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the Montrose Mirror

CITY HEARS PROCLAMATIONS; MONTROSE PRIDE SET FOR JUNE 8 *Reed Named Mayor, Ryan Sedgley thanks City for "Gift" of DCI Conference Attendance*



Above, John Brown spoke to the Montrose City Council about the City's refusal to issue non-sanctuary City declaration, "The city council betrayed their constituency," Brown said. Although his comments were cut short due to the three-minute limit on public comment, Brown's remarks are included in this issue on pg . Meeting screenshot.

By Caitlin Switzer
MONTROSE-Outgoing Mayor Barbara Bynum called the regular Montrose City Council meeting to order at 6pm on Tuesday, April 16, and led in saying the Pledge of Allegiance. All councilors were present for the meeting.
Mayor Pro Tem J. David Reed had no changes to the meeting agenda.
With three proclamations to be read, Mayor Bynum said, "These are always fun, it's my privilege on my way out to be able to read three proclamations tonight."
Bynum read into the record proclamations in recognition of Earth Week, Arbor Day, and Pride Month.
On behalf of Pride Month, a speaker named Evelyn thanked Bynum and council, "I know it was incredibly important to you to read this proclamation before leaving office even though

Continued pg 36

'IT'S A MESS, AND IT'S TERRIBLE THAT NOBODY CARES FOR THE DEAD' *Montrose BOCC Hears from Citizen on condition of Valley Lawn*

By Caitlin Switzer
MONTROSE-The Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) were all present as Chair Roger Rash called the regular meeting to order at 9:30am on Wednesday, April 17. Kent Kinsey led in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.
Father Garrett Agajanian of St Stephens Anglican Church delivered the invocation, first inviting all to the upcoming National Day of Prayer on May 2, hosted by the Association of Montrose Churches, "Anybody in the community is certainly welcome." Said Agajanian, "Join me in prayer. Heavenly Father...thank you for the ability to be involved in useful work and for the honor of bearing appropriate responsibilities in our lives, for our community...thanks as well for the freedom to embrace you and the privilege of living in a free country and for the freedoms that you give



Above, the Valley Lawn Cemetery south of Montrose is pictured in this 2016 Mirror file photo. Montrose County heard from local resident Sharon Diamond last week that the cemetery, which has changed hands in recent years, is a mess.

Continued pg 23

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Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-CMU Montrose Campus Lecture Series presents: "Juan Rivera's Colorado, 1765: The First Descriptions of Colorado and the Ute Indians," with Archeologist and Author Steven G. Baker, 7-8:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 2 at Cascade Hall, S. 3rd St. & Cascade Ave., at CMU Montrose Campus. Free and open to the public.

WOMEN'S GIVING CLUB 2ND QUARTERLY MEETING MAY 2

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The Women's Giving Club 2nd quarterly meeting will be held on Thursday, May 2nd, 5:30 at the Bridges. ALWAYS open to every woman who would like to participate. Call 970-209-9598 if you need more info.



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RED HAWK GOLFERS TAKE 4TH PLACE AT DURANGO INVITATIONAL

By Cliff Dodge

DURANGO-The Montrose Red Hawks girls' golf team traveled south on Tuesday, April 16 to participate in the Durango High School Invitational golf tournament held at the Hillcrest Country Club. Nine high school teams participated in the event and the Montrose Red Hawks placed 4th. The order of finish is as follows:

Pietra Vista	232
Montezuma-Cortez	266
Durango	267
Montrose	310
Alamosa	321
Monte Vista	331
Farmington N.M.	338
Grand Junction Central	367

The Montrose Red Hawks had five golfers tee off and their order of finish is as follows:

# 19	Giada Amundson	105
# 17	Sydney Bell	103
# 25	Abigail Svacha	113
# 25	Hailey Geary	113
# 16	Selah Mason	102

On Monday, April 22 the Montrose Red Hawks girls' golf team will travel to Rifle, Colorado to take part in the Rifle High School Invitational which will be contested at the Rifle Creek golf course. The teams will tee off beginning at 11 a.m.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

BALDY MOUNTAIN PRESCRIBED FIRE ANTICIPATED IN APRIL

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— Fire management officials from the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) expect conditions to be favorable for conducting a 112-acre prescribed fire in Ouray County as early as the week of April 22. The burn unit consists of National Forest and private lands located approximately two miles southeast of Ridgway. Interagency fire crews will ignite the burn using an unmanned aircraft system and hand ignitions.

The prescribed burn is being conducted as part of the Baldy Mountain Landscape Resiliency and Habitat Improvement Project. Planning and implementation have been a collaborative effort between the GMUG National Forests' Ouray Ranger District, BLM-Uncompahgre Field Office, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the West Region Wildfire Council, the Mullin's Ranch

and multiple other landowners. The project area includes lands managed by the U.S. Forest Service, BLM and private landowners. The National Forest Foundation (NFF) has been a key partner in coordinating the project.

Project objectives are to reduce the severity of wildfires, protect local communities, create higher quality wildlife habitat and improve the health and resiliency of the landscape. Prescribed burning reintroduces and maintains fire within a fire-dependent ecosystem, helping to stabilize and improve the resiliency of forest conditions while increasing public safety. Once ignited, firefighters will monitor and patrol the units until they declare the fire out. Air quality will be closely monitored to mitigate smoke-related impacts to communities. Residual smoke may be visible in the Ouray, Ridgway, Colona and Montrose communities for several days. The safety of firefighters and the

public is the most important factor considered when planning prescribed fires. Fire managers have developed a detailed prescribed fire plan and obtained smoke permits from the State of Colorado. For more information on how prescribed fire smoke may affect your health, please visit <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/wood-smoke-and-health>. The public is reminded not to call 911 or emergency services if smoke is visible in specific burn areas. For updates on the Baldy Mountain Prescribed burn, visit the Inciweb page [here](#). Prescribed burn updates will also be posted on the GMUG Fire Info page and www.westslopefireinformation.com.

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

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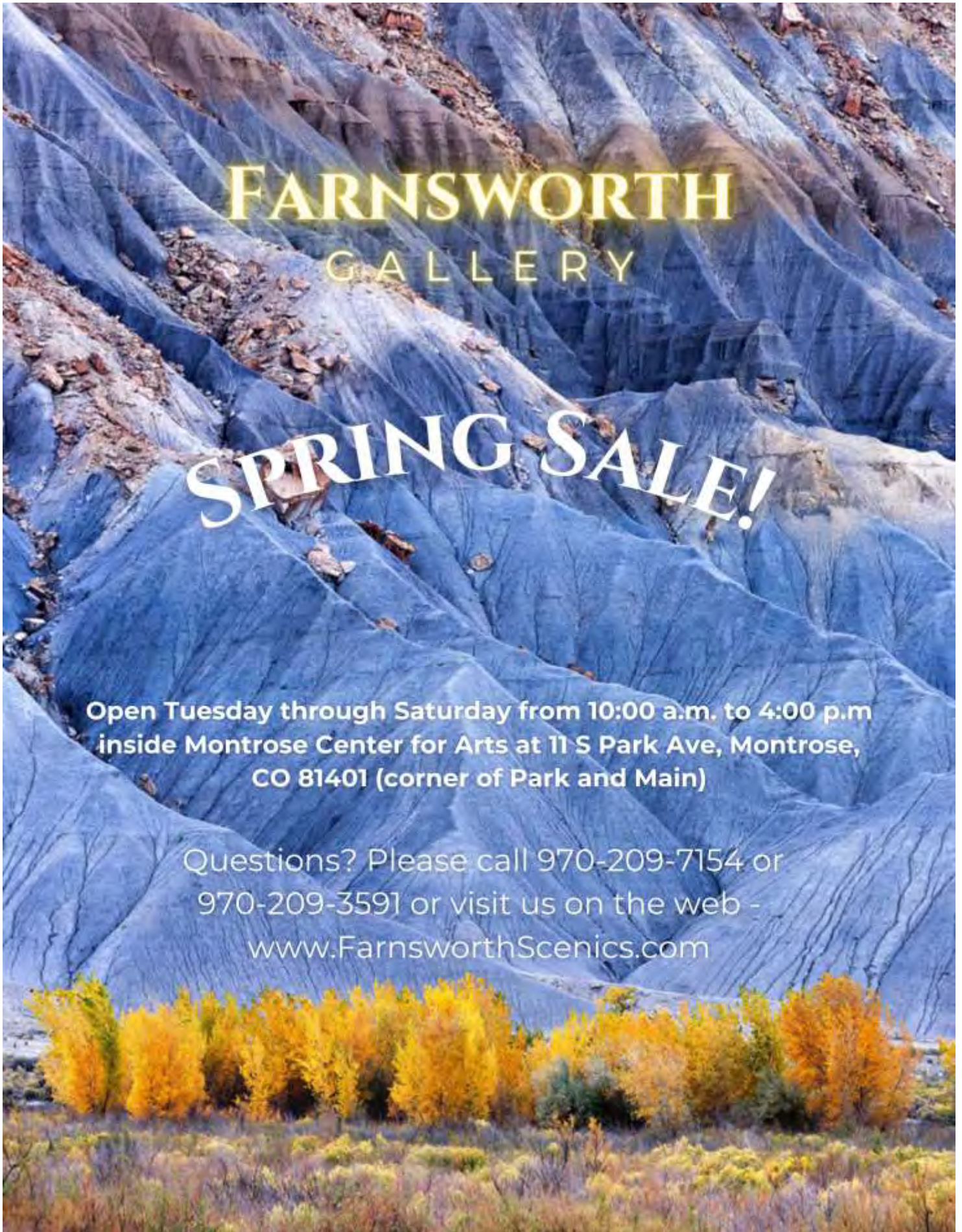
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RED HAWKS BASEBALL SWEEPS DOUBLEHEADER

By Cliff Dodge

MONTROSE-The Montrose Red Hawks baseball team played host to the Wolves of Bayfield on a warm and sunny afternoon and swept both ends of a doubleheader at the Montrose baseball diamond. The Red Hawks won the first game 10-0 in five innings and took the night-cap 10-2. The second game went the full seven innings. The two victories improved the Red Hawks season mark to 8 wins and 6 losses. Their league mark is 1-3.

After a scoreless first inning the Red Hawks got base hits from five players and scored five runs, sending nine batters to the place before the Wolves could stamp out the rally. The Red Hawks then duplicated the second inning rally in the fourth inning, sending nine batters to the plate as they scored four runs on three hits in addition to two bases on balls. Senior short stop Gage Wareham led the Red Hawks hitting attack with three base knocks.

Red Hawk Senior Titus Weese pitched a strong four innings for the Red Hawks giving up only one base hit and no runs. Senior Jackson Barnett pitched a scoreless fifth inning to preserve the victory inducing a called third strike and two ground ball outs.

The second game of the doubleheader saw the Red Hawks pound out three base hits in the first inning and take a 3-0 lead. The Red Hawks then sent 10 batters to the plate in the fourth inning scoring six runs to remove all doubts as to the outcome of the contest. The Wolves managed to score two runs in their half of the fourth inning but never threatened the Red Hawks lead. Gage Wareham started the game on the mound for the Red Hawks and gave way to junior Brekin Hutto who preserved the victory.



Senior Gage Wareham gets ready to hit vs the Bayfield Wolves. Photo Cliff Dodge.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

EARTH DAY PEACE GATHERING



Community participants pose at the Peace Pole in Ute Indian Park after celebrating the Spring Equinox last month and praying for the healing of Mother Earth and peace in the world. Courtesy photo.

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The community is invited to join the Earth Day Peace Gathering at the Peace Pole in Ute Indian Park at noon on Earth Day, Monday, April 22. Prayers for the healing of Mother Earth and all beings will be offered during this ceremony based on Native American practices. Participants are encouraged to bring a drum.

"This is the 17th year for this Prayer Gathering on Earth Day," said Rev. Dr. Arlyn Macdonald, Senior Minister of the Spiritual Awareness Center. "It is an inter-faith, inter-spiritual gathering to honor Mother Earth and to pray for her healing. Individuals are encouraged to add their own prayers for healing."

The group will also be blessing the park and the river. "We are so fortunate to have this beautiful park right across the street from the Ute Indian Museum filled with native plants and located next to the river with a boardwalk for easy access," she added. "We appreciate the Museum for their partnership in installing this Peace Pole in the park."

For more information about the event or other Peace Pole gatherings, call 970-252-0908.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DRAWDOWN SET TO OCCUR ON CRYSTAL RESERVOIR

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Beginning this week, the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests' Ouray Ranger District will begin drawing down Crystal Reservoir to address structural concerns with Full Moon Dam. This action is being taken as a precautionary measure to mitigate potential public safety concerns during spring runoff.

Recent assessments have revealed slumping of the earthen dam, indicating potential structural concerns. Although there is currently no imminent danger, in preparation for spring runoff and prioritizing public safety, forest officials have decided to temporarily close access to the dam and conduct a drawdown process to

mitigate potential risks.

Drawing down the reservoir will take several days and consists of lowering the water level to below the face of the dam. Once the drawdown process is complete, dam engineers will conduct a more detailed inspection, which is anticipated in June. Following the inspection of the dam, forest officials will be able to assess better the next steps needed to safeguard the dam and reservoir.

While the drawdown is occurring, the Forest Service has issued a Forest Closure Order for the area, including access across the dam to National Forest System Trail #210 – Hayden trail. It is expected that once drawdown is complete, the area and trail closure will be lifted. Detailed closure

information and a map can be found here https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd1171887.pdf.

"We appreciate the cooperation and understanding of the public during this critical period," said Dana Gardunio, Ouray District Ranger. "Public safety is our top priority and our team, in conjunction with our state and local partners are working to address the situation as quickly as possible."

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

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

D. CORY JACKSON APPOINTED CHIEF JUDGE OF 7TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Special to the Mirror

GUNNISON – Colorado Supreme Court Chief Justice Brian D. Boatright has appointed the Hon. D. Cory Jackson to serve as chief judge in the 7th Judicial District (Delta, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montrose, Ouray, and San Miguel counties).

As of July 1, Judge Jackson will replace the Hon. J. Steven Patrick, who was appointed as a District Court judge in 1993 and has served as chief judge since March 2000. Chief Judge Patrick announced his upcoming retirement earlier this year.

“Chief Judge Patrick is an institution in Colorado’s judiciary and will be greatly missed,” Chief Justice Boatright said. “We wish him the best in his well-deserved retirement, and look forward to working with Judge Jackson in his new capacity as chief judge.” Judge Jackson was appointed to the District Court bench in 2017, having formerly served as Ouray County judge and as a municipal judge for Ouray, Ridgway and Telluride. He received his law degree from the University of Colorado Law School in 2005. As chief judge, Judge Jackson will serve as the administrative head of the district, responsible for appointing the court executive, chief probation officer and clerk of court, assisting in personnel, financial, and case-management duties, and seeing that the business of the courts and probation is conducted efficiently and effectively.



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CITY WELCOMES NEW EMPLOYEES AT WORK SESSION, CONSIDERS PLANNING COMMISSION APPOINTMENT

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-On Monday, April 15, Montrose Mayor Barbara Bynum opened the [regular work session](#) of the Montrose City Council with an introduction to new city employees.

“Work sessions are the time where council goes over things with the staff...we usually once a month have the opportunity to welcome new employees...”

INTRODUCTION OF NEW CITY EMPLOYEES

Joining the city team are:

- Human Resources Generalist Matthew Velasquez
- Assistant Grounds Superintendent Troy Gore
- IS Technical Support Specialist Logan Tus-

DISCUSSION ITEMS

City Engineer Scott Murphy presented information on the Woodgate/East Oak Grove Roundabout Southern Right of Way Cleanup.

Background-A [memo](#) from Murphy to Council states, “...As part of the original Woodgate Realignment project in 2021, the City acquired rights of way from RDMJK Woodgate Investments for the realignment project and the anticipated WEOG Roundabout through an Official Act of the City plat action. The WEOG Roundabout ROW was dedicated based on a preliminary design and layout for the roundabout; now that detailed traffic analyses and designs have been performed for the roundabout, the right of way areas are being “cleaned” up to match the final roundabout footprint. This will include entering into a [memorandum of agree-](#)



The City of Montrose welcomed new employees to the City team on Monday, April 15. Meeting Screenshot.

[ment](#) to provide framework for the clean-up actions, vacation of obsolete rights of way through [ordinance](#), and dedication of new rights of way and easements through an [amendment](#) to the project plat... Construction of the WEOG Roundabout is scheduled to run from October 2024 to June of 2025. City Council is scheduled to consider contract approval in the fall of 2024 for construction of the project.”

Council considered a Planning Commission Appointment, as longtime Planning Commissioner Jan Chastain has resigned. Alternate Planning Commissioner Ron Cairns has expressed an interest in taking the seat.

Background-A memo from Community Development Director Jace Hochwalt to Council states, “A vacancy has recently come up on the City of Montrose Planning Commission, as regular member, Jan Chastain, resigned on April 5, 2024. The City of

Montrose Planning Commission comprises eight total members, inclusive of seven regular members and an alternate member. With the departure of Ms. Chastain, six regular members remain on the commission, as well as one alternate member. The current Planning Commission alternate member, Ron Cairns, is seeking to move into the regular member role that was recently vacated. Ron was appointed as an alternate on July 5, 2022, and if appointed as a regular member, would serve through the existing term, which expires on December 31, 2024.”

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor J. David Reed thanked outgoing Mayor Bynum for all she has done for the City of Montrose.

Bynum reminded everyone of the regular City Council meeting on Tuesday, April 16. “We’ll see you folks tomorrow evening, thank you very much.”

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

TROOPERS SEE INCREASED RISK OF CRASHES CAUSED BY INATTENTIVENESS DURING COMMUTES

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO – Knowing your way to work, school or the gym like the back of your hand may not be a good thing. April is National Distracted Driving Month, and the Colorado State Patrol warns motorists that bad habits stemming from routine drives may contribute to an increased risk of a crash.

“Driving time, especially on daily or frequently traveled routes, lends itself to the temptation of distraction,” stated Col. Matthew C. Packard, chief of the Colorado State Patrol. “Commutes can be long, and people have many tasks on their plate, which can cause some drivers to make a poor choice to take that time back by texting a friend, eating a meal while driving, or other non-

driving activities. Driving needs to be the sole focus, even when a route is routine.”

Looking at Colorado State Patrol crash data over a three-year period (2021-2023), troopers could not find any significant seasonal patterns or monthly peaks for crashes caused by inattentiveness. However, two trends did seem to emerge:

-Inattentive driving crashes were steady Monday through Friday and actually declined on Saturdays and Sundays.

-Hours of the day most common for inattentive driving crashes were attributed to morning and afternoon commuting rush hours.

“Whether you are still waking up on your way to work or exhausted returning home, traffic is heavy across our state during rush

hours, and your focus needs to be on driving,” stated Col. Packard. “Avoid drinking coffee or grooming on your way to work. And always keep your eyes on the road. Your time to react to other motorists, pedestrians or other hazards is reduced or eliminated when distracted.” In addition, when looking at the location of inattentive crashes, the Colorado State Patrol saw that off-highway roadways, like city streets and neighborhoods, moved into the second most common area, again suggesting commuting as a factor. “Sharing the road safely is every motorist’s responsibility,” explained Col. Packard. “If you are doing anything that diverts your attention, you are driving distracted. You are part of the problem.”

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'IT'S A MESS, AND IT'S TERRIBLE THAT NOBODY CARES FOR THE DEAD' From pg 1

us here. Thank you for loving us even as we are..."

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Scott Riba spoke, "I would ask that on the Consent Agenda, Item 12--the official County Road Map adoption--be moved to public discussion. I think there's some language in the resolution that's problematic that needs to be discussed, just for clarification purposes if nothing else."

Sharon Diamond spoke next, "...I just want to know if anybody can help us take care of the cemetery south of Montrose. It is a disaster. So, what do we do? Unless you have to go out and fix your own family? Is there anything that you can do for us?"

BOCC Vice Chair Keith Caddy said most cemeteries in the area are special taxing districts.

"That's probably the best way to take care of it...They'd have to put a ballot issue together."

Commissioner Sue Hansen said that the County does not have jurisdiction over the cemetery but can put Diamond in touch with those who are now in charge of the cemetery.

"It's a mess, and it's terrible that nobody cares for the dead," Diamond said.

As requested by Scott Riba, Commissioners moved Consent Agenda Item 12 to Item 3 under General Business for further discussion.

COUNTY MANAGER

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda items were approved unanimously, with Item 12 removed and with Resolution No. 22-2024 assigned to Consent Agenda Item 10.

MONTROSE COUNTY LOCAL LIQUOR LICENSING AUTHORITY

Commissioners left regular session to reconvene as the Montrose County Local Liquor Licensing Authority, approving the Chair's signature on a Special Events Permit for Montrose Baseball, Inc., on May 4, 2024, at the Antler Ridge Wedding and Events Barn, 72005 Kinikin Road, as pre-

sented by Montrose City Clerk Lisa Del-Piccolo.

Commissioners returned to regular session.

GENERAL BUSINESS & ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Commissioners voted unanimously in favor of the first General Business item, approving the Chair's signature on an amendment to the Montrose County Jail Addition/Renovation Project, contract #2023-203, in an amount not to exceed \$237,837.00 to FCI Constructors, Inc. as reviewed by Counsel. This contract amendment accounts for a 3% construction contingency. The Owner or Owner's Representative, without invalidating the Contract, may by written approval authorize Changes in the Work consisting of additions, deletions, or modifications with the contract sum and time being adjusted accordingly. No changes in work which will result in an increase of the aggregate amount payable by more than 3 percent, of the total Contract amount shall be valid unless approved in writing by the Board of County Commissioners prior to undertaking such change in Work. This item represents a non-budgeted expense.

Also approved was Resolution Number 24-2024, designating the Rimrocker Trail as a Montrose County Historical Landmark. BOCC Chair Roger Rash thanked those who worked on the designation, and said that the application itself would be a nice lesson on the history of Montrose County for all Montrose County citizens to read. "I recommend everybody take a look at that."

The Application notes that "*Because the period from 1946–1964 encapsulated the post-war push for uranium and vanadium in the West End as well as the growth of the timber industry and tourism across the Uncompahgre Plateau, the sections of the Rimrocker Trail are diverse in their historical use and incredibly significant as they relate to the historical economy of Montrose County.*"

The final General Business Item was the item removed from the Consent Agenda,

"Consideration and possible adoption of **Resolution Number 23-2024** regarding the approval of the official 2023 County Road Map, as reviewed by Counsel." Vice Chair Keith Caddy asked Scott Riba to step forward and discuss his concerns. Riba suggested that commissioners consider language specific to roads that are closed seasonally by entities other than the county, that are shown on the County Road Map as county roads. Riba also noted that the county road map is very, very, tiny and impossible to read.

Commissioners spent time in discussion. County Attorney Marti Whitmore said, "There's some longstanding legal issues and disputes regarding jurisdiction and authority over county roads that pass over federally managed roads, so it's part of a bigger discussion...we may want to discuss this in an executive session."

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT ITEMS

After a public hearing on the matter, Commissioners voted two to one to approve, with Caddy voting no, the 14470 Arabian Court Subdivision Waiver Request [WV24-001] 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...the Zoning is General Residential. The Planning Commissioner recommended approval.

Applicant Annie Walker also spoke, providing background on the property.

Vice Chair Caddy questioned the Planning Commission's recommendation, "My question is, if we're approving items like this even though we have a 200-foot limit, why do we even have a 200-foot limit? Before it was 50; why did we even put it in there if they're being approved and even recommended by our planning Commission?"

Planning and Development Director Tallmadge Richmond said that he has had the same question; the Planning Commission based the decision on the property's residential zoning; the lot was created legally and has legal access created in the 1970's, prior to subdivision regulations.

'IT'S A MESS, AND IT'S TERRIBLE THAT NOBODY CARES FOR THE DEAD'**From previous pg**

Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the Frances Minor Subdivision [MI23-036] proposal to divide two lots from a 65.9-acre parcel at Parcel 376919300002, 67975 HIGHWAY 50. The Zoning is General Agricultural.

The Dustin Leonard Minor Subdivision [MI24-002] proposal to divide 9.18 acre into two lots at Parcel 376508107001, 57599 JIG RD was unanimously approved. The Zoning is General Agricultural.

Also approved was the 3 Bar M Minor Subdivision 2 [MI24-003] proposal to di-

vide 39.47 acres into three lots at Parcel 372523300033. The Zoning is General Agricultural.

The next item was the **Zoning Regulations Amendment [AA24-003] proposal for Amendment of Zoning Regulations**. Planning & Development Director Tallmadge Richmond spent time reviewing amendments, and commissioners spent time in discussion and asked questions, ultimately deciding to continue Public Comment and the Hearing until 9:30am on May 15.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board voted to enter Executive Session with the County Attorney pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(b) and (e) for legal advice and direction regarding possible litigation pertaining to the airport.

Upon returning to regular session, County Attorney Marti Whitmore said that direction was given to staff pertaining to the possible litigation.

No other matters were discussed, and no decisions were made.

With no further business commissioners voted to adjourn.

\$ 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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RED HAWKS DOMINATE MONTROSE INVITATIONAL TRACK/FIELD MEET

By Cliff Dodge

MONTROSE-The Montrose Red Hawks Co-ed track team hosted eleven teams from the Western Slope on Wednesday, April 17th at the stadium. The day long affair began with preliminaries at 9 a.m. and finished up at 4 p.m. Team scores were not available but the individual results drew a fairly complete picture of the success of the teams.

Boys 100 meter dash	2 nd – Alonzo Leiba	11.08 seconds
	3 rd – Bohdan Walchle	11.24 seconds
	4 th – Deklan Woodden	11.24 seconds
	6 th – Kemper Franklin	11.28 seconds
Boys 200 meter dash	1 st – Bohdan Walchle	22.67 seconds
	2 nd – Alonzo Leiba	22.73 seconds
	3 rd – Deklan Woodden	22.86 seconds
	4 th – Kemper Franklin	22.96 seconds
	5 th – Zack Browning	11.54 seconds
Boys 400 meter dash	1 st – Bohdan Walchle	49.91 seconds
	3 rd – Alonzo Leiba	51.64 seconds
	4 th – Zack Browning	51.69 seconds
Boys 800 meter run	2 nd – Vash Veatch	2:17.66 sec.
	5 th – Caleb Yeager	2:25.99 sec.
	7 th – Diego Renteria	2:29.22 sec.
Boys 1600 meter race	2 nd – Vash Veach	5:03.43 sec.
	4 th – Jose Chavez	5:21.75 sec.
	6 th – Caleb Yeager	5:26.81 sec.
Boys 3200 meter race	1 st – Phineas Howe	11:08.96 sec.
	5 th – Zack Quaid	12:32.90 sec.
Boys 110 meter hurdles	2 nd – Dylan Jessop	15.21 seconds
Boys 300 meter hurdles	2 nd – Dylan Jessop	42.64 seconds
	5 th – Zeke McGee	50.15 seconds
Boys 4x100 meter relay	1 st -	45.15 seconds
Boys 4x200 meter relay	1 st -	1:30.08 sec.
Boys 4x400-meter relay	2 nd -	3:54.72 sec.
Boys 4x800-meter relay	2 nd -	8:53.84 sec.
Boys high jump	8 th – Korlan Gibson	5 ft. 0 inches
Boys long jump	1 st – Dylan Jessop	22 ft. 2 inches
	5 th Korlan Gibson1	8 ft. 4 inches
Boys triple jump	1 st – Dylan Jessop	45 ft. 11 inches
	2 nd – Korlan Gibson	39 t. 2 inches
	3 rd – Chase Mehan	35 ft. 6 inches
Boys discus throw	1 st – Trevor Hill	170 ft. 6 inches
	2 nd – Andreas Distel	161 ft. 4 inches
	3 rd – Jericho Tosi	147 ft. 6 inches
	5 th – Bo Foster	135 ft. 4 inches
Boys shot put	1 st – Trevor Hill	55 ft. 6 inches
	2 nd – Andreas Distel	47 ft. 11 inches
	3 rd – Joshua Maddox	44 ft. 0 inches
Girls 100-meter dash	1 st – Sarah McGarry	12.74 seconds
	7 th – Talia Alvord	13.62 seconds
	8 th – Audreyt Righter	13.76 seconds
Girls 200-meter dash	1 st – Sarah McGarry	26.07 seconds
	2 nd – Hope Stephens	28.71 seconds
	4 th – Bella Johnson	29.07 seconds
Girls 400-meter dash	2 nd – Bella Johnson	1:06.25 Sec.
	3 rd – Gentry Godbey	1:09.28 sec.
	7 th – Vivian McGee	1:11.17 sec.
Girls 800-meter run	2 nd – Millie Crane	2:32.08 sec.
	4 th – Georgia Ficco	2:34.04 sec.
Girls 1600-meter race	2 nd – Millie Crane	5:55.87 sec.
	4 th – Naomi McGarry	6:04.99 sec.
	5 th – Jaiden Bresett	6:12.96 sec.
Girls 100-meter hurdles	6 th – Riley Embrey	20.12 seconds
Girls 300-meter hurdles	6 th – Riley Embrey	57.65 seconds
Girls 4x200-meter relay	4 th -	1:54.35 sec,
Girls 800-meter relay	3 rd -	1:56.08 sec.
Girls high jump	3 rd – Brooke Williams	4 ft. 8 inches
	4 th -Makenna Cline	4 ft. 8 inches
Girls long jump	1 st - Sarah McGarry	18 ft. 6 inches
	2 nd – Audrey Righter	16 ft. 3 inches
Girls triple jump	4 th – Sienna Mora	30 ft. 4 inches
Girls discus throw	5 th – L. Wilkerson	95 ft. 9 inches
	8 th =- Makenna Cline	85 ft.10 inches

The tracksters will travel to Coronado High School in Colorado Springs on Friday, April 26 for their next competition.

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

WHO IS SCOTT MIJARES?

Editor:

My name is Juli Mijares and I am honored to talk about my husband Scott Mijares, who is running for Montrose County Commissioner. Scott is my husband of 40 years. We met in college, got married young, and together raised our 3 children. He is a dedicated family man who has worked very hard to provide for his family and friends. He is a Christian who lives his life to serve others. He is not perfect but always strives for excellence. Scott has always engaged in his community and has been generous with his time, money, and talents. He is a good man and is ready for the job of serving our citizens as Montrose County Commissioner.

Scott grew up in a middle class Florida home with his two parents and two younger sisters. His dad, Frank Mijares, was in sales, and his mom, Margaret, was a nurse. Scott was an average student in high school who loved sports and the beach. His grandfather, Frank Sr., was one of the first to attend college in the family. Frank Sr. always wanted Scott to attend college and made him promise he would. Frank Sr. was an entertainer and showman. He started as a wire walker in Ringling Brothers, Barnum, and Bailey Circus who later went on to start his own circus. (Pan American Circus) Unfortunately "Gramps" passed away when Scott was just 15 but he kept his promise to his grandfather and received his degree in Business Marketing in 1983. In our family, we all say that much of Scott's humor and magnatism comes from his colorful grandfather who holds a special place in his heart.

Scott always dreamed of being a fighter pilot. Upon graduation he moved to Daytona Beach, Florida to attend Emory Riddle Aeronautical University. His dreams were crushed when the Islamic Revolution destabilized the world and sent droves of young Middle Eastern pilot candidates to the University for fighter pilot training pricing Scott out of flight time. In 1979 he moved to Tampa to attend the University of South Florida. I met Scott my freshman year at USF and remember him as a leader

among his friends. He worked to put himself through college as a lifeguard and busboy along with other jobs to get by.

Upon graduation, he was hired by Anheuser-Busch to head up their newly formed Robot Program. He operated and maintained a robot named Beach Bud. Beach Bud was a 7ft. tall bottle of beer that wore a flowered shirt, sun glasses, and a straw hat. For the next couple of years Scott and his beer drinking robot traveled throughout the southern states promoting the Budweiser brand. I used to join him as he traveled from town to town the towing his Beach Bud trailer behind his truck. In 1984 Scott and I were married and began to build our lives together.

When the Beach Bud program retired, Scott interviewed for a job as a Stockbroker. This was about the time our first child, Ryan, was born. He was trained by, and worked for, Shearson Lehman Brothers. Years later he was hired by NCNB (North Carolina National Bank now known as Bank of America) to start their brokerage division. The year was 1988 and our second child, Michael, was born. Throughout the 80's Scott served as a licensed stockbroker, licensed brokerage manager, licensed commodities broker, and hedge fund trader.

In 1992 Scott accepted a job from a college friend in Orlando, Wall Street Marketing. His job was to contact money managers, hedge fund managers, and brokerage firms about their clients. Five months later the firm was raided by the Justice Department out of New York. It was a devastating experience for Scott and our family. The firm was named in a civil case for securities violations and Scott was entangled in it as an employee. Six years later Scott paid a small fine and put that chapter of his life behind him.

In 1999 Scott and I moved our family to Hawaii. We settled on the Island of Kauai and enjoyed family life together. Six months later our daughter Maile was born. Scott soon realized there was an opportunity in the Hawaii gift market that would allow us to build a business that would sustain us. He invested in a large

laser and a large format printer and began making Vintage Wooden Postcards. They were a huge hit in Hawaii and soon expanded into the mainland markets.

For the next 20 years we lived on Kauai. Scott was always involved in community activities. He served as a board member on our Kilauea Neighborhood Association and also served as a board member on Waipa Hawaiian Educational Foundation. He raised money for local charities, coached AYSO Youth Soccer, and taught disabled children and adults to surf. He co-hosted a conservative radio program on our community radio station, KKCR. Scott was best known for his weekly radio talk show, Surf Stories. Surf Stories aired for over 10 years and Scott became the local authority for Surfing History in Hawaii. Together we organized an annual party called The Legends Luau Kauai where surfing legends from around the world came to Kauai be honored.

In 2019 Scott and I sent our youngest off to college in Colorado. We always loved the mountains of Colorado and visited often. We settled on the Western Slope because we love the rural lifestyle and the people who make it a beautiful place to live and work. We relocated our American Woodys postcard business and continued to build out our distribution. In 2020 Covid hit and things slowed down. That same year Scott and I saw an opportunity to purchase and restore the Historical Lathrop Hardware Building (formerly Tiffany's Etc.) on Main St. in Montrose. We completed the purchase in November of 2020 and began the restoration process making way for a new business; Wild Horse Wine and Whiskey. The renovation was very comprehensive. We built a kitchen, installed restrooms, built a fireplace, replaced all electricity, etc. In the end the renovation took two years. We opened the Wild Horse Wine and Whiskey in November of 2022.

In 2022 Scott and I purchased our home in downtown Montrose. In 2023 we sold our postcard business to a company in California. Earlier this year, in consultation with family and friends, Scott decided to

Continued next pg

WHO IS SCOTT MIJARES? From previous pg

run for County Commissioner.

He arrived at this decision after considering several factors.

1) He felt he could contribute to his community with his experience as a business owner.

2) He feels that Montrose, a conservative community, is under attack by progressive activists.

3) He believes that Donald Trump will be our next President and he will need our local support.

4) Scott was under impressed by the candidate running unopposed as a Republican. My husband works harder than anyone I know and never gives up. He has the ability to rally and inspire others at a time that we need that.

If you want someone on the Board of Commissioners that has spent a lifetime helping others Scott is your man. He doesn't just talk about it he actually does it.

Vote for Scott Mijares for Montrose County Commissioner in District 1.

Juli Mijares, Montrose



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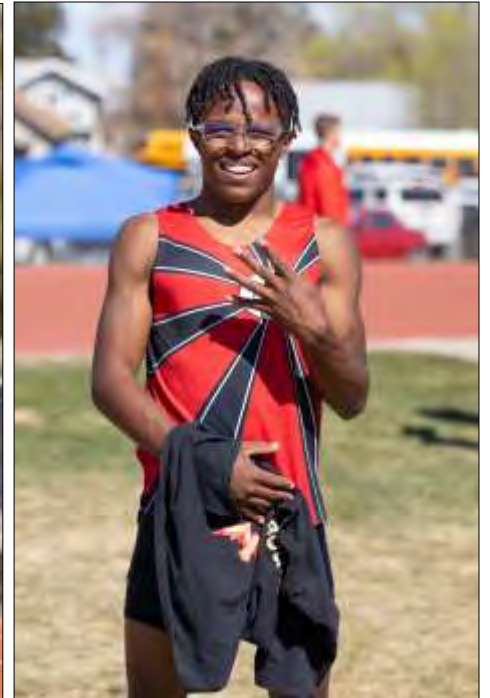
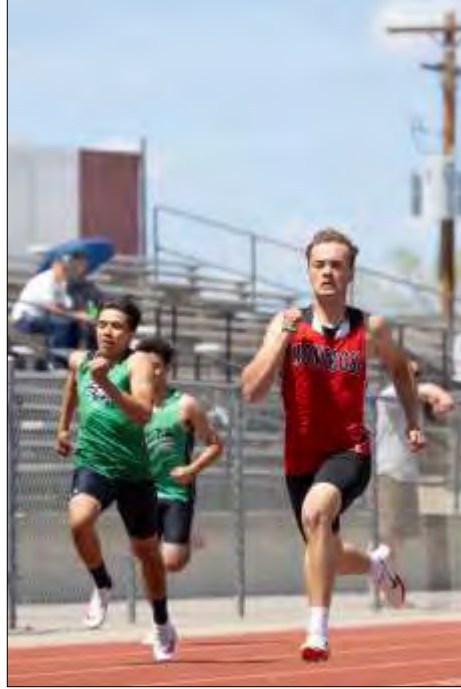
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MONTROSE INVITATIONAL TRACK FIELD MEET

Photos by Gunnison Clamp



Photographer Gunnison Clamp captured images from the 2024 Montrose Invitational Track & Field Meet on April 17, including a portrait of his friend Deklan Wooden, above.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MARC CATLIN RECEIVES CLUB 20'S AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING PUBLIC SERVICE TO WESTERN SLOPE

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO STATE CAPITOL -- Over the weekend, State Representative Marc Catlin received Club 20's Dan Noble Award. The award is given to an elected official who has shown outstanding public service to Western Colorado. It was presented by the children of the late Colorado Senate Majority Leader, Dan Noble - Doug, Danette, Darin, Dru, and Darcy. This is given during Club 20's Annual Spring Conference' Banquet in Grand Junction.

Dan Noble served in the State Senate for 17 years (1969 – 1986). Senator Noble represented over 11 counties during his service, all while being a resident of Norwood, Colorado. He served two stints as the Senate Majority Leader, the highest post in the Senate at that time. After his retirement, Mr. Noble became the chairman of Club 20.

Representative Catlin says, "It is an honor to be presented with the Dan Noble Award. To be mentioned in the same breath as Senator Noble is a privilege that I do not take lightly. Senator Noble was one of the first elected officials I met, when he came to our farm to ask how we were getting along. His stamp is all over the Colorado that I love and his impacts have been positive for this state. Thank you to the Noble Family and to Club 20 for this honor."

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



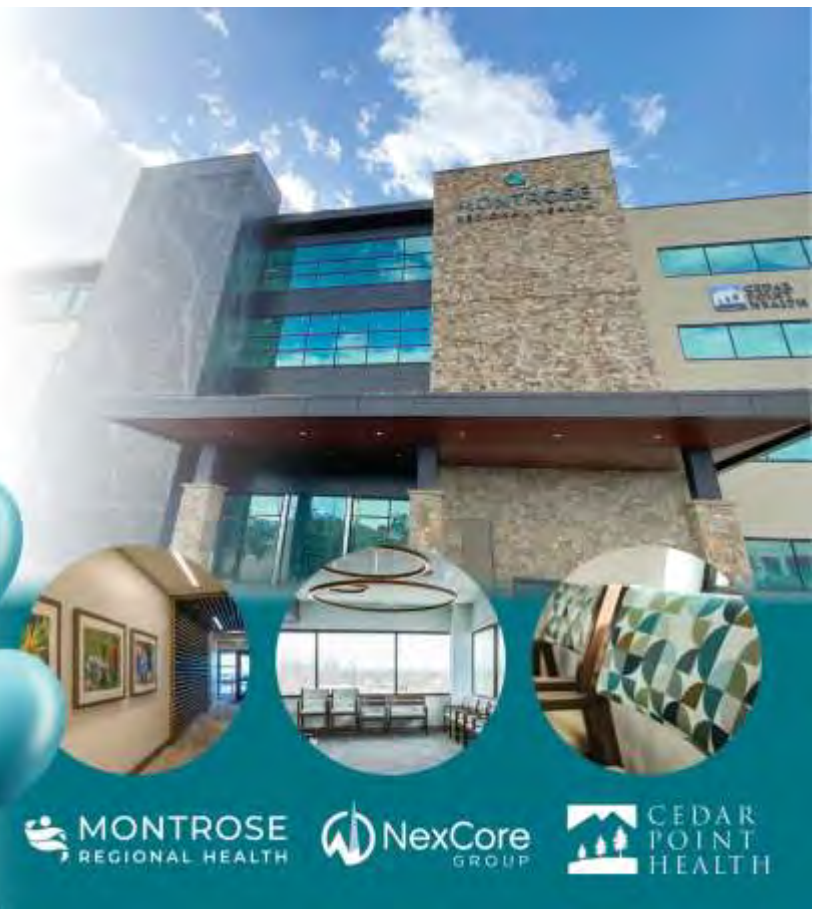
Darin Noble presenting Rep Marc Catlin with the Dan Noble Award during the Club 20 Annual Awards Banquet in Grand Junction. Courtesy photo.

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

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

FOREST SERVICE RELEASES DRAFT DECISION ON BLUE LAKES VISITOR USE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE — The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests' Ouray Ranger District announces the release of the draft Decision for the Blue Lakes Visitor Use Management Plan. The Deciding Official, Ouray District Ranger, Dana Gardunio, has chosen to implement Alternative 2 (the Proposed Action) based on public comment and findings of the Environmental Assessment. Alternative 2 is the adoption of the plan, which sets comprehensive and adaptive management direction for visitor use for the five management areas identified in the plan located on the Ouray Ranger District of the GMUG.

"This decision is based on years of monitoring data, public input and the environmental analysis findings that demonstrated the need for action to protect these areas from the impacts of increased visitor use," said Dana Gardunio, Ouray District Ranger. "The permit system and additional management actions are critical to enabling us to effectively manage, restore and protect this cherished area."

The final plan incorporates changes in response to public comments. Some of the changes include pushing back the start date for the permit season in the Wilderness Zone to June 1, prohibiting dogs in the Mount Sneffels Zone, prohibiting overnight stock use in the Wilderness Zone and adjustments to indicators and thresholds that would trigger adaptive management.

The plan will be implemented in phases as capacity allows. One of the first actions to be implemented will be reconstructing the Blue Lakes Trailhead parking area, in-

cluding installing two new toilets, which is expected to occur in the spring of 2025. Additionally, the Forest Service will begin creating a monitoring plan and working with [Recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov) to implement a reservation system for a limited entry day-use and overnight permit for the Wilderness Zone in the plan. Depending on technical feasibility and resources, the reservation system may be online as early as the summer of 2025. Permit administration will likely include a processing fee for the reservation transaction.

"While the announcement of this draft Decision is an exciting milestone for addressing impacts in the area, we will be looking for ways in the future to ensure we have the resources to implement the plan long-term," stated Gardunio.

The GMUG will investigate options for providing additional resources that could include a permit fee under the Federal Land Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA) since implementation of the plan will require additional resources for restoration and enhanced services on the ground that are currently not being provided. A separate public process is required for new or increased FLREA fees. Future phases and implementation timelines for other management activities, such as designated camping, improved signage and closures of user-created trails, will be included in the implementation plan that will be developed over the next year.

Objection Process

The release of the draft Decision initiates a 45-day objection period. Individuals who submitted timely and specific written comments during the scoping period (April 8–May 20, 2022) and/or the comment

period on the draft Environmental Analysis (Oct. 18–Dec. 4, 2023) have eligibility to file an objection to the draft decision notice under 36 CFR 218 Subparts A and B.

Objections, including attachments, must be filed via mail, fax, email or hand-delivery to Reviewing Officer James Pitts, Attn: Blue Lakes Visitor Use Management Plan, 2250 South Main St., Delta, Colorado 81416; FAX: 970-874-6698, or electronically at <https://cara.fs2c.usda.gov/Public/CommentInput?Project=61979>.

Objections must be submitted within 45 calendar days following the publication of a legal notice in the Montrose Daily Press. The legal notice is anticipated to be published on approximately April 17, 2024.

The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an objection. Those wishing to object should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source. The regulations prohibit extending the time to file an objection.

For more information on the proposed Blue Lakes Visitor Use Management Plan and other documents associated with this release, visit the project webpage: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/gmug/?project=61979>.

For additional questions, contact the Ouray Ranger District at 970-240-5300. For information and updates on current fire restrictions, conditions, and recreation opportunities on the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests, visit the [forest website](#). Connect with us on social media ([X \(Twitter\)](#) and [Facebook](#)).



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CITY HEARS PROCLAMATIONS; MONTROSE PRIDE SET FOR JUNE 8 From pg 1

though Pride is not until June. Your support means the world to us...I'd like to end by welcoming the entire community to Montrose Pride held at the Montrose Rotary Amphitheater on June 8th from three to eight pm....we hope to see you there."

"Ok lots of proclamations, how fun," Bynum said, and read the rules for engaging in public comment.

CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

First to speak was Phoebe Benziger, who thanked Bynum for her service as mayor and her past accomplishments and offered congratulations to newly re-elected councilors David Frank, J. David Reed, and Judy Ann Files. "How lucky we were at the City of Montrose...I do not have to tell those in attendance tonight the impact she's had to our city and to Western Colorado...as my friend I would like to give you a very personal thank you...as your friend I will always draft behind you, I learn from you, I adore you, and even if that means going to back to Greenwich Village for a scavenger hunt...So, thank you for the time you spent with the city and thank you for what you've done for all the future girls and women 'cause you're breaking that glass ceiling."

Next to speak was John Brown, "...The best people to make decisions for our city are citizens of our city. The city council is supposed to represent the voters. The city council is not to vote their conscience but to vote as the people want to be represented. When the city council failed to respond to the citizens' overwhelming opposition to Montrose becoming a sanctuary city, the city council failed to pass a non-sanctuary city declaration bill and let it drop off the agenda.

"The city council betrayed their constituency," Brown said, noting that Montrose County voted to make Montrose a non-sanctuary county, sending a message to state officials.

Denver and the state have provided resources to illegal at the expense of legal citizens, including homeless people and veterans, he said. "Montrose City could find itself in the same predicament. Montrose has not even begun to address its own homeless population and the extended services including medical that it takes to support its legal population.

"Montrose County Commissioners are not discriminating against races or nationalities but recognizing the difference between legal and illegal," Brown said.

He began to discuss Councilor J. David Reed's comments from the previous meeting, but Mayor Bynum stopped him. "Sir, you're not going to address individual council members. Do you remember the rules?"

Brown apologized and continued. "It has been said that Montrose is not a sanctuary city and that you have no intention of allowing Montrose to become one...we have even been assured that we need not worry. We are worried. Montrose is either non-sanctuary or sanctuary. This must be declared to the governor and the other state officials—there is no middle of the road. Unless Montrose declares itself a non-sanctuary city, the state will assume that we are in favor of sanctuary. There are already rumors of illegals being sent to Montrose and being assimilated into our city. At whose expense, I ask? This is just the beginning, not the end of the assault on our city and our way of life. I implore you to pass a resolution immediately..."

Bynum said, "Thank you, your time is up sir, we appreciate your comments..."

Brown said, "What about the time you took from me to tell me I can't do something? I only have about two sentences left..."

Bynum said, "I'm sorry, your time is up, thank you very much for your comments to council tonight."

As Brown left the podium, Councilor Ed Ulibarri joined with some of the audience members in clapping.

Next to speak was Ryan Sedgley, who thanked Council for gifting him the chance to attend the [Downtown Colorado Inc. Conference](#) with them.

Sedgley said, "I just wanted to thank the city council and city leadership for their commitment to making Montrose a better city. I was lucky enough to participate in the Downtown Colorado Inc. Conference about two weeks ago with a number of you, and it was so enlightening, and came back with so many ideas and relationships, that I truly believe will lead to a better, more beautiful, more prosperous city for all of us.

"Thank you for being committed to that

process and for giving me that gift."

Next to speak was Ellen Angeles, who spoke about Barbara Bynum being her friend and hero, and quoted a Superman poster from the 1950's. "Superman said, 'And remember boys and girls, your school like your country is made up of Americans of many different races, religions and national origins. So, if you hear anybody talk against a schoolmate or anyone else because of his religion race or national origin, don't wait, tell him that kind of talk is un-American. Help keep our schools all American'...you are the All-American girl that girls will look up to. Thank you for being my friend, thank you for being in the city, and thank you for helping people no matter what walk of life they are. You are a hero, Barbara," Angeles said.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE CURRENT CITY COUNCIL
Council voted to approve [minutes of the April 1, 2024](#), regular City Council meeting.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF OUTGOING CITY COUNCILOR

Mayor Pro Tem Reed acknowledged Bynum's service, presenting her with a plaque and with the gavel that she used while serving as Mayor.

Before leaving the session, Bynum thanked staff and asked for a round of applause for city staff, whom she said work "equally hard." She said that she is super excited to see Judy Ann Files back on the dais. "...I really do love serving this community and working on issues that are important to us in Montrose, and I'm excited to keep on doing that in some fashion, one way or another."

SWEARING IN OF NEWLY RE-ELECTED OFFICIALS

City Clerk Lisa DelPiccolo administered the Oath of Office to newly re-elected City Councilors J. David Reed, Dave Frank, and Judy Ann Files.

SELECTION OF MAYOR AND MAYOR PRO TEM

Councilor Dave Frank nominated J. David Reed as Mayor; the motion was unanimously approved.

Councilor Doug Glaspell nominated Councilor Ed Ulibarri as Mayor Pro Tem, but Ulibarri declined to accept for personal reasons. Glaspell then nominated Councilor Dave Frank; the motion was approved unanimously.

CITY HEARS PROCLAMATIONS; MONTROSE PRIDE SET FOR JUNE 8

From previous pg

PLANNING COMMISSION APPOINTMENT
As previously discussed in Work Session, Council voted to appoint Planning Commission Alternate Ron Cairns as a regular member of the City of Montrose Planning Commission with a term that expires on Dec. 31.

ORDINANCE 2661 - FIRST READING
Council voted unanimously to approve Ordinance 2661, granting and authorizing the conveyance of an interest in City-owned real estate pursuant to § 1-9-2 of the official Code of the City of Montrose (West South First Street Right of Way).

THE GROVE FINAL PLANNED DEVELOPMENT & THE GROVE SUBDIVISION FILING 1 FINAL PLAT
Councilor Judy Ann Files recused herself from the consideration and vote on two action items, both of which concerned the Grove. With Files Abstaining, council voted to approve The Grove Final Planned Development as well as The Grove Subdivision Filing 1 Final Plat to create 53 residential lots and associated easements, rights-of-way, and open space. A resident

of Brown Ranch spoke during the time for public comment, discussing remediation of damage to the irrigation system and earthwork and the implications to homeowners’ insurance. Councilor Ed Ulibarri raised concerns about possible impacts to insurance. City Engineer Scott Murphy spoke to the concerns. ...There’s nothing we are aware of that would make something uninsurable...we don’t foresee a reason...that would prohibit a building from being insured...there’s processes in place to ensure that’s covered as well from an overall subdivision level.”

HOME OF THE BRAVE SUBDIVISION FILING 1 FINAL PLAT
Planner William Reis presented the Home of the Brave Subdivision Filing 1 Final Plat to create 27 residential lots and associated easements, rights-of-way, and open space. Council voted unanimously to approve to approve the Home of the Brave Subdivision Filing 1 Final Plat expressly conditioned upon City staff ensuring that all policies, regulations, ordinances and Municipal Code provisions are met and

that the applicant adequately addresses all of staff’s concerns prior to the execution of the Final Plat.

STAFF REPORTS
The Sales, Use and Excise Tax Report was presented by Sales Tax Accountant Lee-Ann Whittaker.

COUNCIL COMMENTS
Mayor Pro Tem Dave Frank said the Chopped Fundraiser for Montrose Center for the Arts was a success.

Councilor Doug Gaspell welcomed Judy Ann Files back to Council. Files said that she is glad to be back, “...Sitting out that four years was really hard on me. You guys were doing stuff without me knowing what it was, and without my approval.”

Council Ed Ulibarri also welcomed Files back, as did Mayor Reed. Reed said, ...I think we’re on a very positive track with the city...as a group of five, I think we can take on the challenges we will certainly be faced with...” Files moved to adjourn, and the motion carried.



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

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

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

GIRLS ON THE RUN OF WESTERN COLORADO WILL HOST THE FRUITA SPRING 5K ON MAY 4

Special to the Mirror

FRUITA-The 5K event is Saturday, May 4th at **Shelley Elementary – 353 N. Mesa St. Fruita, CO 81521**. We are looking forward to 1500 participants converging for an incredible event. The positive energy at the 5K event is not only tangible, but contagious. Girls on the Run Western Colorado is a physical activity-based, positive youth development program that uses fun running games and dynamic discussions to

teach life skills to girls in 3rd - 8th grade. During the program, girls participate in lessons that foster confidence, build peer connections, and encourage community service while they prepare for an end-of-season celebratory 5K event. Participation in the Fruita Spring 5K event is open to the public and all proceeds from the event will benefit Girls on the Run of Western Colorado.

The cost for the Spring 5K is \$25 by May 1

and \$35 for day-of registration. The first 500 registered participants will receive a clear tote and cooling wrap.

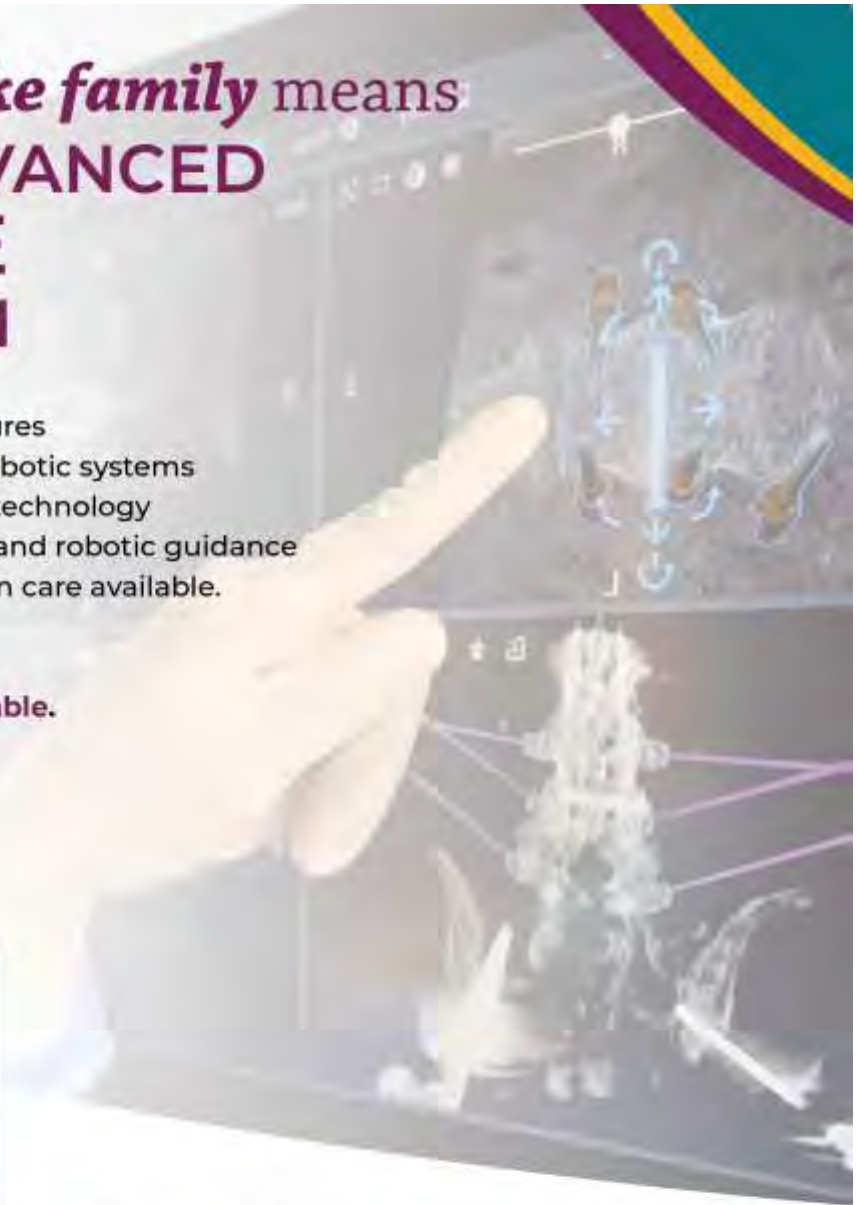
To register or for more information please visit www.gotrwesterncolorado.org/5K.

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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

KEEP HANDS OFF DUCKLINGS AND GOSLINGS TO KEEP THEM WILD

Special to the Mirror

DURANGO— Ducklings and goslings are starting to appear along bodies of water all across Colorado. It is crucial for their development that humans leave them alone and never pick them up.

Young birds will begin to imprint on their mothers shortly after hatching. Learning to follow them provides safety and is critical for their long-term survival.

Ducklings and goslings can quickly imprint on humans, and Colorado Parks and Wildlife asks the public to never pick up these young birds.

“The best moms are their moms,” said CPW District Wildlife Manager Stephanie Taylor. “They are quick to imprint, and we also don’t want them to lose their natural wariness of humans.”

Each year, CPW takes calls from people who have picked up a young duck or goose, and Durango area wildlife officers

have already taken such calls and observed people getting too close to nests and goslings this spring.

If a duckling or gosling imprints on a human, it will not be able to survive in the wild. It is critical these young birds are given space and are not interfered with. Even a brief human disturbance can have consequences and can lead to a young animal being separated from its family.

If you find young wildlife, enjoy a quick glimpse, leave the animal where it is and keep pets out of the area. Quietly observe the animal from a distance and don't hover so close that the wild parents are afraid to return to the area.

“We know people often want to try to help young wildlife,” Taylor said. “The best help is to leave the animal alone if it’s not in danger. If the gosling or duckling is in danger, for example in the road, then quickly move the animal off to the side of



Three goslings walk alongside adult geese on the Animas River Trail in Durango. Jim White/CPW photo

the road.

This has minimal human-wildlife interaction, and the parents are usually nearby waiting to reunite with them.”

For more information on best practices with young wildlife, go to CPW’s [Spring Wildlife Advice page](#)



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

COMMENTS MADE TO MONTROSE CITY COUNCIL

Editor:

The best people to make decisions for our city are the citizens of our city. The city council is supposed to represent the voters.

The city council is not to vote their conscience but vote as the people want to be represented.

When the city council failed to respond to the citizens over whelming opposition to Montrose becoming a sanctuary city, the city council failed to pass a NON-Sanctuary city declaration bill and let it drop off the agenda. The city council betrayed their constituency.

Montrose county commissioners voted on March 6, 2024, to make Montrose County a NON- sanctuary county which told the state officials that Montrose County doesn't want to be a sanctuary county. In Resolution 18-24 the commissioners listed a lot of issues plaquing Denver along with the state by providing resources to illegals at the expense of legal citizens. This has resulted in reducing or eliminating necessary services to legal citizens including homeless and veterans. Montrose city could find itself in the same predicament. Montrose has not even begun to address its own homeless population and all the extended services including medical that it takes to support its legal population.

Montrose County Commissioners are not discriminating against races or nationalities but recognizing the difference between legal and illegal.

It has been said that Montrose is NOT a sanctuary city, and the city council has no intentions of allowing Montrose to become one. We have even been assured by the city council not to worry! We are worried! Montrose is either non-sanctuary or sanctuary. This must be declared to the governor and other state officials. There is no middle of the road.

Unless Montrose declares it's self a non-sanctuary city the state will assume that we are in favor of sanctuary. We need a resolution or referendum making that declaration now. There are already rumors of illegals being sent to Montrose and being assimilated into our city. At whose expense? This is just the beginning, not the end of the assault on our city and our way of life.

It's time to get your heads out of the sand.

I implore you to pass a resolution immediately declaring Montrose a non-sanctuary city. If the council cannot make that decision, then put it up for a vote of the fine citizens of Montrose and its registered voters. Time is of the essence because when the bus loads of illegals arrive, and the city resources are drained it will be too late.

John Brown, Montrose

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

KARA-LEIGH NIELSEN TO TAKE PART IN ENVISION'S JUNIOR NATIONAL YOUNG LEADERS CONFERENCE

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE – This summer, Kara-leigh Nielsen from Montrose, CO will join outstanding students from across the nation to take part in a unique academic and career-oriented development experience, the Junior National Young Leaders Conference, taking place this summer in Washington, D.C.

Junior National Young Leaders Conference is one of the Envision by WorldStrides family of programs (www.envisionexperience.com) that enable students to explore their interests and experience learning beyond the classroom.

Kara-leigh is an exceptional student at Centennial Middle School, known for her scholastic merit, maturity, and strong character. Her dedication to academics and involvement in extracurricular activities have earned her recognition from Educator Reiners, who nominated her to attend this leadership forum. Kara-leigh has a drive to learn and has received honors for her academic achievements. She aspires to make a positive impact on her school community and is excited about

the opportunity to enhance her leadership skills through this program.

"I am excited for Kara-leigh to meet, work, and collaborate with fellow high-achieving students from other cities and schools," said Dr. Jan Sikorsky, Vice President, Education for Envision. "Junior National Young Leaders Conference is a wonderful opportunity for ambitious young students to explore their interests outside the classroom and discover how to innovate and think creatively through hands-on immersive learning. Our students are challenged with real-world simulations and problems, working together to develop unique solutions and projects to bring life to their studies and career interests."

For over 35 years, Envision by WorldStrides has empowered extraordinary students to become their best selves through programs that enable them to discover their passion, explore a career, and positively impact their world. In 2018, Envision became part of the WorldStrides family. The largest provider of educational travel and experiences in the United States, WorldStrides works with over 50,000 educators each year to help more



Kara-leigh Nielsen. Courtesy photo.

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CRIME STOPPERS**

see something, say something

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

VOTE RON HANKS FOR U.S. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 3

. Editor:

We are writing in support of Ron Hanks for US Congressional District 3. Ron Hanks is an America First and Constitution First leader. With 32 years of military service, much of it in Intelligence, Counter-Intelligence, and Cybersecurity, he is well-versed in the issues of NATIONAL SECURITY.

Ron Hanks is a staunch supporter of our Second Amendment, and will always stand for the Peoples' Right to self-defense.

Ron is tough on border security, having personally visited the troubled Southern Border, and also is a strong advocate for our energy independence: oil and gas, timber, local agriculture, WATER.

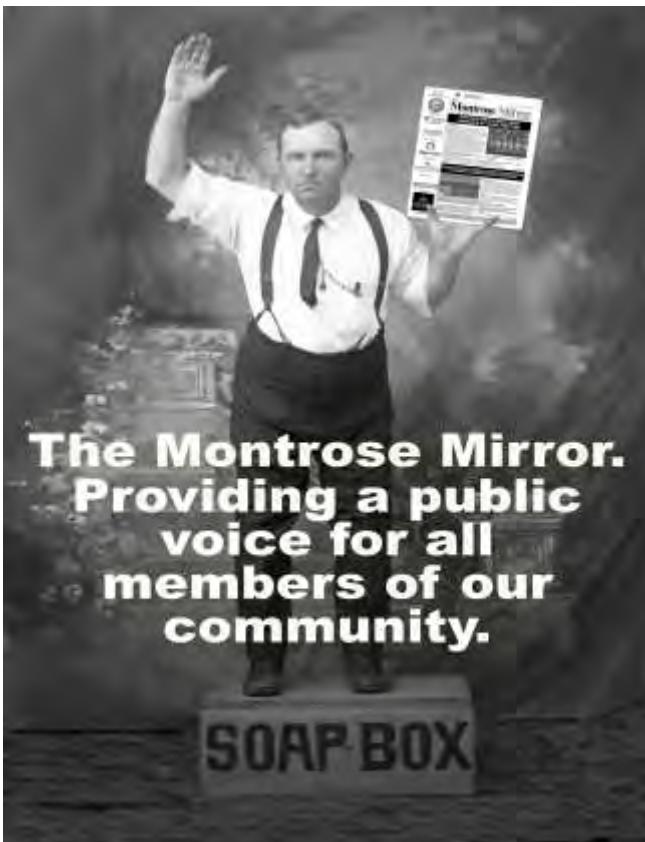
Regarding election integrity, Ron Hanks has traveled to Arizona and other problem areas, and will continue to fight for honest and fair elections.

Ron is a strong advocate for the unborn, and he was part of the longest fight in Colorado legislative history against the Democrats' heinous abortion bill.

As you can see, Ron Hanks is a doer, he will never become a soft and squishy DC Insider, and will always stand firm for the citizens he represents.

We are proud to endorse Ron Hanks for US Representative, Congressional District 3, and we hope you will join us in doing so.

Sincerely,
Joe Stucky
Tamara Stucky
Montrose



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

TWO CANDIDATES FOR MONTROSE COUNTY COMMISSIONER HAVE NOT FORMED A DEFINABLE POSITION ON ISSUES

Editor:

KNOWING THE CANDIDATES. The who, the what and the why of each candidate's position on critical issues is a must and before we vote.

We have yet to see ANY response from either Montrose County Commissioner candidates STARK OR DUNLAP. And without knowing their positions on important matters and their conviction to doing the right things for our county, legitimately anyway.

FROM WHERE I SIT: (Opinion) The word on the street is that these two Candidates for Montrose County Commissioner have not formed a definable position on these important issues. If you have, would you not want the public to know? Or maybe it is because they know that their answers, if truthful, would not sit well with the voters.

I have singled out three of the issues that I feel most of the electorate would like to see a response to:

FOR Mr. Dunlap: Reportedly you spent over twenty years in the Army and/or in

the National Guard. Unlike the other three candidates for the Board of County Commissioners upon whom we have obtained historical information as to the life experiences which qualify them for office, twenty plus years of your formative years are closed to the public eye.

The military will not divulge such 'private' information. Well, I and I know of many others, would like you to publish a copy of your DD214 in order that we may see what your military experience was such as schools attended, assignments, awards, decorations and other miscellaneous service related information.

FOR both Mr. Dunlap and Mr. Stark: Please explain in detail your position and understanding of the PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX fund, its age, how it came to be and for what purpose. Just how much money has historically been collected since its inception and where has it gone. How much is left in the fund and who has authorized its expenditures on non-sheriff related items. What is our Sheriff Gene Lillard's position and concerns regarding

the management of the PSST funds? And finally, FOR both Mr. Dunlap and Mr. Stark: Please explain your position regarding the current Sheriff of Montrose County, to achieve the department's entry into the FIRE POLICE PENSION ASSOCIATION (FPPA) retirement plan. Your position should compare the current retirement plan to the FPPA plan and its impact on the county budget and sworn officer retention. To the best of my knowledge neither of you have seen fit even to acknowledge the existence of these issues. In fact neither of you have said anything substantive about anything concerning the Board of County Commissioners or the betterment of Montrose County. It appears that you have no goals and that the electorate should put you in office solely to pay you the significant salary you will collect by just "sitting" on the BOCC. It appears that you would suggest that we elect you simply because 'Here I am, I'm a good guy because I say so! ELECT me'.

*Respectfully,
Bill Bennett, Montrose*

SEE SOMETHING - SAY SOMETHING



970-249-8500

ANONYMOUS CALL

MONTROSE REGIONAL CRIME STOPPERS

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

ELECTING CRIMINALS AND CLOWNS LIKE BOEBERT AND TRUMP TO PUBLIC OFFICE IS IN NO ONE'S INTEREST

Editor:

The bridge over Blue Mesa Reservoir was closed indefinitely due to a crack in a steel beam that was detected during an inspection. The Biden Administration's infrastructure plan, which most in the GOP tried to kill, includes \$110 billion for road and bridge repair nationwide. In Colorado, the IRA includes \$716 Million for highways and another \$45 million specifically for bridges. Obviously, this is not enough to do all of the work that needs to be done in our state, but it's a start. BTW, the CDOT funded the recent Little Blue Canyon renovation, and it's clear to anyone who has driven it that it is a big improvement. Also, this funding will no doubt be used, at least in part, for the Blue Mesa bridge repair. Most Republicans voted to kill this nationwide infrastructure funding; though some, like Boebert want you to forget that fact. Boebert voted AGAINST the infrastructure bill; and on several occasions, has tried to claim credit for these, and other monies passed by Democrats, being used on projects in CD3. When you are driving the roads in Colorado, you may want to keep in mind that, if Trump had been elected, these monies would not have been available. What money would then have been used for these and other road projects? Of course, if Trump had won the election of 2020, perhaps he would have gotten Mexico to pay for these repairs ... but we all know how well that promise turned out last time. We all pay for these improvements in some fashion, whether through taxes or fees. Trump worked tirelessly to cut taxes and provide loopholes for the ultra wealthy permanently, while providing only short term tax relief for the rest of us. This supposed billionaire paid only \$700/yr in taxes for two years straight ... how does that make you feel, after so recently having done your own taxes? This is one reason why federal budget deficits typically soar under Republican administrations. When roadways are shut down due to inadequate funding for repairs and

maintenance, the economy of the region takes a hit, local businesses suffer, and we all pay the price. Taxes are a fact of life in a civilized society; none of us like them. It's our duty to keep watch on government spending using proper and stringent oversight; but strangling the ability of our government to shepherd through infrastructure projects by electing criminals and clowns, like Boebert and Trump, to public office is in no one's interest ... ex-

cept perhaps for corrupted media companies like Fox, and Russian trolls like Tucker Carlson; who, as Trump strategist Steve Bannon said before the 2020 election, "Flood the zone with (dung)", and then profit the chaos that follows. And, as we all know, both our congresswoman, and the former president, are experts at those tactics.

*David Congour,
Montrose*

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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE UPDATE OPEN HOUSE

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— The City of Montrose is hosting an open house to gather feedback from the public regarding local housing initiatives as city planners work towards a new land use code update. The goal of the update is to modernize land use and housing codes to make housing easier to develop, which will allow for a more diverse range of housing types and ease the pressure on the local housing market.

The open house is scheduled for Wednesday, April 24, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. in the

Centennial Room located adjacent to Centennial Plaza in downtown Montrose.

In 2021, the City of Montrose adopted the Envision 2040 Comprehensive Plan, which involved extensive community outreach and participation, and developed a new vision, guiding principles, goals, and objectives to address community issues. One of the primary goals of the Envision 2040 Plan is to encourage a variety of housing types, tenure, and density to meet the needs of the community.

Following the adoption of the Envision

2040 Plan, the City of Montrose, in partnership with Points Consulting, completed the City of Montrose Housing Needs Assessment. The purpose of the assessment was to evaluate current housing conditions and needs, make projections of future housing needs, and provide recommendations for policies, practices, and regulatory changes that can be implemented to address gaps between housing needs and supply.

“As the City of Montrose works toward making more housing types and housing supply a reality in the community, we are hoping to gather more feedback from the public to strengthen the final version of the upcoming land use code update,” said Community Development Director Jace Hochwalt. “We are excited to host an open house because more feedback from the public will only make this process better for everyone in Montrose.”

With the Housing Needs Assessment completed, city staff is now moving forward with a land development code update that specifically focuses on housing initiatives based on those recommendations from the assessment, as well as those recommendations and goals outlined in the Envision 2040 Plan. Some of these potential code amendments include the expansion of the REDO District Boundary and expanded allowance of Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs), modular construction, and housing types in residential zone districts, among other related topics.

The public is invited to attend an open house to learn more about the proposed code amendments and provide feedback. To stay up to date on the code update process, [a project website has also been developed and can be found here.](#)

For more information about the land development code update process, contact Community Development Director, Jace Hochwalt at 970.240.1478 or at jhochwalt@cityofmontrose.org.

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



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

COLORADO OUTDOORS – A MEDICAL CENTER MECCA? NOT! HAS THE BEGINNING OF THE CITY’S “PLANNED ECONOMY” IMPLOSION BEGUN? LOCAL CONTRACTORS LEFT HOLDING THE BAG IN A BIG WAY.

By David White

The murky waters that define the Colorado Outdoors development in the northwest part of the City of Montrose have gotten more clouded with the recent revelation that the Colorado Outdoors Medical Center (owned by Ovation Healthcare, Brentwood, TN) and the planned “Lollipop Project” (Kids First Pediatrics, LLC of Ft. Payne, AL) have both imploded. Both projects lie within the Montrose Urban Renewal Authority’s (MURA) boundaries. Millions of city taxpayer dollars have driven the City of Montrose’s “planned economy” within this roughly 160-acre tract of land.

In some respects, this was inevitable given that, by all appearances, both entities attempted to establish a presence in the medical community without the consent and approval of Montrose Regional Health (aka Montrose Memorial Hospital, Inc.) and their Board of Directors and medical providers. Fundamentally, it would be difficult if not impossible to build a 51,460 square foot medical facility that in many ways, was to offer similar services as the newly opened Montrose Regional Health Medical Center next to the Hobby Lobby store in the River Landing shopping center. Before going any further, a little history is in order first. The Colorado Outdoors project is located within an area in northwest Montrose that the City of Montrose declared as “blighted” back in 2016-2017 thereby allowing for the creation of the Montrose Urban Renewal Authority. MURA is simply an arm of the City’s government but legally insulated from it by statutes and other protective laws. The land was acquired in pieces by Doug and David Dragoo (father & son) and their Nevada based Black Mountain Capital, LLC holding company and then folded into MURA. Taxpayer funding provided millions of your dollars for the construction of the infrastructure within MURA (utilities, streets, curbs, gutters and sidewalks and street lighting along with other improvements). Abatement of various taxes are allowed in

this development for a period of 25 years as revenues produced within MURA are used to fund future development of the project.

Now the drama (real or not). David Dragoo’s wife, Heidi, was appointed to the Board of Directors of the private Montrose Memorial Hospital, Inc./Montrose Regional Health in 2017. As MMHI/MRH planned for the 80,000 square foot medical center in River Landing, plans for a similar facility (the Colorado Outdoors Medical Center) were being hatched by the hospital’s former management company, QHR (Quorum Health Resources which was rebranded as Ovation Healthcare in March of 2023) and QHR’s sister company, Velocity Surgical Management, in conjunction with the Dragoo’s Black Mountain Capital and MURA all the while Mrs. Dragoo was a board member of MRH. NOTE: QHR provided the CEO and CFO to Montrose Memorial Hospital, under a management agreement, for over 30 years before being terminated by MMHI in 2020. One has to wonder if this wasn’t some kind of a pay-back play.

Interestingly, both entities announced their plans for their respective ambulatory care outpatient facilities within a day of each other in early February 2022. MRH had contracted with NexCore Corporation of Denver to construct and own their facility which MRH would lease from NexCore under a long-term lease agreement. QHR contracted with Arch-Con Corporation of Houston, TX to build their building which they would own in its entirety.

Within days of the announcement, Heidi Dragoo was history. An article that appeared in the Montrose Daily Press on February 14, 2022, said of her resignation: **“It was a mutually agreed upon decision because of a conflict of interest,” MRH Board President Kjersten Davis said Monday, of Dr. Heidi Dragoo stepping off the hospital board. Davis said the issue was that Dragoo was in a conflicted position; there was no other issue with her board service.**

The story in the MDP went on to say: **David Dragoo said in his company’s announcement that the facility there is a partnership between several private surgeon groups and a for-now unidentified national specialty health care provider. The center is to provide specialty surgeries, oncology, urgent care, imaging and other services.**

The Colorado Outdoors center will be in direct competition with Montrose Regional Health’s ambulatory care center, Davis said.

“Our board needs to serve our hospital. She (Heidi Dragoo) would have to split her allegiance between the hospital and her family’s financial gains or projects,” Davis said.

Here we are now two years later, and the Montrose Regional Health Medical Center is up and running and by all accounts, a jewel in the crown of the hospital and a source of community pride.

So, what of the Colorado Outdoors Medical Center? It’s completely shut down. A shell of a building is all that exists. Not even half completed and by the looks of things, it’s been abandoned by all parties. A little digging into public records reveals some interesting and disturbing things.

The Dragoo’s Black Mountain Capital, LLC (the former owner of the land the currently abandoned medical building is standing on) sold it to Colorado Outdoors Healthcare Property Co., LLC (a shell company created by QHR/Ovation Healthcare) for \$1,976,676 under a special warranty deed on May 17, 2022. The financing of this deal, according to public records, shows that Flatirons Bank of Boulder, CO has a Deed of Trust on the property totaling \$988,000 that has not been released, therefore it’s the debt of the owners. As of Friday, April 19, 2024, liens totaling in the millions of dollars have been filed against the project by Arch-Con Corporation (the general contractor); Oldcastle Southwest Group/United Companies; Rocky Mountain Aggregate, NUCOR Corporation (maker of all the steel trusses and

COLORADO OUTDOORS – A MEDICAL CENTER MECCA? NOT! From previous pg



Photos of the Ovation Healthcare Building at Colorado Outdoors.

and girders in the building) and other local contractors for unpaid materials and labor. One local company that I am personally familiar with is fiscally devastated and doing their best to keep their business afloat. There may be others in the same boat...electricians, plumbers, framers, et al. None are getting paid and won't until a lender comes along willing to take on this roughly \$30,000,000 project and see it through to completion.

Interestingly, the City of Montrose and their Urban Renewal Authority Board of Directors and its Executive Director, Bill Bell (the City Manager) are woefully silent on this debacle. They've done their best to pretend that they had nothing to do with it and its competition with our local hospital, even going to the trouble to issue a press release and other public statements that the City/MURA is treating this as an arm's length deal.

In their press release on February 15, 2022 ([New Medical Campuses A Boon To Montrose Region \(cityofmontrose.org\)](https://www.cityofmontrose.org)), they try to distance themselves from the appearance of a conflict of interest by saying the following:

“Although the Colorado Medical Center (COMC) is to be built within the 160-acre Montrose Urban Renewal Authority (MURA) boundary, the City of Montrose and the MURA have not committed any financial resources or incentives for this project. Additionally, the City of Montrose has not received any application for financial incentives from either the developer or the facility's management company.

“The City of Montrose, a partner in MURA, has participated by building streets and utilities infrastructure that have contributed significantly to making the MURA an attractive destination for new and expanding businesses...”

In direct contradiction to the above statement, two years later (on February 6, 2024) the City awards a contract to Del-Mont Consultants and United Companies for \$715,000 to design and build an extension to Tributary Street (which is the street the defunct Colorado Outdoors Medical Center is on) that is to be built in front of the medical building and which will extend utilities and the street northward into a new phase of the Drago's Black Mountain Capital, LLC construction plans (once the land is sold). This is just more playing around with words and the short-term memory of our citizens as these monies will have a direct financial benefit to the owners of the medical building (if and when it's ever completed for its original purpose or repurposed into another use).

Add to the medical center's implosion, the sale of land and construction of the above referenced Kids First Pediatrics, medical facility in the Colorado Outdoors project, which was to originally receive \$843,362 in MURA funding for earthwork and other “horizontal improvements” (cut back to \$403,000 in September of 2023), has according to local sources, been scraped and the property is being relisted for sale. Medical projects in the MURA are obviously not a good idea without the direct support of Montrose Regional Health. Mr. Bell and his Board of Directors are learning things the hard way!

Another big project that MURA and the Drago's touted in 2020 was “Project Blizard” aka Wedge Brands who was to build a 76,000 square foot distribution center in the Colorado Outdoors. It never happened despite all the hoopla. What went down there?

“Colorado Outdoors Pearl Fund LP invested \$1 million from its newly formed qualified opportunity zone business fund into

outdoor industry holding company Wedge Brands LLC, which announced plans to build a 76,000-square-foot distribution and third-party logistics center on the Colorado Outdoor campus in Montrose.” (Wedge Brands plans facility at Colorado Outdoor campus - Colorado Real Estate Journal (crej.com))

What happened to the \$1,000,000 referenced in the above article that was invested by Colorado Outdoors Pearl Fund, LP? Where did that money come from? How many of these shell companies and mysterious “funds” exist within the Colorado Outdoors development? Why hasn't our City Council and by extension, the MURA board been asking about where all of these monies have come from as well as where they've gone.

The one person that has all the answers doesn't want to talk about it and that's City Manager Bill Bell. As the Executive Director of MURA, he can get away with lunchtime soiree's where plans for this development are hatched with the end goal to use more and more of our precious tax dollars to fund these “planned economy projects” without coming under public scrutiny or control.

Must be nice to play kingmaker. It'll all play out especially when Mr. Bell and the Drago's find themselves with more and more of these fiscally risky plays going in the wrong direction. Stay tuned!

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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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

WHY IS COLORADO SO BLUE?

Editor:

The answer to that question is a total lack of leadership in the Republican party. I was on the SOS (secretary of state) web site today looking up information. Some of the information I looked up included fundraising. The democrats have raised \$900,000 dollars so far this election cycle. The republicans have raised a paltry \$175,000, a five to one ratio. Multiple big donors have chosen not to donate to the state party because of Dave Williams and his self-serving behavior of running for office rather than running the party. Dave campaigned for the chair position and won but then decided to run for congress without resigning his chair position. This creates divided loyalties, and the party suffers because of it. We have a comparable situation here in Montrose County. Scott Riba the current Montrose County republican party chair is running for office in a contested primary. He has used his position to try and freeze out his opponent Rick Dunlap. Some local donors have refused to donate because of it. Riba is using party resources to advertise meet and greet events that do not include all the candidates. They have an event scheduled for April 25th from 5:00 pm to 7:00 PM. I will not name the candidates that were invited but I will name the candidates that were not invited. Rick Dunlap, candidate for county commissioner district three, was not invited. Louis Stark, candidate for county commissioner district one, was not invited. Mark Roeber, candidate for HD58, was not invited. Jeff Hurd, candidate for CD3, was not invited. Dave Williams, Scott Riba, and their self-centered behavior in running for office instead of running the party will cause the republican party to lose ground in the upcoming election. The other information I looked at on the SOS sight was the number of democrats running in unopposed races. That is a surrender, every election in every district should have a republican challenger. If we do not challenge every seat, including the ones republicans have little or no chance of winning. Not challenging every race allows the democrats to focus on seats where they might pick

up a seat (CD3). Unchallenged democrats still raise money and not being challenged allows them to help their weak candidates to run competitive races in republican leaning districts. Not inviting all the republican candidates to a meet and greet, is a republican party that is so arrogant that they do not want the citizens to make an informed decision. The party would rather make that decision for the citizens by limiting the citizens access and contact with all the candidates. A chair devoted to the best interest of the party would never allow this. A chair whose only interest is in their personal gain will allow this.

Republican party officials past and present refuse to admit that the voting demographics of this state has changed dramatically the past several years. California lost a house seat and Colorado gained one. We also gained the population that California lost. And those people that moved from California to Colorado brought their politics with them. The last time we republicans won one of the top six statewide elections was 2014 when Cory Gardner won the senate seat from Mark Udall. We lost that seat in 2020. Many of our republican party official's solution to this is to run more extreme right candidates. The extreme candidates insult the republicans who hold office who call out the party for this suicidal endeavor to run more far right extreme candidates. Poll after poll shows that most Coloradoans prefer their politics down the middle. They don't want extreme left or extreme right. And until the republican party wakes up to this realization nothing will change. You do not have to give up your 2nd amendment rights or your stance on abortion to follow this philosophy. Marc Catlin manages to get a lot of bills passed into law that benefit the western slope without surrendering his conservative values. He manages this by effective communication, and explaining why some of the proposed legislation will not work on the western slope. In other words, explaining the urban rural differences. Too many legislators in Denver are from the I-25 corridor, and seldom if ever cross the continental Divide. They have no under-

standing of life outside of the urban jungle, or the self-reliance that we prefer and hold dear. Anyone who is running for office here in Colorado that thinks you can have an impact by arguing with or insulting the democrats, unaffiliated voters and current legislators is a fool. And any prospective republican candidate that insults and makes enemies within their own party is doomed from the very start of their campaign.

The republican party needs to do a better job of vetting candidates. For republicans to win in this state our candidates need to be above reproach, with verified proof of their party affiliation integrity and honesty. Scott Riba and Dave Williams have proven their lack of integrity by running for office in a contested primary. Scott Mijares proves his lack of Integrity and honesty every time he gives a speech and claims he is a lifelong republican. I found his weak spot, dishonesty. I first confronted him one on one about his claim, about being a lifelong Republican and let him know that I had proof that he did not become a republican until February 12th, 2024. Despite that he continues to lie and claim he has no idea how the Montrose County clerk, Ouray County clerk and SOS had him listed as an unaffiliated voter. It is quite simple, the national change of address form when he moved to Colorado showed his affiliation from Hawaii and he did not change it. He also voted the democrat ballot in the presidential primary in 2020 when he lived in Ouray County. So, he either voted for Biden or Bernie Sanders. He is currently running an intentionally deceptive ad in the Mirror claiming that his opponent Louis Stark has a tax lien of \$83,487.01 unlike Mijares Louis Stark has been open and honest about this. The amount of the lien is currently a little over \$9,000 and will be paid off before he takes office.


Scott Mijares, Scott Riba and Dave Williams should never be considered for public office. Mark Roeber, Jeff Hurd, Rick Dunlap, and Louis Stark are men of Integrity and honesty. They have the expertise to serve this county and state well.

Ray Langston, Montrose

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When looking at 2023 citation data from the Colorado State Patrol, troopers issued 822 citations to CMV drivers in 2023 for improper, reckless or careless driving. This was a 23% increase over 2022. The top month for these citations in 2023 was January, followed by December. Winter conditions are particularly dangerous due to changes to road surfaces.

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.

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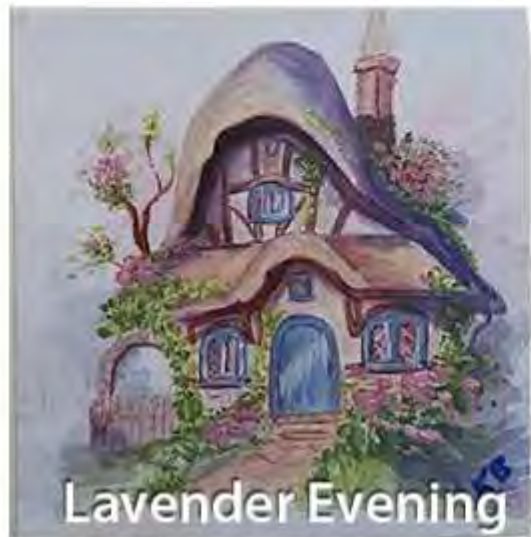


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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

THE NAMES HAVE BEEN OMITTED TO PROTECT THE GUILTY

Editor:

Daddy, I want to be a con man when I grow up. Good choice son, my advice to you is to study political science in college, then go to law school, followed by a couple of years defending the less fortunate and then go into politics. In the meantime, I will get you a couple books and you can practice on your little friends and classmates.

To get you started, we'll go down to the animal shelter and find the most sad-eyed puppy-dog we can find. We'll put him in the house and when he pees on the carpet, we'll take a rolled up newspaper and whack him on the nose. After a few times when he really learns how to cringe, we'll take him out back, roll him in the dirt, tie him up with a log chain and pretend he is living in a cardboard box. We'll take his picture, make up some flyers with a caption: "please send donations to help us stop the abuse of poor little puppy-dogs!"

We can also ask around and see if we can find a little kid that has a cleft-lip, dress

him in rags and take his picture where it looks like he is living in a chicken coop. And do the same thing.

Most of us have already encountered a con man/men at some time in our lives. If you haven't, you will. If you are not sure, but the contents in your bank account have unexplainedly, disappeared, you have. Some of their cons are really inspirational but only the truly experts will ever make it to Washington, or Denver.

One of the most successful cons, of all time, is the concept of socialism. We've been teaching altruism (putting the well being of others ahead over our own well-being) in public schools, forever. Also, we are taught that people who have accumulated wealth are bad, so we can pass laws to help us share their wealth, without us having to work. Win-win! By the way, the beauty of altruism is to get others to put our well-being over their own well-being, and not vice a versa.

So that is the background, let's see how one makes a national monument using

those little gems of wisdom.

When you vote on election day, have you ever wondered who those judges are? You know the one's that ask 'shall we retain?' I haven't a clue. Well, our con men in Denver and Washington are also aware that 99% of voters don't know beans about the Dolores River (we'll just take a few photos and show them what we are going to save.) But, and that is a big but, they see them as potential friendly voters. This works because national monuments and parks are good and mining is bad. Solar panels and wind turbines are good and uranium is bad. Fossil fuel drilling is bad and no drilling is good. While you are at it, get the cows off, no more hunting and fishing and quit cutting down the god-damn trees.

Hell, the West enders don't believe our bs anyway; nor vote for us anyway! Why should we care if they are pissed off? Na na nananana!

Don Hemme, Redvale

US SHOULD BE LEADING THE WORLD IN CULTIVATED MEAT

To the editor,

I was pleased to learn an Australian company has received approval to sell cultivated quail meat in Singapore. For those who don't know, cultivated meat is grown from animal cells, without slaughter. It has the potential to dramatically reduce our

greenhouse-gas emissions, pandemic risk, and the suffering we inflict on our fellow creatures.

Instead of standing in the way of progress, American politicians should support increased public funding for cellular-agriculture research. A number of techno-

logical hurdles remain that prevent the nascent industry from taking off. These can be surmounted with further development. The United States should be leading the world in this revolutionary new field.

Jon Hochschartner, Granby, CT

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CARTOON BY TIM JONES

WEEKLY CARTOON

SOUR GRAPES

by Tim Jones



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

PUBLIC TAX DOLLARS ARE NEEDED TO IMPROVE EDUCATION FOR EVERY STUDENT

Dear Editor,

I recently attended a public meeting held by the Montrose Classical Academy(MCA) Board to sell the idea that our community needs yet another charter school. This one would teach "classical education", which purportedly teaches students how to think and not merely what to think. I guess that's a job at regular public school education.

As a public school science teacher of 23 years, I have to take exception to that; I know that good public school teachers incorporate both the how and what of learning, as well as being, for the most part, good examples of moral and virtuous people.

I also maintain that factual knowledge (the "what") is essential to any critical thinking or debate on any topic. How can you persuasively speak and write effectively without facts and knowledge of the topic, if you value truth and the virtue of honesty.

To sum up, our community doesn't need to fund another specialty school catering to a small segment of the student population. Public tax dollars are needed to improve education for every student in this community and not be siphoned off to fund this or any other group. It strikes me as ironic that MCA's vision statement reads almost exactly like the vision statement you would see in any traditional public school in Colorado!

Connie Guillory, Montrose



Welcomes DR. MOJGAN ARASHVAND

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Health Science Center
Fort Worth, TX

Internship/Residency

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Osteopathic Medicine
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Fellowship

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DELTA TO HOLD CINCO DE MAYO ON MAIN STREET MAY 3

Special to the Mirror

DELTA-Delta Cinco de Mayo Celebration on Main Street Delta, 6pm-midnight. Live music with two bands, Azteca dancers, food & beverage vendors, piñatas.

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COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

RICHARD AUSTIN THOMPSON

RICHARD AUSTIN THOMPSON, known by family and friends as Rich, died in Fort Collins on April 11, 2024, at the age of 90. Survivors include his wife Jane Neth Thompson, sons Mark Richard and David Ross Thompson, David's spouse Luis Tamarayo, granddaughters Clara and Milena Suenskies Thompson, grandson Lucas, step-children Hal Neth (Natasha), Caite Switzer (Bradley), Cara (Torger Hougen), Marcy, and Alex (Brandy) Neth, and step-grandchildren Claire, Charles, Blaze, Raina, Olive, Jack, Harry, and Beatrix. He was preceded in death by his late wife Margaret Louise Ormsby, his father Harold Eugene Hubbard, his mother Lurline Delia Hurlock, and his step-father Vernon B. Thompson.

He felt particularly grateful for having been doubly blessed by marriages to two precious wives, showing how he experienced love, which multiplies, which does not divide.

Born in Fort Worth, Texas, Rich spent most of his early years in Amarillo, Texas. He subsequently graduated from Oberlin College and Yale Divinity School. Following his ordination to the ministry in the Presbyterian Church USA, he initially served parishes in Tulsa and Bristow, Oklahoma. Following that, he was Pastor of Southminster Presbyterian Church in Glen Ellyn, Illinois, and of Central Presbyterian Church in Austin, Texas. He also served as Interim Minister in Congregational UCC Churches in Houston and Austin, Texas, because of that denomination's "Open and Affirming" commitment to including in its membership and leadership of all persons, of whatever sexual orientation, as the local Presbyterian Church U.S.A. is now enabled to do.

In the midst of his pastorates, Rich pursued interests in communications and community service. He served as host of interfaith television series in Chicago and Austin. Over the years his publishing efforts included editing the *Journal of the Academy of Parish Clergy*. He wrote articles for the *Christian Century* and *Illinois School Board Journal* about the

separation of church and state, based on his service as President of the Glenbard High School Board of Education Illinois. He authored two local Illinois histories: "Around the Arboretum" and "DuPage Roots." His series "Preaching the Practice" appeared in *The Clergy Journal*. Following his retirement, he served as a Volunteer in Mission for Media Literacy for the Office of Communications PCUSA. "Bloom Where You Are Planted" was the phrase that Rich took as the title for writing a hymn in early years of ministry and a journal/notebook, representing for him the heart of spirituality. He brought that conviction to Fort Collins where he moved in 2006 with his wife, Jane, to be near family. Soon thereafter, he became active in the Fort Collins Area Interfaith Council, serving as its President and hosting the Interfaith Dialogue series on KRFC radio. He also provided leadership in the founding of Faith Family Hospitality (now called The Family Housing Network of Fort Collins – FHN), the



weekly overnight welcoming of homeless families into the facilities of faith communities on a rotating basis. In 2015, he was recipient of "The Gold Glove Award," presented by the Homelessness Prevention Initiative for "Catching families before they fall." Rich also will be remembered for playing the piano, especially for his composing such light-hearted songs as "The Biblically Inclusive Rag." As he made his final transition, it was with gratitude for all the other signs of "Amazing Grace" shared by and with his beloved family and friends. The family wishes to thank friends and family for all their support, along with the staff of MacKenzie Place, Alliant Hospice, and Right at Home, particularly Lisa Bradford. A memorial service will be held at First Presbyterian Church of Fort Collins at 5 p.m. on May 13. Memorial gifts may be made to the Family Housing Network of Fort Collins, 1601 S. Lemay Ave., Suite 103, Fort Collins, CO 80525; <https://www.familyhousingnetwork.org/>

CELEBRATING LOCAL BEAUTY.



#montrosemirror

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

WILLIAM 'HIRAM' SIMKINS ***March 4, 1932 – April 10, 2024***

Our Lord and Savior called William 'Hiram' Simkins home on April 10th, 2024, at the age of 92. Hiram will be greatly missed but has left such an impact on many lives while he was here. Hiram was born on March 4th, 1932, in Omaha, Arkansas to Everett and Luvene (Williams) Simkins. Hiram spent his childhood and teen years working and playing on the family farm in the majestic Ozark Mountains. Hiram talked about how wonderful and Godly his parents were and how close he was with his 10 siblings.

Eventually, at the age of 14, Hiram met the beautiful, Versa Eutona Hedrick (who was two years younger at the time) at the same school he attended in Blue Eye, MO. He told his friends; she would be the girl he would marry someday. After a lengthy friendship and very strict courtship instilled by Eutona's parents, God's perfect plan came into fruition. The two were then married on April 24th, 1954, in Blue Eye, Missouri right on the Missouri/Arkansas border. The happy young couple spent the next few years living in Kansas City, MO. then headed west to make their new home in Commerce City, Colorado, where they lived in and around that area for many years. In 1969 they expanded their family with an addition of a handsome baby boy they named William Keith, they cherished him more than anything in the world. Hiram and Eutona later decided in 1972, a quieter pace of life in which to raise their son was desired. That is when they moved for the final time to

Montrose, Colorado where they have made their home ever since. Hiram lived life to the fullest and had many interests and hobbies he enjoyed. But his greatest passion in life was his close relationship with God, which led him to becoming a pastor for Church of God of Prophecy in Montrose, CO for 40 years. Hiram was a passionate preacher and used his anointing to teach everyone he knew about Jesus. When he was not preaching, he made a living in concrete construction. He passed that skill and business down to his hardworking son, who learned everything he knew from his equally hardworking dad. Hiram spent his free time appreciating the natural beauty of Colorado through his passion for the outdoors. He liked to fish, camp and hunt. He liked to play his guitar for his church and family, he loved to spend time riding and caring for his many horses he's had throughout the years. He was a true cowboy. Hiram and Eutona loved and cherished each other and enjoyed spending time with their many friends and family. But their hearts were fullest when they were with their two amazing grandsons, Skyler and Cole who they loved and spoiled immensely. Hiram led a full and happy life while he was here with us. We are all Blessed to have known him.

Hiram was preceded in death by his parents, Everett and Luvene (Williams) Simkins; his wife, Versa Eutona (Hedrick) Simkins; his six sisters, and three brothers. Survivors include his son, William



Keith and (Andrea) Simkins of Colorado; his twin sister Violet (Simkins) Youngblood of Missouri; two grandsons William Skyler Simkins, Andrew Cole Simkins, and granddaughter Christina (Jeremy) Harmon; bonus son Steve and (LaTonya) Madrid all of Colorado; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Services to celebrate Hiram's life are being held at Crossroads Victory Church 515 S. Hillcrest, Montrose CO on Saturday April 27th at 2 PM under the direction of Crippin Funeral Home. Followed by interment at Grandview Cemetery 16300 6450 Ct. Montrose CO, subsequently followed by reception also at Crossroads Victory Church.

Thank you for reading

THE MONTROSE MIRROR

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

EVA MARLENE PRESLAN (BOUGH) ***December 26, 1951 — April 14, 2024***

EVA MARLENE (BOUGH) PRESLAN passed away on April 14, 2024 at home surrounded by family. Eva was born December 26, 1951 in Linton, Indiana to parents Eva Imogene Sullivan (1924-1998) and Richard Marshall Bough (1921-1996). She grew up in Bloomington, IN with her brother Gail Bough, and loved to read. In 1969, she graduated from high school and attended Indiana University, Bloomington earning a bachelor's degree in education and later, a Master of Education degree in 1984. In 1974, she moved to Hagerstown, IN to teach sixth and third grades and to work part-time at the Hagerstown Exponent newspaper.

She married her beloved husband, Gary Howard Preslan, in 1977 in Richmond, IN. After moving to La Junta, CO in 1978, she taught first grade in Rocky Ford, CO. The young couple settled in Montrose, CO in 1981 where they raised three children: Elicia Dianne Preslan, Nathan Kenneth Preslan, and Kevin Christopher Preslan. Later, she returned to teaching as the librarian and computer teacher at Johnson Elementary School in Montrose.

Eva was an educator all her life. Her most meaningful teaching experiences were with the students who needed extra attention to succeed. Later, she taught preschool in her home and worked as a bookkeeper and alternate Director for Sunshine Patch preschool. She founded and co-directed a nonprofit organization called Special Education for Exceptional Kids (SEEK) for 4 years that advocated for gifted and talented educational services in the Montrose School District.

Eva lived a life of quiet and selfless service, touching the lives of many around

her. She and Gary were foster parents for 2 years, and she taught service to her children by participating in projects through the Boy Scouts and the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls. She drove seniors to the grocery store, taught computer skills, checked on elderly neighbors, cared for her in-laws until their deaths, watched dogs, and welcomed people into her home for holiday meals. She was a generous and dedicated volunteer with the Montrose High School choir program for 14 years and with the Montrose United Methodist Church.

She volunteered with HopeWest Hospice from 2015 until her death. Through HopeWest, she dedicated countless hours cataloging their library, processing and organizing books, editing life story recordings for families, sitting vigil, helping organize the silent auction for the annual HopeWest Gala almost every year, and training other volunteers. Just before her death, she was nominated by HopeWest for the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization Hospice Volunteer of the Year award with the nomination saying: "Eva is an incredible example of serving with humility." For more than five years, she showed her love for children by crocheting hundreds of stuffed bears, which she donated to the Montrose Memorial Hospital, and HopeWest Kids.

Eva loved chocolate, blue glass, hummingbirds, and roses. She enjoyed reading, genealogy, and gardening, and she relaxed through crocheting, quilting, and other needle arts, usually giving away her beautiful creations as gifts. She was a member of Mensa and Daughters of the American Revolution. Living a quiet life, she pre-



ferred to stay out of the spotlight, but she had a loving heart and a selflessness that touched everyone around her. Eva was loved and will truly be missed.

Eva is survived by her husband Gary and their three children: Elicia, Nathan (Sabrina), and Kevin (Kelly) Preslan. Also, her brother Gail (Sue) Raymond Bough of Ellettsville IN, his children Mary Ann Bough and Steven Bough, and several cousins. Grandchildren include Lucas, Natalie, and Liam (William) Preslan.

The family wishes to express their thanks and appreciation to all her friends and everyone who loved, cared for, and helped her throughout her life, especially her friends at HopeWest Hospice.

A private reception and time of remembrance and celebration for her life will be scheduled in May. In lieu of flowers, a memorial gift may be made to [HopeWest](#). Crippin Funeral Home is assisting Mrs. Preslan's family.



ISSUE 466 April 22, 2024

ART & SOL

KEEP YOUR FACE TO THE SUN AND LOOK DOWN: HUNTING METEORITES IN THE ROCKIES

By Bob Stollsteimer

MONTROSE-Don't be fooled and don't believe that meteorites are rare.

On the contrary, my guess is that most of you have stepped on, thrown, or skipped on a pond, plenty of meteorites and just didn't know it. Herein I plan to help you identify a meteorite the next time you see one and I hope to educate you on why there is so much misunderstanding as to the rarity and value of meteorites.

According to researchers at the University of Oregon (uoregon.edu and wikipedia.org), about 25 million meteors enter Earth's atmosphere every day, yes I said every day. I double checked that number because it is amazing. Most of the meteors burn up into dust and ash upon entry but a substantial number of them actually hit the ground and become known as "meteorites".

As you should expect, the meteorites have basically the same makeup as rocks on earth. Don't let anyone fool you that their meteorite is one of a kind. Meteorites are like earth rocks and they can look different from each other, but there are three types of meteorite.

Chondrites are stony meteorites and have no metallic content and rocks look like rocks. Just like earth rocks.

Iron meteorites have iron and nickel and other metals and metal looks like metal. Just like earth rocks.

Pallasites are meteorites with a mixture of stone and iron. Just like earth rocks. I am sure some professor with a PHD came up with those names.

Pallasites are the most common on the ground because the mixture of stone and iron helps them survive earth entry better.

Ok folks, the basics of meteorites is just that simple. A little later I will explain why something so common and so simple can be both worthless and worth tons of money.

I have been collecting meteorites since about 1958 and all of my collecting has been in Colorado. What started out as a Rocky Mountain boy rockhounding hobby has ended up in a very studied and mystery solving adventure as I reach old age. It's still rockhounding and it's still just a hobby but a lot more fun now than ever, and I will explain later why.

Several times a year you can hear the local weather forecaster tell you of an upcoming meteor shower. Usually the showers occur because the planet earth, with all you earthlings on board, passes through the remnant tail of a comet.

Sometimes a projectile maverick meteor wanting to do battle with planet earth and those are the ones that have created so much work and fun for me. Yes, I will explain that too.

The real fun for me is when that maverick meteor decides to make it relatively close to the ground and explodes and puts on a powerful light show. That exploding rock will break into fragments and provide a "strewn field" somewhere downwind.



Courtesy photo of meteorites is by Bob Stollsteimer .

Then the fun begins searching for the strewn field and gives me a fun summer or sometimes dozens of fun summers before I find it. I suppose you're wondering now why an old man is still acting like a kid rockhounding. My grandkids have the rockhounding fever.

Now don't get me wrong, you don't have to actually be lucky enough to witness the explosion also known as a bolide. Those events almost always make the news and if you go to the web site cloudbait.com those guys keep track of all the meteor events and provide a wealth of information to help you find the fragments. From the website you can determine where the meteor entered the atmosphere, the angle of entry, the speed of entry, the direction of travel, approximate size, altitude of explosion and how the color of the bolide determines the material.

Continued next pg

HUNTING METEORITES IN THE ROCKIES From previous pg

You will be surprised how many meteorite falls are recorded over Colorado. A good number of bolides are actually witnessed. Colorado is one of the most common places in the world for bolide witnessing. Meteorites are like Californians, they love Colorado. Personally I have witnessed live one bolide explosion near Salida, Colorado and I once witnessed an impact near Ridgeway Reservoir.

Now don't panic that you might need a master's degree in math to find the field, because you don't have to find the field unless you are crazy like me. See, I told you why it's still just a hobby and why it's so much fun for an old man. It took me 12 years to find the strewn field for the bolide that exploded over Montrose in 2004 and was caught on high school camera, but with math, I found it. Google it for yourself. My grandkids have seen it.

As you know the earth is billions of years old and meteorites have been hitting our home all that time.

So my advice is, look down.

Go rockhounding, but keep an eye out for meteorites. But wait, I haven't told you yet what to look for and how to identify a meteorite, and I still haven't told you where not to look. I'm going to tell you all about that later, and it's so simple you are going to be angry that you haven't been looking for meteorites all your life. Maybe you could be rich, or not.

Seems to me I have been promising to tell you a lot of stuff later, I guess I better get caught up.

First let's talk about where not to look. I would think it would be obvious and if you ever watched the guys on tv hunting for meteorites you know that they stick to wide open land, the flatter the better, with little vegetation. Yes I think desert land is the one perfect place to go meteorite hunting. Don't spend any time in a forest or a rough mountain. While the meteorites are there in abundance they are super hard to see.

Since I already let the cat out of the bag about desert rockhounding let me go a little further. Keep the sun to your face if possible so you can see a smooth rock on the ground. A little piece of advice, you are also going to see arrowheads and really cool non meteorites and little crawly

lizards. Look around first and get a feel for the natural rocks that dominate the landscape. Look at their color and texture.

Now look around for any rocks that just look out of place. Now you're ready.

Wait, you're still not ready to start picking up rocks.

Now let this city slicker tell you my second favorite place to look for meteorites. I have had a lot of luck in town looking through gravel landscaping. Good thing they are too lazy to mow grass but we like it.

You see, all that gravel was imported from a gravel pit somewhere and you can bet your boots there are meteorites in there. In fact a few years ago, on my way in to work at the food bank I found the sweetest little meteorite I ever saw in the gravel parking lot. I gave it to the boss. Be generous with your finds, post them and share them.

Oops. I forgot to tell you what a meteorite looks like, at least the most common ones. Smooth jet black surface all around...it's called fusion crust, from atmospheric entry heat. It has little dimples commonly referred to as thumbprints. No holes like lava rocks. The fusion crust can have flow lines, kinda like icing on a hot glazed donut. It is hopefully magnetic but doesn't need to be. The edges should be round from melting ablation but on impact a shattered meteorite will have sharp edges but still full fusion crust. Yes it's possible that a Meteorite that has been on the ground a long time has rust. You're not going to find signs of e.t. life in a meteorite but fun to think about. I was hoping not to get that technical but it's the nerd in me. Sorry

Dang I still haven't told you what equipment you will need for hunting meteorites. Most importantly is a rare earth magnet. You can get them at gold panning hobby stores or online. A rare earth magnet is way different than a fridge magnet but if you stick that rare earth magnet on the fridge it's going to take the whole family to get it off. Get a small leather pouch to keep the magnet in or cut the finger off your favorite pair of leather gloves. You will also need a bag to carry all the cool rocks and meteorites you will find. Leave the lizards alone--they will appreciate it--

but do carry a camera. Don't forget hiking shoes, sun block and water. Pay attention where you are so that you don't get lost staring at the ground. If you are going to do this on private property get permission and if you do it on BLM land you can only pick up 10 pounds of rocks.

Silly huh?

Don't dig up the ground, the objects you are looking for are right on top.

Ok folks, earlier I promised to tell you why something so common and so simple can be both worthless and worth tons of money.

Anyone who tells you that their meteorite is from Lunar or Martian or any other specific location ...they are untruthful to you. Not even the so called "experts" know where the rock came from. The fact is that it's much more likely that the rock's point of origin is probably the asteroid belt between Jupiter and Mars. Google asteroid belt, that's a fun little study.

For some reason it seems that all the meteorite owners are from Arizona or associated with Arizona.... That should be your first clue that they are cabal. The dictionary defines cabal as a secret clique or faction. Just like the diamond industry there is a faction of "Meteorite collectors and experts" that can't wait to use the ridiculous term "meteorwrong" to devalue and destroy your dream of owning a meteorite while selling their "certified" rocks for millions. That is why your rock is probably worth millions but also worthless. Bummer huh?

Try an experiment...post a blurry picture of your meteorite and immediately the cabal will tell you it's a meteorwrongthey don't care if it's right, they are going to shut it down because it doesn't belong to them. I knew a Meteorite man who was far more knowledgeable than anyone in the cabal but he was railroaded and imprisoned and his life destroyed by the cabal for selling meteorites online. So just enjoy the collection and don't get involved in the politics of collecting. I enjoy my collection and I try to educate people about collecting meteorites if they ask. But wait, you didn't ask. Oh well, too late.

My friends, enjoy life, take a kid rockhounding and you will make memories that last forever. I promise.

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

FAMILY CAREGIVER SUPPORT ANNUAL SUMMIT DATE ANNOUNCED

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The highly anticipated Family Caregiver Support Summit will take place on October 1, 2024, at the Montrose Pavilion.

The announcement of the confab came from the Caregiver Support Foundation (CSF) Board of Directors after their late March 2024 meeting.

“There was no question in the minds of our board members that we wanted very much to repeat the Summit in 2024 to support family caregivers,” said CSF Chair Laird Landon. “Family caregivers have the

loneliest, and often very emotionally draining, job.

We found that our Summit of October 2023 was very useful for the nearly 150 caregivers who attended.”

The event will run from 1 to 4:30 pm and feature two keynote speakers as well as several “breakout” groups. The breakouts will be facilitated and will offer group discussions on a variety of matters, ranging from diagnosis to surviving a long-term commitment to a loved one with brain failure.

A large contingent of sponsors and ven-

dors also will be on hand to provide insight into resources that caregivers need before, during and after the Summit. The CSF board members will be on hand to answer questions concerning the formation of caregiver support groups and other topics. Refreshments will be available.

On-line registration to attend the Summit will begin July 1 at www.family-caregiver.org. Admission is free.

The Family Caregiver Summit is staged by the Caregiver Support Foundation and the Region 10 Area Agency on Aging.


CHANGING NEEDS?

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Tue. May 21. 5:30 pm Weehawken, Ridgway

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY

ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

Office Hours: By appointment.

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

 don@allsaintsmontrose.org)

Worship Service Times: Sundays 9AM,

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

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

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

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

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Olathe, Co 81425

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

Pastor Gabe Skillo

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Sunday 6 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Study/Prayer 7 p.m.

CELEBRATION CHURCH

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

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

Office Hours: By appointment

Phone: (970) 497-4925

Email: celebrationmontrose@gmail.com

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

Worship Service Times: 9am and 10:45am

Senior Pastor:

Pastor Brandon Mathis

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

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

Demographics: Multi-generational

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

Student (middle & high school) at 9am.

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

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

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

Contact: 970-633-0226

Website: www.montroselutheran.org

Email: montroselutheran@gmail.com

Pastor: Tim Onnen

Worship: Sundays at 9 AM

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

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

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

FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

Denomination: Church of the Nazarene

Address: 705 South 12th Street

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

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

Pastor: Buddy Cook

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

Wednesday: Prayer Boot Camp - 7 PM

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

*disciples in Montrose Colorado and around
 the world.*

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MONTROSE

Affiliation: Presbyterian

Address: 1840 E Niagara Rd. Montrose CO.
 81401 **Office Hours:** M-Thu 9AM -
 12PM **Contact:** 970-249-4732, [in-](mailto:in-

 form@fpcmontrose.com)

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 ag-

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

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

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

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

VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH OF MONTROSE

Denomination Affiliation: Independent Baptist

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

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8am-12pm

Contact Information: Phone (970) 249-

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

Current Pastor: Roland Kassales

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

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

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

Church Directory

Mirror Editorial Staff

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

information to the Montrose Mirror:

Name of church

Denomination affiliation

Address Office hours

Contact information (phone number, email address, website)

Name of current Senior Pastor

Worship service times

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

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

Do your church services include Sunday School and childcare?

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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

UPSTART THEATER CO PRESENTS DAVID LINDSAY-ABAIRE'S *GOOD PEOPLE*

Special to Art & Sol

OURAY-UpstART, Ouray County's own professional theater company, presents David Lindsay-Abaire's *Good People*, with performances May 31 through June 3 at the Wright Opera House.

In the play, Margie, a middle-aged, single mother of an adult disabled daughter is a paycheck away from being out on the streets in the bruising post-recession economy of South Boston. When a high-school flame reemerges after he made it out of Southie to become a successful doctor, she hopes he might help her find work. But Dr. Mike Dillon is reluctant to allow the life he lived in the projects over thirty years ago to intrude into the successful new world he's built for himself.

Josh Robinson, a Denver actor who trained at Oberlin and Yale, is "super-excited" to come to Ouray to play the role of Mike. "The play is so tightly written," he said. "It speaks to some of the most integral issues in our society - of class but

also of gender.

"My character wants to pretend it is his bootstraps that he pulled himself up by, but it is not just that, it's who's left holding the bag."

But the play doesn't let him off the hook. As Josh said, "Our history is inescapable and this is where we see him not escape from it."

UpstART artistic director Kate Kissingford, who plays Margie, chose the play partly because she, like the playwright, grew up in the Boston area, moved away, and has a conflicted relationship with the world the play depicts. "There's such a brash, playful, in-your-face quality to the South Boston culture, it just brings me joy," she said. "But there's a friction there too, a tension: I left for a reason, but I also have a fondness for my roots."

Keeping that flavor is a priority for Candace Joice, who will visit Ouray, also from Denver, to direct this production. "I want us to be as authentic as possible in captur-

ing these voices," she said, "but really the story is very relatable no matter what part of the country you come from."

The play's unexpected humor, for instance. "These three women from Southie are pretty tough," Candace said. "They've had to overcome a lot of hardships, and so they can really pick on each other, but beneath their derision is an undercurrent of loyalty. They have each other's backs, and there's so much humor that comes out of that mix."

Also, she said, the play contrasts Mike's affluence with Margie's desperation, and, "a lot of humor comes out of the contrast between the two worlds. That's what makes Lindsay-Abaire's writing so great, that something can be both heartbreaking and funny at the same time."

UpstART's production of *Good People* runs Friday, May 31 through Monday, June 3, at the Wright Opera House in Ouray. Tickets 970-325-4399 or thewrightoperahouse.org.

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

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MOVIE EVENT

April 22nd

at The Fox Theatre
27 S Cascade Ave · Montrose, CO



Movie at 1pm . Free Snacks

• **Featuring the Family Film**

ILLUMINATION PRESENTS
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• **Complimentary pop & popcorn provided**



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2024
Spring Fling
Craft Show

Friday May 3rd 10-6pm

Saturday May 4th 9am-4pm

Sunday May 5th 11am-4pm

Friendship Hall, Montrose County Fair Grounds

Free admission

Hourly door prizes

Over 70 vendors for your shopping pleasure

For Vendor information call Debbie 970.531.2438 or email: montrosefootwear@aol.com

SAVE THE DATE! LOCAL EVENTS CALENDAR

ONGOING-

HEALING COLLECTIVE OF WESTERN COLORADO-Every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month from 12-1pm the Healing Collective of Western Colorado meets at 220 N Stough Ave. It is open to all wellness providers in the area who would like to collaborate with and learn from other local practitioners.

MONTROSE FARMERS MARKET (970) 249 0705 Centennial Plaza, 433 S. 1st St. Montrose, CO 81401
www.valleyfoodpartnership.org. Year-Round Farmers Market, Saturdays 9am-1pm (Summer), every other Saturday 10am-1pm (Winter). Accepts SNAP and Double Up Food Bucks.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MONTHLY

April 22-Monday, April 22, noon, Earth Day Prayer Gathering at the Peace Pole in Ute Indian Park, 17258 Chipeta Road, Montrose. Prayers for the healing of Mother Earth and peace in the world. Bring drums. Everyone is invited. 970-252-0908 for more information.

April 27-Celebrate World Tai Chi Day on Saturday, April 27 at 10am on the front lawn at the Montrose Rec Center (across from Walmart.) The short Sun Style form will be led by Certified Tai Chi for Health and Exercise Leader, Jan Graves. Everyone is welcome from novice to advanced. Come in comfortable clothes & shoes for walking on a grassy surface. Donations happily accepted. For more information, please text Jan at 410-693-7327

May 2-CMU Montrose Campus Lecture Series presents: "Juan Rivera's Colorado, 1765: The First Descriptions of Colorado and the Ute Indians," with Archeologist and Author Steven G. Baker, 7-8:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 2 at Cascade Hall, S. 3rd St. & Cascade Ave., at CMU Montrose Campus. Free and open to the public.

May 2-The Women's Giving Club 2nd quarterly meeting will be held on Thursday, May 2nd, 5:30 at the Bridges. ALWAYS open to every woman who would like to participate. Call 970-209-9598 if you need more info.

May 3-There will be a book signing with local writer Matt Eicheldinger, Author of *Matt Sprouts and the Curse of the Ten Broken Toes*, on May 3rd 3:30-5pm at Curiouser Books, 324 E Main St., Montrose. RSVP recommended: www.curiouserbooksmontrose.com

May 3-The Black Canyon Boys & Girls Club's (BCBGC) presents Bubbles & Bliss: An Evening of Sparkling Wines at 6 p.m. on Friday May 3, 2024, at The Temple Events, located upstairs at 511 E Main St. in Montrose. Tickets are \$100 and can be purchased online at www.montrosewinefestival.com. All proceeds from the event benefit the BCBGC, an after-school youth development organization celebrating its 25th year. For more information on the BCBGC, visit <http://www.bcbgc.org>

May 3-Delta Cinco de Mayo Celebration on Main Street Delta, 6pm-midnight. Live music with two bands, Azteca dancers, food & beverage vendors, piñatas.

May 4--The Fruita Spring 5K event will be Saturday, May 4 at Shelledy Elementary – 353 N. Mesa St. Fruita, CO 81521. Participation in the Fruita Spring 5K event is open to the public and all proceeds from the event will benefit Girls on the Run of Western Colorado. The cost for the Spring 5K is \$25 by May 1 and \$35 for day-of registration. The first 500 registered participants will receive a clear tote and cooling wrap. To register or for more information please visit www.gotrwesterncolorado.org/5K.

May 5-Montrose Cinco de Mayo Celebration-Colorado Outdoors Noon-4pm. Fun Run & Walk. Live music, folkloric dancers, food vendors, kids' activities.

May 6-Monday May 6 at 5pm. Citizens' Climate Lobby meets at Montrose Safety Complex meeting rm(police). Non-partisan, national, environmental. All Welcome. Info at 970-765-9095

MONTROSE INVITATIONAL TRACK FIELD MEET



Runners compete in the 3200 meter run in the Montrose Invitational. Photo by Cliff Dodge.

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