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the Montrose Mirror

BEST-SELLING AUTHOR WILL SPEAK TO RE-1J STUDENTS, SIGN BOOKS THIS WEEK

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-He is well known for his storytelling despite his youth, becoming a teacher and best-selling author shortly after graduating from high school. Montrose High School graduate Matt Eicheldinger is also an inspiration to other young authors, having self-published his first book after receiving more than 200 rejection letters from publishing houses. That first book, *Matt Sprouts and The Curse of Ten Broken Toes*, was an immediate success, leading Eicheldinger to sign with a literary agent and with a major publishing house. In March of 2024, *Matt Sprouts and The Curse of Ten Broken Toes* was re-released, and quickly hit the USA Today and New York Times bestseller lists, as noted on [Eicheldinger's web site](#). Today Matt Eicheldinger teaches in Minnesota, but draws inspiration from his Montrose roots. He has published four other books since penning his first at age 21. His story is one of perseverance, Eicheldinger told the Mirror last week. "I am more than excited," he said, "I am absolutely thrilled."

Matt Sprouts and the Curse of Ten Broken Toes is 85-percent autobiographical, the former Oak Grove Elementary School student said. And while the publishing industry has changed dramatically with the rise of the Internet, Eicheldinger still believes in the personal approach to learning and holds a place in his heart for his hometown. The author will return to Montrose May 2 and 3 to speak to students in the RE-1J schools, and to sign copies of his book on May 3 from 3:30 to 5pm at Curiouser Books (324 East Main Street). "I want kids to know that their story is important," he said, "And that they have an audience that wants to hear it."

Learn more about Best-Selling Author Matt Eicheldinger at <https://matteicheldinger.com>.



Matt Eicheldinger. Photo credit Elliott Eicheldinger

HICKENLOOPER HEARS FROM WEST END LOCALS ON DOLORES CANYON PROPOSAL

Story and photos by Doris Van Ness

NATURITA-On Friday, April 26, Senator John Hickenlooper came to Naturita to have a listening session on the proposed Dolores National Monument. It was a very interesting session to say the least. First off, it was scheduled for the 23rd of April before he changed it to the 26th. There was a private meeting held prior to the public meeting, during which Hickenlooper and his staff picked the people to talk.

None of us were allowed into that first meeting, but I was told he had more people there to talk about why the monument was a good thing and only Amiee Tooker spoke for the opposition (Again, this is hearsay). But I am sure of one thing--that Amiee stood her ground and had her facts correct.

At the public meeting, the gym was packed with 400 to 500 people; there were people who drove several hours to attend. I visited with several from Montezuma County, Dove Creek, Carbondale, Montrose, Paonia, Grand Junction, Telluride, Norwood, Moab, and Ouray. Signs were homemade and the Halt the Dolores signs were everywhere in the room. A row of children sat on the floor in front of the table where Senator Hickenlooper sat, holding signs for him to see.

Continued pg 16



[Montrose Rancher Warns of War on Meat, Small Farmers](#)

[Red Hawks Sports Coverage By Cliff Dodge!](#)

[OP-ED: Commentary by David White!](#)

[Local Builder Talks Dirt, Colorado Outdoors](#)

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DELTA COUNTY LAUNCHES WEBSITE-BASED DIGITAL BUDGET BOOK ON WEBSITE

Special to the Mirror

DELTA—Delta County officials are excited to introduce the Digital County Budget Book, a web-based replacement for cumbersome PDFs, now available on the county's website. This innovative tool offers citizens an interactive and transparent experience, presenting financial information in user-friendly graphs and tables to enhance understanding.

Designed to be mobile-friendly and ADA-optimized, the Digital Budget Book ensures inclusivity by catering to individuals with disabilities who rely on assistive technologies. Featuring intuitive graphics and commentary sections from agency officials, it provides context and explanations for budget data.

Through this platform, community members can easily comprehend how funds are generated, allocated, and utilized to support vital programs and services. Updates will be ongoing throughout the 2025 budget period, with sections of information expanding over time.

Leone Anderson, Delta County's Finance Director, expressed pride in adopting the Digital Budget Book as part of their commitment to transparency, community engagement, and operational efficiency.

Citizens are encouraged to explore the Digital Budget Book on the county's website at www.DeltaCountyCO.gov and gain valuable insights into Delta County's finances.

THE MONTROSE MIRROR

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

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

PRESENTATION ON SOLAR & RENEWABLE ENERGY IN MONTROSE COUNTY

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The Montrose County Historical Society presents Tallmadge Richmond, Montrose County Planner, sharing the progress of solar and renewable energy in Montrose County. The program starts at 7 pm. Wednesday, May 1, 2024, in rooms 1 and 2 in Montrose County Events Center. Admission is free, the public is invited. Light refreshments may be available. The public is encouraged to attend,

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Author Events At Your Library



Monday, April 29 at 6 PM
Library Meeting Room

Melissa L. Sevigny will discuss her best-selling book, *Brave the Wild River!*

Copies of the book will be available for purchase.

Thursday, May 2 at 7 PM
Library Meeting Room



Montrose native Matt Eicheldinger, author of *Matt Sprouts & the Curse of the Ten Broken Toes*, discusses his fiction series based on his experience, also set here in town.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

VOLUNTEERS CLEAN UP CEDAR CREEK FOR EARTH DAY

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The ducks and muskrats are happy! Thanks to a group of nine laughing folks committed to loving and caring for nature who went out the day before Earth Day to clean Cedar Creek. We walked the banks and waded in the creek, it was cold and fast, and hauled out stuff. We got a big tire and a small one, a broken pipe, a whole bunch of plastic, mostly bottles, and some Styrofoam. That stuff is nasty. A small piece travels far and gets everywhere. Some of us got pretty scratched up but it was so worth it. The ducks are picking their mates this time of year and there was a lot of nature going on.

Thanks to the Montrose City Parks Department. They provided tools, gloves and trash bags and took the trash away. This is a great place to live, for nature and people.



Citizens Climate Lobby Courtesy photos.



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for DMEA Board

This DMEA Board Qualification Summary lists some of my qualifications for the DMEA District 2 Board position. By listing past accomplishments it will hopefully, give you insight into why I am the most qualified candidate for the DMEA Board Member position in District 2 and would serve you well. My goals are to provide a **low-cost, very reliable power supply, and a low-cost very reliable internet**. Here are a few of my **qualifications**:

- Montrose County Manager**—CEO of Montrose County for **seven years**
- Responsible for Design and Construction of Montrose County Event Center, Montrose County Public Works Campus, Montrose County Justice Center Annex—Cost \$24 Million.
- Vice President, DMEA Board**
- Acting President, Colorado-Ute Electric Association** (Former power supplier to DMEA and 13 other similar Colorado electric distribution coops.) Montrose.
- Project Engineer**—Design and Construction of Craig and Hayden electrical generating stations—cost \$1 Billion
- Vice President, Western Resources Independent Power Company, Rifle, Colorado
- DMEA Director**, Four consecutive three-year terms, for a total of 12 years
- Director on 17 other Boards of Directors
- Director, Montrose Emergency Telephone Service Authority (METSA)
- Public Service Company of Colorado—Engineer--Denver
- Alternate member, Inland Power Pool
- Engineering Manager, Russell Stove Candies**, Montrose
- Licensed Colorado Professional Engineer 13521**
- MBA degree from the University of Colorado** (Masters of Business Administration)
- BS degree in Mechanical Engineering from Colorado State University
- Paonia High School graduate, President of Junior Class and Senior Class
- Chairman, Engineering and Operating Committee, Craig Electrical Generating Station
- Chairman, Engineering and Operating Committee, Hayden Electrical Generating Station
- Task force member, Electric Power Research Institute—Renewable Resources—Palo Alto, Ca.
- Advisor, Solar One Generating Project**—Barstow, California
- Advisor, Southwest Solar Re-powering Project**, El Paso, Texas
- Advisor, Raft River Geothermal Project**, Raft River, Idaho
- Finalist for the top job at NREL (National Renewable Energy Labs) Golden, Co.
- Third generation North Fork Native**
- Director, MEDC (Montrose Economic Development Corporation)
- Director, WEEDC (West End Economic Development Corporation)

Please give me your vote in the upcoming DMEA Election! Ballots will be mailed on May 3rd. I would very much appreciate your vote!

Ken Norris, Montrose, Colorado, Native of Paonia, Colorado

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MAY 12 TO 18 IS NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Police officers put themselves in dangerous situations constantly in their quest to ensure communities are safe.

This is a time for us to honor the police officers who continue to serve. It's also a time to show respect, honor, gratitude and remember those who have lost their lives or have been injured in the line of duty.

The members of the **Montrose County Neighborhood Watch** would like to salute the men and women of the Montrose Police Department. For the first time, our police department has allocated funds in their budget to support this program by providing signage for neighborhoods that register through the Montrose County Sheriff's Office.

When you see a police officer, don't offer them a donut (remember, they must stay physically fit), but a simple handshake and thank you will be a great way to start a conversation. If you are a family member, thank you for your sacrifice. We are a grateful community.



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Saturday, May 11th 10:30-11:30 a.m. Community Room - Montrose Police Dept., 434 S. First Street, Montrose



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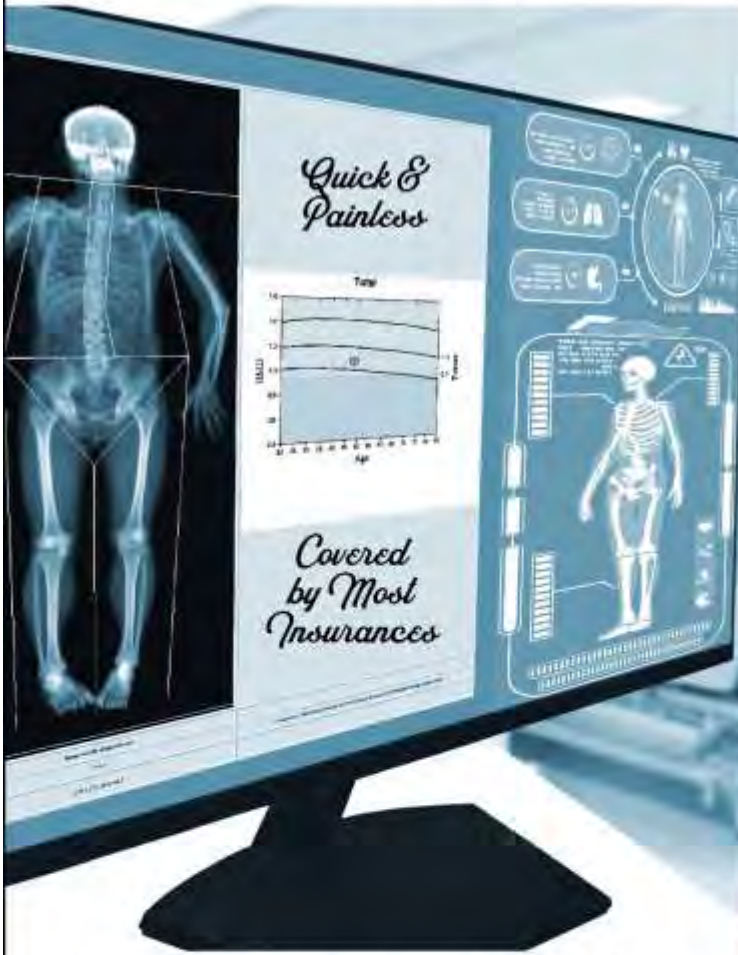
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

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Special to the Mirror

COLORADO – With the help of sponsors, volunteer organizations and U.S. Postal Service employees in 10,000 communities nationwide, the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) will conduct its 32nd annual Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive on Saturday, May 11. Stamp Out Hunger is the nation's largest single-day food drive.

Making a donation is easy. Customers should leave their non-perishable food donations in a bag near their mailbox on Saturday, May 11, before their letter carrier arrives. In the days leading up to the food drive, letter carriers will be delivering special bags along with your mail that may be used to make donations. Food collected during Saturday's drive will be delivered to local community churches, food banks and food pantries for distribution.

While all non-perishable donations are welcome, foods that are high in protein such as canned tuna, salmon, beans and peanut butter are most needed. Canned fruits and vegetables, whole grain, low sugar cereals, macaroni and cheese dinners and 100% fruit juice also top the list of most needed items.

FOOD DRIVE TIPS

WHAT TO GIVE:

Most-wanted foods include:

- Canned meats (tuna, chicken, salmon).
- Canned and boxed meals (soup, chili, stew, macaroni and cheese).
- Canned or dried beans and peas (black, pinto, lentils).
- Pasta, rice cereal.
- Canned fruits.
- 100 percent fruit juice (canned, plastic or boxed).
- Canned vegetables.
- Cooking oil.
- Boxed cooking mixes (pancake, breads).

WHAT NOT TO GIVE:

- Rusty or unlabeled cans.
- Glass containers.
- Perishable items.
- Homemade items.
- No expired items
- Noncommercial canned or packaged items.
- Alcoholic beverages or mixes or soda.
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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS


CITIZENS: WHOO NOTICES? WHOOO REALLY CARES? AND WHEN SHOULD THE WHOOOOS MAKE CHANGES?

Editor:

FROM WHERE I SIT: an opinion piece. This question came my way the other day asking me 'who is ultimately responsible' for our government? ('the good, bad or ugly' one that we have) The answer to anyone who knows American history is simple, it's "WE THE PEOPLE". Citizen involvement (action) generally happens during civil crisis, natural disasters and riots. But, by the time these type things happen, it is too darned late---involvement should come BEFORE there is a problem. That is why we give our kids smallpox vaccinations when they are healthy, BEFORE they get smallpox. This is the real reason that we elect supposedly community leaders to govern our society instead of a pure democracy wherein everyone votes on everything. Supposedly we elect successful, upstanding people who have accomplished much in their earlier lives, to sit in councils and 'determine' what is and will be needed

during their term and after. Not just folks who want a post-employment job. This is not snob appeal. As we elect, we 'should' be concerned that we are hiring someone to do a job, to manage a budget bigger than most of us can imagine. To exhibit and practice leadership to a large group of employees. To lead not to follow. To anticipate through thought, study and experience. To have no hidden agenda or conflict of interests. To make the hard decisions and not just take the 'go along to get along' route to municipal bankruptcy and the disaster that will surely follow. And to be held accountable for what they do and do not do. I applaud all citizens that are working hard in their own way to make Montrose a better place to live. Unfortunately several of our politicians see these people unfavorably (because there are not enough of them). They do not see them as alive and sincere Americans at the podium during

their 3 minute sound bite. They see them only 'trouble makers' (when they voice suggestions or criticism) who need to be shut down post haste. These citizens eventually give up as "WE THE PEOPLE" and go home muttering to themselves and any that will listen that "it's just the darned know-it-all politicians." Think about it my fellow Americans. Where would we be if the "WE THE PEOPLE" at the Continental Congress had let themselves be shut down by the nay-sayers in the crowd? No Constitution, no Bill of Rights, no United States, no Montrose? Agree with anyone's position or not, we are all "WE THE PEOPLE." For me, I for one will not forfeit for a micro-second my right to speak out on the issues of the day. I WILL NOT take for granted what our Constitution and Bill of Rights has afforded to us, God Bless America. What say you?
Bill Bennett, Montrose



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

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

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

GAIL MARVEL
Montrose Author & Reporter

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



LOCAL BUILDER TALKS DIRT, COLORADO OUTDOORS



Photo of Colorado Outdoors' Mayfly Building is by Gail Marvel.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE—As the buildings go up, public interest in the players and seemingly endless pots of money driving the [Montrose Urban Renewal Authority's](#) Colorado Outdoors project has also increased. Now, one local builder shares a disturbing experience, highlighting the importance of transparency when it comes to the use of public funding for private development.

In early 2019, Ridgway Valley Enterprises (RVE) was completing work on the [Mayfly building](#), the first structure to be built for Colorado Outdoors owners Doug and David Drago. RVE's contract with the City of Montrose required the removal of dirt displaced by construction, so Ridgway Valley Enterprises Owner John McCollum said he was caught off guard when Mayfly's David Drago filed a theft complaint against him over the removal of the displaced dirt.

"I was actually called by a Sheriff's Deputy, wanting to know my current location," McCollum told the *Mirror* last week.

Fortunately for McCollum, his impending arrest was thwarted by City Engineer Scott Murphy, "Scott Murphy was contacted and set things straight prior to my arrest," McCollum said.

When reached by the *Mirror*, Murphy confirmed McCollum's account. "When Colorado Outdoors Phase I went to bid, we hired Ridgway Valley Enterprises," Murphy said, noting that as is typical, the contract stipulated the re-use of any excess soil. "They're responsible for not leaving dirt—we don't want a contractor leaving a big pile of dirt somewhere in there."

In keeping with the contract, soil left after the grading process was hauled to a different location to be used as fill, Murphy said, noting that Drago complained neverthe-

less, "Hey! That's our dirt!"

Still, "Nobody was arrested," Murphy said. When contacted about the incident, Doug Drago said, "As far as I know there was a dispute a long time ago, but that got worked out—it ended up being a mistake."

John McCollum is not so sure it was a mistake, noting that in March of 2019, Doug Drago took a private meeting with McCollum's now ex-wife, who was then acting as President of RVE but knew she would be leaving the company shortly. "After that meeting, we never received another payment from the Drago's, and that's when all the trouble started," McCollum said, "and the lawsuits for construction defects began, even though we took care of all the warranty issues that were brought up."

When contacted by the *Mirror* last week Doug Drago said, "That was years ago...we get a lot of weird dirt thrown at us that we really just don't deserve. It's a big project...we've done so much for the community, we have spent literally millions of dollars...we redid the trail system and water and sewer on that part of town... some people don't like the fact that Montrose is growing.

"I don't think there's anything to report about," Drago said "The *Montrose Mirror* to us is kind of like the *National Enquirer*."

Still, questions remain as to the size of the Drago family's actual investment in their own project.

The [City of Montrose](#) has contributed millions of taxpayer dollars to the Colorado Outdoors Project and is currently [soliciting funds for the Drago's Pearl Investment Fund](#) through the City of Montrose municipal web site. The investment summary notes that to-date, the Fund has closed one

major investment and raised more \$1 million—with a [link to the Colorado Outdoors web site](#). However, the link takes the user to an empty screen; "The page you are looking for no longer exists."

The City's web site also includes language that appears to blur the line between public and private funding: "The City of Montrose has a track record of successful partnerships with private and non-profit entities. The City's willingness to partner is strong, as is evidenced by its past performance in creating innovative incentive packages for willing partners, land purchases to clear the path for development projects, and streamlining the development review process to expedite favorable development to the community's mission."

City Manager Bill Bell, who has come under fire for his impressive salary, city-funded vehicle, perks, and four-day work week, also serves as Chair of the MURA Board. Bell has consistently represented the developer's interests throughout the project. As noted in a news release by City Staffer William Woody in December of 2021, "The MURA concept was a collaboration between City Manager and MURA Executive Director Bill Bell and the Drago family, founders of Colorado Outdoors, LLC, that was ignited during a conversation over coffee about the hidden potential of the Uncompahgre River Corridor that runs through the heart of Montrose. The Drago's offered the entrepreneurial vision and Bell offered the detailed implementation strategy and framework."

Also located on the City's web site is a [brochure promoting Colorado Outdoors](#), which details the many benefits that accrue to "investors," listing Doug Drago as the principal contact.

Background- The City of Montrose web site states, "The Montrose Urban Renewal Authority (MURA) was formed in late 2016 by a resolution of the Montrose City Council. MURA encompasses approximately 160 acres along the Uncompahgre River northwest of downtown Montrose...MURA and Colorado Outdoors work in tandem to create public infrastructure, public open space, and zoning required to accommodate the project's mixed-use intent which includes commercial, hospitality, and residential sites. An estimated \$83 million is proposed for site work, infrastructure improvements, river restoration, and open space enhancements."



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- **Spend our Money Wisely**
- **Preserve our Hometown Heritage**
- **Continue the High Level of Professionalism this County Deserves**



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

MY PERSPECTIVE ON THE PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX (PSST) AND THE FIRE AND POLICE PENSION ASSOCIATION (FPPA)

Hello again,

My name is Lou Stark, running for Montrose County Commissioner District 1. This is in response to a request from a citizen to make a statement on the Public Safety Sales Tax (PSST) and the Fire and Police Pension Association (FPPA).

If you are uncertain about what the Public Safety Sales Tax is, I encourage you to reach out and have a conversation with me. In general, it is a citizen-created, voter-approved sales tax of 0.75% for the purpose of increasing the funding of the Sheriff's Department.

It was conceptualized in 2004 by Montrose County 4 Funding Our Future (MC4FF), a citizen-led group that appreciated that the Sheriff's Office (SO) was in disarray, lacked proper funding, and that was unacceptable.

It was voted on by Montrose County citizens in 2007 and was implemented the following year. Since its implementation, the SO has seen major needed upgrades to facilities, deputy pay, equipment, infrastructure, and so on.

One of the main purposes of the PSST was to help the Sheriff recruit and retain experienced and professional law enforcement officers. Which brings us to the FPPA.

The FPPA is a defined benefit retirement pension plan for law enforcement and firefighters. It was recently requested by Sheriff Lillard that the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) approve the request to allow the County to enter into an FPPA contract instead of the defined contribution plan the SO currently has. The main reason being, with a defined benefit plan, the Sheriff believes he will be able to recruit and retain deputies and compete

with other agencies in this regard.

There is a disagreement between the BOCC and the SO regarding the FPPA.

The BOCC feels it is most likely not allowable through the Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR), will lock the County into a contract that in the future could have negative consequences for the County Budget, would not be fair to the other County employees, and may not be a fix all for recruitment and retention purposes.

The Sheriff Disagrees.

As a candidate my stance is, first, the Sheriff's perspective must be heard and appreciated. Second, questions regarding TABOR must be answered. Third, can the County Budget afford it now and in future years to come as it is a lasting contract. Fourth, will it, in fact, allow us to retain and recruit quality long-term deputies. Fifth, will it give the community an acceptable return on investment. Lastly, do we, the community, feel that law enforcement deserves special treatment for the job they do.

If it is legal under TABOR, if the County can afford it, which unfortunately no proposal I am aware shows that, if it will, in fact, solve our recruitment and retention issues and be an acceptable return on our investment, then community input needs to happen, and a decision made.

Remember, at the end of the day, this is not the BOCC's money, this is not the Sheriff's money, this is the community's money, our money, our tax dollars, and our voice matters.

On a personal level, I do believe law enforcement is special. My stepdad was a police officer and twice a deputy, in his youth and in his later years. I have family who have been in law enforcement. I have

friends who are currently law enforcement, and for years as a bondsman, I worked closely with law enforcement.

Through that personal history I have found a lot of people do not see the human side of law enforcement. It is a hard, thankless job.

Good cops are a special kind of human and deserve to be treated as such. A career law enforcement officer protects us and our community's their working life, and I have no problem taking care of them as a taxpayer when they retire.

There are questions that need answers and a community discussion that needs to happen.

If those questions are answered favorably to obligate us as a community to an FPPA, then I am all for it. If not, then we need to find a better way to retain and recruit deputies because it is an issue and an issue that will only get worse as we grow into the future.

That said, as a future commissioner **my job will be to protect the citizens of Montrose County from fraud, corruption, mismanagement of funds, and agendas that could harm our community and our community's future.** That is my top priority.

I will finish by reminding us as citizens of this county that **we are all on the same team.** Every government department, all local businesses, and every single individual. **We will all find greater success and a more prosperous future working together rather than apart.**

Go Team!! **Vote Stark!!** Heck Yea!!

Reach out anytime. Call, text, or email. 970-620-0086, BigLouStark@gmail.com, or find me on Facebook.

Lou Stark, Montrose



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HICKENLOOPER HEARS FROM WEST END LOCALS *From pg 1*

Don Coram was the timekeeper and the moderator. Don opened the meeting with his usual speech about how much he liked Senator Hickenlooper and how he was always willing to listen to the facts and was always fair when he was a governor of the state of Colorado. Don said everyone would have two minutes to speak, and that there were three microphones set up for everyone to get in line to speak.

Senator Hickenlooper said that he had no opinion on the monument at this time, and that he was here to listen and learn what the people wanted. He said he had a 16-month-old child, and he was concerned that this beautiful area be preserved for that child to see in the future, and that other children could see the same thing 25, 50, 75 and even 100 years from now. There was no way to capture all of the conversations without making this article very long; the meeting lasted about an hour and a half. I tried to capture the highlights; there were six standing ovations for the people speaking against the monument.

The organizers began letting people speak, and the first one was Sean Pond.

Pond asked how many people in the room knew of the proposed monument prior to Feb. 24, 2024, when he had started the petition to Halt the Dolores. Maybe three people raised their hands. Pond said that the coalition for the monument had not come to this area and talked to the people who it would affect the most, but instead tried to push it through without any real public meetings with the stake holders. Stake holders include the people of Nucla, Naturita, Paradox, Bedrock, and Gateway. Pond said, "Senator this was wrong. You knew about it prior to that date and you did not let anyone know. I thank you for coming today and finally hearing the good people in this room."

About thirty minutes into speaking, one gentleman said, "Shame on you Don Coram and Senator Hickenlooper, you did not start this meeting honoring the colors of the flags." He then started the pledge of allegiance; everyone in the room stood and joined him.

There was a geologist who stated how much uranium was in this area and how if this became a monument, that uranium

would not be available to the whole country. He stated how important is it at this time where everyone is moving to clean renewables and that nothing is cleaner and more reliable than nuclear power.

A speaker named Bob showed a map that had the uranium belt on it and said, "See all the red dots? That is the deposits... Senator, you being a geologist yourself, you should know the importance of this area to the future of the whole United States."

There were other miners, ranchers, and business owners who talked about how we have been preserving this area for over 100 years, and that we the people of the area knew how to take care of the land and we don't need the government coming in here and making this a monument to protect it. "We are protecting the area and doing a great job. The government is already involved with the Forest Service, BLM, and those people are doing their jobs so why do we need more government?"

Roger Rash, a Montrose County commissioner, asked the question of Senator Hickenlooper, "Why had no one from your office contacted the BOCC and had any conversation with us? We should have been the first to know. Why are you spending money on this? If you have money to give away, give it to the Basin Clinic, give it to the towns here-- stop wasting money on a monument that is not needed or wanted."

Russ Andrews, who is running for CD3, stated that he was angry that all the Democrats do is take and take from this area. "First you took their coal mines, then the power plant, you want to take their guns. You want to take our trucks, you want to take our gas stoves, now you want to take the land we live on. You sir and your democratic party need to stop taking from the good people and start giving."

Don Coram tried to interrupt Andrews, and told him to stick to the subject of the monument. Russ said, "I am; the democrats want to take the land away from these people for their own agenda, and it has to stop."

Ron Hanks, who is also running for CD3, said that he was not in favor of the monument and that he sees no good coming



Many of those present carried signs. Photo by Doris Van Ness.

from it.

"Why sir don't you work on securing the border and leave this area alone? The people of this state are concerned about the energy, the border, not making this area a national monument. My advice to the people of this area is to stay loud, tie it up, vote for Trump, vote for conservative Representatives for CD3."

One of the most touching comments came from a 14-year-old boy from Telluride. He said that he comes to the area a lot riding his dirt bike, fishing, camping and just enjoying the area. He does not want it made into a National Monument because it would change the whole area. "It's clean, no trash, and I am afraid that if the monument goes in there will be a lot of people everywhere and they will bring their trash."

Only two people spoke in favor of the monument, and they did not get a very warm reception. In fact, Sara from Telluride got booed for her statement on how this area needed to be protected from the people of this area.

Continued next pg

HICKENLOOPER HEARS FROM WEST END LOCALS *From previous pg*



More than 30 people spoke in all, and at the closing of the meeting Senator Hickenlooper said that he would be back to have more conversations and that he had not formed an opinion as of yet on this situation. He said that he considered himself a good person and would help find some common ground.

After the meeting, Sean Pond said, "He really listened to us today," and asked that everyone give Senator Hickenlooper the chance to prove he was sincere in his statement that this is not over and that he will come back for more conversations.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

AARP FOUNDATION TAX-AIDE PROGRAM IN MONTROSE COMPLETES ANOTHER BUSY YEAR

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-From February 1st through April 12th, 19 volunteers worked for 32 days assisting Montrose area taxpayers in preparing their income tax returns at the AARP Tax-aide site located in the Senior Center at the Montrose Pavilion. During this period more than 1,100 tax returns were prepared there. This was 300 more than during any previous year. As a result of filing these returns, tax payers received over \$600,000 in Federal refunds and almost \$1,300,000 in state refunds. Much of the refund from Colorado was a result of the TABOR amendment. These tax returns, prepared for free by the wonderful volunteers, brought a lot of funds back into the local communities.

The majority of taxpayers using this free service are low-to-moderate income, elderly or with limited options for filing tax returns themselves. In many cases social security is their only income. "This is the first year we were able to operate the site three days a week" said Cheryl, the local coordinator. "The Senior Center at Montrose Pavilion allowed us to use the facility one additional day each week and more volunteers stepped up to help. I really want to thank everyone who helped make this tax season a great success!"

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Our next two informational meetings will be:



**Thursday, April 25th 6:30 p.m. MADA – 17 N. 6th Street
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**Tuesday, April 30th 6:30 p.m. Town of Olathe Community Room
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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

I BELIEVE SCOTT MIJARES WILL MAKE AN EXCELLENT COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Editor:

I met Scott and Juli Mijares when they arrived in Montrose in 2019. In 2020 Scott told me they had just purchased the old Lathrop Hardware Building on Main Street. He said they were thinking of opening a Wine and Whiskey Bar at that location. Since this proposed business was just blocks from Horsefly Brewing Co. (our business) he wanted to make sure he had our support. Melanie and I were impressed that Scott took the time to consult with us before moving forward and have enjoyed a friendship ever since.

Since its opening, Wild Horse Wine and Whiskey has been a great addition to downtown Montrose. Melanie and I go there often and enjoy bringing our friends and family there for the welcoming atmosphere and tasty cocktails. Scott and Juli have done an excellent job operating their business and have earned our respect as operators. It is not easy running a business on Main Street. As an owner operator you have to wear many hats and there are multiple ways to fail.

I believe Scott Mijares will make an excellent County Commissioner because he has proven his ability to create a great business in a competitive environment and keep it running. That type of business savvy is what I think we need on our Board of Commissioners.

Phil Friesmuth

Horsefly Brewing Co.

Phelanies Speak Easy

Montrose, CO

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

The 4 Liens are filed and recorded by the County Clerks in Mesa and Montrose Counties.

The liens show a record of non compliance and tax avoidance stretching from 2002 - 2024.

Montrose County deserves better.
Vote Scott Mijares for County Commissioner District 1
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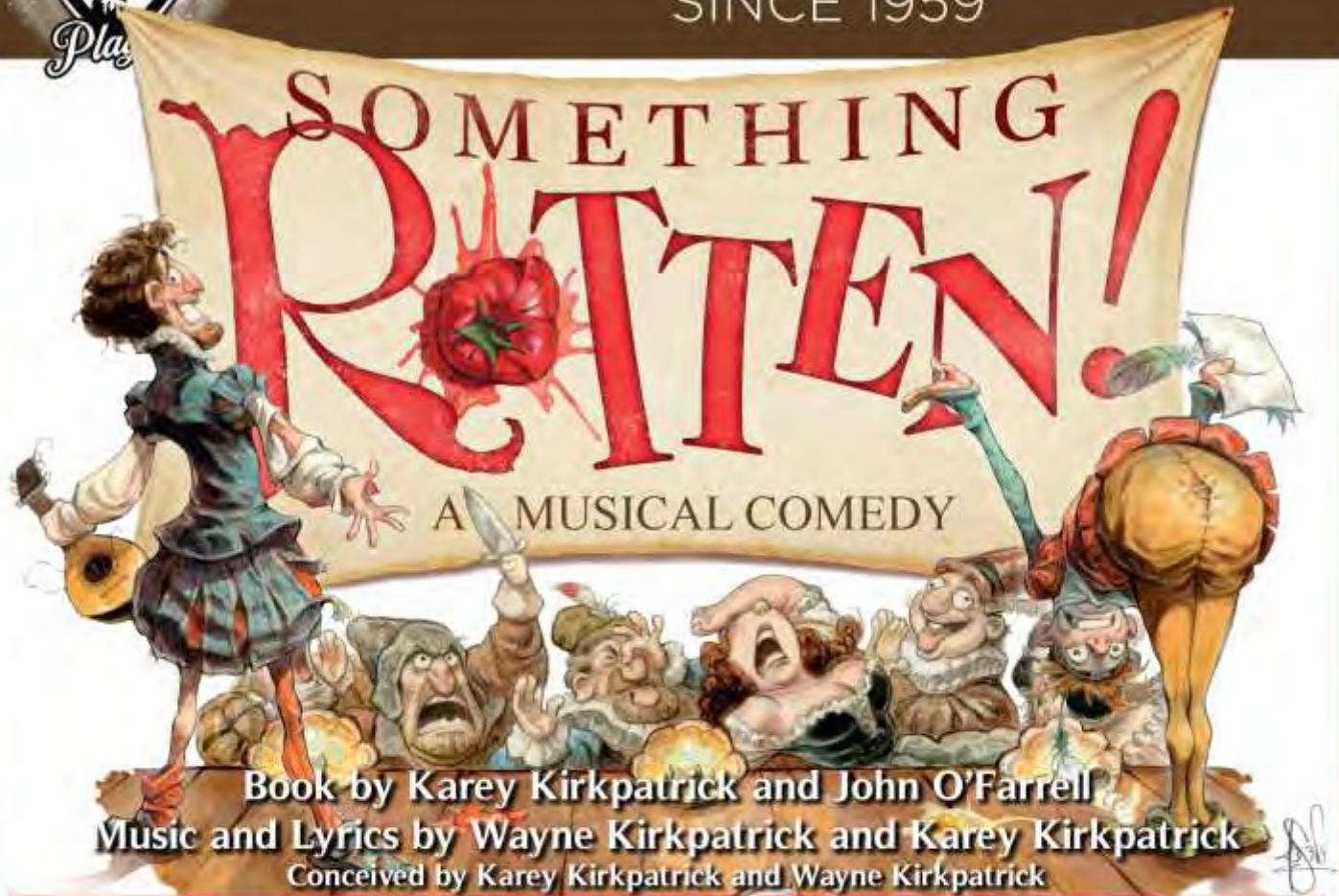
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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

SCOTT MIJARES HAS THE VISION, EXPERIENCE, EMPATHY AND ABILITY TO WORK WITH EVERYONE

Editor:

"I have known Scott Mijares for almost 2 decades. As a small business owner, an advocated for our community, and someone whose heart is filled with generosity and love of his community and his country, I am proud to call him a dear friend. We do not always agree on everything, but he is always willing to listen and look at the world through the lens of other people. Our World needs more people like Scott Mijares. Someone with the vision, experience, empathy and ability to work with everyone in his community whether he agrees with them or not."

Derek Kawakami

Mayor, County of Kauai, Hawaii

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

WESTERN SLOPE RURAL PHILANTHROPY DAYS REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR JUNE CONFERENCE IN FRUITA

Special to the Mirror

FRUITA - Community Resource Center (CRC) has opened registration for the Western Slope Rural Philanthropy Days (RPD) conference from June 5 - 7 in Fruita. This event is being organized by CRC and a Steering Committee of more than twenty local leaders. For over 30 years, RPD conferences have convened with the goal of strengthening regional Colorado nonprofits and the communities they serve. Registration will remain open while tickets last or through May 24. Tickets are expected to sell out quickly.

The Western Slope Rural Philanthropy Days (RPD) conference is an opportunity for nonprofit professionals, grantmakers, community leaders, distinguished speakers, and elected officials to exchange knowledge and establish meaningful relationships across their professional networks in the region. This rotating opportunity occurs every four years in the Western Slope region, composed of Delta, Eagle, Garfield, Mesa, and Pitkin counties. RPD is a part of the Rural Action Network (RAN), a statewide program of Community Resource Center that builds nonprofit capacity, fosters relationships, and fuels regional collaboration leading to increased grant dollars awarded to rural communities.

Rural Philanthropy Days brings together community organizations and foundations to amplify their missions, sustain meaningful collaborations, and surpass fundraising goals. Community Resource Center anticipates over 75 funders and grantmakers to attend the June conference. In addition to connecting rural nonprofits to

these resources, the conference offers professional development, educational opportunities, and relevant panel discussions pertaining to the promises and obstacles of operating a nonprofit in the Western Slope region.

The conference will be held at Fruita Monument High School with evening receptions at the Dinosaur Journey Museum and Absolute Prestige. The third day will be an optional half-day of self-care and wellness with a keynote speaker followed by breakout session activities including beginner-friendly mountain biking, meditation, sound baths, journaling, and animal therapy.

Featured events include a facilitated tour of innovative housing solutions on the Western Slope, a Western Slope regional town hall, a panel discussion highlighting actionable change told through lived experiences, networking receptions, and capacity building sessions on the economic impact of nonprofits, building effective coalitions, and intersectionality in the nonprofit sector. During the Western Slope Nonprofit Community Fair on June 5, regional nonprofits and local governments will have the opportunity to host a table where their peers, statewide leaders, and funders can approach them to connect and learn more about their work. Through this session, funders and nonprofit organizations have the opportunity to develop a mutual understanding of one another in a relaxed environment.

"Rural Philanthropy Days (RPD) conferences stand as flagship events in rural Colorado", says CRC Co-Board Chair, Leslie Baldwin. "These conferences are born out

of collaboration with community leaders, fostering dialogue and tackling key topics shaped by their firsthand experiences. This platform allows nonprofit professionals to engage directly with statewide funders, partake in professional development opportunities, and connect with fellow community leaders from across the region. Whether aiming to lay the groundwork for new initiatives or amplify existing efforts, RPD offers a vital space for networking and growth."

Kayla Bowers, one of our Steering Committee Co-Chairs, commented that "[they're] thrilled about Fruita hosting this impactful event within [their] community. This conference serves as a pivotal platform for business leaders across multiple counties to converge, learn, and foster greater awareness of the vital initiatives underway in our communities. [She's] grateful for the chance to spotlight the significant contributions of both business leaders and nonprofits, acknowledging the profound economic benefits this conference will bring to rural Colorado."

"Western Slope RPD is an incredible opportunity for skill building, collaboration and networking for our local nonprofits and funders" said event Co-Chair, Erin Ivie. "This conference will have a huge impact on our rural communities. Western Slope RPD is only held once every four years; register today!"

Registration is now open! There are a limited number of scholarships available. Please visit our [website](#) for more information. For additional information and questions, contact Jennifer Allen at westernrpd@gmail.com.

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PRODUCER WARNS OF WAR ON MEAT, SMALL FARMERS

“There are no better land stewards than those of us that make our living off the land,” - Kathi Creamer



Livestock photo by B. Switzer.

By Steve Middendorp

COLORADO—Legislation that would have legalized consumer-to-consumer sales of raw milk was shut down in Colorado this week. Concern regarding the spread of the avian flu (H5N1) is a large contributing factor to the denial of the bill. The H5N1 concerns, along with government policies to reduce the spread of the disease, look to be costly for taxpayers.

In addition, the availability and price of eggs, milk, and beef could be significantly impacted in the coming months.

The [FDA](#) announced that one in five samples of commercial milk they tested contained “viral fragments.” The agency is confident that the milk does not contain a live virus, and thus, it is not a concern for milk consumers. Meanwhile, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has announced a testing mandate for all cows that are being moved between states.

The [USDA](#) has announced that all cows traveling between states need to have a negative Influenza A test from an approved National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) laboratory. There are two of these labs in Colorado. They are located in Fort Collins and Rocky Ford.

At the beginning of the month, it was announced that the [largest egg producer](#) in the country culled nearly 2 million chickens after the avian flu was detected within the flock. The USDA pays farms to cull birds to prevent the spread of the disease. Last year, more than [\\$500 million](#) was paid out. The cost of eggs last year during the avian flu outbreak hit a record high of [\\$4.82](#) per dozen, while many people were

scrambling just to find eggs in the supermarket.

More egg shortages and rising costs are expected in the aftermath of the Texas egg producer culling 2 million birds. The impact of the avian flu and the response are causing both higher prices and short supplies of product.

When it comes to ranching, there has been a perception of a “war on meat” as it is at the center of the conversation surrounding climate change and carbon emissions. Governor Jared Polis learned the importance of the meat industry when he received backlash for declaring a [“meat-out” day](#) in 2021. The declaration was that eating less meat is more beneficial for the environment and reduces the spread of disease.

Beef is the second largest [export](#) in the state of Colorado with a value of \$950 million according to 2020 data. In response to Polis’ meat-out day, ranchers around the state declared a meat-in day. Polis made the original declaration in 2021 and didn’t continue the designation for the years that followed. However, the ranchers in the state continue to celebrate the day as a “meat-in” holiday with great success.

Polis’ approach to reduce the spread of zoonotic diseases has added to the skepticism of federal policies intended to do the same. The USDA has approved a [new rule](#) that requires electronic (RFID) tags on all livestock. This rule has been presented as a way to reduce disease transmission, which would be good for the industry and health of the nation. Representative Thomas Massie, a Kentucky U.S. House Representative and a farmer, [warned](#) that the rule will put small farmers out of business.

Ireland approved a regulation that mandates all cattle to have electronic tags in [2022](#). In 2023, the government [proposed](#) the culling of 200,000 cows to meet the climate change emission goals. The Agriculture Minister, Charlie McConalogue, recently said the proposal is off the table and the government will meet climate goals in other ways, including the reduc-

tion of fertilizer use. Despite backtracking on the issue, the discussion about culling cows to protect the climate doesn’t sit well with ranching families, including one ranch owner in Montrose.

Kathi Creamer operates Lazy JB Angus ranch south of Montrose. She said “Most definitely there is a war on meat production, not only to reduce carbon emissions, but also to eliminate the production of beef. Much of the highly publicized information is inaccurate. As a beef producer it is imperative that I include time to educate the consumer, environmentalist, etc. This includes providing accurate information and taking folks onto my ranch to help them understand what we do, how we do it, and the great lengths that we take to protect the environment.”

A *Montrose Mirror* report from March covered the struggles of local farmers to make ends meet while competing with the large grocery chains and corporate monopolies. The same struggle exists with ranchers who work to bring quality meat to the dinner table. President Biden’s administration released the [Global Health Security Strategy](#) that includes vague details about how they will work to prevent the spread of disease. There is a large focus on zoonotic diseases that are spread between animals. The document also mentions the word “climate” 28 times and the word “surveillance” 52 times.

While the document does not provide any specific regulations they will implement, such documents are used to guide the actions of federal agencies like the FDA, USDA, and CDC. Ranchers around the country are warning that the approval of electronic tags for cattle and the concerns about avian flu transmission could be the factor that pushes stricter regulations onto ranchers and farmers in the name of health and environmentalism.

Creamer said, “I have been following the “electronic id” issue. I am completely against total government control. The government agencies can’t follow the regulations they set up for cattle coming from foreign countries, why would we want them to add this regulation to our

Continued next pg

PRODUCER WARNS OF WAR ON MEAT, SMALL FARMERS *From previous pg*

livestock?"

Federal agencies have been sounding the alarm about the avian flu and have used it as a platform to restate their position that raw milk is not safe for human consumption. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) data analysis states that a person is 150x more likely to get sick from consuming raw milk versus pasteurized milk. Raw milk advocates say that food-borne illness is more likely with raw milk, but the framing of the message is misleading. The unstated context is that milk, whether raw or pasteurized, is one of the safest foods for human consumption with one of the lowest rates of food-borne illnesses.

Chris Kresser, an investigative health researcher, did a review of the CDC data and claims regarding raw milk. He determined that a person is three times more likely to die in a plane crash than they are to be hospitalized from raw milk consumption. In his breakdown, he explains that CDC data includes outbreaks that occurred from people who illegally made "bathtub cheese" with raw milk as an ingredient in the process.

Every state west of Tennessee and Indiana, all the way to the Pacific Coast, allows raw milk sales from farm to consumer with the exception of Colorado. The only way to buy raw milk legally in Colorado is through a herd share program that requires you to own a portion of a cow, goat, or herd. As the owner, you are legally able to consume the milk that comes from the livestock.

The continued limitation for raw milk

sales prevents a potential growth in income for dairy farmers in Colorado. Meanwhile, the small farmers and ranchers who are raising beef are having an increasingly difficult time making profits to maintain operations. A *Colorado Sun* report from December shows that the average cost to get a cow to the market in 2022 was \$972, while the average revenue was only \$872.

Kathi Creamer's ranch has experienced the same struggles in making a profit. "Our most recent struggle is the rising costs of fuel, repairs, feed, pasture, equipment, vaccines, veterinarian services, etc," Creamer said. "Those expenses have far exceeded our current income.

"We have included the breeding and raising of show cattle to our operation. We could NOT continue to ranch without this component. Our most recent successes included raising, breeding, and showing the 2023 NILE Supreme Champion Bull and champion Angus Heifer and two Champion Divisions at the 2024 National Western Stock Show."

There are two sides to the discussion. One side, supported by United Nations data, says that animal agriculture is the greatest source of carbon emissions. They indicate that reducing emissions is necessary to mitigate the risks associated with climate change. The U.N. and other agencies say that increasing plant-based meal consumption and sourcing alternative proteins is the way to meet emissions goals. The USDA just approved a new soy bean that is genetically modified with pork proteins as one step in this process. Lab

grown synthetic meat has also been slowly making its way into the market.

These alternative protein sources are touted as solutions to the growing climate problem. The Global Health Security Strategy indicates a "one health" approach to preventing disease must also include discussions about climate. It also indicates that the economic factors should be considered in this approach.

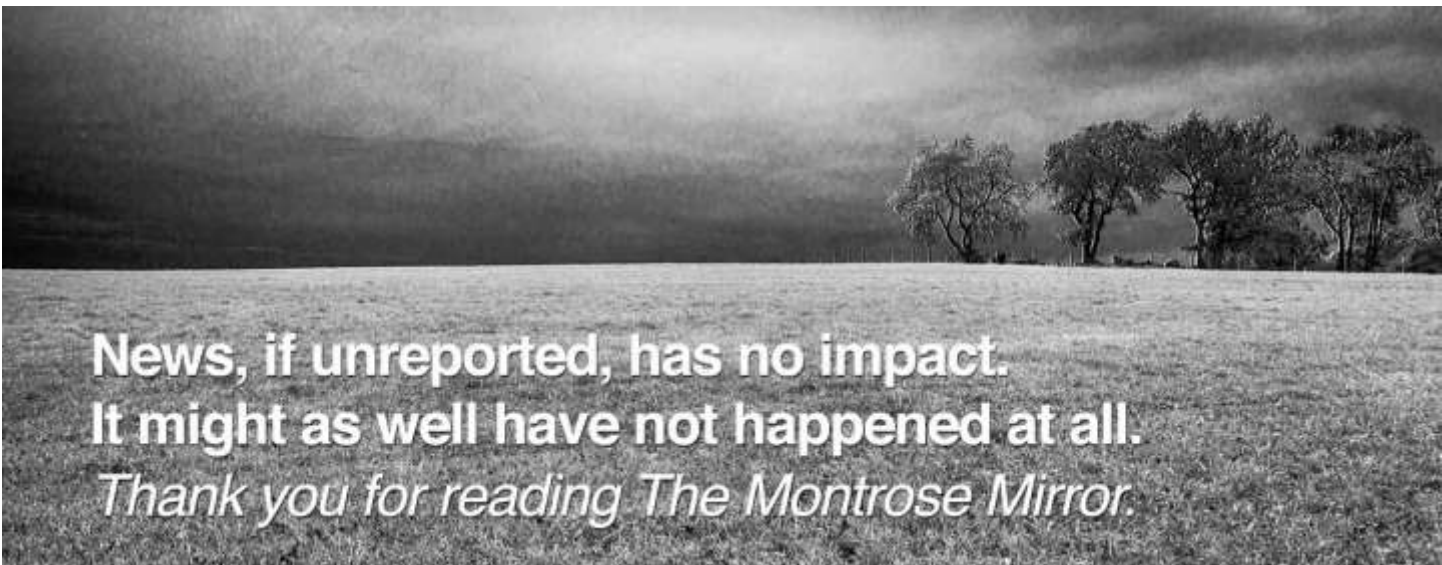
The other side of the discussion says meat is an important part of the American diet and economy. Increased regulations on farmers will price small farmers out of the market while enriching the corporate monopolies that already control the vast majority of the market. The devastation that would come from losing small family farms around the country is often not considered in the climate change discussions at the U.N. and U.S. federal agencies.

Kathi Creamer has concerns about the future of farming and ranching in the state. The implications of government regulations and inflation look grim for the future of Colorado agriculture.

"I don't think families will be financially able to continue to ranch in Colorado," Creamer said.

"I believe the rising costs will play a major role in the extinction of the family ranch. The environmental and animal rights groups will force us out of business as well. And in the end, the state of Colorado will suffer.

"There are no better land stewards than those of us that make our living off the land."



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Thank you for reading The Montrose Mirror.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

BE YOUR OWN ADVOCATE; ASK IF A.I. IS BEING USED

Editor:

PSA...just now moving thru the legal process is SB 205. What is SB205, you ask? It is a Transparency issue for ALL sectors, especially the medical sector. The bill will set forth rules and regs to alert customers/patients of A. I. usage, If PASSED, and it takes a tremendous amount of "tweaking"...You are to be notified of A. I. being utilized BEFORE you interact with the business/medical facility/or their representatives. The bill, if passed, will be effective on 1/1/2025 or 26. It is long OVERDUE and I HAVE BEEN A VICTIM OF non-TRANSPARENCY. This Colo. Bill is a beginning...it should be required nationwide. Connecticut is introducing a bill, within the same time frame as Colorado...UNTIL IT IS FINALIZED, BE YOUR OWN ADVOCATE; ask If A.I. is being utilized.

Lynn Stockton

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

THE HEART AND SOUL OF THE CURRENT GOP HAS BEEN TRANSPLANTED WITH SOMETHING UNRECOGNIZABLE TO THOSE WHO VALUE DECENCY AND TRUTH

Editor:

For the Republican party, the pendulum has swung from the highest goals of leadership practiced by Abraham Lincoln all the way to the other side of the spectrum with Donald Trump; they are polar opposites in every aspect of human virtues and wise leadership. The heart and soul of the current GOP has been transplanted with something unrecognizable to those who value decency and truth.

To see the danger we face here at home from Trumpism, look at Russia. Roughly 3 decades ago, Boris Yeltsin, the aging, alcoholic president of Russia, put his faith in a former KGB agent named Putin. He took hold of the reins of government, and brought relative prosperity to the country. At the same time, he painstakingly built up his “strongman” image, and spent his time building up his cult of personality, so that ordinary, uneducated people loved him. But, at the same time, he awarded cronies with lavish business opportunities, and jailed, poisoned, or pushed out of windows, his main opponents. Some of the cronies that he made rich eventually turned on him, and were either, jailed, or, if lucky, exiled. Because of the dangers in confronting Putin, ordinary citizens became docile, just as they had during the communist years. Protests and demonstrations were quickly and violently put down, opposition leaders and journalists jailed, and often, such as with Navalny, and many others, executed. As Putin con-

solidated power, his methods became more ruthless; he started wars in Cheney, Georgia, and got involved in violent conflicts in Syria and Africa, etc. All of this culminated in Ukraine, where approximately 350,000 Russians have been killed or wounded in less than 2 years; and the economies of both Ukraine and Russia wrecked.

That is the price the Russian People are now paying for taking the “easy” road of choosing one “strongman” to solve all of the country's problems. Sound familiar to the situation amongst Republicans today? Here in the USA, some 35% of our citizens are falling into the same mistake with Trump. Those who still support Trump returning to the presidency will deny this; but someday they will eventually learn that they made a big mistake putting their faith in a con man who wants to follow in Putin's shoes. Fortunately for us, Trump is not as intelligent, skilled in leadership, nor as disciplined, as Putin; and continues shedding supporters. Most senior staffers and cabinet officials who once worked in his administration now warn how unfit he is for office. Nor is he a strongman, but, instead, a weak man with a big mouth. Nonetheless, hoping that he will deliver on their dreams of tax cuts for the wealthy, many conservatives have made a “deal with the Devil” in falling in behind Trump. Such deals never turn out well. If they were to get their way, we would all be living under a dicta-

torship twelve months from now.

Much the same scenario as happened in Russia unfolded in Germany in the 1930's; with even more disastrous results. To build up his own power, Hitler railed against socialists and communists, minorities, immigrants, and “the elite”, turning the common people against their own government in order to gain power for himself. Sound familiar?

Yes, democracy is messy, and solutions to thorny problems are not easy to come by, but democracy has been our source of strength for over 240 years; it was truly what “Made America Great”. Honest debates on solutions to problems that face the country are what keep our country strong, and moving into the future. Instead, nowadays, our two parties fight each other as enemies, destroying us from within; and this is Putin's greatest hope. But ... this ugly phase of Trumpism will pass eventually, with ignorant bomb throwers with name such as Greene, Gaetz, Boebert, and others like them, forced out of positions of leadership that they have no business being a part of. Fortunately for us, most people see Trump for what he truly is: a serial liar, thoroughly corrupt both financially and morally, one hundred percent in it for himself, and, a bloated, fools-gold plated bully. Such people, invariably, eventually end up on the receiving end of justice.

David Congour

Montrose, Colorado



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The description of this home paints a vivid picture of a charming and well-appointed home! Four bedrooms and two baths allow for space for everyone. Use the fourth bedroom as a home office if needed. The combination of features such as the brick exterior, front and back porches, hardwood flooring, and stack rock fireplace create a warm and inviting atmosphere. The vaulted ceilings and arched doorways add character and elegance to the space. The convenience of the primary bedroom having access to the back porch is a thoughtful touch, offering a private retreat area. A lovely brick shed with a concrete floor is insulated and has 110- volt electrical exterior outlet as well as electricity inside. This great space allows for extra storage, or a workshop. There is a nice sized side yard with room for an RV. No hook up, but plenty of parking. Additionally, the proximity to amenities like the golf course, airport, and shopping adds practicality and convenience to the location. Overall, this a lovely property is meticulously maintained and would be a joy to live in.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DELTA HEALTH VOLUNTEERS BANQUET AND ANNUAL MEETING

Special to the Mirror

DELTA— Delta Health Volunteers celebrated their 48th Annual Banquet on Saturday, April 20. This year's theme was "Happy to Bee Apart of this Hive," and volunteers were presented with hours and years of service awards.

- 5 Year Awards: Jo Leftwich, Linda Link, Judy Shumway
- 10-Year Awards: Mikel Adams and Elaine Heinze
- 100 Hours: Fran Cranor, Amy Hultzman, Maddy Kraus, Kathy Labrum, and Julie Mixter
- 1000 Hours: Linda Link, Shirley Mogan, Arla Shelton, Judy Shumway and Connie Stewart
- 2000 Hours: Maria Wells
- 3000 Hours: Betty Trembly

Jonathan Cohee, Delta Health's Chief Operating Officer (COO) was the guest speaker and talked about the vital role that volunteers play in creating an environment of warmth and care that extends beyond medical treatment.

"We are here to express our deepest gratitude to the heart and soul of our hospital – our volunteers," said Cohee in a speech during the banquet. "Volunteers are the true embodiment of the spirit of service. You are the epitome of compassion, kindness, and empathy. You provide extra support that our patients and their families need, offering a sense of reassurance and a ray of hope."

Cohee thanked the volunteers for their efforts and continued service to the hospital and patients and reflected on the past year.

"We have faced unprecedented challenges together," said Cohee. "Our struggle has tested our resilience, our strength, and our ability to adapt. In the face of adversity, our volunteers stood tall, continuing to serve with unwavering dedication and courage."

In 2023, Delta Health volunteers contributed 4,982.25 hours to Delta Health, bringing in an estimated savings of \$99,645 to the organization. Their impact reaches the hospital, the oncology department, clinics, and the community.

Volunteer president, Teresas Brown introduced and welcomed the next special guests, the Sweet Adelines. The Sweet Adelines are part of a national cappella singing group that connects people through the power of song.

The Delta Health Volunteer program started in 1976 and was organized by 22 women who felt the need to give back. Originally the "Gray Ladies," when the new hospital was built on Stafford Lane, they were renamed the "Pink Ladies." Gradually the volunteer positions have grown throughout the hospital, and male volunteers, known as the "Red Barons," are also part of the program.

Delta Health is always looking to grow its team of volunteers. If you are interested in becoming a Delta Health Volunteer, contact Jacque Davis at jadavis@deltahospital.org, 970-874-2291, or go to <https://deltahealthco.org/volunteers/>.



Delta Health's Chief Operating Officer Jonathan Cohee speaking at the 2024 Volunteers Banquet. Courtesy photo.

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Why is Scott Mijares' campaign for County Commissioner gaining so much momentum among voters?

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

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

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

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

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

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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION TO MEET MAY 1 - 2

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO-The Commission will also consider the adoption of all limited license numbers for black bear, deer, elk, pronghorn and moose for all game management units in the state that have limited licenses for these species for the 2024 big game seasons. The second step of a three-step process considering changes to the 5-year big game season structure for 2025-2029 is also on the agenda.

The Commission will also consider adopting regulations for disqualification factors when participating in the Landowner Preference Program under CRS 33-4-103 and adopting regulations to implement SB23-059, Local Access Funding to State Parks and Wildlife Areas.

The meeting is scheduled to begin at 8 a.m. on Wed., May 1 and recess at 2 p.m. The Commission will reconvene at 8 a.m. on Thur., May 2 and adjourn at 5:20 p.m. The meeting will be streamed live on CPW's YouTube page.


Additional agenda items include:

- Department of Natural Resources Update
- Department of Agriculture Update
- Financial Update
- Ute Mountain Ute and Southern Ute Indian Tribes - Brunot Treaty Area and Tribal Hunting
- Wolverine Update
- Wolf Update
- Ridgway State Park Update
- 2025 OHV Grant Recommendations
- Discussion of Commission Officer Elections
- Colorado Wildlife Habitat Program
- Draw Process Workshop

A complete agenda along with all materials for this meeting can be found on the CPW website for public review. The public is encouraged to email written comments to the commission at dnr_cpwcommission@state.co.us. Details on providing public comments for hybrid meetings are available on the CPW website.

The Commission meets regularly and travels to communities around the state to facilitate public participation. Anyone can listen to commission meetings through the CPW website. This opportunity keeps constituents informed about the development of regulations and how the commission works with Colorado Parks and Wildlife staff to manage the parks, wildlife and outdoor recreation programs administered by the agency. Find out more about the commission on the CPW website.

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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

TALK TO YOUR HS GRAD ABOUT CELEBRATING SAFELY

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO— Graduation is a major milestone, yet some teenagers will throw their future away by getting behind the wheel impaired after celebrating. While young teens (ages 0-17) are one of the smallest age groups Colorado State Patrol troopers arrested (41) for impaired driving last year; troopers know that motor vehicle crashes are still the leading cause of death for U.S. Teens and parents can play a pivotal role in reducing risky behavior with their young driver.

“With a diploma in hand, some parents may think it is pointless to talk to their child about being safe, including impaired driving,” stated Col. Matthew C. Packard, chief of the Colorado State Patrol. “But as your child and their friends celebrate and enjoy their last summer before their next big step, parents can and should talk about the impacts of alcohol and drugs on a driver’s judgment, reaction time and

coordination.”

Last year one out of every three traffic deaths in Colorado involved impaired driving (CDOT). Parents play a critical role in two ways. First, model what you would want your teen to do if impaired. Do you drink a few beers and then drive? Do you have a designated driver or take a rideshare?

Second, parents can make a significant impact by openly discussing the consequences of driving impaired and the options readily available to anyone intoxicated. Relating the conversation to what’s happening at school (e.g., Have you ever seen or heard about someone from your school getting pulled over when high?) or telling a story from your own life and the consequences can be an easy way to start a dialogue.

“There is no age limit to talking about alcohol and drugs with your loved ones,” stated Col. Packard. “Let your teen know



they can text or call you for a ride home in an unsafe situation. You may be disappointed that your child or their friends chose to drink or get high, but this is nothing compared to what you’d feel if they never made it home.”

Troopers continue to take a low-tolerance approach to the top fatal crash factors, including lane violations, impaired driving and speeding while launching a yearlong campaign called “Drive Safe.” This campaign reminds people to reflect on everything they love and value and plan a sober ride when planning to celebrate.



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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

CASTLE ROCK FIFTH GRADER WINS 2024 COLORADO ARBOR DAY POSTER CONTEST



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Special to the Mirror
DENVER— A panel of judges from the Colorado Tree Coalition (CTC) selected Oliver Georgides, a fifth grader from Renaissance Expeditionary Magnet School in Castle Rock, as the winner of the 2024 Colorado Arbor Day Poster Contest.

Georgides' poster celebrates this year's contest theme of "Trees for Wildlife Habitat."

The winning poster and other submissions are on display at the Denver Botanic Gardens from

April 16 to May 4, 2024. The posters can be seen in the Freyer-Newman Center in the Helen Fowler Library from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., open to the public with no admission fee. Many thanks to the Denver Botanic Gardens for generously offering free entry to the gardens for winning schools that have winning posters on display.

As the statewide poster contest winner, Georgides received a prize package worth more than \$2,500, including a professionally framed copy of the winning poster and other prizes. Georgides' art teacher, Staci Teague, also received a gift card and free online professional development training from Colorado Project Learning Tree.

The CTC thanks *all* students, teachers and parents for their support of this fun and educational contest recognizing Colorado's urban and community forests. It is critical to raise awareness for both children and adults about the importance of trees. The beautiful trees that grace our streets, parks, yards and open spaces provide economic, social and ecological services that we all can enjoy!

Thank you to the Colorado Arbor Day Poster Contest sponsors: Above & Beyond Services; Alameda Connects; Altitude Arborist Advanced Tree Care; ArborScape Tree Services; Autumn Tree, Lawn & Landscape; Davey; Denver Botanic Gardens; Environmental Tree Care; The Great Frame Up; Preservation Tree Care; the CTC; and the Colorado State Forest Service. For more information about the contest, please contact Luke Killoran, Forestry Supervisor for the City of Lakewood and chair of the CTC's Arbor Day Poster Contest, at (720) 963-5246



Oliver Georgides' winning poster, above. Courty photo.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

MONTROSE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS – WHAT’S THE STORY? *Behind the Scenes Politicking needs to STOP.*

By David White

We are now fully into election season at all levels of government – local, state and federal. The Montrose City Council election is behind us (the election was held on April 2, 2024) with the statewide primary election ahead of us on June 25th where we’ll be voting on candidates who are vying for seats on or in: the Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC); the State House of Representatives (House District 58), State Senate District 5, U.S. House of Representatives Congressional District 3 (CD3) and the University of Colorado Board of Regents (at-large seat). Winners of the Primary Election will move on to the General Election on November 5, 2024, where we will also vote for the person who will be President of the United States.

Of particular importance to all of us in Montrose County is how our county will be governed for the next four (4) years. Current County Commissioners Keith Caddy (Commissioner District 1) and Roger Rash (District 3) are out of office at the end of this year (Commissioners are term limited to two (2) four-year terms). Commissioner Sue Hansen (District 2) is two (2) years into her second full term (she was appointed to fill a vacancy in the summer of 2018 and then ran for the seat in the November 2018 general election) and will be out in 2026. All three are Republicans.

As a result of the outcome of the GOP County Assembly in March, both District 1 & District 3 seats are being contested in the June 25th Primary Election runoff. Running to replace Caddy for the District 1 seat are “Big Lou” Stark (aka Steven Louis Stark) who is a radio DJ and music programmer and Scott Mijares a local business owner. The District 3 seat candidates are former County Sheriff Rick Dunlap and Scott Riba who is a local business owner. There are no candidates from the Democratic Party running in this year’s local BOCC election.

Unlike in years past where there’s a pri-

mary election runoff, we find that all three current sitting County Commissioners have decided to pick who they believe should be holding the office of County Commissioner come November. Some might call this election interference. Some might call this an attempt to “stack the deck” in order to further an agenda of some sort. Commissioner Hansen has gone so far as to solicit support for two of the four candidates stating that she just couldn’t work with the other two candidates and therefore needs local Republicans and Unaffiliated voters (who can vote the Republican primary ballot - <https://coloradosun.com/2024/02/02/unaffiliated-voters-2024-republican-primaries-colorado-ruling/>), to support her two picks. What the heck is going on here and why are these incumbent Commissioners so strident as to who should succeed them in office?

By now, you’re asking yourselves, who do they want so badly to be in office? And to what lengths are they willing to go to ensure that THEIR candidates make it through to the swearing in ceremony in January of 2025? Well, we can start with the Montrose County GOP Assembly held on March 23rd where we saw Commissioner Rash second the nomination of “Big Lou” Stark for County Commissioner, District 1. Next up was candidate Rick Dunlap (District 3) who, surrounded by a crowd of supporters, gave his acceptance speech after being nominated for Commissioner with all three sitting Commissioners on stage with him to show their allegiance to his candidacy.

While it is generally acknowledged that both of these men are “nice guys,” the question that the voters are going to have to decide on June 25th is whether or not either of them are qualified for the job of County Commissioner versus the two other candidates (Mijares and Riba) who were not “anointed” by the sitting Board of County Commissioners.

Reasons for their support of Stark & Dun-

lap could be several. Here are some that may be in play:

- The two outgoing Commissioners have formed a strong bond with Commissioner Hansen and want their successors to continue running the County in a fashion similar to theirs and want to ensure that Hansen is teamed with likeminded colleagues.
- The current County management was put in place by them, and they want to ensure that those individuals remain where they are.

- There have been a lot of questions raised about the funding of the Montrose County Sheriff’s Office and the Public Safety Sales Tax that the voter’s approved in 2007 and which the County Finance Department has indicated that the PSST fund the monies are placed in will be insolvent within the next two to three years. The BOCC controls the budgetary purse strings, and this has become a point of contention that having the former Sheriff (Dunlap) in office might be a way to mitigate the way those funds have been allocated to the current Sheriff and his office. (https://www.montrosepress.com/news/disputes-over-public-safety-tax-dominate-2024-county-budget-approval/article_9651c402-9b89-11ee-936a-47179db16682.html)

- There has been a strong push for the Sheriff’s Office to be able to fund (from their budget), a retirement plan for their department separate and apart from the County’s conventional retirement plan for all other employees. This has drawn a negative reaction from the current BOCC.

- The renovation of the Historic County Courthouse (across the street from the Montrose Post Office) has been a priority of the current BOCC. Costs to renovate this building along with the “sunk” costs (such as engineering work, design work, remodeling of other County office space to accommodate the offices of the County Clerk and Recorder, the County Treasurer, the County Assessor, the County GIS Department, the BOCC offices and boardroom, etc. along with moving costs and

Continued next pg

MONTROSE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS – WHAT’S THE STORY?

From previous pg

and other associated expenses) have surpassed the \$20 million dollar mark and could go higher if unforeseen issues occur and would need to be paid for with a budgetary amendment that would fall under the purview of a new BOCC.

-The current BOCC has advocated for the closure of the only medical clinic in the west end of Montrose County which is in the town of Naturita.

They cut off the County funding of this necessary medical facility in an effort to force the clinic to join with a similar clinic in Norwood, Colorado (San Miguel County) some 20+ miles east of Naturita and 47 miles from the westernmost unincorporated town in Montrose County (Paradox, CO). After public outcry, partial funding was provided this year, but the goal of the BOCC is to shut it down. Support for Ms. Hansen will be needed to keep this effort alive.

While there are most certainly other potential reasons for the unified front by the current BOCC in support of candidates Stark and Dunlap, one must question the ethics and integrity of the BOCC if they are

willing to advocate for these candidates prior to the outcome of the June 25th primary. What Ms. Hansen and the other Commissioners are doing is communicating their electoral advocacy for these candidates and seeking to influence the outcome of the primary election for the BOCC. This is just flat wrong and is most likely a violation of State of Colorado electioneering rules, regulations and ethics laws.

It is up to the voters to make the decision on which candidates to support. Each have their pros and cons. Mr. Stark, in particular, has accumulated over \$83,000 in IRS tax liens in the last 20+ years along with having other financial and personal issues that call into question his ability to manage a \$113,000,000 budget, yet he has received the support of the BOCC and other elected officials. A lack of private sector business experience on the part of a candidate should be a factor in selecting someone for this important position. Career bureaucrats (such as some members of our current BOCC) don't make the best elected officials. Motivations outside of

the usual stated reasons for running for public office such as "I want to give back to my community" or that "they have a political ideology or cause that they want to bring into office with them" are often cited as reasons for being a public servant, however, when it's all said and done, the \$101,000 a year salary plus benefits that goes with the job of Montrose County Commissioner is most likely the biggest draw in this year's election cycle for some of these candidates.

Choose wisely. Vote smart. Know your candidates. And tell the sitting elected officials to stay out of it all until we're through the primary election on June 25th.

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



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DISTRACTED DRIVING REMAINS A TOP CAUSAL FACTOR FOR SERIOUS CRASHES IN COLORADO

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO-It's easy to forget the excitement of earning your license, yet becoming complacent behind the wheel can increase the distractions. There is no "routine" drive for anyone. Other motorists, construction zones, poor weather and pedestrians can create hazards on a driver's route and motorists may frequently need to adjust their speed or lane position.

"Last year troopers investigated 566 serious injury or fatal crashes in Colorado due to a driver who was distracted," stated Col. Matthew C. Packard, chief of the Colo-

rado State Patrol. "Driving should never come second to any other task in the car. The solution is easy, just drive." When looking at 2023 crash data from the Colorado State Patrol, troopers found that distracted driving incidents were the highest in summer months (July, June, and August); however, every month had dozens of incidents. In addition, while every age category was reflected in these crashes, the 22-29 year old and 30-39 year old age groups tied for the highest number.

The top five counties for "inattentive to driving" crashes investigated by the Colorado State Patrol were:

- 1) Adams
- 2) Douglas
- 3) El Paso
- 4) Jefferson
- 5) Larimer

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE HIGH SCHOOL WINTER GUARD SETS A NEW RECORD



Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Congratulations to the MHS Winter Guard for placing 3rd in the SA (Scholastic Association) earlier this month in Denver at the RMCGA (Rocky Mountain Color Guard Association) State Competition. The only high schoolers to win the RMCGA Performer \$500 Scholarship Award based on their personal essays and original choreography were Lizzy Reed and Indi Taylor. Winter Guard, the Sports of the Arts, is a competitive sport that requires students to be independently skillful, attentive, and compassionate about working as an ensemble. This season, every athlete focused with purpose to raise the bar, break barriers, and bring awareness to the art, beauty, and creativity of Winter Guard which is part of the Montrose High School Band program.

Thank you, Natasha Zepeda (the best guard director in Colorado), Kaylee Bauer and Alexa Madden for your dedication to teach, coach, and produce entertaining and beautifully choreographed programs that enable every student to highlight their skills.

A special thank you to the families and friends for your time and support. When small town teams are Represented at state competitions, it brings recognition to our town. Please continue to show your support.

<https://sites.google.com/mcsd.org/mhsbandprogram/winter-guard>

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

DEFICITS CAUSED BY BIDEN'S SPENDING KEEP FUELING THE INFLATIONARY FIRE

Editor:

I find it interesting that on just about every political issue occurring after Trump's first presidential term, the Democrat establishment either stakes out an extreme fringe position or their policies are proven wrong by subsequent events. For example, Democrats are the extremists on abortion. American voters are not hesitant to clearly state where they stand on abortion --- sixty-six percent of American voters believe abortion should be illegal past three months. The Democrat Party is hesitant to discuss what limits on abortion they support because they support abortion throughout all nine months of pregnancy. In addition, nearly every House Democrat recently voted against legislation that would require immediate medical attention for babies born alive after an attempt was made to abort them. The Democrat establishment does not agree with most of

America and other countries in limiting abortions to the first trimester or providing care to babies born alive in a botched abortion because they are beholden to the abortion industry and Planned Parenthood. No wonder they resort to evasion, lies, and misinformation.

In 1973's *Roe v. Wade* the Supreme Court purported to find a right to abortion in the Constitution. In 2022 the Supreme Court in the *Dobbs* decision correctly reversed *Roe v. Wade*, not by making abortion illegal but, instead, by returning that decision to the states where it always belonged. Trump has made his position clear in recognizing that the *Dobbs* decision was correct and emphasizing his support for states determining their own laws on abortion. Meanwhile Biden continues to shove his extreme abortion goals down American's throats. His administration just "re-interpreted" the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act to force employers

to cover pregnant employees seeking abortions. They also hijacked the Emergency Medical Treatment Act to force emergency room doctors to perform abortions.

The current crime epidemic in America is a direct result of Democrat policies --- defunding police departments, portraying despicable criminals as victims, ultra-left-wing district attorneys who refuse to prosecute, etc. Allowing a whopping 10 million illegals to invade the border was a deliberate choice by Biden and his handlers. Biden bragged about repealing all of Trump's effective border controls on day one. Aside from the fact the horrific crimes committed by illegals are now common, proud sanctuary cities like Chicago and NYC are now overwhelmed with the influx.

Under Biden, war now threatens to consume Europe and the Middle East, six American embassies around the globe have been evacuated, and Biden handled the Afghanistan exit so poorly that the father of one of our 13 military members killed there was arrested protesting during Biden's SOTU speech. Incredibly, Biden is now sanctioning Israel in the middle of a defensive war against Hamas terrorists, after undoing sanctions against Iran, the primary sponsor of all the Middle East terrorism.

The Congressional Budget Office just put out two reports that summarize Biden's economy. In the short term, significant and persistent deficits caused by Biden's spending keep fueling the inflationary fire. In the longer term, the debt accumulated by all those deficits will make the economy stagnant for future generations. Six months into the budget cycle that ends September 30, Biden has already racked up a deficit of over \$1 trillion. Even though Democrats repeat the lie that tax cuts create deficits, the growth in the deficit happened even as revenues grew by 7 percent. The combination of the debt from the spending binge, and higher interest rates to combat the inflation all this spending caused, led Washington to spend more on interest costs in the first six months of the fiscal year than it did to fund Medicare benefits for seniors. The CBO report provided a forecast of a country that could become paralyzed by the costs of servicing its debt. (As an aside, I have to chuckle at the local Mirror writer who criticized those Republicans having the wisdom to actually vote against those spending binges.)

Biden's abortion obsession reveals his lopsided priorities. It is too bad he doesn't choose to give as much attention to the human catastrophe at our border, crime, or the plight of American families trying to survive his lopsided economy as he does in compelling American business owners to violate their consciences and be complicit in the abortion industry.

Ed Henrie, Montrose



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

PROponents OF NATIONAL MONUMENT VIOLATING STATE'S JUST TRANSITION ACTION PLAN

Editor:

The West End of Montrose County includes the communities of Bedrock, Paradox, Redvale and the municipalities of Naturita and Nucla. It is at the epicenter of the proposed Dolores River National Monument through Montrose County. The West End of Montrose County is a Colorado Just Transition Tier One Coal affected community.

Governor Polis signed House Bill 19-1314 in 2019. Concerning a Just Transition from Coal-based electrical energy economy and in connection therewith, making an appropriation. The Colorado General Assembly made a "moral commitment to assist the workers and communities that have powered Colorado for generations" by supporting a "just and inclusive transition" away from coal. The Colorado Just Transition Action Plan was established in 2020. The Governor has directed state agencies to make assisting coal transition communities a priority.

· Community Strategy 3: **Empower communities with resources to drive their own economic transitions.**
o Description: If economic development is a team sport, then local leaders are the best quarterbacks. In other words, the most effective and long-lasting economic development strategies usually come from within communities themselves, reflecting their own priorities and building on existing strengths. The state will work with appropriate jurisdictions within Tier One communities to ensure each has the staff capacity and expertise to effectively develop and implement local transition strategies. These local strategies, and the local leadership behind them, will serve as the foundation of the State's ongoing partnership with these communities on transition issues. We will ask communities to submit applications outlining how the added capacity and expertise will be used to advance their local transition strategies (which should be focused and demonstrate broad community support). This was a key recommendation of the Just Transition Action Committee.

This proposed Dolores River National Monument is not just and inclusive of my community's wishes and is clearly not locally driven. Testament to that is our public adamant opposition to this and the resolutions by the towns of Nucla and Naturita and Montrose County among opposition by many, many other groups (I can give you a list).

The proponents of this Dolores River National Monument have been made aware in multiple settings that they are in violation of the Colorado Just Transition Action Plan and the directives of Governor Polis and the Colorado General Assembly and H.B. 19-1314 and still choose to pursue this Presidential Proclamation of the Dolores River National Monument. When will the State of Colorado honor their commitment, stand up for my community and shut this monument proposal down? OUR TRANSITION IS OUR POSITION!

"Justice consists not in being neutral between right and wrong, but finding out the right and upholding it, wherever found, against the wrong."

-Theodore Roosevelt

Aimee Tooker,

Community Leader West End Montrose County



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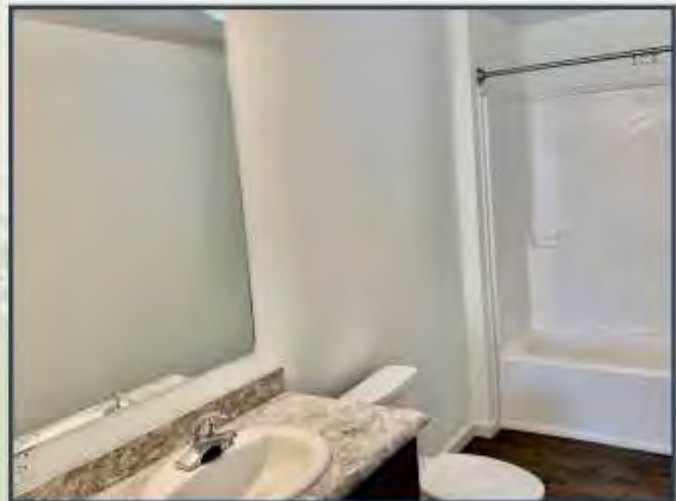
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RED HAWKS BASEBALL SPLIT FOUR GAMES



Senior Gage Wareham prepares to step into the batter's box. Photo by Cliff Dodge.

By Cliff Dodge

GLENWOOD SPRINGS 5, MONTROSE 4

The Montrose Red Hawks baseball team dropped a pair of one run games this past weekend, one game on the road and the other at home. On Saturday, April 20 the Red Hawks traveled to Glenwood Springs and took on the Demons in a close knit affair with the Red Hawks coming out on the losing end of a 5-4 score.

Montrose scored first as they pushed across a run in the top of the first inning. The lead would not last as the Demons came out swinging in their half of the second inning, scoring four runs. The Red Hawks scrambled back to tie the Demons as they scored a run in the third inning and two more runs in the 5th inning. The Demos scored the winning run in the bottom of the sixth inning and retired the Red Hawks in the seventh inning to preserve the victory for the home team.

Kortlan Nelson led the Red Hawks offense with a triple, a double, a single and an RBI. Other Red Hawks with base hits included Jackson Barnett, Gage Wareham, Cooper Ross and Jaxon Kattner who also drove in one of the Red Hawks runs. Senior Titus Weese pitched a complete game going six innings. He gave up five runs on 10 hits. Weese walked a pair and struck out three. All of the runs Weese allowed were earned.

UNIVERSITY 8, MONTROSE 7

The Red Hawks hosted the Dogs of University High School located in Greeley, Colorado, on Monday afternoon at the local baseball diamond. The Dogs sent nine men to the place in the first inning and scored four runs on two hits, two bases on balls and one hit batsman. The Red Hawks struck back in the second inning as they sent 10 batters to the place and scored four runs on two hits, two bases on balls, two hit batsmen and left the bases loaded.

The teams each scored a pair of runs in the third inning. University scored the go ahead run in their half of the fourth inning and an insurance run in the top of the sixth inning. The Red Hawks rallied in the bottom of the seventh inning and scored one run before hitting into a double play to end the rally and the game with the score University 8, Montrose 7.

Cooper Ross had two hits and drove in a pair of runs. Kortlan Nelson added a base hit and scored two runs while Jaxon Kattner scored one run and banged out a single and a double in four trips to the plate. Gage Wareham started on the mound for the Red Hawks and went three innings, giving up six earned runs on six hits. Wareham walked three batters and struck out three. Jackson Barrett pitched the final four innings, giving up two runs on three hits, walking one and striking out four. Only one of the runs Barrett gave up was earned.

MONTROSE 6, DURANGO 3

The Montrose Red Hawks and the Durango Demons squared off on a chilly, cold and wet Friday afternoon and took both ends of the doubleheader to advance their overall record to 10 wins and 8 losses.

The Red Hawks jumped on the Demons and scored four runs in the bottom of the first inning and never looked back. The Red Hawks scored their six runs on five base hits. Senior Jaxon Kattner was a human wrecking crew for the Red Hawks as he went 2 of 3 at the plate, hit a home run and drove in four runs to lead the home team's hitting attack. Senior Gage Wareham went 2 for 4 at the plate and scored two runs in addition to stealing second base. Senior Titus Weese pitched a seven inning complete game giving up three earned runs on eight hits while striking out seven Demons batters.

MONTROSE 16, DURANGO 3

The nightcap of the doubleheader saw the weather deteriorate as the winds created difficult playing conditions for both teams. The Demons put together five base hits in a row and two bases on balls to score three times in the top of the third inning. The Demons sent nine batters to the plate during the rally. The Red Hawks then opened the flood gates and scored 16 unanswered runs to win the second game of the doubleheader 16 to 3. Nuff said.



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RED HAWKS SPORTS ROUNDUP

By Cliff Dodge

Girls Soccer:

The undefeated girls' soccer team continued their winning ways on Tuesday, April 23 when they defeated the Grand Junction Tigers by the score of 2-1 on the Red Hawks home pitch. The victory upped the Red Hawks overall season record to 10 wins, 0 losses and 2 ties. The Red Hawks league mark moved up to 5 wins, 0 losses and 2 ties.

The game was a close-knit affair with the Red Hawks scoring two goals in the first half of action. Ellie Duncan, roaming the box, took a pass from her sister Mia and scored the first goal. The Red Hawks Mayce Oberg then scored the second goal as she received a throw-in from Seri Wilson and converted it to the Red Hawk's second goal.

The Red Hawks had the territorial advantage throughout the contest but saw the Tigers putting on excellent pressure in the second half of the game. They scored their only goal in the period and had a number of excellent opportunities around the net. Red Hawks goal-tender Rachel Robuck made at least five brilliant saves to preserve the win. The Red Hawks also had several chances to score again but four of their shots rattled off the posts and the cross bar before being swept away by Tiger defenders.

Head coach Matt Imus of the Red Hawks said the Red Hawks passing game was the best it has been all season as they moved the ball both horizontally and vertically, giving them good scoring chances. Imus estimated the Red Hawks controlled the pitch about 70 percent of the time which limited the scoring opportunities for the Tigers.

The season is winding down to just a couple of regular season games. The Red Hawks travel to Glenwood Springs and take on the Demons on their home field. The playoffs begin on Wednesday, May 8. The Red Hawks and Mead High School have been fighting for the top seeds for the state tournament all season and the Red Hawks will be the one or two seed based on their season record. Coach Imus said the Red Hawks will most likely play host to at least one playoff game as the season moves to a climax.

Boys Lacrosse:

The hard luck boys' lacrosse team absorbed another defeat at the hands of the Telluride Miners on Tuesday, April 23' by the score of 19-3 in favor of the Miners. The Red Hawks have four matches remaining on the spring schedule. Their record currently stands at 0-wins and 10 losses overall and 0 wins and 5 losses in league action.

Girls Lacrosse:

The girls' lacrosse team, faced with experienced opposition, fared only slightly better than the boys team as the Red Hawks lost on Wednesday, April 24th to the Fruita-Monument Wildcats by the score of 11-4. Alexandra Saur, Savannah Kolb, Natalie Trask, and Kacy Steward scored the Red Hawk goals. The Wildcats dominated the face off statistics winning 14 of 17. The Red Hawks goal-tender, Abby Siegal faced 18 shots, saving 7.

Next action for the Red Hawks will be a trip to Durango to take on the Demons next Saturday.

Girls Tennis:

The Montrose Red Hawks girls' tennis team lost a pair of matches this week, first to Fruita-Monument 7-0 and then to Delta 5-2. The team currently holds a 2-9 record as the spring season draws to a close. The regionals and the state tournament are on the schedule in the month of May.



Red Hawks # 1 Singles player, Andie Blowers, prepares to return service. Photo by Cliff Dodge.

FRUITA-MONUMENT:

# 1 Singles	Andie Blowers	Ketlin Mutso	6-1 5-7 (6-10)
# 2 Singles	Red Hawk	Kiera Wilhelm	0-6, 0-6
# 3 Singles	Hayley Eldridge	Kat Austin	3-6, 4-6
# 1 Doubles	Go/Oldroyd	Siena/Rodriguez	3-6, 2-6
#2 Doubles	Fulks/Owens	Gonzalez/Olson	2-6, 1-6
# 3 Doubles	Amundson/Kusar Dunn/Belnap		4-6, 4-6
# 4 Doubles	Wu/Erickson	Barnhurst/Hagee	1-6, 0-6

Delta:

# 1 Singles	Andie Blowers	Cadence Butler	6-0, 6-0
# 2 Singles	Melania Yenders	Lauren Angelo	6-1, 6-0
# 3 Singles	Hayley Eldridge	Lillie Bayer	4-6, 2-6
#1 Doubles	Red Hawks	Franco/Sharp	4-6, 3-6
# 2 Doubles	Fulks/Owens	Anderson/Valdez	6-7 (4-7) 6-4
# 3 Doubles	Kusar/Amundson Kyaw/Naranjo		6-7 (5-7), 6-4
# 4 Doubles	Wu/Erickson	Velguez/Perez	1-6, 3-6

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WEEKLY CARTOON

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by Tim Jones



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

WE SUPPORT SCOTT RIBA FOR MONTROSE COUNTY COMMISSION, DISTRICT 3

Editor:

We are writing in support of Scott Riba for Montrose County Commission, District 3. In working with Scott over the past several years, he has proven himself to us to be well-informed, conscientious, determined, and tireless. Those qualities will be invaluable, as Montrose County faces its current and future challenges.

Scott and Linda Riba have been active and involved in this community (both city and county) for well over 20 years. Since the citizenry is best served by a government that is run like a fiscally-responsible and responsive-to-the-people 'business', Scott's business ownership and experience, both on Main Street (insurance) and in the Shavano Valley (certified hay and custom farming), will serve our county well.

Even more important, perhaps, is Scott's longstanding record of VOLUNTEERING, continually giving of his time and energy: 8 years on the County Noxious Weed Commission and 6 years on the Fair Board, as well as extended service on both Downtown Development Authority and Fire Protection District.

As if all of that were not enough, Scott still carves out time to attend both city and county meetings and work sessions, to stay informed and abreast of the issues, and to ask honest questions of and provide citizen feedback to our elected officials.

In closing, Scott Riba is the ONLY candidate who has been in the fray, CONTINUOUSLY, for the past 20+ years, and he is the BEST candidate for this very important position.

We believe that Scott Riba deserves, and has earned, your support. He has ours.

Scott Riba for Montrose County Commission, District 3.
Joe and Tamara Stucky
Montrose

MORE GOVERNMENT MONEY NEEDED FOR CELLULAR-AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT

To the editor,

With tests of milk showing avian flu is now widespread among cows, our political leaders should support increased public funding for cultivated-meat research. For those who don't know, cultivated meat is grown from animal cells, without slaughter. Since livestock are removed from the process, our pandemic risk would be greatly reduced.

The technology faces a number of hurdles. The most important of these is lowering production costs so the new protein can compete with slaughtered meat. Our legislators can help address this issue and others by backing more government money for cellular-agriculture development. It's the right thing to do from a public-health perspective.

Jon Hochschartner
Granby, CT

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

ARCHEOLOGIST AND AUTHOR STEVEN G. BAKER TO SPEAK AT CMU MAY 2

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.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

GIVING UP ON THE FIELD OF CELLULAR AGRICULTURE WOULD BE INCREDIBLY FOOLISH

Editor:

Conservative states are trying to ban the new protein. Private funding is drying up. As a result, cellular-agriculture companies are folding. This February, The New York Times went so far to publish an opinion piece that read like an obituary for the nascent industry. The writer, Joe Fassler, suggested technological hurdles facing mass production were insurmountable. As an animal activist, I've placed a great deal of hope in the industry. I regularly write letters to the editor calling for increased public funding for cultivated-meat research and picket my representatives to encourage them to support the same. Still, I can't deny feeling somewhat discouraged.

When I'm down, I try to remind myself the pace of technological change can be painfully slow and then astonishingly fast. Developments that seem impossible can feel inevitable just a couple of decades later. I think efforts to replace fossil fuels with more environmentally-friendly options are instructive in this case.

Back in 2006, my father was the headmaster of a private middle school in the Adirondacks.

That year, his students and staff converted a 1985 Mercedes D300 to run on vegetable oil. The fuel was donated from local restaurants, and as a result, whenever the car was running, it smelled of whatever food was cooked in the oil.

In an article The Adirondack Daily Enterprise ran about the project, reporter Geoff Hayward said the whole system — including filters, gauges, the fuel tank and other parts — cost about \$1,000. The car itself was an alumni gift. School officials said they planned to use the vehicle for local trips, which suggests to me they didn't really trust it.

My dad was very proud of this car. He drove it every chance he could and talked to everyone about it. I was going to college in Vermont at the time, and perhaps trying test the vehicle's range, he picked me up in the greasemobile. We almost made it back. My father and I were probably half an hour from home when the car died.

I can tell you a future beyond fossil fuels did not feel close then. It was the middle of President George W. Bush's second term, and my father and I were pushing

his jerry-rigged vehicle, which perpetually smelled of french fries, to the side of the highway. My mother came and picked us up in her gas-powered truck.

In the present day, when I picket my representatives, trying to convince them to support increased public funding for cultivated-meat research, it's a completely different scene. Electric cars pass me by all the time. They're not amateur productions. They're sleek and beautiful. They feel like a future that is increasingly inevitable.

I don't mean to suggest cultivated meat will develop at the same rate as technology to replace fossil fuels has. I think a lot more money and scientific focus has been dedicated to the latter. But I do think it shows change comes eventually, even if it currently appears out of reach. Giving up on the field of cellular agriculture would be incredibly foolish.

Jon Hochschartner, Granby CT

Jon Hochschartner is the author of a number of books about animal-rights history. Visit his blog at SlaughterFreeAmerica.Substack.com.



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COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

LINDA SUE LONG (HOSTETTER) ***February 21, 1945 — April 15, 2024***

LINDA SUE "HOSTETTER" LONG passed away surrounded by her family on her beloved Redlands Mesa Ranch, April 15, 2024 at the age of 79. Linda was a loving Wife, Mother, Grandmother, Great Grandmother, Great-Great Grandmother, Sister, Aunt and Friend.

Linda Sue Hostetter was born February 21, 1945 in Gilman, Colorado, the daughter of Robert J. and Dorothy L. (Nimon) Hostetter. She passed away at her home in Hotchkiss, Colorado on April 15, 2024 with her loving children by her side.

Linda spent her childhood in Colorado, raised on the family ranch near Radium up Sheephorn Creek along with her three siblings Elaine, Bobby and Becki. She and her siblings went to a one room country schoolhouse, then were bused to Kremmling in later years. Growing up Linda learned many valuable attributes from her grandmother Suzetta, whom she loved dearly, and who lived with them at the Sheephorn. There was never much idle time for a child living on a ranch, Linda was always busy with chores to be done, cooking (including for the hired men), tending to sheep, cattle and even feeding the orphaned deer that continued to come back every hunting season for several years.

As a teenager, Linda, while attending a dance at State Bridge near McCoy, Colorado met a handsome cowboy from Oak Creek, Colorado that her older sister and brother knew. After a brief courtship, Linda married Nelson J "Rocky" Long on January 13, 1961 at his Aunt Vagola (Dodi) and Uncle Don's home in Golden, Colorado.

It created some family ruckus when Linda did not come home on the school bus, especially when her parents asked Becki, Linda's youngest sister where she was, it was reported that she might have run off to get married! The Hostetter home was somewhat tense for a couple of weeks until Linda came home to face the music as she said, telling her father that she loved Rocky and planned on staying married. Needless to say, Linda got her way. Their life was full of adventures, they lived in various places, wherever Rocky's jobs

took them with construction, building roads, drilling wells, working in mines, and ranching. They lived all over Colorado, in Arizona, Washington, Nevada, and Utah. No matter where they were, Linda always considered the Sheephorn as her home. Linda and Rocky raised four children together, Michael Jess, Sheila Jo, Gary Allen and Celeste Elaine. The marriage lasted for over 60 years until Rocky passed away in 2021.

In 1976 Linda and Rocky had settled in Monticello, Utah. With the children growing older, she decided to go to work as a waitress and cook at a local cafe. She eventually worked at most of the town's restaurants and it's where she learned to cook for large crowds, bake many desserts, pastries, and perfect her famous hot roll recipe. It became her passion; serving many meals at family gatherings, church events, and other special events, even catering weddings & reunions. She became well known for her hot rolls and cake decorating. Linda was an exceptional cook, and she will be remembered for her baking and her desire to share it with others. She was happiest in her kitchen cooking or searching for a new recipe from the large collection of cookbooks that she had. Each year she spent many hours canning fruits and vegetables along with dozens of jars of jams and jellies. She just couldn't leave a jar empty in the fall! When visiting Linda's house, you rarely left without a jar or two in your hand. During these years she also enjoyed sewing, making many of her children's clothing, pajamas, western shirts for Rocky or designing little girl dresses or doll clothes.

While living in Utah, Linda became a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in Monticello; she was very dedicated to her church and strong in her faith which gave her joy and carried her through the difficult times and loss of loved ones. She treasured her callings, especially with the children and cooking for church functions.

In 1993, Linda and Rocky relocated to Hotchkiss, Colorado on Redlands Mesa to help her aging father with his ranch. They



settled in on the mesa managing the livestock; Linda irrigated the hayfields, Rocky cut and stacked the hay while doing mechanical and backhoe work locally. If that wasn't enough for Linda, around 2002 when the new Walmart in Delta opened, she went to work there as one of the first employees. While she worked in several different departments over the years, her favorite was the fabric department. Her family often wondered if she went to work for the first choice of fabric and not the paycheck! Linda gained many new friends while working, often taking cookies, pies or cakes to the break room that her co-workers looked forward to. She had a way of sharing her homemade treats and desserts with a smile and a twinkle in her eye. Later, if she needed a return favor, who could say no to her? She retired after 20 years in 2022, but still dropped off treats to her friends and co-workers occasionally.

Whenever time allowed, Linda loved to go back to the Sheephorn, taking a picnic lunch and her fishing pole. Some of her favorite pastimes included irrigating the fields, caring for cows, cooking, sewing, crocheting, fishing, reading, and constantly collecting new recipes to try out. She especially enjoyed her church and Walmart families - always planning a new dish or treat to share.

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES-LINDA SUE LONG (HOSTETTER)

From previous pg

The most valuable time was spent with her family and grandchildren. Precious memories were made over the years as the grandchildren spent their summers at the ranch, playing, helping feed and chase cows, riding in the back of grandpa's pickup, gathering the chicken eggs, branding cattle, picking rocks out of the fields, getting ice cream at Go-Fer Foods in town, playing in the swimming pool grandma bought for them, or riding 4-wheelers and running free with their cousins. There was always a house full of grandchildren and great grandchildren in the summers, along with nieces, nephews, including great and great-great nieces and nephews. Linda welcomed all who walked through her door including the many friends and neighbors she had. She had a full life leaving a large legacy of family and hard work.

On most spring, summer, and fall evenings you could find Linda with her favorite irrigating shovel (it was her dad's), if you looked, you would see her with the shovel on her shoulder crossing the green fields.

Even this spring Linda was still tending and feeding the cows, anticipating the new calves that would be born. Linda passed away showing her family and friends the beauty of her strength, showing grace, and love, and giving all she had with a smile. She worked hard all her life, may she rest in peace. She will be greatly missed.

Preceded in death by her husband; Nelson J "Rocky" Long, son; Gary Allen Long, parents; Robert "Bob" and Dorothy L. Hostetter, In-laws; John and Edith "Toots" Long, grandparents; George and Minnie

Nimon, Allen and Suzetta Hostetter, sister; Elaine Craig, brother; Robert J "Bobby" (Candy) Hostetter Jr., infant baby brother; George A Hostetter, brother-in-law; Dusty Long, nephew; Donald Long, as well as several aunts, uncles, cousins, and other relatives.

Survived by her son; Mike Long, daughters; Sheila Hoffman and Celeste Avery (Drew), 16 grandchildren, 25 great grandchildren, one great-great grandson, sister; Becki Graves, brother-in-law; Mike (Connie) Long, sisters-in-law; Ann Long, Sandy Wisecup, Linda K Long, Maxine Green, and Arlene Long, as well as numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and other relatives.

Linda was loved by many and will be missed very much by her family and friends.

The Mirror:

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our readers out in cold ...



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ISSUE 467 April 29, 2024

ART & SOL

SOMETHING ROTTEN

By LaDonna Buback

MONTROSE-There's nothing quite like a musical — and there's nothing quite like *Something Rotten!* Jam-packed with sensational dance numbers and unfettered joy, this recent Tony-winning musical pokes fun at its own format, as well as that Renaissance rock star known as "The Bard."

Rotten! follows struggling playwright brothers Nick (Everett Gregory) and Nigel Bottom (Cole Patterson) as they try to claw their way out of the shadow of the preening and infuriatingly talented darling of the theatre world, William Shakespeare (Riley Little).

Out of sheer desperation, Nick seeks help from an unlikely source. The stakes couldn't be higher, but they're going to be served with a side of eggs. The scandals, romances, and unexplainable dance breaks that follow teach the Bottom Brothers that reaching the top requires

being true to thine own self...and all that jazz.

Led by seasoned MCP directors Sandy Lundberg and Amy Nelp, with Bob Allyn in the Assistant Director's seat, this family-friendly version of the Shakespearean spoof is packed to the petticoats with sassy satirical shtick and is sure to leave the audience's cheeks sore from smiling for so long. Musical Director Shannon Rediger skillfully guides the talented cast through a high-spirited and highly contagious musical score that will have your fingers snapping and your toes tapping.

As *Playbill* pontificated upon the show's debut, "With its heart on its ruffled sleeve and sequins in its soul, *Something Rotten!* is an uproarious dose of pure Broadway fun and an irresistible ode to musicals — those dazzling creations that entertain us, inspire us, and remind us that everything's better with an exclamation point!"

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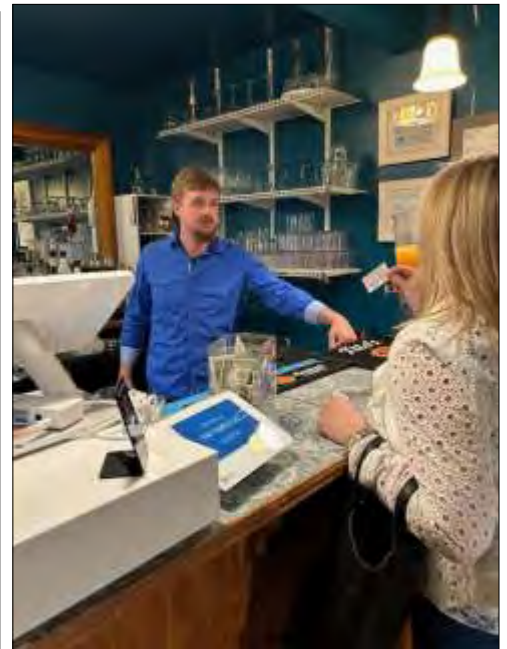
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The Chamber After Hours event on April 25 drew an appreciative crowd to the Temple. Courtesy photos.


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

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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

BRING ON THE SUMMER – OUTDOOR FEST

Special to Art & Sol

REGIONAL-School is finally out and it's time to celebrate summer! Kick off your summer fun with a day of outdoor games, art, and music at the [Bring on the Summer](#) Outdoor Fest set for Saturday, May 25. The activities begin at 11 am at River Bottom Park in Montrose and continue until 5 pm. The outdoor festival is to give kids and families ideas of sports, camps, and activities they can participate in at the festival and throughout the summer. The event is hosting a regional skateboard competition, a disc golf contest, cornhole games, and a pick-up basketball tournament, as well as an assortment of activities for kids including a bouncy house, bubble station, dinosaur fossil dig, wild bird games, art projects, nature activities, and more. At the top of the hour, there will be ducky races, a frozen t-shirt contest, a life jacket scramble, and a pie-eating contest. "A Time to Dance" will feature a hip-hop dance demo, and Montrose Surf and Cycle will be nearby on the river demonstrating the skill of wave surfing. An outdoor festival isn't complete without music, food and drinks. Benny Boom will host the event with DJ-AK1 and live music by "One Takers." Local youth are invited to play a set during the youth jam session. Several food vendors will be serving delicious food, and for the thirsty folks there will be a beer garden with generous donations from local breweries (Colorado Boy) and High Country Beverage. Of course, there will be prizes and awards for all contests and tournaments. "This is an opportunity to bring our community together and be outside enjoying games, food, and music. There is something for everyone and every age group," said Edgar Quiroz of the nonprofit LFMG Music Academy, one of the event organizers. LFMG will feature students from the music academy at the youth jam session. The festival is the primary fundraiser for the nonprofit Friends of Youth and Nature (FOYAN). All proceeds will help FOYAN cover the cost of getting more kids outside to support mental health, resilience, and outdoor education in coordination with staff from Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Montrose Recreation District, and

other partners.

"We want the festival to highlight all the activities, summer camps, and sports available for our youth to try out this summer. We are so lucky to have so many local options for kids in the summer as well as so many surrounding public lands for our communities to explore and enjoy," adds Anita Evans, Chair of FOYAN. Time outdoors has been proven to help kids build confidence, resilience, healthy lifestyles, and skills for problem solving. One of FOYAN'S goals is to remove the barriers for our local youth to participate in nature experiences that build these traits. FOYAN helps cover the cost of bus transportation for many school district field trips, provides scholarships for underserved youth and other community youth for camps, assists with costs associated with field trips and nature learning events, and will expand items in the free outdoor gear library available for youth partners of FOYAN in Montrose and Ouray Counties. Some of the groups that will be providing activities for our youth at the festival are: Colorado Parks and Wildlife (Archery Trailer), Bill Heddles Recreation Center, the Montrose Recreation District, The Ute Museum, The Museum of Western Colorado - Dinosaur Museum, Montrose Art Guild, Mexican American Development Association (MADA), Hispanic Affairs Project, Audubon Society, Metaphorse (riding Instruction and therapy), Montrose City Youth Council, Black Canyon Boys and Girls Club, Partners West, Haven House, CASA, Great Old Broads of the Wilderness, Montrose area Girl Scouts, and Second Chance Humane Society (puppies!). There is still time to organize and set up a fun kid-friendly youth activity! If you are interested in doing an activity, send an



Local youth spent the day on the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forest enjoying the freedom of the open spaces in our public lands. Time outdoors has been proven to help kids build confidence, resilience, healthy lifestyles, and skills for problem solving. (Photo Credit: Paul Kimpling)

email to foyan.outreach@gmail.com.

Are you interested in signing up for one of the sports contests (skateboarding, basketball, disk golf, or cornhole)? Visit friendsofyouthandnature.org for links to pre-register.

"As a first annual event, we are hoping for a great turnout! It's the start of Memorial Day weekend, a great day to celebrate the onset of summer," said Anne Janik, FOYAN board member and event co-organizer. "We are lucky to have some great sponsors so far who support FOYAN'S mission: Western Colorado Community Foundation, Montrose Community Foundation, Alpine Bank, the City of Montrose, and Davis Service Center, as well as in-kind donations from Montrose Daily Press, High Country Beverage, and Colorado Boy," she added.

If you want to help get more kids outside to reap the benefit of a nature fix, please consider sponsoring this event. We would love to add you to our list of sponsors! Visit our website for more information and sponsorship packages.

Friends of Youth and Nature is a non-profit that promotes opportunities for youth and families to get outside, experience outdoor activities, and explore nature. Follow our outdoor news blog and receive monthly tips on connecting your children to nature. Learn more, visit:

www.friendsofyouthandnature.org

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY

ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

Office Hours: By appointment.

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

 don@allsaintsmontrose.org)

Worship Service Times: Sundays 9AM,

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

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

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

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

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Olathe, Co 81425

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

Pastor Gabe Skillo

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Sunday 6 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Study/Prayer 7 p.m.

CELEBRATION CHURCH

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

Office Hours: By appointment

Phone: (970) 497-4925

Email: celebrationmontrose@gmail.com

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

Worship Service Times: 9am and 10:45am

Senior Pastor:

Pastor Brandon Mathis

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

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

Demographics: Multi-generational

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

Student (middle & high school) at 9am.

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

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

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

Contact: 970-633-0226

Website: www.montroselutheran.org

Email: montroselutheran@gmail.com

Pastor: Tim Onnen

Worship: Sundays at 9 AM

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

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

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

FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

Denomination: Church of the Nazarene

Address: 705 South 12th Street

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

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

Pastor: Buddy Cook

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

Wednesday: Prayer Boot Camp - 7 PM

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

*disciples in Montrose Colorado and around
 the world.*

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MONTROSE

Affiliation: Presbyterian

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

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

 form@fpcmontrose.com),

www.fpcmontrose.com

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jesse G. Mabanglo

Worship Service times: 9:30AM,

We strive to encourage, challenge and

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

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY *From previous pg*

HILLCREST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

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

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

MONTROSE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

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

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

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

ROSEMONT BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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

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

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

SPIRITUAL AWARENESS CENTER

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

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

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

ST. STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

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

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

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY From previous pg

SUMMIT CHURCH OF MONTROSE:

Denomination affiliation:

Southern Baptist

Address: 10977 60.75 Rd. Montrose, CO 81403

Office hours: Varies

Contact information:

email:summitchurchmontrose@gmail.com

website:

www.summitchurchmontrose.org

Senior Pastor: Interim Pastor.

Worship service times: Sunday Worship is

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH OF MONTROSE

Denomination Affiliation: Independent Baptist

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

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8am-12pm

Contact Information: Phone (970) 249-

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

Current Pastor: Roland Kassales

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

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

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

Church Directory

Mirror Editorial Staff

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

information to the Montrose Mirror:

Name of church

Denomination affiliation

Address Office hours

Contact information (phone number, email address, website)

Name of current Senior Pastor

Worship service times

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

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

Do your church services include Sunday School and childcare?

Local Immunization Providers

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

Questions? Call (970) 252-5011

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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES TO PRESENT 2024 'DECLARE THE GOOD NEWS' MAY 24-26



Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE — In a world where bad news endlessly streams on social media, TV, and radio, a three-day live event open to the public will deliver only good news.

One of the largest convention organizations in the world returns to the Assembly Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses in Aurora, Colorado, with a much-anticipated motivational program to comfort and encourage the public.



Jehovah's Witnesses will present their 2024 "Declare the Good News!" convention series beginning the weekend of May 24-26, 2024. The free, three-day live event is expected to draw thousands of attendees to the city over the course of 14 weekends - fueling the city's economy with local spending at stores, hotels, and restaurants.

"Montrose residents will have the opportunity to select the convention weekend that best fits their schedule, with conventions in Aurora held most weekends over the summer with the same theme and program," said Jason Davault, local spokesperson for Jehovah's Witnesses. "These conventions are a highlight of the year for thousands of people who need to experience some positivity in their lives, and we are happy to enjoy the program despite the travel time from the Western Slope."



The "Declare the Good News!" convention will present Bible-based videos, discourses, and interviews on topics such as:

- Why Do We Need Good News?
- Use the Good News to Defeat Bad News.
- Why We Don't Fear Bad News.

Saturday features a baptism of candidates from surrounding communities, while a two-part video series will captivate the audience on Friday and Saturday mornings. Prior to each convention, local congregations will engage in a campaign to invite community members to this free event.

Last year, nearly 13 million people attended more than 6,000 three-day conventions worldwide.

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Beyond Rock

Courtesy of
THE MONTROSE MIRROR
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Kate Burke's May Art Classes



Mosaic Montrose
21 N. Cascade Ave.
5:30-7:30 pm, Thur., May 9

Spring Watercolor

Step-by-step instructions to paint San Juan Mountains with wildflowers. No experience necessary. Everything included plus a drink. \$40-\$45

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



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



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

May 1-31-In honor of Archaeological and Historic Preservation Month, the Ute Indian Museum (17523 Chipeta Road) will host accomplished watercolorist Susan Kienholz' exhibit of Native American Rock Art. Twenty percent of all arts sales will fund the Friends of the Ute Indian Museum.

May 1-The Montrose County Historical Society presents Tallmadge Richmond, Montrose County Planner, sharing the progress of solar and renewable energy in Montrose County. The program starts at 7 pm. Wednesday, May 1, 2024, in rooms 1 and 2 in Montrose County Events Center. Admission is free, the public is invited. Light refreshments may be available. The public is encouraged to attend,

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

MIRROR IMAGES: OUT & ABOUT



At left, a local dad multitasks in the self checkout lane at the South City market last week. Mirror staff photo.

At right, Jill Downs of Elite Dog Walking shows off her work uniform at the Greater Montrose Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours April 25. Photo by B. Switzer.



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