Marvel in this issue).

"The letter is on City letterhead," Greer said, "However, when I try to find discussion and agendas regarding support of this important national matter, I don't find anything. So maybe I missed something. I'm here to understand how the support decision was reached. If not today, then as an agenda item at an upcoming meeting."

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council voted to approve the minutes of the March 18, 2024, special City Council meeting and the March 19, 2024, regular

PUBLIC COMMENTS TAKE AIM AT BYNUM DURING FINAL MEETING *From previous pg*

City Council meeting.

NEW DISTILLERY PUB LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATION

Council voted to approve a new Distillery Pub liquor license at 947 Mayfly Drive for Shelter Distilling, Inc., doing business as Shelter Distilling, to sell malt, vinous and spirituous liquor for consumption on the licensed premises and to sell spirituous liquors manufactured on the licensed premises and packaged in sealed containers for off-premises consumption.

NEW BREW PUB LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATION

Council voted to approve a new Brew Pub liquor license at 947 Mayfly Drive for Shelter Distilling, Inc., doing business as Shelter Distilling, to sell malt, vinous and spirituous liquor for consumption on the licensed premises and to sell spirituous liquors manufactured on the licensed premises and packaged in sealed containers for off-premises consumption.

BEAR CREEK TOWNHOMES PRELIMINARY PLAT

Mayor Pro Tem J. David Reed recused from consideration and approval of the Bear Creek Townhomes Preliminary Plat. Council voted to approve in a four-to-one vote with Reed abstaining.

MOVING MONTROSE FORWARD 2024

STREET MAINTENANCE CONTRACT AWARD

Council unanimously approved \$4,100,000 in expenditures for completion of the Moving Montrose Forward 2024 Contracted Street Maintenance Project. This includes the award of a construction contract to Mountain Valley Contracting in the amount of \$3,850,000 and up to \$250,000 in reimbursements to FCI Constructors for drainage and alley improvements on South 1st Street and Park Avenue.

2024 SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT EXPENSE AUTHORIZATION

Council unanimously approved \$150,000 for sidewalk improvements as part of the 2024 MoveMo Project.

STREETS CRACK SEAL MATERIAL PURCHASE

Also approved was the purchase of crack seal material from DISSCO (Denver Industrial Sales) in the amount of \$103,454.80 for use by the City's Streets crew.

STREETS PAVEMENT MARKING CONTRACT AWARD

Council voted to approve the award of a contract in the amount of \$285,000.00 to Stripe A Lot LLC of Montrose for the application of regulatory pavement markings to streets and parking lots within the City of

Montrose.

PARKS FERTILIZER AND HERBICIDE APPLICATION CONTRACT AWARD

Council unanimously approved the award of a contract in the amount of \$110,000 for parks and vacant lot fertilizer and herbicide application to Aspen SavATree of Ridgway.

PARKS TURF MAINTENANCE CONTRACT EXTENSION

Council voted to approve the extension of a contract in the amount of \$138,000 with Green and Bearit of Montrose for parks turf maintenance.

2024 DUMP TRUCK PURCHASE

The final action was approved unanimously, the purchase of one Western Star dump truck from Transwest Truck Trailer RV in the amount of \$219,311.

STAFF REPORTS

City Finance Director Shani Wittenberg presented the Sales, Use & Excise Tax Report, and City Clerk Lisa DelPiccolo gave a municipal election update and shared the locations of ballot drop boxes.

Youth City Councilor Graysen Vidmar gave an update on the Youth council Food Drive, and the Youth Council legislative trip to Denver April 10-12. There were no comments made by Council. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE COUNTY TO HOST COMMUNITY FORUM ON DIFFERENTIAL RESPONSE IN CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE—Montrose County Child Welfare Department invites the community to a forum to learn about Differential Response (DR), a new approach to child protection services. The forum will be held on Thursday, April 24th, 2024 at 3:30pm at the Montrose County Event Center (1036 North 7th Street).

What is Differential Response (DR)?

DR is a more flexible approach to responding to reports of child abuse and neglect. It allows caseworkers to tailor their response to the specific needs of each family, ensuring child safety while also offering support services.

Key Points About DR:

Prioritizes Child Safety: DR upholds the current focus on child safety. Rigorous assessments will be conducted on all accepted referrals, using established Colorado safety and risk assessments.

More Options for Families: DR offers a broader range of services beyond traditional investigations. This allows caseworkers to connect families with resources that address their specific needs.

Strengthens Family Engagement: DR emphasizes collaboration with families. The goal is to work together to create a safe and healthy environment for children.

Community Partnerships: DR encourages collaboration with community partners to provide additional support to families.

Benefits of DR (Based on Preliminary Research):

- Increased caseworker satisfaction
- Increased family engagement with services
- Increased satisfaction among community partners
- Lower recidivism rates for families receiving FAR (Family Assessment Response) services
- Improved outcomes for children and families

The forum will provide an opportunity to learn more about DR, ask questions, and hear from local experts. To learn more about Montrose County Child Welfare, please visit their [website](#).

GRAND OPENING

Please join us for our Grand Opening of our exciting new Ambulatory Care Center!

Thursday, April 25
4:30 PM - 6:00 PM

Ambulatory Care Center
3330 S. Rio Grande Ave
(near Hobby Lobby)



COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

CBI NAMES STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO-**Rob Low** has been named the Strategic Communications Director for the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI). He began his tenure on March 18, 2024.



Rob Low Courtesy Photo.

“Rob brings a new perspective to this position as a long-time Investigative Reporter to this key function within the CBI,”

said CBI Director Chris Schaefer. “As someone with a long track record of covering criminal justice issues from multiple perspectives, we thought he would be ideal in relaying information regarding CBI’s roles and responsibilities in Public Safety, as well as the men and women who carry out these important duties.

Low comes to CBI after 10 years with FOX31 Denver as an investigative reporter. He began his career in Grand Junction, CO with reporting stops in Fort Myers, FL, New Orleans, LA, Kansas City, MO before finally making it back to his hometown so he could keep better tabs on his beloved Denver Nuggets. He is a graduate of the University of Washington with a bachelor’s degree in Political Science and Broadcast Journalism.

“It’s a source of pride to be part of the CBI team, and to have the opportunity to provide information to the media, the public and our law enforcement partners throughout the state,” said Low.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

THIS IS THE KIND OF POLITICIAN WE DO NOT NEED

Editor:

As you may know, my name is Mark Neuhardt, and I serve as Lou Stark's campaign manager. More than anything else, I am a God-fearing man. Additionally, I humbly serve the beloved community of Montrose as an AAPC certified professional medical coder and billing specialist.

I need to address this individual who calls himself courageous and committed, Scott Francis Mijares. I ask you, where is the courage in a constant bombardment of half-truths and misleading statements? The only thing you seem committed to is misrepresenting a good man's life story. Scott Mijares, you have not only misrepresented information about Lou Stark but have also had your associates, Ken and Ana Konkel personally attack me with objective falsehoods.

You have egregiously lied about Lou's length of residence in Montrose County, his years of being homeless, and your associates have now committed to lying about my own past, calling me, in a chain email, a quote "convicted drug dealer." that is a public statement that is 100% slander and an act of overwhelming desperation and cowardice.

It is not just the general misleading statements you make that show your lack of research skills, but your ramblings show a truly alarming lack of understanding of just how county government works. Your statements about property taxes and school board funding show a vibrant lack of understanding of TABOR, and understanding TABOR is a particularly important part of any level of Colorado government.

Scott, you cut corners with your research into Lou Stark and me. Rather than reaching out and having a conversation with Lou Stark about his life story prior to your Letter to the Editor, you elected to fill in the blanks of the parts you did not know yourself, thus manipulating it to fit your narrative. You are exactly the type of politician that our community, as well as others across this nation, have become overwhelmingly tired of. We do not need another David White. David White is a disgraced County Commissioner for a reason, and his fanatical support of you, as well as his help in creating a coordinated narrative of Lou Stark's life, is a major red flag for the citizens of our beloved Montrose County.

Scott, you even went as far as to insinuate at your big reveal during the Thursday, March 14th, 2024, Republican committee meeting that quote "His name isn't even Lou, it's Steven!" as if someone going by their middle name is somehow defrauding the people. How petty is that?

I will finish with one of the issues I've had with Scott Mijares. This is more than an honest question for all of Montrose County to consider: why did the Montrose Republican committee chair at the time, Scott Riba, require Lou Stark to provide official paperwork from the Secretary of State and present it to the chair prior to being allowed to announce his candidacy for county commissioner at the Republican committee meeting? Scott Mijares was not required to do the same. Considering it was well known that Lou Stark had been a part of the Republican committee in the past, serving on the event board and the strategy and planning board, I cannot help but yearn for an honest answer as to how and why this inappropriate scenario has been allowed to occur here in Montrose County.

The reason Scott Riba gave Lou Stark for having to provide official documentation approved from the Secretary of State as part of his announcement for County Commissioner was that indeed someone in the past somehow managed to get on the Republican ballot who was very sadly not a registered Republican. Riba said that the non-Republican made it through the Republican caucus before it was even found out. Riba stated it created quite a headache. We appreciated and respected that reason given by Scott Riba. Lou Stark more than honorably showed up with the acceptable paperwork staunchly required by the Montrose Republican Committee chair, Scott Riba.

It is an objective fact that Scott Mijares was not required to show any proof whatsoever that he was a registered Republican prior to being allowed to announce his candidacy for County Commissioner in Montrose County. It is vital that you understand that it is an objective fact that our County Clerk had to alert the Republican Committee that Scott Mijares was not a registered Republican. It would appear this is the very definition of a double standard. We do not want elected officials who have double standards and who will give friends a pass. This inappropriate behavior is what creates backdoor deals and hidden special interest group agendas.

Scott Mijares said this was a glitch. How do you not know your whole life you have not been a registered Republican? What was the glitch, Scott? How big was this glitch? Who do you hold responsible for this glitch? Do we all need to check our voter registration to make sure the glitch is not more than just you?

You continually proclaim you are a lifelong Republican. Hanging a picture of Ronald Reagan on your bar wall does not make you a Republican; it makes you a person who understands their demographic. You will undoubtedly

ly sell more booze hanging a picture of Reagan in this town than you will hanging a picture of Joe Biden.

It is more than imperative for Montrose County to heavily consider the following alarming facts as well: Scott, the social hour for the Republican party is at your bar. How much money do you make off the Republicans with that picture of Reagan hanging in your bar? On that note, how fair is it that when people go to the Montrose Republican committee website, the name of your bar is front and center? Free advertisement for your personal business and campaign. A nice luxury only specifically available to you. Having the sitting Republican chair, Scott Riba, and his friend, Scott Mijares, as the bartender that hosts the Republican social hour running a slate for County Commissioner seems like something people should not disregard so easily.

Scott Mijares, you absolutely refuse to acknowledge the objective truth of your time as a registered Republican. I stated before and again reiterate a verifiable, inarguable, and objective truth: you were NOT a registered Republican when you announced your candidacy. You are documented on video recording admitting to such on Thursday March 14, 2024. Subsequently, in the very same breath, you so very maliciously slandered my name and reputation to the Montrose Republican Committee members. You lie about, make up stories, and misrepresent the truth of Lou Stark's life. Scott Mijares, when you misrepresent and give half-truths, the Citizens of Montrose County must consider asking what else you have misled the public about. Your SEC violation: you say you had no part in it. You are named in the final judgment. You had to pay money back. You were a part of it one way or the other.

In closing I could not be more honored and humbled to represent Lou Stark. A man whose reputation in this town is about objective truth and helping people succeed. Now he wants to put that desire to work for the citizens of Montrose County as well. He is a dedicated hard worker, who best embodies the attributes required for being a successful and respected voice in county government. You do not need to take my word for it. Just ask around, it is a small community.

Find Lou on Facebook, call him, message him, get to know him.

Thank you, Montrose County, for reading.

God bless America, God bless Colorado, and God bless our Magnificent Montrose.

Vote STARK!

Mark Neuhardt, Montrose

OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

WHERE'S THE TRANSPARENCY IN CITY GOVERNMENT?

City Manager Ducks for Cover after Open Records Act Request for Information

By David White

On March 19, 2024, I emailed the Montrose City Clerk's Office two (2) requests for public records under the Colorado Open Records Act (CORA) regarding City Manager Bill Bell; City Attorney Christopher Dowsey and a third request on March 20th concerning the waiver of fees that the City has been giving to various developers and investors within the City limits for a variety of private ventures, many speculative in nature.

The City is required to produce documents within 3 business days of a request by a member of the public. The City can also decide if they are going to charge a person requesting information a fee. In this case, the City stated that per their Open Records policy, they would need 10 business days to respond to my requests as they felt there was too much of "an ask" for them to do so in 3 days. Keep in mind that all 3 requests are separate and distinct from each other, yet they were all lumped together as though they were one request.

The 7 day extension was noticed to me on March 21st when I received a reply from the Deputy City Clerk (who is a very nice person and simply doing her job) stating that the information I requested on the City Attorney and the waiving of building permit, and other fees for private businesses would be forthcoming, but that my request for information regarding the City Manager, Bill Bell was too much to handle:

Hi Mr. White,

After careful consideration of your requests, we have determined that these requests fall under our extenuating circumstances for processing public records [24- 72-203(3)(b)]. The requests involve such a large volume of records that our staff cannot reasonably prepare or gather the records **within the three-day period**, without substantially interfering with the custodian's obligation to perform their other public service responsibilities.

ties. Based on our Records Management Manual, we will be able to provide you the records you have requested within 10 working days which would be by Thursday, April 4 since we have a 4-day work week.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

*Briceida Ortega
Deputy City Clerk*

Information being sought regarding Mr. Bell is very straightforward...copies of his current employment contract and bonuses received over the last several years (he receives a job performance review up to twice a year by City Council and typically receives a performance bonus after these reviews). Copies of taxpayer contributed funding to his 401K and/or other retirement accounts which are outside of what other City employees receive as he has his pension run through the ICMA (International City and County Manager's Association) rather than the City's plan. A dollar amount of his accrued sick and vacation leave (this is a financial obligation/fiscal liability to the City) as well as copies of purchase agreements for his taxpayer funded luxury vehicles. Nothing over the top. Just an ask for what should take a few keystrokes on the City's Finance Department's keyboards to produce. However, I was wrong in thinking that such a request was a simple one.

Then, on April 3rd, I received, via an email, the requested information on the City Attorney which was the subject of my second CORA request. Not too dissimilar to my request for information on the City Manager, the information was freely provided.

Here's an example of what was produced: Starting salary: \$162,153.49. An annual performance review whereby he would receive a bonus, a pay increase or a combination of both (this has already happened after only 4 months as City Attorney wherein he was awarded \$5,000). A City match to his 401K pension plan of up

to 8%. A taxpayer funded City fleet vehicle of his choosing for business and personal use (he chose to forego a vehicle already owned by the City and ordered up a brand new 2024 Dodge Ram 1500 with Laramie Package – purchased on 1/17/2024 for \$70,897.95).

On top of the above, if ever terminated, he receives a 9-month severance package. He's allowed, with City Council approval, to moonlight as a private practice attorney. He receives credit for 5 years of service to the City for the purpose of defining his vacation and sick leave accruals even though he was hired on November 6, 2023. And on and on it goes. Your elected officials gave him the moon in terms of salary and benefits.

Add to this, recently re-elected Montrose City Councilor Dave Frank's wife and their son sold Mr. Dowsey and his wife a home jointly owned by them (it was quit claimed to them by Mrs. Frank's father, former Montrose Mayor and County Commissioner, Bill Patterson in 2019 without debt) for \$650,000 last Monday, April 1st. I guess when you're brought into the City Elite's club, deals can be made that benefit one another in financial and other ways. While totally legal, this just doesn't look good for either the Councilor or the Attorney in my opinion.

So...back to City Manager Bell. On April 4th, I received an email from the City Clerk's office stating the following about my first CORA request stating they would be charging me for producing records for **ONLY** Mr. Bell:

"The time that is being charged is on the records request regarding William Bell, as this is the only request that has taken a significant amount of time." "This is not a denial of records, however, the records request regarding William Bell will not be furnished without payment." "Your total amount due is \$671.60." "The City requires a 50% deposit prior to continuing working on a request. Once received, the City will continue working on

Continued next pg

WHERE'S THE TRANSPARENCY IN CITY GOVERNMENT?

City Manager Ducks for Cover after Open Records Act Request for Information From previous pg

on such request. When the request is complete, the City will update the amount owed with the actual time spent on the request (which may be more or less than the original estimate). Once the remaining amount owed is paid, the City will fulfill the request. If you wish for the City to proceed, please remit \$335.80 to the City Clerk's Office. You can pay over the phone with a credit card or you can come into City Hall (400 E Main Street) to pay with cash, card, or check."

Really?? \$671.60 for what is in essence the same information as requested by me regarding the City Attorney. Once again, Mr. Bell, through his staff, is practicing the art of dodging a question or inquiry. Given his almost 13 year run as the Montrose City Manager, the public has a right to know not only what his current contract and any amendments say but also details of how many tens of thousands of dollars have been given to him in the form of bonuses, pension plan contributions, accrued liabilities for his sick and vacation leave and other perks along with trips to cities far and wide for City Manager meetings or those for Director's of Urban Renewal Authorities or other leadership roles he plays in our community such as last week's Downtown Colorado, Inc. "In the Game" extravaganza in Durango, Colorado where most of the City's Manager's staff was in attendance dreaming up more ways to spend YOUR money on questionable ventures in our town (like funding more restaurants, hotels and other pie in the sky Telluride style developments that are fundamentally flawed given our base labor force and many other factors that render such ventures financially unsustainable in the long run.

Again, as I continue to beat the proverbial drums, wake up Montrose to whom you've elected to govern our City as they're the ones that have allowed the activities and spendthrift ways of Mr. Bell and his associates to run free without much if any scrutiny. Last week's election didn't change a thing as the one contested race was won by the incumbent who has a very well-organized political cadre backing him and it isn't the conservative elements in town!

Come clean Mr. Bell...provide the information that was requested without any more evasive tactics. We have a right to know what you and the City Council have been doing with our dollars and it shouldn't cost us almost \$700.00 to find that out.

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.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DELTA HEALTH ANNOUNCES THE #WEAREHEALTHCARE COLOR THE CAMPUS 1K AND 3K COLOR RUN

Special to the Mirror

DELTA – In honor of National Hospital Week in May, Delta Health is excited to announce the #WeAreHealthcare: Color the Campus Color Run 1k and 3k (give or take) happening on Thursday, May 16 at 5:00 p.m. This is a colorful and spirited event to celebrate hospital employees' dedication and hard work.

The event will take place at 1501 E. 3rd Street, in front of Building C (the Oncology building). Participants can choose between a 1K or 3K (give or take) run/walk route. The event cost is \$25.00 for individuals aged 12 and over and \$15.00 for children under the age of 12.

“It's an opportunity to come together and show appreciation for healthcare professionals who work tirelessly to keep our community healthy and safe,” said Jacque Davis, Delta Health Marketing and Communications Director. We hope community members come and join us in celebrating National Hospital Week.”

Participants who pre-register will be given a special “#WeAreHealthcare” Color Run t-shirt to showcase the bright colors that will be thrown throughout the run/walk. Participants are encouraged to wear colored headbands, pants, socks, or tutus to add to the vibrancy and fun of the event. Following the Color Run there will also be



Delta Health Courtesy image.

music and food.

The Color the Campus event promises to be a joyful occasion for the whole community, featuring a vibrant atmosphere filled with colors, laughter, and fun. This event is not only about promoting health and wellness but also about shining a light on our hospital community and the staff who

dedicate their lives to providing remarkable care.

To register go to <https://runsignup.com/Race/CO/Delta/ColortheCampus24>. For more information and registration details, please visit deltahealthco.org or contact Jacque Davis 970.874.2291 or jadavis@deltahospital.org.

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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

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Image courtesy Colorado State Patrol.

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO- – There are few spring storms left, and the warmer weather will soon be here to stay. Family vacations, hanging out with friends, and outdoor social gatherings are big parts of living in Colorado that many of us enjoy. Yet, it is also a time when many people fail to factor in the presence of alcohol and other impairing substances. Despite preliminary numbers showing a decline in impaired driving deaths last year, one in three fatal car crashes involved an impaired driver in Colorado.

The Colorado State Troopers want you to remember all the reasons you should make a plan for a sober ride home.

“Life is full of adventures, whether taking a trip with your family or watching a ballgame with friends, there are so many reasons you should plan a sober ride home,” stated Col. Matthew C. Packard, chief of the Colorado State Patrol. “Colorado, remember why it is important to call a rideshare or plan for a sober driver. You can even stay put and crash on the couch. It’s NOT an inconvenience – you are doing the right thing.”

The Colorado State Patrol will kick off the warm weather season by highlighting all the things we sometimes take for granted but become very clear when people stop and reflect. This multi-month campaign called “All Reasons to Drive Sober” will include social media posts, digital ads, radio PSAs and more.

“The effects of alcohol and other drugs directly impact driving behaviors,” explained Col. Packard. “We know that reaction times get longer, peripheral vision decreases and people overestimate their abilities when under the influence.”

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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

BLM NORTHWEST AND SOUTHWEST RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCILS TO HOLD JOINT MEETING IN MAY

Special to the Mirror

DELTA— The Bureau of Land Management’s Northwest and Southwest Resource Advisory Councils (RACs) will conduct a field tour on May 1 commencing at 10 a.m. at the Bill Heddles Recreation Center, 531 N Palmer St, Delta, CO 81416. Attendees will visit the Dominguez-Escalante Canyon National Conservation Area (NCA). The tour is expected to finish by 3:00 p.m.

Members of the public are welcome on

field tours but must provide their own transportation (high-clearance vehicle recommended) and meals. Individuals who plan to attend must RSVP no later than April 17 with the listed contact.

The NW and SW RACs will host an in-person meeting on May 2 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Bill Heddles Recreation Center. The meeting is open to the public and virtually via Zoom (registration required) <https://blm.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJlsf->

[Gorj8uGS2ns2SaoQcPh6GKVTX7FYU](https://blm.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJlsf-)

“The Northwest Resource Advisory Council and its members are valuable partners with the BLM who provide recommendations that help guide our management of public lands,” said Acting District Manager James Michels. “We look forward to meeting with the Southwest RAC in Delta and appreciate their advice, ideas, and diverse opinions on overlapping issues in our areas of responsibility.”

Planned agenda items include an overview of field office updates, a discussion on the Dominguez-Escalante Canyon NCA business plan and the Escalante Ranch Land Acquisition. A public comment period is scheduled at 2:30 p.m. Individuals who want to make a statement during the public comment period are encouraged to also submit a written copy of their statement at the meeting for the administrative record. The NW and SW RACs will separate for field manager updates after the public comment period.

The three 15-member Resource Advisory Councils in Colorado are forums for providing advice and recommendations to the BLM on various resource and land management issues.

The Northwest RAC advises the BLM Colorado Northwest and Upper Colorado River Districts including the Little Snake, Kremmling, White River, Grand Junction and Colorado River Valley field offices and the Dominguez-Escalante and McInnis Canyons National Conservation Areas.

The Southwest RAC advises the Southwest District including the Gunnison, Tres Rios and Uncompahgre field offices.

For more information or to RSVP, call 970-826-5101 or email

BLM_CO_NWRAC@blm.gov



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

MAYBE ALL OF OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS SHOULD GET BRAND NEW TESLAS

Editor:

As readers know I have asked candidates running for a position of Montrose County Commissioner to come forward and pronounce their respective positions on several issues.

While it is easy to get background information about civilian work and educational history it is quite a bit more difficult to get a rundown on one's military service. With that in mind, at least one candidate for Montrose County Commissioner has served in the Army or the Colorado National Guard for a significant portion of his history. I would like to thank you, Mr. Dunlap for your service and respectfully ask that you publish in the press a copy of your DD214 to include all awards and medals for Valor in combat, duty assignments and the final rank upon discharge. And now, FROM WHERE I SIT: Opinions. If one thinks that all is well with our county and city governments in their operational management of their jurisdictions all that one must do to dispel such faulty opinions is to take a look around---and not even make it a GOOD look around. Former City Councilor and Mayor, Mr. David White has been researching and reporting on several issues involving city council and "THE CITY MANAGER". As the myriad of issues are exposed, (and there are many more exposures to come) they deserve our full attention. The average Montrose citizen (in the workforce or retired) struggles to pay his bills, just to survive. We have the city spending the taxpayer's tax contributions (and much more) subsidizing kitchens and the like for businessmen who could likely pay for everything they need.

Such behavior, of course, has made council's job much easier as they do not have

to pay attention to what is really going on, they just go along and get along with their hireling. The list of potential recipients of the city manager's largess just keeps getting longer. We all will see how this municipal money hemorrhaged as Mr. White's CORA requests are filled.

It is unconscionable to see our city manager driving a brand new "Land Buggy" around town when the old one was barely two years out of the dealership. How many of you trade your 'chariot' every two years? And then on top of that debacle the city attorney gets a generous salary plus a pickup. Maybe all of our elected officials should get brand new Teslas.

A similar story unfolds over at the county with the 'big three' spending the Sheriff's PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX moneys on whatever they wanted, not what the Sheriff's department needed. They not only got irate when challenged on the spending of the funds NOT on Public Safety but somebody (lawyer?) told them they could not join the rest of the state's Sheriff's in a different/better retirement plan. Not so, the sworn officers may have a plan separate from other county and city employees.

One more question. Where has all the money come from to pay for all the city giveaways? Aside from MURA taking all spare cash from the water department, etc. has our manager and/or council indentured ANY of the city's real estate?

Taxpayers, citizens and voters of Montrose, the time has long passed when we should ignore what our elected officials are doing. Corruption being carried out right under our very noses. We have the right and OBLIGATION to keep it from happening. And when it does happen we are obligated as citizens to stop it and to

keep it from happening again. Not too long ago either the county or the city had an attorney using her government credit card for personal purchases and now we have a scofflaw who has owed as much as \$84,000 in federal back taxes running for county commissioner. He thinks he ought to be a commissioner. What is worse, I understand that one of our sitting commissioners RECOMMENDED him. It is not wise to have someone who needs money or who has mis-managed his own TO MANAGE YOURS AND MINE.

I have lived in Montrose for 24 years. I have seen the county build a road to nowhere and a sitting commissioner brag about his service in Vietnam, who when challenged, because he had no such service, he offered to take me outside for a fisticuffs---at a BOCC meeting no less! He also claimed to have some relative awarded the MOH as part of his qualifications for the job. (Neither the MOH story or his service in Vietnam held water). He quit. One group of commissioners tried to sell the "Montrose Memorial Hospital." They wanted to spend the profits from the sale on county projects. Trouble was all the 'fabulous' extra money the hospital had was pledged to the repayment of debt. Too bad the Board of County Commissioners at that time didn't understand that. The moral to that story, voters, is to elect (hire) some people who do. The hospital's board of trustees (and later directors) and the hospital attorney (a lawyer with a brain and a spine) blocked that with a four year legal battle which cost each side of the suit over \$8,000,000. What could \$16,000,000 bought for our county? Why do we want to elect anyone(s) with similar inclinations ever again?

Bill Bennett, Montrose





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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

IF YOU ARE RUNNING FOR OFFICE AND BEING DISHONEST IT WILL BE DISCOVERED

Editor:

This is the computer age, so public records are quite easy to access. Especially with CORA (Colorado open records act). Scott Mijares continues to lie about being a lifelong republican. The truth of the matter is that he did not become a republican until February 12th, 2024. And that is a matter of public records, he himself changed his affiliation from unaffiliated to republican on that date. So why is he lying about it? I can only guess. My first guess is that he is ignorant of this information being accessible by anyone. My second guess is that since he involved Scott Riba in this lie, publicly saying that Riba verified his affiliation. Thus, calling into question Scott Riba's honesty and knowledge of how to verify someone's affiliation. This is something every county chair should know. And therefore, calling in to question why would the Montrose republican central committee allow a non-Republican to announce his candidacy at a monthly meeting? Maybe because the central committee has been corrupted by a chairperson who is focused only on their personal gain and not the best interest of the central committee? So, what other information have I been able to find in public records about Scott Mijares? In the 2020 presidential primary Mijares voted the Democrat ballot. I found this information in a CORA request from Ouray County. Because unaffiliated voters get two ballots in the primary (one from each party). These primary ballots have tracking numbers on them to make sure that only one gets voted. So, did he vote for Biden? Or did he vote for Bernie Sanders (the socialist)?

So, what else is Scott Mijares lying about? Well in January of 1997 he was convicted of securities fraud and permanently banned from ever trading stocks or other securities. When questioned about this Mijares tries to downplay this as if it is no big deal. Securities fraud is a big deal as it calls into question someone's honesty. Seems to be a pattern with him. And he did not contest this. So, do you voters in Montrose County want two men of questionable ethics in charge of the 100-million-dollar public funds? If not, then you need to elect Rick Dunlap and Louis Stark both these men are honest and honorable and will serve this county well. And the citizens of Montrose County will never have to worry whether they are being lied to by these men.

RAY LANGSTON, Montrose



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aim
is
true

the montrose mirror

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

A LETTER TO THE COMMUNITY OF MONTROSE COUNTY FROM LOU STARK

Editor:

Hello! I am Lou Stark. Born and raised in Western Colorado. I am Campaigning for Montrose County Commissioner District 1. I would like to address and clarify a little info about me brought up by my opponent. I would also like to take a moment to tell you a little more about myself.

First, I acknowledge that you are or should be concerned about my Tax Lien and my opponent's SEC Judgment. It is important to ask those questions. It is not for me to talk about my opponents past issues, but I do need to answer your concerns about my own.

Yes, I have a tax lien. Yes, it was a mistake. Yes, I do appreciate it was an insult to every hard-working taxpayer. Yes, for years, I have been actively working to correct that mistake and yes, I did learn from it - a hard lesson indeed. It was NOT due to poor financial planning, and I make no excuses for it. I have taken the necessary steps to rectify it. I do pay taxes, and I am in compliance.

I do appreciate there is a fine line between wisdom and stupidity; We all make mistakes. The difference lies in learning from them or not. That is all anyone can do.

I would ask you to consider getting your information from the source rather than individuals whose purpose is to see me lose so they can win like my opponent, his associates, and his friend, our disgraced Ex-Montrose County Commissioner. The person who likes to write about me and my campaign manager. A person who not only got our County sued but was a constant force of conflict and special interests.

If you would like more info there is a video on my FB page about it or you may reach out to me personally anytime.

Lastly regarding the taxes, there is some misleading and incorrect information circulating about the amount. The amount being posted is incorrect. The balance owed is \$9,600.01. I will have this balance paid by July 28th, 2024 and the lien should be removed by November 2024. This has been a long learning process for me. I had hoped to have it finally resolved before I announced but it's the IRS and they can be time consuming and difficult.

The next comment I would like to clarify is about my residency in Montrose County. My opponent stated, "He moved to Montrose in 2020." This comes from a person who I believe has only lived in Montrose County for 2 or 3 years. Regardless, it is a very misleading statement. I moved to Montrose in 2011. I lived on 11th Street off Park. I lived there for 5 years.

I worked at Golds Gym at night as a personal trainer for a little over 4 years prior to 2020 helping people find success with their fitness goals. Most of you may know me from there or the radio station "The Range Legendary Country."

I moved to Olathe after that because of the death of my Stepdad.

My parents moved to Montrose and were camp hosts up at Silver Jack. If you were up there during that time you may remember my stepdad. He was a very Conservative Veteran and Patriot who loved to talk to people.

When he passed away from cancer, I did not want my mom living alone so I needed to find a new home for us. My apartment was small and comfortable for me but not for us. We moved to Olathe. We lived off Falcon and 6150 Road.

My mother decided to move to North Carolina to be closer to her grandkids, so I moved back to town.

Next, I will address his statements about my homelessness.

Per his letter he stated, "He is a self-professed High School dropout who lived in his car for years."

Yes, I did drop out of High School. Yes, there were 2 occasions in my life when I did not have a home. I know there are plenty of you who appreciate hard times and having to overcome adversity. If you have never had to pick yourself up and dust yourself off after dealing with some of life's curveballs you have lived a very charmed life. I think most of if not all of us have had to.

When I was 16 going on 17, I found myself homeless. I tried to keep a job and keep my grades up because I loved school and I wanted to graduate. However, a 16-year-old kid working at a pizza restaurant part time does not have a lot of money. I lived in my truck for 3 months until I finally de-

ecided I just wasn't going to make it.

I dropped out of School and took an offer from my uncle to work Construction in Craig. After a year I got my GED and attempted to go to College at Mesa State, now CMU, to Study History. I wanted to be a History Teacher or Archeologist. Unfortunately, I could only afford a Semester.

I decided to join my parents as they started their Bail Bonding Business in Grand Junction. I became a Licensed Bail Bondsman/ Bounty Hunter. I did this very successfully for a long time. There came a point in my life where I decided this was not who I was. It was not, as others have stated, due to not being able to handle the job. It was a moral decision.

There was a time I bonded out a man charged with Sexually Assaulting his 11-year-old daughter. He was convicted. He was guilty. I made \$2,000 because of it. I decided I did not want to make money off of other people's suffering and I did not want to continue to put dangerous individuals back on the street.

I quit. I gave up everything.

This was the second time I had been homeless. It was for about a month. I "Couch surfed" as we call it. I got a job Part-time at a radio station, saved up some money, got a place to live and moved on.

I am still at that Radio Station and have worked my way to the top. One of my promotions is what moved me to Montrose. One of the best things that has ever happened to me. Here is where I have met people I love and look forward to representing.

This is not a pity party nor am I looking for sympathy. The obstacles we face in life and how we choose to overcome them is what creates a major part of who we are, our integrity, and character. I do not live in the past. I strive to learn from yesterday so that I may apply that wisdom to my choices today for a better tomorrow.

Fellow citizens of Montrose County I am running for this County and this Community's future, our Future. To be a part of something bigger than myself, to continue to foster professionalism, teamwork, communication, and transparency in our County Government.

I will protect our tax dollars from fraud,

A LETTER TO THE COMMUNITY OF MONTROSE COUNTY FROM LOU STARK From previous pg

, corruption, mismanagement, and anybody who thinks they can manipulate it to line their pockets. We have had that in the past. That is not acceptable. I am here to continue the professionalism we have now and build upon it.

I am running to be the eyes, ears, and voice of our community in County Management for the success of all of us, not just some of us.

I am offering straightforward honest government. I will research and understand the complex situations and ideas that will be presented during my term. I will ask

questions. I will get answers.

I will not cater to special interest groups or individuals. I will strive to not create conflict, but I will hold my ground when the cause is just. I will not allow my ego to get in the way of good judgment. I will vote with fairness, integrity, and logic.

If you question my character, you are welcome to reach out anytime. FB, Text, call, or coffee.

I love this Community; something great has been built here. A hundred plus years of integrity, hard work, and caring about your neighbors has made a place that I

believe is like no other. Let's Keep it that way.

Remember we are in this together. We may disagree at times but we the people as well as all our government entities/ departments are a part of the same Team. That team is this entire Community.

We will succeed together, or we will fail together but as a community we are in this together.

I am ready to be your representative in County Government.

Vote Stark! Heck Yea!

Lou Stark, Montrose

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

MY POSITIONS REGARDING THE PSST AND FPPA

Editor:

In response to Mr. Bennett's letter in the Mirror for each candidate to state their positions regarding the PSST and FPPA retirement funds, I will go first.

MY PLEDGE: "Many members of the Montrose County Sheriff's Department, and their families consider the FPPA retirement fund to be one of the primary factors they consider as they evaluate their career employment options. Should I be elected as your County Commissioner from District #1, I, Scott Mijares, pledge my unequivocal support for our Sheriff and the men and women of the MCSO that put their lives on the line daily to SERVE and PROTECT us as we go about our daily lives"?

I will start with the FPPA. The Fire Police Pension Association (FPPA) is a State of Colorado entity that was created by the Legislature. It is managed by the State of Colorado by Statute. The FPPA administers retirement, death, and disability plans for firefighters, police officers, and other first responders throughout the State of Colorado. There are several plans but the one proposed by our current county Sheriff is a "Defined Benefit" plan. Under this plan a law enforcement officers would contribute 6% of his/her salary to the plan with an additional 6% being contributed by the County of Montrose. This is 2% above what Montrose County is currently offering to all county employees.

The difference is that a defined benefit plan guarantees the member a monthly income based on their average salary and

the length of their time in the plan. Currently 90% of all police, fire departments and first responders in Colorado are using this retirement plan. Montrose and Olathe Police Dept's also offer this retirement plan. The great thing about it is that members within the plan can move from jurisdiction to jurisdiction and not lose the time invested in the plan.

What does that FPPA retirement fund mean to our Sheriff's Dept? It means that Sheriff Lillard has a critical tool in his toolbox to recruit and retain experienced law enforcement officers from other jurisdictions without them sacrificing their time vested in their retirement. This attracts high quality individuals that he does not have to invest in training to strengthen his team. As our country grows the need for highly trained law enforcement is more important than ever. More important is the consensus of the MCSO personnel. They and their families want the FPPA plan and is one of their primary factors in considering their respective futures.

PSST. A little history. In 2007 a citizens committee was formed, Montrose County 4 Funding Our Future (MC4FF). This committee was created to explore and recommend to the County Commissioners and citizens of Montrose County the best way to increase funding program for our Sheriff's Department that was not a general fund tax increase. The result was a ballot initiative passed by voters to increase sales tax by .75%. This increase is to be divided into 2 accounting parts with

no less than 70% to be administered by the Sheriff of Montrose County and 30% allocated to the County Commissioners for their administration over other county public safety services. Coroner, District Attorney, Public health and six others. On May 17, 2023 former County Commissioner serving at the time of the resolution passing, Gary Ellis, wrote "It was agreed that the .75% PSST would be administered proportionally. 70% by the Sheriff of Montrose County and 30% allocated to the Montrose County Commissioners for their administration and funding discretion as promulgated". According to the Sheriff this is not happening. Instead he has seen the BOCC become the initiating line-item authority for expenditures that are not in line with his public safety priorities. One of which is the FPPA that is desperately needed to attract and retain high quality officers to his department.

As your next County Commissioner I promise to fully investigate this mix up and ask the tough questions. I also will ask my fellow commissioners to join me. Citizens and our law enforcement community have my respect and loyalty. I will move heaven and earth to support you, your families, and the safety of every citizen of Montrose County. With your vote and support together, we will get it done.

Sincerely,

Scott Mijares

*Montrose County Commissioner
Candidate, District#1.*

Link to references - EXHIBITS



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

COLD WATER PRESENTS DANGER, LIFE JACKETS CAN HELP SAVE LIVES

Special to the Mirror

RIDGWAY— Colorado's lakes and reservoirs are opening to more recreation with the arrival of spring, but cold water temperatures can present a serious risk. Wearing a personal floatation device can save lives.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife rangers have already responded to multiple incidents this spring involving paddlesports recreationists falling into the water.

One kayaker died and another was hospitalized last Saturday after they fell into the water at Chatfield Reservoir. Two kayakers who fell into the water at Ridgway Reservoir the weekend before were rescued after they spent 15 minutes in the water.

In both cases, water temperatures were in the low 40 degrees, and all four kayakers in these two incidents were not wearing life jackets at the time they went into the water.

"Our lakes and reservoirs, while especially inviting in the spring after a long winter, can quickly become perilous without the proper precautions," said Ridgway State Park Manager Johnathon Freeborn. "The recent incidents on our waters serve as a stern reminder of nature's unpredictability and the vital importance of wearing a personal floatation device. A PFD is more than a piece of safety equipment; it's what stands between you and tragedy. Wear a life jacket – it could save your life."

The instinctive reaction when a person

hits cold water is to gasp, which can lead to inhalation of water. Hypothermia can set in quickly, and use of arms and legs to swim can be quickly impaired as blood flow is directed to a person's core. This can all lead to unconsciousness or swimming failures as muscles become numb. Wearing a life jacket will keep your head above water and support your body should your swimming ability fail or you become unconscious.

"It can be deceiving when we start getting warm-weather days and it's nice outside, but everyone recreating on the water should be aware the water is still really cold and remains cold until at least mid-summer here in Colorado," said Scott Rist, Park Manager of Crawford, Paonia and Sweitzer Lake State Parks. "Having the proper gear and a life jacket on is imperative for anyone recreating on the water."

Windy conditions can exacerbate danger on the water for paddlers. Getting blown off course can happen quickly, and return-

ing to shore can be difficult going into a headwind or when facing waves. That can lead to paddlers expending a lot of energy to navigate and maintain balance.

When a paddler loses balance and goes into the water, it can also be easy to become separated from a kayak or paddleboard.

"There are several cell phone apps that will tell you hourly wind predictions," Rist said. "Knowing when conditions are going to change can be the difference between life and death. The user has a responsibility to know before you go.



A paddler wisely wears a life jacket while kayaking at State Forest State Park. (Dustin Duskocil/CPW)



REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

GRAVEL ADVENTURE FIELD GUIDE COMES TO RIDGWAY



Special to the Mirror
RIDGWAY-Locals and gravel bike enthusiasts "gear up" for the upcoming re-release of the Gravel Adventure Field Guide for Ridgway, Montrose and the West End on Friday April

26th. The event will begin with a launch party at the Colorado Boy depot located in the business district in downtown Ridgway and followed by gravel biking rides throughout the weekend. Focusing on gravel cycling routes throughout South-west Colorado, the guidebook will feature trails for both beginners and experienced cyclists while also showcasing the history of the land, highlighting the creative community and applauding the region's astro-tourism through dark sky viewing opportunities.

Spearheaded by the Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce through the efforts of Board Secretary Tanya Ishikawa last spring, funding for the project came from a grant awarded by the Colorado Outdoor Recreation Industry Office and was achieved through a partnership with Stephen Beneski and Juan Dela Roca the creators behind Gravel Adventure Field Guides guidebooks. There was also much support and influence from Tim Tait, President of the West End Trail Alliance as well as with Ridgway's local gravel riders. "Applying for the grant was inspired by the chamber's continued efforts to help create positive exploration experiences and increase information regarding responsible tourism practices to our local communities." says Ishikawa.

In June 2023, it was announced that the RACC had received \$34,500 in grant funding for the project that has now come to fruition less than a year later. Roughly

eighty hours has contributed to monthly meetings, gravel rides and route development throughout the guide's creation.

"This was one of the biggest collaborations with a high degree of enthusiasm and participation," said Juan Dela Roca, Editor in Chief for GAFG recalling stages throughout the development.

Celebrate the release of the Gravel Adventure Field Guide for Ridgway, West End and Montrose area with a kickoff party

with live music by popular, local, Americana duo Doug & Heather, and of course a free guide on Friday April 26th from 5:30pm to 7:30pm at the Colorado Boy Brewery Depot location (687 N Cora St). Following the launch party will be two days of community rides spread throughout the region.

For more information on the event including gravel rides, please follow the link [provided here](#).

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

SPOTTED KNAPWEED IS APRIL'S WEED OF THE MONTH



Spotted knapweed (Centaurea stoebe).
Courtesy photo.

Special to the Mirror

SAN MIGUEL COUNTY- Fields of nodding purple flower heads might be beautiful from the road as you zip through ranchland on your way to a desert sojourn, but boots on the ground tell another story. The San Miguel County Noxious Weed of the Month is the Spotted knapweed (*Centaurea stoebe*), and like all of the county's identified bad actors, it's pernicious. Introduced to North America, likely

in contaminated alfalfa from Eastern Europe, Spotted knapweed was first recorded in Washington state in the late 1800s. It is an invasive species throughout the United States and Canada.

Spotted knapweed has seeds that germinate during summer or fall, the plant's sole method of reproduction. Each plant produces about 25,000 seeds that are viable for approximately eight years. Spread through wind, animals and contaminated hay, Spotted knapweed readily establishes itself in disturbed areas such as industrial sites, along roadways and riverbanks and in rangeland.

It can be identified by its gray green leaves that sport short hairs, pinkish-purple flowers, with black-tipped "eyelashes" on top of the bracts. Peak bud production occurs in June and July.

This bully of a weed severely decreases biological diversity, reduces availability of desired forage for livestock and wildlife, and hinders reforestation and restoration

efforts. Large infestations increase erosion and runoff. Most livestock and wildlife won't touch it past the rosette stage, though sheep will consume it, making them effective tools in control. Spotted knapweed can also be eradicated by hand-pulling and the employment of various biological controls. Spotted knapweed is a priority noxious weed species in San Miguel County, which means the eradication of the populations is the main objective. San Miguel County Vegetation Control & Management urges all County residents to manage any Spotted knapweed infestations with eradication in mind. Please do your part to keep San Miguel County vegetation native, and protect wildlife and livestock. Noxious weed control is a community effort!

For more information about Spotted knapweed and other noxious weeds in San Miguel County please contact Julie Kolb, Manager, Vegetation Control & Management at juliek@sanmiguelcountyco.gov.

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

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

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

GAIL MARVEL
Montrose Author & Reporter

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

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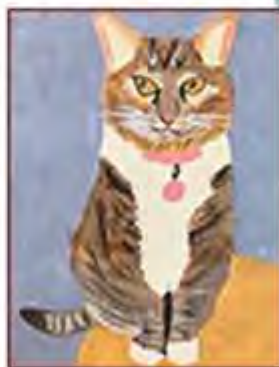
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE EDUCATION FOUNDATION 2024 TEACHER OF THE YEAR RECIPIENTS, \$10,000 IMPACT AWARD RECIPIENT & MCSD SUPERINTENDENT INNOVATION AWARDS



\$10,000 Impact Award
L to R: Sandy Head, Jeff Mitchell, Randall Spur & Deann Balash



\$8,000 Superintendent Innovation Award
L to R: Carrie Stephenson, John Steele and Kathy Gaber



Teacher of the Year recipients
L to R: Sandy Head, Janice Congour, Greg Solseth, Laurelee MacHale and Carrie Stephenson.



\$5,000 Superintendent Innovation Award
L to R: Carrie Stephenson, Jamie Gann & Eve Donohoe. Courtesy photos.

District Office. This project would incorporate a Law and Public Safety Career Pathway at Montrose High School, actively addressing the urgent need for skilled professionals in law enforcement and public safety, while providing our students with a hands-on, real-world and engaging educational program designed to give them a competitive advantage in the local workforce.

The \$5,000 Superintendent Innovation Award was awarded to Jamie Gann & Eve Donohoe at Peak Academy. Their project is to create a Peak Academy Literacy Center. They love their personalized school, but it comes with some costs, including no library or study center. They believe that their students need the same access to a rich selection of reading materials as other students in the district.

The Montrose Education Foundation Teacher of the Year Program recognizes licensed classroom teachers for the significant contributions they make to their schools, district and their community. Each year nominations are submitted by parents, students, colleagues or community members and are accepted in October through mid-November.

One-hundred and eight teachers were nominated & recognized in November 2023 during American Education Week with certificates & balloons. MEF recognizes the entire staff with baskets of apples at that time also. Nineteen outstanding educators completed the candidate essay questionnaire, which is based on the Colorado Teacher of the Year standards and were eligible for consideration. The 3 level recipients; Elementary, Middle & High school teachers were awarded a \$500 check by Alpine Bank to use in their classrooms. Congratulations to the following recipients. Quotes included from their application about what their teaching philosophy is.

Elementary School Recipient – Janice Congour - Northside Elementary School

“All students are unique and bring their individual talents to the classroom. My classroom is a safe and nurturing environment for all students to thrive and to develop those talents, thus enabling them to grow into successful, contributing members of society.”

Middle School Recipient – Greg Solseth - Columbine Middle School
“It is my desire to create a type of atmosphere where students can meet their full potential. I will provide a safe environment where students are invited to share their ideas and take risks.”

High School Recipient – Laurelee MacHale - Montrose High School
“What I love about teaching is that there is more than one solution to every problem. As an art teacher, I’ve learned that the process is more important than the outcome.”

MEF wishes to thank its sponsors - City of Montrose, Buck & Marsha Miller & Alpine Bank.

Also thank you to Laurel Wilkerson, the 2024 Montrose’s Got Talent grand prize winner for her lovely entertainment at the reception. Along with MEF’s sponsors, the Montrose’s Got Talent competition is how the foundation raises their money to help support teachers in Montrose & Olathe’s community. The MEF board is comprised of community members who want to make a positive impact in the community’s education system. Their mission statement is Education is Our Future. Board members are Deann Balash, Melissa Byrnes, Patricia Cummings, Kathy Flower, Sandy Head, Matt Jenkins, Buck Miller & Carrie Stephenson. For more information about the Montrose Education Foundation, the programs they sponsor, become a board member or make a donation, visit MEF.org.

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The Montrose Education Foundation, Inc. (MEF) hosted an Educator Appreciation Reception on Thursday, April 4, 2024 for all the Montrose County School District staff. At this reception the 2024 Teacher of the Year recipients & the \$10,000 Impact Award were announced. The Montrose County School District Superintendent Innovation Awards were also announced.

The MEF \$10,000 Impact Award is awarded annually to teachers who were past Teacher of the Year recipients or Teacher of the Year candidates for the current year who submit an impactful idea to benefit their schools & students.

The 2024 \$10,000 Impact Award was awarded to Jeff Mitchell at Olathe Middle High School. His program will allow the OHS graphic design class to become a manufacturing class that would provide design services to create an end product for the school and community. This would allow students to experience first-hand experiences in design, manufacturing and entrepreneurship.

The \$8,000 Superintendent Innovation Award was awarded to John Steele, Kathy Gaber & Heidi Voehringer from Montrose High School/

CARTOON BY TIM JONES

WEEKLY CARTOON

SOUR GRAPES

by Tim Jones



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970-249-1881

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970-546-0074



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El Jimador
970-249-8990

Busy Corner White Kitchen
970-323-6215

Delta: CB's Tavern
970-399-3570

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CITY OF MONTROSE ANNOUNCES 2024 GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION RESULTS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE — Registered city voters returned thousands of ballots to decide representation to the Montrose City Council as the 2024 General Municipal Election concluded Tuesday evening, April 2.

Registered city voters returned 3,621 of 14,501 ballots issued for the spring election, resulting in a ballot return rate of 24.97 percent. The Montrose City Clerk’s office partners with the Montrose County Clerk and Recorder’s office to conduct the city’s elections.

In the City Council District III race, Councilor J. David Reed retained his seat earning 2,209 votes over Bart Larmouth, who recorded 1,347 votes.

In District IV, Councilor Dave Frank, who ran unopposed, recorded 2,613 votes to retain his seat.

Finally, for the City Council’s At Large seat, Judy Ann Files, who also ran unopposed, won election with 2,721 votes.

Districts III and IV are each four-year terms and the At Large seat is a two-year term. The successful candidates will be sworn in at the April 16, City Council regular meeting, and a new mayor will be selected by vote of the council as provided by the City Charter.

Tuesday’s results are unofficial until a canvas of votes is completed. A notice of the official election results will be published in the Montrose Daily Press after the canvas of votes is completed.

[Visit CityofMontrose.org/Election](http://CityofMontrose.org/Election) for additional election information.

Recent Municipal Election History :

2024

Ballots Mailed: 14,501
 Ballots Received: 3,621
 Percent Returned: 24.97

2022

Ballots Mailed: 13,674
 Ballots Received: 3,579
 Percent Returned: 26.17

2020

Ballots Mailed: 12,204
 Ballots Received: 5,007
 Percent Returned: 41.0

2018

Ballots Mailed: 11,321
 Ballots Received: 3,162
 Percent Returned: 27.93

2016

Ballots Mailed: 10,300
 Ballots Received: 3,254
 Percent Returned: 31.59

2014

Ballots Mailed: 10,252
 Ballots Received: 5,804
 Percent Returned: 56.61

2012

Ballots Mailed: 8,257
 Ballots Received: 5,383
 Percent Returned: 65.19

MONTROSE REGIONAL HEALTH

Welcomes DR. MOJGAN ARASHVAND

BOARD CERTIFIED CARDIOLOGIST

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 Health Science Center
 Fort Worth, TX

Internship/Residency
 Philadelphia College of
 Osteopathic Medicine
 Philadelphia, PA

Fellowship
 Midwestern University,
 St. James Olympia Fields
 Medical Center
 Downers Grove, IL

Office
 MRH Cardiology Clinic
 630 E. Star Court
 Montrose, CO 81401
 970-252-1020

Now Accepting New Patients



Kate's Burke April Creative Classes

Includes drinks! Make it a Paint Party

11

GNOME HOME GARDEN DECOR

Thr, April 11
5:30-7:30 pm

Mosaic Montrose

Windows are cut out for lights. Decorate and light it. Home and decoratives included plus a drink. Solar lights available.
Register <https://kathrynrburke.com/product/041124m>

Paint a Patio Pillow Workshop dragonfly

Sat. April 13th. Noon - 4 pm

Dragonfly Creative Art

with Kate Burke

RIDGWAY

Downtown Ridgway, Colo Register. <https://dragonflycreativeart.com/pillow-painting-kathryn-burke>

13

16

Paint Your PE

Everything provided plus a snack & drink.

ARTS

ARTbar Weekhawken, Ridgway. Tue., April 16. 6:30-8:30 pm

Sat., April 20, 1:30-4:30 pm

Plein Air Animal Painting on the Patio

Paint a (live) Horse with Alice Billings
or a favorite animal with Kate Burke

LA NOUË DUBOIS
67289 Trout Rd., Montrose

20

18

Mosaic Montrose, 21 N. Cascade Ave.
April 18. Thur. 5:30-7:30 pm

Paint Pouring

With Kate Burke

Register <https://kathrynrburke.com/product/041824m>

Mosaic Montrose
21 N. Cascade Ave.

Abstract Alcohol Ink

April 25
5:30 pm

Everything plus a drink included.
with Kate Burke

No experience needed.

Sign up in store or online.
<https://kathrynrburke.com/product/042524m>

25

Info, details, <https://kathrynrburke.com/education>

MIRROR IMAGES: OUT & ABOUT



At left, The Montrose Botanical Gardens are greening up for Spring, offering people of all ages a wonderful garden escape. Photo by Harry Switzer.

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COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

DONNA DEE GARDNER

August 20, 1937 — March 23, 2024

DONNA DEE GARDNER passed away peacefully on March 23, 2024, at Colorow Care Center in Olathe, Colorado.

Donna was born to parents Claude and Helen Witcher on August 20, 1937 in Canadian, Texas. The family moved to Delta, Colorado when Donna was a small child, and she went on to graduate from Delta High School in 1955. Throughout high school and college Donna worked for Ben Walker at Benzart Photography studio in Delta, working as an assistant and learning photography. She attended Northwest Nazarene College in Nampa Idaho, through her junior year, then she would say she got her M.R.S. Degree.

She met her lifelong sweetheart, Duane Gardner, in the Delta Nazarene Church and the two were married on August 23, 1959. They moved to Colorado Springs, Burlington and Gypsum, Colorado where Donna made lasting friendships, before returning home to the Western Slope and Montrose.

Donna worked as a substitute teacher, a bookkeeper at J&M Lumber, and at Montrose Valley Funeral Home. She finally retired after working for two insurance agencies in Montrose.

She and husband Duane were adventurers and travelers, making friends all along the way. They explored Hawaii and Europe together, took all three of their grandkids

on lengthy US road-trips and drove to Alaska, with Duane's brother Dean and his wife Carole. They camped at Arrowhead and wintered in Arizona where they built up a community of dear friends.

Donna was a member of the Nazarene Church. She was a lifelong servant of the church. She taught Sunday School and Caravan, worked tirelessly for missions, and she, along with Duane, were Youth Leaders. The annual teen camp-out was a highlight. She was also a proud member of the Western Slope Ladies Ministries at the Church.

Additionally, she was a volunteer for the Colorado Division of Wildlife where she helped monitor and report on the nesting of blue birds for several years. She was a member of the Good Sam's Club.

Although Donna and Duane were sports enthusiasts and never missed a Broncos or Rockies game, Donna was a diehard Colorado Rockies fan. They were surprised on their 60th Anniversary by their entire family with a box suite at Coors Field.

Donna had friends all over the world that she made simply by passing through on a vacation or by nurturing her communities during annual visits to places like Arizona. People were drawn to her sweet smile and the way she made everyone feel welcome and included in her world.

Donna is preceded in death by her part-

ner in life and husband of 64 years, Duane Gardner, her beloved son Darrell Gardner, parents Claude and Helen Witcher and in-laws Jasper and Doris Gardner.

She is survived by her daughter Cindy (Gene Chuchuru) Gardner of Montrose, son Larry (Lori) Gardner of Vail, Arizona, daughters- in- law Diane (Ken) Gardner Juncker of Evansville, Indiana, and Christina Chuchuru. She is also survived by her pride and joy "The Grandkids," Christa, Caitlin and Chandler Gardner, Christian, Carter, and Corbin Chuchuru. Also, sister-in-law- Robyne (Ken) Showalter, Spokane, Washington and numerous cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Memorial services will be held on Saturday April 13, at 11 am at The First Church of the Nazarene, 705 S 12th Street, in Montrose by Pastor Buddy Cook. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to The First Church of the Nazarene, in her name, to continue supporting the mission work that was so important to her. Service arrangements are being made through Crippin Funeral Home 970-249-2121.



JANICE LEE WILLENER (BELL)

August 8, 1941 — April 2, 2024



Janice Lee (Bell) Willener, 82, of Montrose, Colorado passed, April 2, 2024. She was born on August 8, 1941, to John James & Shirley Jean Bell in Grand Junction, Colorado.

She married the love of her life, Christ Wilcock Willener on January 10, 1961. They had four children; survived by husband, Christ, Suzanne Marie Willener, Kris Ann Frank (Sam Frank), John Kurt Willener and James Todd Willener (Lori Elaine), and Grandchildren; Grandson, Jacob Christopher Frank and Granddaughter Kaley Ann Frank.

Janice loved her family and her family were her life. She loved the ocean but, the San Juans lived in her heart.

Memorials or donations may be made to Hope West. The family will have a Celebration of Life later this summer.

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

THOMAS MARTINEZ

May 22, 1936 — March 15, 2024

It is with heavy hearts that the Martinez Family said Goodbye to our Beloved Father and Grandfather Tom Martinez. Tom, age 87, passed away peacefully in his daughter's home in Olathe Co. with family by his side.

Tom was born in Montrose Co. to Tony and Rose Martinez. He was the youngest of two sons. He graduated from Montrose High School in May 1954. Tom served in the U.S Navy from May 1958-Jan 1963.

Tom married the love of his life Elizabeth Aragon.

They lived in Anaheim CA where he worked on aviation airplanes. This is where Shaunna was born. In 1964 Tom, Elizabeth, and Shaunna moved to Montrose Co. This is where Sharon and Mark were born. He helped his mother and stepfather Rose and Eli Landers with the

business Montrose Dry Cleaners. The business thrived on Main Street for 50 yrs. He continued raising his family in the business. He enjoyed serving the community offering a delivery service to customers in the white Dry Cleaners Van.

Tom was a prominent businessman in the community. He was a member of the American Legion, Lions Club, Knights of Columbus, Elks lodge. He was an active member of the St Mary's Catholic Church. He loved to bowl, shoot pool, camp, and spend time with his family. He was often found at yard sales picking up artwork and antiques. He was a big fan of Bob DeJulio's Artwork. He enjoyed serving the community. He will be missed by many.

Tom is survived by three children, eight grandchildren, three great grandchildren. He leaves behind daughter Shaunna

Maurer, grandchildren Mike (Alicia) Garcia, Dylan Martinez, Kassandra Largent. Great grandson Isaiah Largent.

Daughter-Sharon Brockman, grandchildren Alyssa McCarthy, Jordan (Cody)Davenport.

Son-Mark Martinez (Deborah) grandchildren Maxamillian Martinez, Mark Thomas II (Logan) Martinez. Marie Martinez. Great grandchildren Mia Martinez, Emma Martinez.

He is proceeded in death by his parents Tony Martinez, Rose Landers, Eli landers, brother Henry Martinez, ex-spouse Elizabeth Rowland.



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ISSUE 464 April 8, 2024

ART & SOL

VINCE FARNSWORTH OBSERVES, CAPTURES NATURE IN REAL TIME

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-In a region where many photographers come to capture the beauty of nature, Vince Farnsworth stands out. The fine art photographer is more likely to be out taking photos than promoting his own work; nevertheless, he has developed a cult-like following that continues to grow. Farnsworth has been taking pictures since he was a teen, "We had a darkroom in our bathroom," he recalls, "my sister took pictures too."

Today, Farnsworth Scenics is located inside the Montrose Center for the Arts, a small gallery space packed with images guaranteed to change the way you look at the world.

From his widely acclaimed night sky studies to photos of ordinary spots that seem extraordinary through his camera lens, Vince Farnsworth acknowledges that many viewers are moved almost to tears by his unusual approach. "A lot of people have a spiritual connection to some places, and my pictures touch on something emotional," he said. "I am just after capturing what is beautiful and unique--people who have a connection to a place can have a strong connection to a unique image of that place—they tell me, 'I've never seen a picture like this before.'"

Many of Farnsworth's photographs have required being someplace at a time when



Photo of Vince Farnsworth by Harry Switzer.

most people don't want to be there, he said. "It often requires staying up all night—not a lot of people want to do that—it can be kind of scary sometimes."

When asked about his own favorite photo, Farnsworth mentions an image taken at night that has drawn increasing attention over the years, "It shows the whole night sky and how the stars move," he

said.

For those who would like to bring a touch of beauty and mystery into their homes, the Farnsworth Gallery offers photos and prints of all sizes. "We have a lot of interesting and unique pictures," Farnsworth said. Find the gallery online at <https://www.farnsworthscenics.com/>, or call 970.209.7154.

THE BAREFOOT LAUREATE: THE CAT LEAPS INTO THE LAP OF THE IMAGINATION



Western Slope Poet Laureate Wendy Videlock. Courtesy photo.

By Wendy Videlock

It's been said that living with a cat is a lot like living in a perpetual poem. I can attest to this, in fact, there are times I find myself entirely absorbed simply watching either

of our two cats move artfully about the house.

It might be that I'm easily entertained, but it's also true that the weightlessly fluid movement of the cat is downright mesmerizing. How like a well-turned sonnet the cat sneaks up from behind and surprises!

And very much like a poem, a cat is an appeal to slow down and pay attention. Comparing cats to dogs is worse than comparing apples to oranges, but even I can't resist the old French proverb, *the dog may be wonderful prose, but only the cat is poetry*. Daniel Klawitter, in his poem, "What Cats Know" enters the mind of the cat and finds that she too, on occasion, can't resist:

*Dogs are prose, and prone to please.
Mice are good for eating.
When moonlight splinters through the trees,*

We watch humans while they're sleeping.

It's true the purring of the cat is entirely unique, and yes the cat's fur is a lesson in silk, and yes, the long gaze followed by the sexy indifference is utterly divine, but it's the gravity-defying movement of the cat that shifts us into enchantment territory.

Doris Lessing tells us that if the fish is the movement of water given shape, then the cat is a diagram and the patterning of subtle air. Who has seen the wind? The cat, perhaps. Like a mirror.

I sometimes suspect a cat whispered into Niels Bohr's ear, *you must use the language of poetry to express the realities of physics*.

ASJ Tessimon gives us the essence of one of the cat's particular ways of moving: *Cats no less liquid than their shadows Offer no angles to the wind. They slip, diminished, neat through loop-holes Less than themselves; will not be pinned*

To rules or routes for journeys; counter Attack with non-resistance; twist Enticing through the curving fingers...

I'm just delighted by those two slinky stanzas, each word twisting through the fingers (and the tongue) demonstrating the cat-like countenance of diminishing, of slipping through loopholes.

Just as gobsmack-worthy is the fact that cats really do collapse their bones to navigate narrow openings; they quite literally make themselves smaller, in other words, diminish themselves. The movement of the language is an echo to the cat's unique penmanship.

Valerie Worth gives us another glimpse of the cat's way of moving in the world, which so often reveals new contextual shadings:

*The spotted cat hops
Up to a white radiator-cover
As warm as summer, and there,
Between pots of green leaves growing,
By a window of cold panes showing
Silver of snow thin across the grass...*

Indeed the feline's beauty seems to mystify, inspire and seduce the poet—only to turn on a dime toward some kind of weird comic relief. It's perfectly poetic, that moment. Here's Margaret Atwood: *In the pewter mornings, the cat, a black fur sausage with yellow Houdini eyes, jumps up on the bed and tries to get onto my head. It's his way of telling whether or not I'm dead.*

Obviously the cat is a reminder that taking ourselves too seriously is always a mistake. For cat lovers, the lessons offered cover an impressive range, from poignant to graceful to comical to indifference to sudden feuds or displaced aggression—and everything in between. Perhaps no other animal is quite so physically expressive while remaining deeply private and self-contained.

David Rothman reminds us that the cat's dexterity is lovely but it's also purposeful: *He does purr, eyes ecstatic slits, and stretch His lanky muscles, tabby tangerine, In sun and clean himself over and under With his own rough tongue, and he is playful And affectionate when off the clock, But all that rest and popcorn carpet claw Sharpening and stretching out of one Long, languid, liquid paw after another*

Is mere rehearsal for another hour...

Emily Dickinson describes that other hour:

*She sighs a Bird—she chuckles—
She flattens—
then she crawls—
She runs without the look of feet—
Her eyes increase to Balls—*

Rosalie Moore describes the feline nature this way:

*Cats sleep fat and walk thin.
Cats, when they sleep, slump;
When they wake, pull in -
And where the plump's been
There's skin.*

Yeats touches on the cat's watery mystery: *The cat went here and there
And the moon spun round like a top,
And the nearest kin of the moon,
The creeping cat looked up.*

Marge Piercy gives us another sublime observation of the domestic cat: *Mine, says the cat, putting out his paw of darkness.*

My lover, my friend, my slave, my toy, says the cat making on your chest his gesture of drawing milk from his mother's forgotten breasts.

But no exploration of the cat's way of moving would be complete without acknowledging the cat's paradoxical and stylistic way of being still.

Eckart Tolle has said that he's lived with many Zen masters in his life, all of them cats. Western slope poet, Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer agrees:

It comes to this—my great hope for learning to lie still is to become a cushion for a cat.

It's a noble hope—to lie still as a cat in the curve of an arm, still as a pool of daylight on the sill, still as the sun itself, holding the center as the whole world moves around it.

Wendy Videlock serves as poet laureate of the Western Slope. Her poems and essays appear in O Magazine, Best American Poetry, The New York Times, and elsewhere. Her books are available where books are sold. Email her at westernslope-word@gmail.com



Photo by Harry Switzer

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

CHOPPED - MONTROSE STYLE!

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE-Chopped - Montrose Style heats up at Montrose Center for Arts on Saturday, April 13 at 5pm. Buy your tickets at choppedmontrose.com soon! Space is limited. Montrose Center for Arts thanks the following local businesses and people for being part of this new taste and visual treat.

Alpen Confections
Alpine Bank
Arrowhead Mountain Lodge
Channel 11 News
Elk Mountain Lodge
EVOO
Fabula
Kinikin
LaNoue DuBois

Lodge at Needle Rock
NuVista Federal Credit Union
Pat Chaloupek
Rocking W Cheese & Milk
Silver Basin Brewery
Storm King
Timberline Bank
Chopped -- Montrose Style promises to be a tasty, fun experience. Don't miss it!


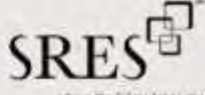
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At a certain stage of life- many people are ready to make a change. To downsize their home, or simply choose a community that better suits their new lifestyle, interests, and needs. Sounds familiar? If you're ready to make a move, I invite you to call 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.

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Saturday, April 27th 9am - 4pm

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MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY

ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

Office Hours: By appointment.

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

 don@allsaintsmontrose.org)

Worship Service Times: Sundays 9AM,

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

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

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

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

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH

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Olathe, Co 81425

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

Pastor Gabe Skillo

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Sunday 6 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Study/Prayer 7 p.m.

CELEBRATION CHURCH

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

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

Office Hours: By appointment

Phone: (970) 497-4925

Email: celebrationmontrose@gmail.com

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

Worship Service Times: 9am and 10:45am

Senior Pastor:

Pastor Brandon Mathis

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

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

Demographics: Multi-generational

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

Student (middle & high school) at 9am.

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

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

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

Contact: 970-633-0226

Website: www.montroselutheran.org

Email: montroselutheran@gmail.com

Pastor: Tim Onnen

Worship: Sundays at 9 AM

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

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

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

FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

Denomination: Church of the Nazarene

Address: 705 South 12th Street

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

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

Pastor: Buddy Cook

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

Wednesday: Prayer Boot Camp - 7 PM

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

*disciples in Montrose Colorado and around
 the world.*

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MONTROSE

Affiliation: Presbyterian

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

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

 form@fpcmontrose.com)

[form@fpcmontrose.com](mailto:in-

 form@fpcmontrose.com),

www.fpcmontrose.com

Pastor: Jesse Mabanglo

Worship Service times: 9:30AM,

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

*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
 Website: montroseucc.org
Current Pastor: Rev. Wendy Kidd
Worship service times: Sunday, 10 a.m.
 Hillcrest Congregational UCC is a welcoming, open and affirming church, open to all no matter who you are or where you are

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

MONTROSE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

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

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

ROSEMONT BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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

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

SPIRITUAL AWARENESS CENTER

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

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

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

ST. STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

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

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

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY From previous pg

SUMMIT CHURCH OF MONTROSE:

Denomination affiliation:

Southern Baptist

Address: 10977 60.75 Rd. Montrose, CO 81403

Office hours: Varies

Contact information:

email: summitchurchmontrose@gmail.com

website: www.summitchurchmontrose.org

Senior Pastor: Interim Pastor.

Worship service times: Sunday Worship is

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

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

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

Lord. Summit Church has people of all 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; website: vbcmontrose.org

Current Pastor: Roland Kassales

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

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

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

Church Directory

Mirror Editorial Staff

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

information to the Montrose Mirror:

Name of church

Denomination affiliation

Address Office hours

Contact information (phone number, email address, website)

Name of current Senior Pastor

Worship service times

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

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

Do your church services include Sunday School and childcare?

Local Immunization Providers

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

Questions? Call (970) 252-5011

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MIRROR IMAGES: OUT & ABOUT

CLOSING DAY AT TELLURIDE SKI RESORT!



Above, happy skiers celebrate Closing Day at Telski on Sunday. At right, a run through the trees. Photos by B. Switzer.



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

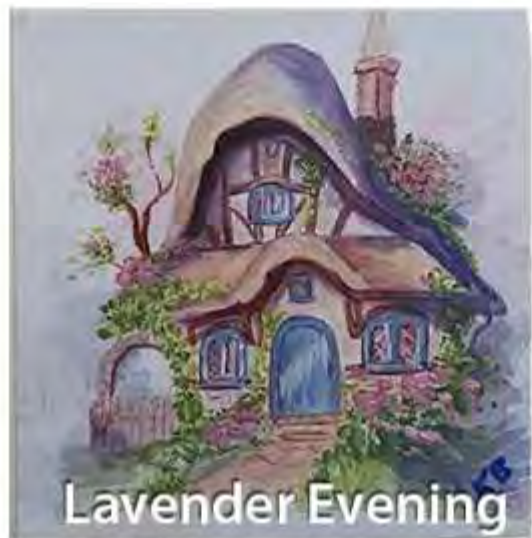
Kate Burke's Whimsical Fairie Houses



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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. Year-Round Farmers Market, Saturdays 9am-1pm (Summer), every other Saturday 10am-1pm (Winter). Accepts SNAP and Double Up Food Bucks.

MONTROSE CENTER FOR ARTS FIRST FRIDAY-New Art Exhibit opening with featured artists. 4:30 - 7 pm First Friday of every month. 11 S Park Ave., Montrose. Free Admission. For more information: 970-787-9428 or info@mc4arts.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MONTHLY

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

April 8-Great Old Broads for Wilderness botanist Peggy Lyon will present a program on Trees of the Northern San Juans, including identification, characteristics, stories and amazing facts. Monday, April 8, pm at the Ridgway Library.

April 13-The Fruita Area Chamber of Commerce (FACC) invites you to join us for our Annual Banquet – The Chamber of Curiosities. On Saturday, April 13th, enjoy an evening of entertainment, awards, food, and of course, curiosity! Step right up and experience a night that you are sure to remember! The show will begin at 5:00 PM at the beautiful Absolute Prestige Ranch in Loma, CO (1351 Q Rd. Loma, CO 81524). To learn more about the 2024 Fruita Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet and reserve your tickets, please visit fruitachamber.org or call the Fruita Chamber at (970) 858-3894 and we would love to answer any questions you have!

April 17-Calling all Horse Lovers! Come hear archaeologist Sonny Shelton present Hoofbeats from the Past: Archaeological Evidence of the Horse in Western Colorado. April 17 at 7pm at the United Methodist Church 19 S Park Ave Montrose. Free

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.

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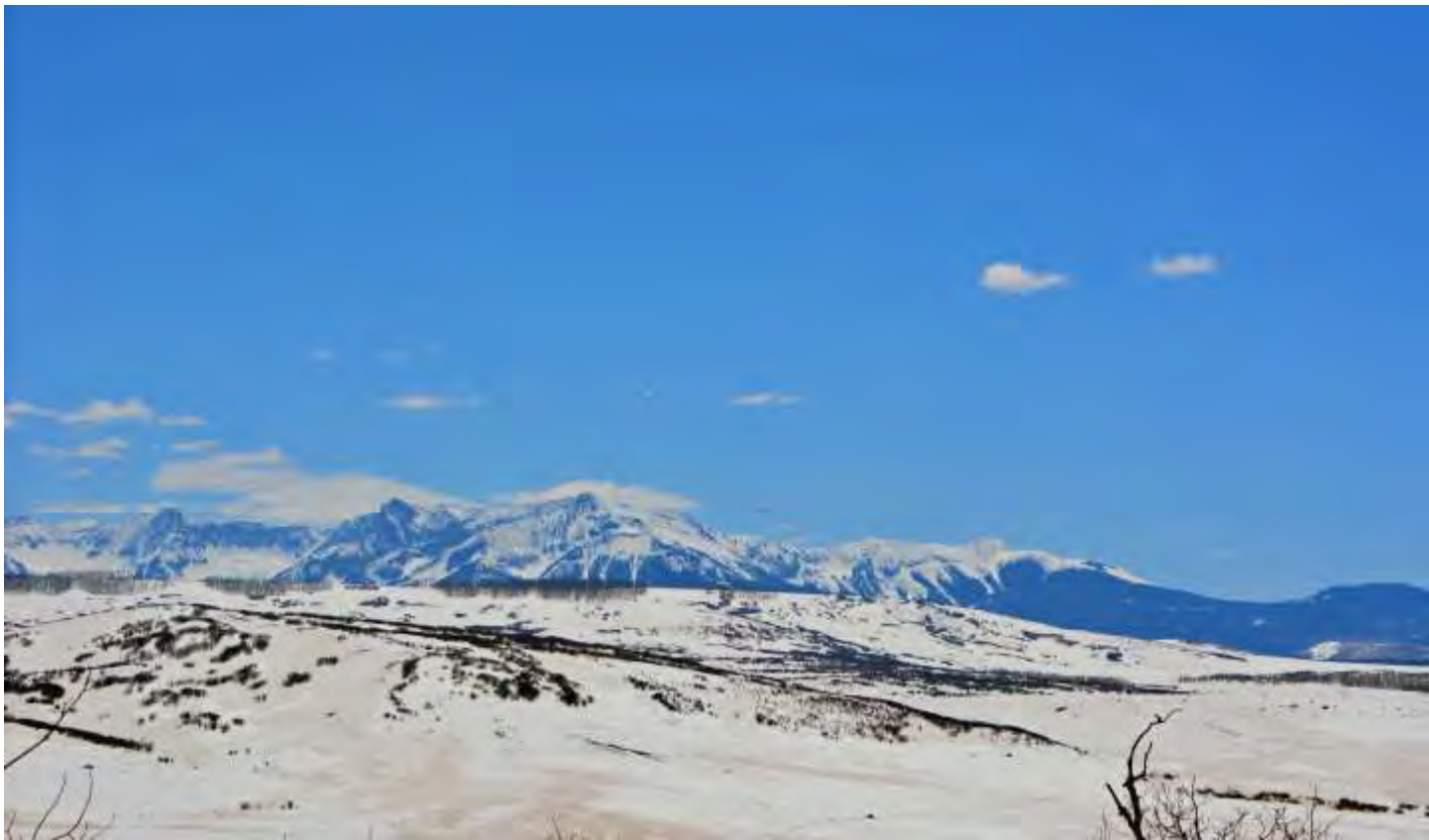
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