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© Issue No. 574 Feb. 26, 2024



# the Montrose Mirror

## ULIBARRI, VIDMAR QUESTION POSITIVE IMPACT, FAIRNESS OF CITY'S KITCHEN GRANT PROGRAM

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By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE- All City Councilors and Youth City Councilor Graysen Vidmar were present for the regular City Council meeting on Feb. 20 in Council Chambers. Prior to the regular meeting, Council convened for a special meeting at Noon on Feb. 20, "An executive session to discuss the purchase, acquisition, lease, transfer, or sale of real, personal, or other property interest under C.R.S. Section 24-6-402(4)(a), and the following additional details are provided for identification purposes: real estate purchase negotiations."

The regular meeting began at 6pm, as Mayor Barbara Bynum called the session to order. "Good evening...this is the regularly scheduled city council meeting, thank you everyone for coming tonight..." She asked all to stand, and

[Continued pg 32](#)



Montrose Youth City Councilor Graysen Vidmar joined City Councilor Ed Ulibarri in questioning the positive impacts of the City's funding of commercial kitchen grants for private business. Meeting screenshot, above.

## HAUGSNESS REVIEWS HISTORY OF PSST FOR BOCC



Constituent Jim Haugsness, who was one of the group that worked to pass the Public Safety Sales Tax (PSST) measure in 2007, spoke to the Montrose BOCC last Wednesday about the history of the ballot measure. Haugsness said that the reason for the 70-30 funding split was to promote collaboration between the BOCC and the Montrose County Sheriff's Office (above). Photo by Harry Switzer.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-All commissioners were present as the Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) convened for a [regular meeting on Wednesday, February 21](#).

BOCC Chair Roger Rash opened the meeting, "...Welcome everybody, glad you're all here. It's good to see a full room of people that are interested in our county government."

Commissioner Sue Hansen led all in saying the Pledge of allegiance. Pastor Buddy Cook of 1st Church of the Nazarene delivered the invocation, "Heavenly Father, we thank you for this day that you've given," Cook said. "...We thank you ...for those who serve our veterans, we pray that you will be with this Veterans Service Officer...that you would just give your grace and strength Lord as we care for those who served us, who have prepared us, who have protected us. We thank you for them, may we serve each of those in a way that befits their dignity and their service..."

### PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Several citizens took time to

[Continued pg 29](#)

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

[Black Canyon Gymnastics Under New Ownership!](#)

[Rev. Dr. Arlyn Macdonald: What the World Needs Now is Love!](#)

[Varela, Frisch Campaign in Montrose!](#)

# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

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*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-The League of Women Voters of the Uncompahgre Valley will co-sponsor a Candidate Forum with the City of Montrose. The Forum will be held in Montrose City Council Chambers, 107 S. Cascade, on Tuesday, March 12, 2024, at 5:30 pm. Candidates will answer question mostly provided by audience members. The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan political organization dedicated to voter education and empowerment, and does not endorse political candidates or parties.



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# Pre-Teen Art Club

**February 29,  
4:30-5:30 PM  
Library Meeting  
Room**



Join us for art projects designed for kids between 8 & 12 years. Participants must be able to listen to instruction and have already mastered simple art skills, such as using scissors, markers, chinks, crayons, different types of glues, and paints. Projects will include detailed instructions and require patience and fine motor skills to complete.

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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## CITIZENS CLIMATE LOBBY MEETS MARCH 4

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-On Monday, March 4 Citizens' Climate Lobby meets at 5pm at the safety complex mtg rm, 434 S 1st Street, to promote local environmental solutions to climate change. Non-partisan, national, All [welcome.info](http://welcome.info) at 970-765-9095.

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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## NOBODY WINS WITH OVERZEALOUS FANATICS ON EITHER SIDE

*Editor:*

Beware getting sucked into over zealous fanaticism of either extreme and taking it out on the majority who just want to live their lives. The latest example is the Target incident where a group threw the Pride merchandise at the workers and threatened them with violence. Those people just wanted to pay rent, groceries, etc.

Chik-fil-A management donated to an anti-LGBTQ group and there was a scene where several people were shouting at the patrons, including children. In 2019, it decided to initiate a campaign of "we all belong." Now, there are groups doing just what the other side did.

Neither side really wins. Indeed, Target pulled the merchandise to protect employees and Chik-fil-A has increased its all-belonging campaign yet the controversy still builds. Meanwhile, the growing Chinese company, that I refuse to give publicity to, just keeps taking over.

Too many great local stores go out of business because of this growing trend. I do not know the politics of my favorites and do not care. Be careful that the majority of us do not get rolled over by the violent reactions of the extremes.

*AJ Smith, Montrose*



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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## WE HAVE A CHOICE IN THIS REPUBLICAN PRIMARY- THINK AND THEN GO VOTE!

*Editor:*

I turned 80 in January, moved to Montrose 8 years ago, and was a proud Republican in my younger days. As the March primary season approaches, I want to ask every Republican — every American — some questions.

If Joe Biden had asked the Georgia Secretary of State to “find 11,780 votes,” what would your position be? Would you want him charged with election interference?

On January 6, 2021, if Barack Obama made a 90-minute speech telling his followers to “go to the capitol, fight like hell and I’ll be right there with you.” And people had attacked our capitol and capitol police with Obama banners, what would your position be? Would you say the Department of Justice was being “weaponized”?

We have a choice in this Republican primary. Nikki Haley or Donald Trump? Listen to their words and positions. THINK and then go VOTE!

*David Hannah. Montrose*

## CULTIVATED MEAT IS GROWN FROM ANIMAL CELLS, WITHOUT SLAUGHTER

*To the editor,*

Humans kill more than a trillion aquatic and land animals every year for food. The amount of suffering this represents is impossible to comprehend. To put it in a little bit of perspective, only about 117 billion humans have ever lived, according to the Population Reference Bureau.

Our political leaders can help create a better world by supporting increased public funding for cultivated-meat research. For those who don’t know, cultivated meat is grown from animal cells, without slaughter. The technology faces a number of hurdles, but these can be overcome with further development.

*Jon Hochschartner*

*Granby, CT*



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- Show up to the Republican Caucus** on Thursday, March 7, 2024 at 5:30-8:30PM at Montrose High School Cafeteria and become a delegate to the Republican County Assembly.
- All delegates need to be present for the County Assembly** on Saturday, March 23, 2024 at Centennial Middle School Gym at 8AM-3PM.
- Cast your vote for Rick Dunlap**, Montrose County Commissioner for District 3.

**NOTE:** All delegates will be voting for Districts #1 AND #3.

**Thank You!**

### Professional Service

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

### Volunteer Service to Montrose Community

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

### More About Rick

- Associates Degree in Business Management
- Married to my wife, Karen, for 52 years
- Proud father of 3 sons, with 8 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren
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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## SHERIFF'S OFFICE INVESTIGATING DECEASED BODY FOUND NEAR SMITH MOUNTAIN TRAILHEAD NEAR DELTA

*Delta County Sheriff's Office*

DELTA-On Sunday, February 18, 2024 at approximately 4:00 p.m., Deputies with the Delta County Sheriff's Office responded to the area of H-75 Road and the Smith Mountain Trailhead east of Delta for a report of a local sheep herder finding a deceased human body in the remote area. Upon arrival, deputies met with the sheep herder who took them approximately three hundred yards from the road where they located the remains of what appeared to be a deceased adult female.

Investigators with the Sheriff's Office were then notified and responded to the area to investigate. The Delta County Coroner's Office also responded and assisted in the investigation and took custody of the deceased individual. An autopsy will be conducted by a forensic pathologist in an effort to positively identify the person as well as determine the cause and manner of death.

No further details are available at this time.

*Respectfully, Mark Taylor, Delta County Sheriff*



Your representative form of government starts at your County Caucus and then to the County Assembly. In this critical election year, sitting on the sidelines allows someone else to decide who represents you in County, State, and Federal Government.

**SUPER TUESDAY**  
**Tuesday, March 5, 2024 • Colorado Presidential Primary Election**

**MONTROSE COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY CAUCUS**  
**Thursday, March 7, 2024 • Registration starting at 5:30 PM**  
 Montrose High School Cafeteria for all Precincts except Precinct 1  
 Naturita Community Center for Precinct 1

**MONTROSE COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY ASSEMBLY**  
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 Centennial Middle School Gym for all Montrose County

**Please attend the Caucus and Assembly to support Scott Riba.**

**Pre-register for the Caucus at [Caucus.ColoGOP.org](http://Caucus.ColoGOP.org)**

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# Montrose County REPUBLICAN

# CAUCUS

Caucus is the Colorado grassroots electoral process to become a delegate, to elect candidates to political offices, and become a member of the Republican Central Committee

## Thursday, March 7<sup>th</sup>

### Montrose High School Cafe

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**6:00p - 7:00p Registration**

**7:00p Precinct Caucus**

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**West End Caucus for Precinct 1 only** - Nucla Community Center  
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**GOP COUNTY ASSEMBLY - Sat March 23<sup>rd</sup> - 8 am**

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# BLACK CANYON GYMNASTICS UNDER NEW OWNERSHIP

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE—When KJ Almgren purchased the Ptarmigan Tumblers business from her former gymnastics coach Claire Flowers nearly a quarter of a century ago, Almgren could not have envisioned the remarkable success she would go on to achieve. The location of the gym and the young clients themselves have changed over the years, but the mission has remained the same—to provide a safe and fun learning environment for gymnasts from age 18 months to 18 years.

Originally located at the Fairgrounds and later on Water Avenue, Black Canyon Gymnastics is now at 120 Apollo Road, and KJ's former student Jessica Yarnell is now the owner—although Almgren will continue to work there as a teacher and coach.

Yarnell, who began gymnastics at age five, said she has no major changes planned for the business. "KJ has made this such a wonderful, safe place for kids."

Family Open Gym night is still held from 5:30 to 6:30 on first Fridays, followed by drop-off open gym night (ages five to 18) from 6:30 to 8:30pm.

The current, permanent location came about after Black Canyon Gymnastics spent several years on Water Avenue. "We moved here in a weekend," Almgren said. "So many things were done by parents. We've had so much community support—it took everyone working together to make this succeed."

That energy is ongoing, as new generations of students take to the gym. "We've had nothing but support from our gym family," Yarnell said. "They have our back, 100 percent."

The business continues to thrive despite difficult circumstances. After fighting to



**KJ Almgren, left, has sold her business, Black Canyon Gymnastics, to Former Student Jessica Yarnell, right.**

recover from the 2008 downturn, the pandemic in 2020 also brought unique challenges. "It was really hard to rebuild from the bottom up," Almgren said. "We just buried ourselves in the business—and now the business is strong and very stable."

As one of the few institutions serving Montrose youth and families, the ongoing success of Black Canyon Gymnastics is as important to Almgren as it is to Yarnell, "She needs that stable foundation to start."

One of the gym's iconic features is the gorgeous mural of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison, painted by artist and parent Heather Jennings at the time of the move to Appollo Road. The mural features a

gymnast hidden in the craggy rock, representing the community as well as the gym. Almgren gave "a big thank you" to Montrose, for supporting Black Canyon Gymnastics through her 24 years in business, two moves, wars, a pandemic, and an economic crash. "The parents in this community really do support their kids and their kids' activities."

Yarnell expressed thanks for the opportunity. "There are not enough words to say how special it is that KJ asked me to take this on. It's such a successful business to start with."

Said Almgren, "I bought the business from my old coach, and Jessica bought it from her old coach. And she's learning how to be an amazing boss."



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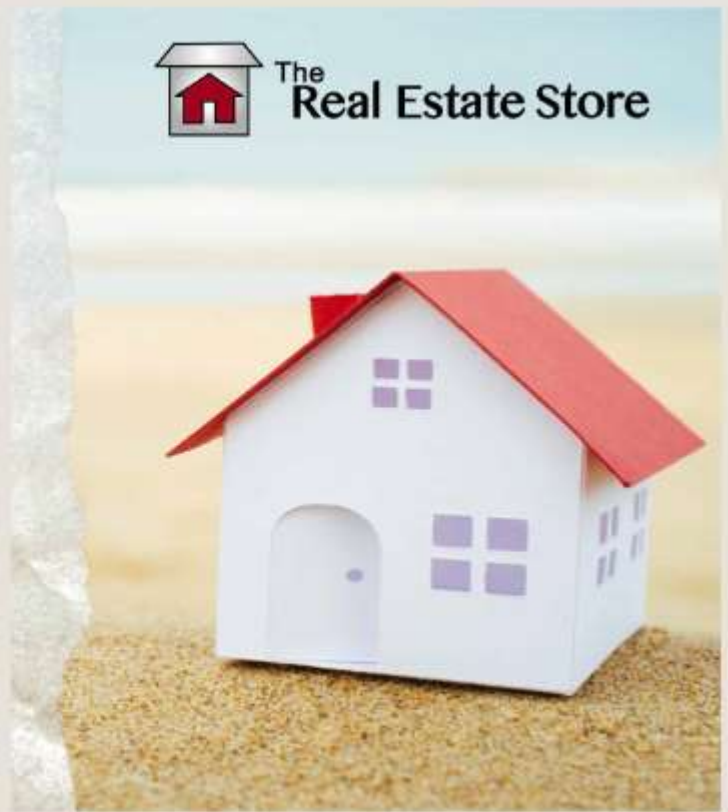
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# US HOUSE CANDIDATES VARELA, FRISCH CAMPAIGN IN MONTROSE



Photos of CD3 Candidates Stephen Varela (R) at left and Adam Frisch (D) at right are by Gunnison Clamp.

Montrose in their respective bids to win Colorado's Third Congressional District, filling a seat being left vacant by Lauren Boebert as she campaigns for the Fourth District.

Both Stephen Varela (R) and Adam Frisch (D) held events in Montrose in late February.

Frisch is going into the Primaries uncontested, as Varela faces competition from numerous others. Among the front-runners in the Republican Primary are Jeffrey Hurd and Ron Hanks.

Mirror-exclusive interviews.

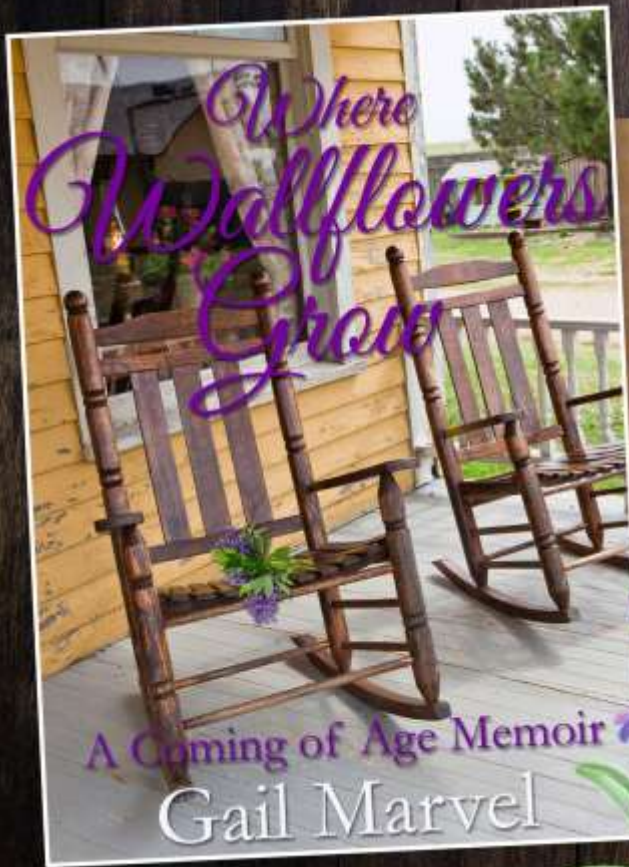
Varela: "It would be in the realm of education. I believe that's where all politics, all civic engagement starts. One of the biggest changes when it comes to the Department of Education, is moving a lot of the bureaucrats out of there, and actually start focusing on the families. Start focusing on the education in America and making sure that we are meeting the needs of what's going on in the country."

Frisch: "I think; it has to do with the Bureau of Reclamation, to go try to figure out how to make sure western and southern Colorado's water is protected. Because I think sometime in the year 2026, the temporary agreement between the states is going to be expiring. So the bill I want to put in place is to make sure that our water is protected." Both parties' primaries will occur on June 25, each candidates' final hurdle before the decisive contest on Nov. 5.

*Mirror staff report*

MONTROSE-Candidates for the US House of Representatives met with supporters in

Asked what their focus would be on if they could introduce one bill in the House, here is what each candidate said in brief




*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 CANDIDATE BIO: SCOTT MIJARES



My name is Scott Mijares, and I am seeking your vote for County Commissioner of District 1 in Montrose. I am compelled to run for this public office because of deep concerns regarding the direction our community is heading. I have previously served as a delegate representing our community for Unify Montrose. That experience provided the realization that a small group of progressive leaders are focused on changing the fundamental character of our town. Together with my wife of 40 years, Juli, we made the decision to run for this office.

I am a citizen and businessman whose values are seated in conservative principles. I am a father of three and proud grandfather of an amazing little girl. I graduated from the University of South Florida in 1983 with a degree in marketing which has provided a foundation for my entrepreneurial passion. I am driven by invention and innovation, leading me to design and manufacture a revolutionary childcare product in 1988. In 2001, I created a new category in the gift market, vintage wooden postcards. American Woodys was our family-based company for 22

years until we sold it in 2023.

Juli and I are the owners and operators of Wild Horse Wine & Whiskey, the newest whiskey bar in Montrose. We provide an experience that is uniquely Colorado by showcasing Colorado grain-to-glass whiskeys. We purchased the historic Lathrop Hardware Building in 2020 and spent the next 18 months renovating and restoring the building, taking utmost care to preserve its historic significance. We funded this project personally and did not take a single penny of taxpayer assistance.

I feel my experience as an entrepreneur will benefit the commission by examining issues from a business owners' perspective. I am well versed in budgets, contracts, leases, and cost benefit analysis. I support growth that benefits everyone that lives and works here, not just the few who are well connected.

I am very concerned about our elderly population, our children, and our working class.

For example: Did you know that the cost of living here in Montrose is 32.9% higher than the national average? (salary.com) At the same time our median household income is 21% below the national average and 30.5% below that of Denver.

(datausa.io) This is before the increases in property tax we all see in our mailboxes. Seniors represent 20% of our population. With a median household income of \$33,354 they place 51% below the national average. 12.9% of our seniors live below the poverty rate. (seniorcare.com). Our seniors are a significant share of our pop-

ulation, and they cannot be pushed aside in the name of growth or progress. We need to care for the families who made Montrose the beautiful place it is.

Another important concern is illegal immigration. I have been told that this is a national issue and not one a County Commissioner should concern themselves with, and I strongly disagree! This is an issue that affects us on a local level and therefore needs to be addressed at the local level. It threatens our social services, our schools, our law enforcement, our ability to care for our most vulnerable and more. We cannot surrender our local authority to bureaucrats who are unwilling to be accountable for their progressive policies. Montrose is not a sanctuary city/county and the leaders in Denver who instituted these policies should take full responsibility for them.

If elected, I pledge to serve the citizens of Montrose County like I have lived my life, with Courage and Commitment. As an entrepreneur/businessman I know there will be obstacles and setbacks in any endeavor. I also know that failure is never an option and I promise to never give up the fight as a representative of this community.

I welcome the opportunity to further discuss issues, ideas, and my campaign goals. I can be found at Wild Horse Wine and Whiskey (Wednesday-Saturday from 4-9). You can also go to my website [www.scottm4montrose.com](http://www.scottm4montrose.com). I am available for meet and greets or personal one-on-one meetings.



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**Water Management-** Very Simple. Water is vital to our area. The founders of our water system put in place a system that to this day is effective and successful. A war on water is coming. We cannot stand by and let it happen. We must protect and defend our water. KEEP IT HERE!

**Agriculture & Ranching-** We must preserve our agricultural traditions. If we cut away at our Ag Industry, we cut away at the identity of Montrose. Through our Ag culture we get our close nit community and self-sustainability. Lose our Ag Culture and we lose Montrose.

**Affordable Housing-** A growing community will always struggle with this. I do not like the idea of property values going so high, it pushes the middle class out of the community. At this point in time Affordable housing is very important. We need it. We need it NOW!

**Economic Development-** We must protect current business, grow Montrose's Economy in a positive way while balancing that growth with the preservation of our Culture and Ag community.

**Taxes-** The fewer the better. People put in hard work and long hours for their family's paycheck. A portion of that goes to the Government for the betterment of our community. It should be seen as an honor to manage and budget that money. Every penny should be accounted for. Not a single dime should be spent frivolously or wasted as if the blood, sweat, and tears of hard-working folk did not matter. Every penny matters!

**Public Safety-** Continuing to Enhance law enforcement, emergency response, and disaster preparedness is always a work in progress. The Thin Blue Line sometimes is all that protects us from Anarchy and Evil. Our First responders should always be well respected, well-funded, and well equipped.

**Land Use & Zoning-** It is important to Balance responsible development while preserving the county's Heritage, natural beauty, and rural character.

**Natural Resource Management-** As a people we should always strive to find a balance between utilizing local resources and environmental conservation.

**Mental Health Awareness-** Montrose has a healthy HealthCare System. However we can do better. We should work together towards a high level of excellence when it comes to Mental Health. We must also all make a stand for our children and appreciate social media is killing our kids and it has to stop.

**Second Amendment Rights-** Its very simple. Upholding and protecting citizens' right to bear arms in accordance with the Constitution matters.

*Low Stark*

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The background of the poster is a close-up of iridescent mermaid scales in shades of purple, blue, and green. In the upper left, a pair of pink ballet slippers is shown. In the center, a golden trident (mermaid's tail) is positioned diagonally. The title 'LITTLE MERMAID' is written in large, red, serif capital letters, with the 'M' being significantly larger than the other letters.

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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## UNFIT FOR DUTY AND MORE

*Editor:*

The first part of my commentary is directed to all of you who grew up in my age category. We who are in our 70s, 80s, 90s, or even 100s. The biggest threat to the United States of America was the U.S.S.R. The Soviet Union. Russia.

I was in junior high school during the Cuban Missile Crisis. The day that Fidel Castro had threatened to push the button to "annihilate" the United States, our school principal and the local fire chief decided to stage a fire drill. I still remember our English teacher, Mr. Litchenstein, telling all of us kids, "Stay at your desk. Do not go outside. I will be right back."

Of course when he left, we all got up and watched from the classroom windows as he verbally berated the principal and fire chief. We learned some words in English that weren't taught in the classroom. The main thing our teacher asked them was, "Why did you choose the day to stage a fire drill, when we might be attacked with nuclear missiles?"

Do you remember Nikita Khrushchev? The 5'3" leader of the Soviet Union, banging his shoe on the table, and telling us that, "We will annihilate you!" Do you remember the Russians sending missiles to Cuba via ships? President John F. Kennedy and Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara instigated a Naval Blockade surrounding Cuba refusing to allow any more Soviet ships to unload their nuclear cargo. Then Kennedy demanded that all missiles be removed from Cuban soil. Our number one enemy was the Soviet Union. So my question, all of you that are my age or older, how can you sit back and watch as Donald Trump threatens to pull out of NATO and continue to praise Vladimir Putin?

Speaking at a rally in South Carolina, Trump retold the story about an unidentified NATO member who confronted him

over his threat not to defend members who fail to meet the alliance's defense spending targets. But this time he went one step further telling the member that he would in fact, "encourage" Russia to do as it wishes. He said, "You didn't pay? You're delinquent? No, I would not protect you. In fact, I would encourage them to do whatever the hell they want."

In addition, Republican Congressmen also seem to forget that Russia is not our friend. Several are blocking additional funding to Ukraine. Alabama Republican Senator Tommy Tuberville, the same one who blocked promotions for our armed forces, said, "I haven't voted for any money to go to Ukraine because I know they can't win." So we let Russia just roll over the Ukrainian people? Putin will not just stop at Ukraine. He will continue to try to return to the days of the old Soviet Union. Just like he continues to kill off his dissidents such as Alexi Navalny.

And what did Trump say about Navalny's death in a Siberian gulag. Nothing. Then finally he did. He tried to equate the misery he is going through with all his lawsuits, with the misery Navalny faced. Now I write to everyone. Also at a campaign rally, Trump sniped about former South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley, "Where's your husband? Oh, he's away. He's away. What happened to her husband? What happened to her husband? Where is he? He's gone!" Her husband, Michael Haley, is a Captain in the Army National Guard and is currently on a one-year deployment in Africa.

When running for president in 2015, he said about the former POW and then Senator John McCain, "He's not a war hero. I like people who weren't captured." Trump would not even show respect for McCain when the war hero and senator died from a brain tumor in 2018, "We're not going to support that loser's funeral," he told his

staff.

In 2016, he belittled the Gold Star family of Captain Humayun Khan after his parents spoke at the Democratic National Convention.

At Arlington National Cemetery, Trump and his chief of staff, former General John Kelly, visited the grave of Kelly's son who died serving in Afghanistan. Trump said to Kelly, while standing next to the grave, "I don't get it. What was in it for them?"

Later that same year, on a trip to France, Trump canceled a visit to Aisne-Marne American Cemetery, saying, "Why should I go to that cemetery? It's filled with losers." He also referred to the 1,800 Marines who lost their lives during a World War I battle as "suckers" for getting killed. Then later he asked that wounded veterans not be allowed in military parades. "Nobody wants to see that," he said.

Remember this. The former president never served in the armed forces, nor has any of his children. He was of draftable age during the Vietnam War. While attending college he received several deferments. Following his graduation, he got a "dubious" medical deferment because he allegedly had bone spurs in his heels at the age of twenty-two.

Donald Trump has a history of maligning the military he once commanded. He should never again be allowed to command our military forces. He is "unfit for duty." He is personally a threat to our sovereignty. He insults our allies, he embraces our enemies. And he did something no other president before him has ever done. He failed to allow for a peaceful transfer of power. That is un-American! Joe Biden and Donald Trump are both old. Let's face it, at their age, and mine, we would all be referred to as elderly. On the November Presidential Ballot I will vote for OLD over OLD and EVIL.

*Jon Sering, Montrose*

# CITY REVIEWS CHANGE ORDER TO SURFACE TREATMENT CONTRACT, OGDEN ROAD SIDEWALK EXTENSION CONTRACT AWARD

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-Montrose City Council convened for a work session on Tuesday, Feb. 20, due to the President’s Day holiday on Monday, Feb. 19. All councilors were present. Mayor Barbara Bynum called the work session to order. “It does feel like a Monday, but it is Tuesday, February 20<sup>th</sup> at 10 o’clock and this is a City Council Work Session...”

For those who might be viewing, Bynum explained what a work session is, and that public comment is not taken.

### DISCUSSION ITEMS

City Engineer Scott Murphy spoke about the “Moving Montrose Forward” Surface Treatment Contract Change Order; Council will be asked to approve Change Order No. 2 in the amount of \$1,289,120.09 to A-1 Chipseal’s Moving Montrose Forward Surface Treatment Contract for completion of the 2024 surface treatment scope of work.

**Background**-A memo from Murphy to Council details the specifics of the contract and Change Order. “...Due to a general rise in asphalt prices, the City and A-1

Chipseal negotiated a 4.5% increase in unit rates over 2023’s costs. This is on par with the annual rise in the regional consumer price index (CPI) and less than inflationary increases being experienced on other City construction contracts. Using these updated rates for 2024’s anticipated scope of work, a contract change order of \$1,289,120.09 is recommended... Work under this contract is scheduled to begin in June and will be completed by the end of September.”

Murphy also presented information on the Ogden Road Sidewalk Extension Contract Award.

**Background**-A memo from Murphy to Council notes that Council will be asked to “approve \$245,413. in expenditures for construction of the Ogden Road Sidewalk Extension Project. This includes the award of a construction contract to Haynes Excavation in the amount of \$231,913.00 and a survey support contract to Del-Mont Consultants in the amount of \$13,500.... In support of the Residences at Dry Cedar Creek affordable housing project currently being constructed immediately northeast

of the Community Recreation Center, the City has partnered to construct a connecting pedestrian sidewalk along the southern side of Ogden Road between the Ogden/Woodgate Roundabout and the apartment complex.

“The project will include the relocation of some conflicting utilities, clearing of the area, construction of an embankment to support the sidewalk, and construction of the sidewalk itself...The proposed contract documents require completion of the project by mid-July 2024. However, it is our understanding that the contractor intends to finish the project earlier and ahead of the planned opening for the Residences at Dry Cedar Creek apartments. Nearly all work will take place along the Ogden Road shoulder although intermittent lane closures with flaggers are possible for select elements of the work closer to the roadway.”

### GENERAL DISCUSSION

Bynum reminded councilors to wear their matching city polo shirts for the State of the City presentation on Feb. 26 from 5:30 to 7:30pm at the Montrose Pavilion.



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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## LUCKY SECOND SATURDAY AT MAUVE

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# RED HAWKS GIRLS MUSCLE INTO ELITE 8



*Mayce Oberg (# 12) and Taygan Rocco (# 5) prepare to rebound as the basketball bounces off the rim. Photo by Cliff Dodge.*



*Sophomore Mayce Oberg fires a shot in the playoff game against the Hornets of Pueblo County, won by the Red Hawks 54-to-17. Photo by Cliff Dodge.*

By Cliff Dodge

MONTROSE-The Montrose Red Hawks girls' basketball team punched their ticket to the Colorado High School Activities Association (CHSAA) State Championships with two playoff wins last Tuesday and Friday. The Red Hawks will travel to the venerable Denver Coliseum next Friday to attempt to move deeper into the playoffs. Their initial opponent will be the Roughriders of Roosevelt High School, currently seeded second in the CHSAA 5A Girl's ranking.

Entering into the playoff week the Red Hawks were 7<sup>th</sup> ranked in the field of 32 teams competing for the highly sought after state championship. Before looking ahead to next week, let us examine exactly how the Red Hawks earned their way into the Elite 8.

## **MONTROSE RED HAWKS 54, PUEBLO COUNTY HORNETS 17**

The Pueblo County Hornets provided the initial competition for the Red Hawks as they began their quest for a state championship. Things started very poorly for the Hornets and became progressively worse as the evening wore on. The Red Hawks captured the opening tip off and never

looked back, as they raced out to an 18-0 lead by the end of the first quarter of action. The half time score saw the Red Hawks ahead by the score of 39 to 5. Head coach Steve Skiff substituted liberally and the Red Hawks scored only 2 points in the final quarter to make the score 54-17 at the final buzzer. The Red Hawks Sophomore Mayce Oberg set up shop in the paint as she and her mates terrorized the Hornets. Oberg wound up scoring 26 points, many from close range including several layups. Sophomore Maggie Legg scored 12 points including two from long range behind the three-point line. Senior Taygan Rocco added 9 points to the Red Hawks total while Williams, Johnson and Leiba also dented the score sheet.

## **MONTROSE RED HAWKS 38, PUEBLO WEST CYCLONES 32**

The Red Hawks played host to the Cyclones of Pueblo West High School on Friday evening at the fieldhouse, the second playoff contest for the Red Hawks. The two games were mirror opposites as the Red Hawks and the Cyclones played a physical game for 32 minutes. The Cyclones led 10-8 after one quarter as the two teams were never separated by 4

points or less the entire game. The Red Hawks chipped away and closed the gap at the half to 20-19 in the visitors' favor. The third quarter saw the two teams even at 29-29 heading into the crucial fourth quarter.

Sophomore Maggie Legg broke the tie with a basket and two free throws to stretch the lead to 4 points. The smothering Red Hawks defense down the stretch provided the Red Hawks with their winning margin as they forced the Cyclones to foul. The Red Hawks sank five of 13 free throws coming down the stretch, but it was enough to send the Cyclones packing and punch the Red Hawks ticket to the Elite 8.

## **THE ELITE 8**

The field for the 5A championship is as follows:

Air Academy vs Frederick  
Windsor vs Northfield  
Roosevelt vs Montrose  
Stanley Lake vs Mead

The games will be played at the Denver Coliseum beginning next Friday and will conclude on Sunday with a champion crowned in each of the six classifications. Stay tuned.





# **ELECT**

# **SCOTT MIJARES**

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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## PUBLIC INPUT SOUGHT FOR SBEADMR AND TAYLOR PARK VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

*Special to the Mirror*

DELTA— The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests announce the availability of fiscal years 2024-2026 Spruce Beetle Epidemic and Aspen Decline Management Response (SBEADMR) and Taylor Park Vegetation Management (Taylor Park EA) planned treatments for public input Feb. 16 through March 16, 2024.

SBEADMR, a forest-wide project and Taylor Park EA, a project located on the Gunnison Ranger District, allow for commercial and non-commercial vegetation treatments. Both projects respond to forest health concerns and strive to increase the forest's ability to respond to multiple and interactive stressors, including climate change, drought, insect attack and disease.

Upcoming treatments include locations on the Paonia, Gunnison, Ouray, Grand Valley

and Norwood Ranger Districts.

A StoryMap was created to allow for better viewing of the treatment data and the capability to comment directly on an interactive map displaying the upcoming treatments. A StoryMap is a web application that integrates maps, legends, text, photos and videos. It also provides functionality, such as pop-ups that help users explore the content. Descriptions and maps of the timber sale treatments and a comment form are available online at [SBEADMR and Taylor Park Story Map Comment Platform for treatments in Fiscal Years: 2024-2026](#).

We highly encourage using the Story Map to submit your input on treatments this year. However, we will also accept them via email. Please include your name and contact information with your comment in case further clarification is needed. Alternatively, com-

ments can be submitted to Seth Jennings with the subject header SBEADMR at [seth.jennings@usda.gov](mailto:seth.jennings@usda.gov). Names of commenters will be part of the public record. For more information, contact Seth Jennings at [seth.jennings@usda.gov](mailto:seth.jennings@usda.gov).

Other resources and information on these projects: For more information on SBEADMR, visit <https://cfri.colostate.edu/projects/sbeadmr/> For more information on the [Taylor Park EA](#), visit [Taylor Park Vegetation Management Project — Center for Public Lands](#).

For information and updates on current fire restrictions, conditions, and recreation opportunities on the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests, visit the [forest website](#).

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# HAUGSNESS REVIEWS HISTORY OF PSST FOR BOCC

## From pg 1

address the board. First to speak was Brian White. White reminded commissioners that he asked two weeks ago that they declare Montrose to be a Second Amendment sanctuary and not a sanctuary community for illegal immigration.

"This is our country, thousands and thousands of people our government is allowing to come into our country...we need to wake up to what's happening to our country, we need to start here at the local level...please do something here...we need to do it now. Because we don't want to be communist China do we...this is not a sanctuary city for illegals..."

Next to speak was Norma Marcinek, who said that she was born and raised in Mexico. "This topic of the illegals is very, very heavy in my heart," she said. "...I came here the legal way. That's the difference right there, I was vetted. These people are not getting vetted. We are getting actual terrorists that are coming to our country, many who are of fighting age. It is super dangerous what is happening." The crisis is affecting hospitals in Denver and will affect those here as well, Marcinek said.

Ron Henderson also spoke. He said that at the most recent meeting of the school board, the board approved more than \$30,000 for 14 electronic translation devices. "They're needed because there are 600 students, of a population in about 6,070, that do not speak English. There's a lot of aspects to what Brian brought forward...there are some things happening here..."

Also addressing the BOCC was Jim Haugsness, who was one of the group that worked to pass the Public Safety Sales Tax (PSST) measure in 2007. Haugsness said that there have been letters in the paper from "self-proclaimed experts." He reviewed the history of the ballot measure that established the PSST, and the work that was done to get the successful measure put before the voters.

"We met for a full year," Haugsness said, "I attended every meeting. And I was chatting with former Sheriff Rick Dunlap, and he said he attended every meeting also. These self-proclaimed experts, I can't remember ever seeing them at one, and

yet they know exactly what it was all about, and what the proper course of action would have been."

Haugsness said, "...Remember, we're talking about collaboration and cooperation. One of the things we came up with as far as creating that was the 70-30 split, where the sheriff gets 70 percent of the PSST and the BOCC would determine 30 percent of the PSST based on law enforcement needs and so forth. At that time, we thought, wow, the sheriff is going to have way too much money--we were trying to look 20, 30 years down the road...what happened was as soon as we got that, we got a recession in 2008. Sheriff Dunlap had to take a look at what was going on and didn't quite spend a lot of that money.

"But the reason for the 70-30 split was to promote collaboration between the BOCC and the Sheriff's Office. It wasn't for control; it was to make sure that dialogue was conducted, and decisions were made in the best interests of Montrose County."

BOCC Chair Roger Rash said that Haugsness had gone over the three-minute mark. "We appreciate the comments; we take 'em all to heart," Rash said.

### COUNTY MANAGER

County Manager Jon Waschbusch had no changes to the [meeting agenda](#).

### CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda items were approved as presented, with [Resolution No. 11-2024](#) assigned to Consent Agenda Item 2; [Resolution No. 12-2024](#) assigned to Consent Agenda Item 10; and [Resolution No. 13-2024](#) assigned to Consent Agenda Item 15.

### GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Commissioners voted to approve [Resolution Number 14-2024](#) to appoint Phillip A. Rich as the Montrose County Veterans Service Officer (VSO). County Manager Jon Waschbusch presented the resolution, and paid tribute to longtime VSO Sheldon Smith, who has served in the position for the past 11 years. "We're all going to miss him...everywhere he goes, he serves others."

Commissioners rose in a standing ovation for Smith.

Waschbusch also welcomed Phillip A.

Rich, "We look forward to having him."

All three commissioners spoke to thank Smith and welcome Rich, and Smith spoke as well.

"...You have made this job very easy and functional. Jon's been amazing the entire time that I've been working here...The success of anything has to do with the support, and you guys have been great support."

Commissioners voted to approve the Chair's signature on [a building lease from the West End School District](#).

Human Services Director Jennifer Sherwood presented the CaseWorthy Software -As-A-Service (SaaS) Services Agreement, "subscription for case management operational collaboration and reporting applications for the new Case Management Agency, effective March 1, 2024 - February 28, 2027; as approved by counsel."

The agreement represents a budgeted expense of \$30,720 annually, with up to \$12,210 in professional services fees for the first year of service.

"The state didn't even realize that this was a necessity," Sherwood said.

After some discussion of the unanticipated expense, commissioners voted to approve.

### PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the [Waterfront Way Minor Subdivision \[MI21-058\]](#) proposal to divide 4.33 acres into three lots at Parcel 376720308004.

The [Ballantyne Minor Subdivision \[MI21-059\]](#) proposal to divide 6.11 acres into three lots at Parcel 376720417002 was approved.

Also approved were:

-The [3 Bar M East Estates \[MA24-001\]](#) proposal to divide 27.09 acres into eight lots at Parcel 372523306004.

-[Buckhorn Heights 2 \[MA23-005\]](#) proposal to divide 41 acres into nine lots at Parcel 404110100003.

-[Johnson Amended Plat \[AM23-004\]](#) proposal to Adjust Residential/Commercial Boundary and the shared driveway easement at Parcel 403901105002.

With no further business and no executive session, the BOCC moved to adjourn.

# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## DRAFT DECISION ISSUED FOR MONARCH MOUNTAIN NO NAME BASIN PROJECTS

**Objection Period: Feb. 22 – April 8, 2024**

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*Special to the Mirror*

SALIDA— The Pike-San Isabel National Forests & Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands and the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests announce the availability of an environmental assessment and draft decision notice for the Monarch Mountain No Name Basin Projects.

Monarch Mountain first opened to the public in 1939 and is one of the oldest ski areas in Colorado; it operates on National Forest System lands under a special use permit. The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service has completed an environmental assessment in response to an application submitted by Monarch to implement projects from their accepted 2011 Master Development Plan.

The projects are located on the Gunnison Ranger District of the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests adjacent to Monarch's existing ski area in No Name Basin. Through a delegation of authority, the responsible official for this decision is Forest and Grassland Supervisor Ryan Nehl of the Pike-San Isabel National Forests & Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands. The responsible official is planning to approve the project for implementation. The proposed actions include the following:

- Increase Monarch's special use permit area from 769 acres to 1,146 acres to include No Name Basin;
- Construct a new 2,700-foot-long fixed grip chairlift with a carrier size of up to four people;
- Construct an up to 8,600-foot-long permanent access road from the existing SUP area to the bottom terminal of the proposed chairlift;
- Develop approximately 62 acres of traditionally cleared ski terrain and 75 acres of selective tree removal ski terrain, including low intermediate, intermediate and advanced-intermediate terrain;
- Build a warming hut and restroom adjacent to the bottom terminal of the proposed chairlift and Realignment of approximately 700 feet of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail.

"The Forest Service has completed a thorough review of Monarch's proposed projects and this decision considers their effects and significance," said Salida District Ranger Perry Edwards. "We look forward to continuing our work together planning the implementation of these improvements for visitors to the National Forest."

This decision is subject to a 45-day objection period. The draft decision notice and environmental assessment are available for viewing at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/psicc/?project=61373>. Upon conclusion of the objection process, projects may be implemented.

If you have any questions regarding the Monarch No Name Basin Projects, please contact Mountain Resort Program Manager Don Dressler at [don-ald.dressler@usda.gov](mailto:don-ald.dressler@usda.gov) or 720-391-0626.



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# ULIBARRI, VIDMAR QUESTION POSITIVE IMPACT, FAIRNESS OF CITY'S KITCHEN GRANT PROGRAM *From pg 1*

asked Youth City Councilor Vidmar to lead in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

## CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Bynum read the rules regarding public comment; Matt Box stepped forward to address Council. Box said he had been present for the recent rezone request. "I want to say thank you...you did a great job of working a way through that, it turned out really nice."

Box raised concern that notifications of such requests are given only to those within 100 feet of the proposed rezone. "I think it should be much more, I would prefer 1,500 feet...100 feet notification doesn't really reach out to many people...maybe five people from each neighborhood got notified..."

Also speaking was Fernando Belair. Belair expressed support for Box's suggestion on notifications. "The 100-foot limit is extremely, extremely short, especially in rural areas where 100 feet covers half a dozen cows and about 12 deer...we need to get messages out to homeowners who will be affected...we'd like to ask for 1,500 feet for notification of pending issues in front of the Council..."

## CONSENT AGENDA

Council voted unanimously to approve Consent Agenda items.

## NEW HOTEL AND RESTAURANT LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATION

Council voted unanimously to approve a new Hotel and Restaurant liquor license at 305 E. Main Street for Sinaloa Grill LLC, doing business as Sinaloa Grill. As the applicant's primary language was Spanish, Deputy City Clerk Briceida Ortega provided translation services.

## COMMERCIAL KITCHEN GRANT APPLICATION

City Manager Bill Bell presented the item for consideration. In recent meetings Bell has referred to such requests as "asks." In this instance, the agenda notes, "The ask is 10.48 percent of the total known investment needed for the project."

**Background-** A summary sheet from the City Manager's Office to Council states, "If approved as requested, the applicant will receive \$200,972 to support the purchase of a kitchen to be used by El Dorado Holdings, LLC - Stockmen's and Ruby June Res-

taurants. The kitchen will be the property of Alexander Main & Chutes and will remain with the building. The cost of the Grease Trap is higher than usual as the installation is obstructed by a coal chute that runs down the building. This chute will be removed/stabilized during the installation which will help to ensure that the building's historic features are preserved. There is currently no grease trap in the building. Some of the work is also being performed by Alexander & Chutes as they are acting as General Contractor for portions of the project. This was done to reduce costs."

City Manager Bell spoke about the project's projected revenues, "Although we don't at the City...tie it directly to revenue generation...based on their business plan we're able to project a certain set of dollars, but we don't hold anybody to that because it's just a projection based on a business plan. There's a lot more benefits to our community rather than just the taxes being generated...it's a good quality of life type investment."

Council spent time in discussion.

Councilor J David Reed said he was very comfortable making a decision with the information at hand. "From my point of view, we vetted this pretty extensively at the work session. Other than the increase in the projected numbers, nothing has changed in the packet that we've previously reviewed..."

Councilor Ed Ulibarri raised concern over the City's ongoing support for some private businesses. "I just want to reiterate the fact that I am not in support of this project. I went out and asked a few restaurant owners about their concerns, and they felt that some of these restaurants that we've providing incentives to were being selected based on building ownership. I understand that, but the comment that kept coming up, was the fact that they got the support from the city, but yet the city's collecting their sales tax from their business and donating their sales tax to another entity that's competition, and one restaurant owner said that he lost about 20 percent of his business when a new restaurant came in...I don't feel that it's really fair to use tax dollars that we're not going to get back for five years...to me

it just seems like we're using tax dollars to supplement another business. I just don't think it's fair to use tax dollars in this way."

Mayor Barbara Bynum said, "I am in support of this. I think the city spending money on economic development, we have as a city been very successful and we've gotten a good return on that investment as a city. I do believe that it's in our best interest to continue to do economic development through programs like this.

"Does our Youth City Councilor have any questions?"

Youth City Councilor Graysen Vidmar spoke. "Yes Mam. So, I had a bit of a question, as Mr. Ulibarri said, if this supplement to a new business would detract from the amount of business that other businesses are getting, is that really positively impacting our community in general?"

Mayor Bynum turned to City Manager Bell, "You go ahead and take that one." Bell said, "So, there's no...proof that bringing in additional amenities to the community directly compete with other, pre-existing amenities, especially in the world of hospitality. So, it's known that people want variety and choices. You don't want to go to the same restaurant every night of the week, or every week, or every month...because we see an existing restaurant wanting to expand and add more restaurants, it shows that the need is out there in our community."

In a four-to-one vote, with Ulibarri voting "No," Council approved a Commercial Kitchen Grant of \$200,972 to support the purchase of a kitchen to be used by El Dorado Holdings, LLC - Stockmen's and Ruby June Restaurants.

## FIORI DI LENA FINAL PLAT

Council voted unanimously to approve the Fiori di Lena Final Plat to create 12 residential lots and associated easements.

**Background-** The Fiori di Lena Subdivision is located on either side of the 6700 Road extension, south of the intersection with Miami Road. The property is approximately 6.6 acres in size, and is zoned R-1A, Large Estate District. City Council approved the Fiori di Lena Preliminary Subdivision Plat on June 6, 2023. This final plat application would

*Continued next pg*



**ULIBARRI, VIDMAR QUESTION IMPACT**  
*From previous pg*

formally create 12 single-family residential lots.

**VEHICLE PURCHASE RECOMMENDATION**

Council voted unanimously to approve the purchase of the purchase of two Ford F-150 pickup trucks from Montrose Ford in the amount of \$108,060.

**STAFF REPORTS**

City Manager Bill Bell said the State of the City address will be on Monday, Feb. 26 at the Pavilion. "...We're hoping that it becomes something we can do on an annual basis...we've noticed a lot of other really good leading cities are doing state of the city addresses..."

Deputy City Manager Ann Morgenthaler said the event is for everybody, and there will be Spanish language translators at the event.

Youth City Council Representative Graysen Vidmar will also be present for the State of the City Address, at the Youth City Council table, Deputy City Clerk Briceida Ortega said.

Vidmar reported on Youth Council activities. Youth Council has partnered with Sharing Ministries on a food drive; Information will be shared on the Youth City Council Facebook page.

Councilor Dave Frank said he and Bynum attended the Colorado Municipal League Legislative Workshop the prior week. "...It was fantastic because we had an opportunity to hear a lot of the issues that are currently being approached and advocated on by the Colorado Municipal League...I'll be testifying next week on the ADU portion...it was the first time I got to go on the light rail, which was a very fun experience, we had a great time and really enjoyed the trip."

Mayor Bynum said, "It was great, we spent Valentine's Day Dinner together. The legislative workshop is always really great, I've gone multiple times...this year we both went, it was great, we learned a lot, and we represented Montrose well...it really helps connect what we're doing at the local level and what the state is doing around local issues."

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



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# COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

## HERMOSA PARK ROAD CLOSURES PLANNED FOR AUGUST, SEPTEMBER

*Special to the Mirror*

DURANGO— The San Juan National Forest Columbine Ranger District will conduct road maintenance and construction on Hermosa Park Road (NFSR 578) this summer where the road crosses Sig and Relay creeks (see map). Construction work will require road closures beginning Aug. 19 through Sept. 13, 2024.

The purpose of the closure is to replace road culverts with structures that will allow free passage for cutthroat trout and that are more appropriately sized to pass flood level flows. These culvert replacements are part of the Hermosa Creek Colorado River Cutthroat Trout Reintroduc-

tion effort and were identified as a project in the Hermosa Creek Special Management Area Plan, signed in 2018.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife and the San Juan NF have cooperatively worked on the reestablishment of pure Colorado River cutthroat to the Hermosa Creek Watershed. These projects will connect cutthroat trout habitat that is currently fragmented by the road culverts.

During the construction period, the road will be closed to all motorized vehicle traffic and access to the Upper Hermosa Creek Trailhead will be limited to foot and bike traffic only when accessing the trailhead from U.S. Highway 550. Vehicles may



*Courtesy Map CPW.*

access the Upper Hermosa Creek Trailhead from U.S. Highway 145, north of Rico, Colorado, but these routes require high-clearance vehicles with four-wheel drive. Safe detours for bike and foot traffic around the construction areas will be signed, but users should be prepared for creek crossings around the construction sites and possible short delays during the construction window.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife acknowledges the construction project will have an impact on hunters and anglers. The road closure will affect access to a major portion of Game Management Unit 74, and hunters should keep that in mind when applying for 2024 hunting licenses and when planning their trip.

"We want to thank the hunting and angling communities for their cooperation. We ask that they respect the road closure and plan accordingly," said CPW District Wildlife Manager Luke Clancy. "This project will have great benefit to our shared commitment with the San Juan National Forest in restoring the native cutthroat trout population in Hermosa Creek."

For more information on the culvert replacement project, please contact San Juan National Forest Fish and Wildlife Program Manager Clay Kampf at [clay-ton.kampf@usda.gov](mailto:clay-ton.kampf@usda.gov).

For more information on hunting seasons in Colorado, see CPW's 2024 Regulations Brochures.

For general information on the San Juan National Forest, call 970-247-4874, visit the forest website, or follow the SJNF on social media (Twitter and Facebook).



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- Ready to eat tuna/ham/chicken salad with crackers and spoon
- Easy mac-n-cheese single-serving size or boxes
- Soups, individual cups or cans, or Ramen noodles
- Cans of tuna or chicken
- Fruit cups or applesauce
- Single-serving spaghetti, SpaghettiOs, ravioli or chili
- Granola bars or cereal bars

Donations are gratefully accepted on Wednesday through Friday from 10 AM to 4 PM at the Montrose County Democratic Headquarters, 1500 East Main in Montrose. They are located next to Buckaroos Pizza.

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\* Kids Aid Montrose is a ministry of Common Ground Montrose, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. For more details, visit [kidsaidmontrose.com](http://kidsaidmontrose.com).



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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## CPW EMPHASIZES ICE SAFETY AS BLUE MESA LAKE TROUT TOURNAMENT CONTINUES THROUGH APRIL 30

*Special to the Mirror*

**GUNNISON** – The four-month Blue Mesa Reservoir Lake Trout Tournament is in full force despite less than ideal ice conditions this winter. The tournament, which is held this year from Jan. 1 through April 30, features a \$10,000 prize purse with every participating angler entered into a raffle with a chance to earn a cash reward.

Now in its third edition, this harvest incentive tournament targets lake trout 24 inches in length and smaller in an effort to protect the kokanee salmon population in the reservoir while also maintaining trophy-sized lake trout growth and condition.

As of Feb. 23, 34 anglers had turned in heads from 490 qualifying lake trout. So far, the top participant has turned in 141 lake trout heads.

“The lack of ice on the lower two basins is reducing opportunities, and we are doubtful ice will develop on lower portions of the reservoir,” said CPW aquatic biologist Dan Brauch. “Ice conditions on the lola Basin are good, but we would need colder

weather to see conditions improve at Cebolla and Sapinero.” **WATCH: Ice Safety Guidelines.** If warmer conditions persist, it is possible boat ramps could open during the tournament in April, but that will be determined by weather and meltout. Anglers may participate in the tournament using any method of fishing they prefer as long as Colorado fishing regulations are followed. Anglers who place in the top four of most fish turned in will earn a large portion of the total purse. First place will receive \$3,000, second will earn \$1,500, third place will take home \$1,000 and fourth will claim \$500.

In addition to those prizes, every angler will be entered in a raffle for each fish they turn in. A total of 20 winners will be randomly selected, and each will earn \$200. All winners will be contacted by May 31, 2024. Anglers are reminded to always check ice conditions before setting out to fish. Conditions can change daily. Carrying a proper safety kit and knowing how to use tools to self-rescue or to assist in a



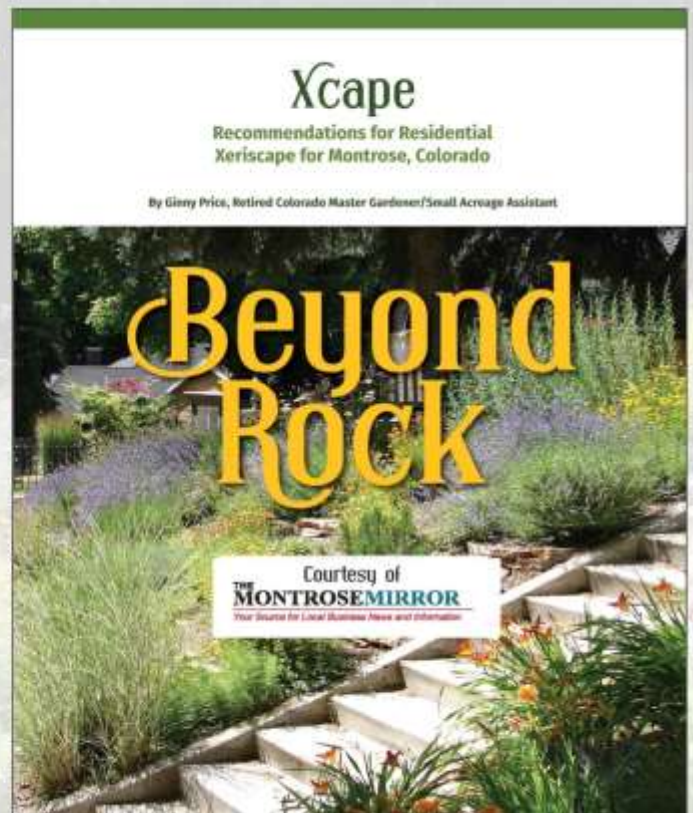
*The Blue Mesa lake trout harvest incentive tournament continues through April 30. CPW courtesy photo.*

rescue is critical. To learn more about ice safety, go to: <https://cpw.state.co.us/learn/Pages/IceFishingSafety.aspx>. To participate in the tournament, anglers who harvest a lake trout 24 inches or smaller can turn in fish heads at freezers located at one of three boat ramps at the reservoir. Bags and entry forms are located on the front of the freezers at the lola, Elk Creek and Lake Fork boat ramps. Heads may also be turned into CPW’s offices in Gunnison or Montrose.

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# RED HAWKS BOYS BASKETBALL FAILS TO QUALIFY FOR THE 5A ELITE 8

By Cliff Dodge

MONTROSE-The Montrose Boys' basketball season ended on Saturday evening at the hands of the Ponderosa Mustangs by the score of 77-57. The loss made the long bus ride home seem even longer as the Red Hawks were no match for the hot-shooting aggregation from Douglas County. The playoffs started on Wednesday evening for the Red Hawks as they entertained the long and lean Harrison Panthers.

**MONTROSE RED HAWKS 49, HARRISON PANTHERS 48**

The Montrose Red Hawks, sporting a 17-6 season record, played host to the Harrison Panthers to kick open the CHSAA 5A playoffs for both teams.

The Cats established a narrow lead in the initial quarter, leading 17 to 14 heading into the second period. The Red Hawks defense stiffened and Jaxon Kattner hit two of his four 3-point baskets to establish a 2-point lead the Red Hawks would fight to protect, 28 to 26. The third period saw the Panthers close the gap to a single point, 40 to 39 as the pivotal final quarter began. Jaxon Kattner hit his fourth 3-point basket to open the quarter and the two teams battled to the finish.

The Red Hawks opened up a small lead and then took advantage of six free throws (five made) to hold off the Cats. The Panthers captured a rebound with six seconds remaining, and a last ditch 3-point shot bounced harmlessly off the rim for the Red Hawks victory and the oppor-

tunity to move on in the playoffs. Kaleb Ferguson scored 17 points to lead the Red Hawks in scoring. Jaxon Kattner added 12 points while Brekin Hutto chipped in with 9 points and Cooper Ross scored 6.

**PONDEROSA MUSTANGS 77, MONTROSE RED HAWKS 57**

The Red Hawks hit the road on Saturday and travelled to Douglas County for a play-off battle with the 16-8 Ponderosa Mustangs. The Mustangs rained 3-point basket attempts down on the Red Hawks, hitting five baskets from long range to establish a 14-point lead, 30-16, after one period of play.

Things got no better as the second quarter unfolded, as the Mustangs continued their 3-point shot assault hitting four additional 3-pointers. The Mustangs took a 55 to 31 lead to the locker room at half time. The Red Hawks fought gamely but were no match for the long-range shooting of the Mustangs. Red Hawks Junior Kaleb Ferguson scored 16 points in the first half for the Red Hawks while Jaxon Kattner added two 3-point baskets to the Hawks' total. There was no stopping the Mustang's onslaught as the score at the end of



The Red Hawks fight for a rebound vs the Harrison Panthers. The Red Hawks prevailed 49-48 and advanced to the "sweet 16." Photo by Cliff Dodge.

the third quarter rose to 70-37.

The final score ended up Mustangs 77, the Red Hawks 57.

Kaleb Ferguson scored 30 points in a losing effort while Jaxon Kattner added 11 points. The Red Hawks finished the season with an 18-7 overall record that was topped off with a trip to the CHSAA 5A playoffs.

The Red Hawks lose three seniors, Jaxon Killen, Jaxon Kattner and Gage Wareham. Seven lettermen return, plus some ready replacements from the JV team which was quite successful this past season as well. Head coach Ryan Voehringer and his team are to be congratulated for an outstanding season.



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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## MOST LIBERALS CAN BE CATEGORIZED INTO A FEW GROUPS

*Editor:*

After reading a lot of letters from liberals it is apparent that most can be categorized into a few groups. First is the "Kumbaya" group, which I have some sympathy for. It includes many independents and RHINO's as well as liberals. They are justifiably upset at all the division in this country, but think sitting around a campfire holding hands will solve everything. "We just need to reach across the aisle." Unfortunately, they are generally ignorant of what is actually happening to this once-great nation, and have no clue as to the real causes of that division. The part of this group I have no sympathy for are the Democrat and RHINO politicians who support Biden's destructive policies until a few months before every election, and then somehow morph into moderate good-ol-boys who just want to reach across the aisle and "solve local problems." (Local politicians Adam Frisch and Don Coram are prime examples.)

The question this group needs to consider is: Is there any situation where it becomes impossible to support our government's actions? Using an extreme example, if you were in Nazi Germany just prior to WWII, would you have supported Hitler or would you have been part of that small minority who resisted the destruction and genocide? Today, doesn't it bother you that Biden and son have sold out the American people by accepting multi-million dollar bribes from our enemies? Do you support turning the DOJ and FBI into the Gestapo to punish political enemies and protect corrupt Democrat politicians? Do you support mediocre male athletes dominating women's sports and using their locker rooms?

The most frequent liberal letters are from the "Trump Bad" group. Some Democrats are angry people because they have come to realize what their party actually stands for, but this group is universally angry and can only vent by telling us what a bad person Trump is. They can't talk issues. They mostly repeat allegations about what Trump supposedly said or did decades ago. "My dentist's second-cousin heard from a reliable source, who was actually there when Trump said/did this terrible thing." Or they mention various lawfare efforts by the corrupt DOJ and Soros state attorney generals as evidence of Trump's "guilt." They never talk about how Trump's actions overwhelmingly helped the American people at all levels, while Biden's actions have consistently damaged this country and its people. This group seems oblivious to the fact that Biden is not just a serial liar, but is also corrupt and incompetent.

The questions this group might want to consider are: 1) How can you completely ignore Biden's obvious character flaws and proven

corruption, and focus only on mostly hearsay evidence of what Trump may or may not have said or done? 2) If Biden were a saint and Trump is actually guilty of all the character flaws he is accused of, and Biden succeeds with his destructive agenda and Trump continues with policies that lift the American people, who deserves your support? I find JFK's personal moral corruption offensive, but he believed in this country and did great things. MLK Jr. was accused of being a serial adulterer, but was one of this country's greatest leaders. Even Bill Clinton did some good things (like welfare-to-work) and no one is more personally corrupt (Epstein island, the girl in the White House he never had sex with, etc.)

The next group are the "La La Land" group. They first refuse to acknowledge there is a problem, and then refuse to acknowledge that Biden caused the problem. "Inflation is not a problem." "The economy is just fine." "Presidents can't control inflation anyway." They like to cherry-pick a couple of good sounding economy numbers, like employment increasing (after completely shutting the economy down), or a company in Pueblo adding employees as a result of the "Inflation Reduction" Act. This is the group that would celebrate their unemployed son living in their basement coming home with a \$50,000 Corvette. Never mind the fact the son cannot make the payments or afford the gas or insurance. "Wow! Our son is a success. Look at the great car he drives!" (Wow! Look at the 200 new jobs in Pueblo!)

The reality is people are hurting under Biden. Inflation is at a 40-year high, real earnings are down significantly, poverty is at an all-time high, savings and retirement assets are being depleted, home ownership is now out of the question for new buyers because interest rates are impossibly higher, etc. All those problems are a direct result of the unfunded out of control spending this group likes to point to as an accomplishment.

This group also won't acknowledge that illegal immigration is out of control, and if it is, it's not Biden's fault. 'It has been going on for decades.' Oh, and you're racist if you object to the invasion. Somehow this group doesn't want to discuss the actual illegal immigration numbers under Trump, which were under control, versus the tens of millions invading since Biden became president. If it is some difficult, nebulous problem, why did it explode as soon as Biden started reversing all of Trump's policies? Biden has the power to close the border today. He chooses not to.

A much smaller group likes to paint Trump as anti-military. Some repeat the story that Trump insulted military people, or more recently,

question his efforts to make our NATO allies pay their fair share of defending themselves. I read these comments carefully when they come from veterans, because I respect their opinions. But again, I have to ask: "Are veterans and the military better off under Biden or Trump? The answer is that they were dramatically better off under Trump. Trump did more than any other leader in decades to bring about world peace. Our allies respected us, our enemies feared us, and our military was strong. Biden's foreign policy is a joke. No new wars occurred during Trump's tenure. We are now in two critical wars threatening to snow-ball into WWII, almost entirely due to Biden's incompetence on the world stage. Traveling the globe with Hunter accepting bribes is not an acceptable foreign policy. Our military can no longer meet its manning requirements because of Biden's policies. White straight males now know they are unwelcome in Biden's woke military.

Tell the grieving gold-star parents who lost their sons or daughters in Biden's disastrous Afghanistan withdrawal what a great job Biden is doing. Ask them what they think of Biden repeatedly lying that his son was killed in Afghanistan and making his discussions with them all about his grief (while he checks his watch during their kids' memorial). Ask the parents of our troops currently under attack and dying from Iranian proxies, or our navy personnel under fire from Iran backed Houthi rebels what they think of our illustrious President Biden (after he bribed Iran with billions of dollars). He is too senile to be prosecuted for willfully and illegally keeping classified documents (exactly what Trump is being prosecuted for except Trump had the authority to declassify), but not too senile to be our commander-in-chief? Today, parents fear for the safety of their kids in the military and that has nothing to do with Trump and everything to do with Biden. If I were still in the military, or if my grandsons were still in the Marines, I would be more concerned about going into combat in an electric vehicle with a company commander promoted because of his sexual orientation than I would be concerned about whether or not someone had insulted me.

Logically, our military personnel will be much safer once our NATO allies start paying their fair share of their defense. Despots like Putin will also be less aggressive once NATO is strengthened by equal contributions. Why should the US, Britain, and poor countries like Greece and several European nations formerly yoked to the Soviet Union pay their share while rich nations like Norway, Canada, and Germany ignore their NATO commitments?

*Ed Henrie, Montrose*



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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## MONTROSE CITY MANAGER BILL BELL: UNFILTERED

*Special to the Mirror*

**MONTROSE**- On Wednesday, February 28th, Montrose City Manager Bill Bell will give answers to the five most asked questions including...

- MURA (Montrose Urban Renewal Authority)
- Street repair and maintenance
- Commercial kitchen grant program
- Housing
- Business incentives

He will also answer questions from the audience.

*(Hopefully someone will ask him about his song and dance routine at Magic Circle.)*

Join us on Wednesday from 8 - 9 am at The Forum for City Manager Bill Bell *Unfiltered!*

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# COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

## MORE THAN 70% OF COLORADO PEDESTRIAN FATALITIES OCCUR IN DARK CONDITIONS

*Special to the Mirror*

COLORADO — According to data recently released by CDOT, pedestrian fatalities soared to a record high in 2023, representing 18.6% of Colorado's total roadway deaths. The majority of last year's pedestrian deaths occurred at night or during low-light conditions. With nearly three more weeks of short winter days and extended darkness, CDOT is urging drivers to be cautious and alert while driving at night.

Approximately 74% of the pedestrian fatalities recorded last year occurred at night or in low-light conditions. October had the highest number of pedestrian deaths with 33 fatalities in one month. Over the past four years, October and November have been the months when most pedestrian fatalities occurred.

"Pedestrians don't go away when it gets dark out, especially this time of year when the sun sets early and rises late," said CDOT's Office of Transportation Safety Director Darrell Lingk. "We need a collective commitment from every road user to prioritize safety. Be alert, be aware of your surroundings and treat driving like the immense responsibility it is."

In the last decade, pedestrian fatalities in Colorado have surged by 96%, with a 16% increase between 2022 and 2023.

CDOT is urging individuals and local communities to make pedestrian safety a priority. This can be achieved through slower speeds and improved infrastructure, particularly at intersections where pedestrians cross.

CDOT is actively investing in infrastructure projects to improve pedestrian safety and accessibility as part of the agency's commitment to equity in transportation safety. Examples include:

The Boulder County CO 119 Safety and Mobility project focuses on a popular cycling route and incorporates protected bike lanes and features to enhance pedestrian safety.

The CO 121 Signal Improvements project in Jefferson County replaced antiquated traffic signals with modern equipment,

added pedestrian-focused signage and made improvements for people with disabilities by installing ADA-compliant ramps.

CDOT's Revitalizing Main Streets program further underscores the commitment to community-driven safety enhancements, with over \$75 million awarded through community grants.

In Fruita, the Mesa Street Multimodal Improvements project will create a slow-speed transportation corridor that accommodates pedestrians, cyclists, and vehicles, safely connecting downtown Fruita.

In Basalt, the program supports the Midland Avenue Streetscape Revitalization, which will enhance pedestrian space, create public gathering areas, and invigorate the economic and cultural center of the historic community.

For safety tips and resources, visit CDOT's website.

Crash Not Accident

Note to reporters: Crashes are no accident — they are preventable. We would appreciate you saying 'crash' instead of 'accident' when reporting.

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**Rib City**  
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# WOMEN OF DISTINCTION AWARDS GALA

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### 5:30pm - 9pm (doors open at 5)

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*phone - 970.765.0913*  
*email - [hello@ourtownmatters.net](mailto:hello@ourtownmatters.net)*

## Congratulations 2024 Women of Distinction

- Jane Marie Amundson - Alpine Bank
- Deann Balash - Montrose Education Foundation
- Joan Chismire - Ouray County Ranch History Museum
- Gabrielle Clay - Studio 14 by Gabrielle
- Catherine Frates - A Time to Dance
- Michelle Gottlieb - The Dolphin House
- Betty Hayes - Welcome Home Alliance For Veterans
- Sonja Horn - Fabula
- Rebekah Lansdown - Kin Connect & Foster Connections
- Erin Liles - Salon Polished
- Amanda Lovette, MD - Delta Health Pediatrics
- Kimberly McGehee - She She Boutique
- Bethany Maher - Mexican American Development Association
- Correna Montoya - Land Title Guarantee
- Nancy Murphy - Region 10
- Kathryn Schroer - City of Montrose
- Chrissy Simmons - Maslow Academy
- Linda Sullivan - Sullivan Construction & Architecture
- Michelle Wingfield - DART
- Cheryl Zahniser - Budget Blinds Montrose-Telluride



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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## **PSST LANGUAGE IS CLEAR AND HAS REMAINED THE SAME SINCE 2007**



**MONTROSE COUNTY**  
 BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
 1140 N Grand Ave, Suite 250  
 Montrose, CO 81401  
 Phone: 970-249-7755  
 Fax: 970-249-7761

February 22, 2024

When the Public Safety Sales Tax Ballot Question 1B was passed in 2007 it authorized a .75% sales tax to be dedicated to public safety uses as specified on the ballot. The ballot language plainly states that the tax is to be used for "capital expenditures or operational costs associated with public safety organizations". These organizations include "the sheriff's office, the regional dispatch center, the drug task force, rural medical clinics, the district attorney's office, the judicial district, the coroner's office".

This language is clear and has remained the same since being approved in the 2007 countywide election. Furthermore, all financial activity is audited each year by an independent audit firm to ensure proper use of the Sales Tax. No adverse findings have ever been made.

Seventeen years after passage of the tax, efforts are being made by the Sheriff and a few citizens to assert that the voters were wrong and that the tax should be administered based on the "intent" and "gentlemen's agreements" of a few individuals made outside of the public purview. This effort only began after the Board questioned the legality and fiscal sustainability of a pension plan requested by the Sheriff.

The purpose of this revisionist history is to remove accountability and taxpayer oversight of sales tax revenue by allowing unbudgeted expenditures by the Sheriff's Office at the expense of all other organizations approved by the voters. The irrevocable entry into the pension plan sought by the Sheriff requires a vote of the people, not a "clarification" of a long settled sales tax ballot.

The Board of County Commissioners are sworn to uphold the Colorado Constitution including the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights. We are committed to administering the sales tax as it was approved by all citizens, not the few who seek to reinterpret a seventeen year old ballot to allow the debt of a pension plan without voter input. We invite all citizens to read the ballot and resolution for themselves.

Roger Rash  
Chair

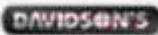
Keith Caddy  
Vice Chair

Sue Hansen  
Commissioner

**[CLICK TO READ FULL PSST BACKGROUND PACKET](#)**



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## **MONTROSE COLORADO CHAPTER**

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**5:00 PM TO 10:00 PM**

**MONTROSE COLORADO CHAPTER 35TH ANNIVERSARY**

**MONTROSE COUNTY EVENT CENTER  
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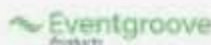
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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## WE WANT COMMISSIONERS WHO HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN PRIVATE ENTERPRISE AND WHO WILL ENDEAVOR SELFLESSLY TO USE THOSE TALENTS TO MAKE OUR COUNTY BETTER THAN IT IS

*Editor:*

ELECTIONS DO MATTER: BOCC CANDIDATES MUST ADDRESS THE SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES FACING THE BODY TO WHICH THEY HOPE TO BE ELEVATED.

From where I sit: There are serious matters facing Montrose County that must be addressed by three commissioners, who are by education and their life experiences make the winners of this election FIT TO SERVE.

See "HOLD THE PRESSES" below Beginning today the Candidates for BOCC must present themselves for our Caucus and Assembly votes. In the past candidates have tried to define what they think are the important issues (problems) to the voters. Maybe we can put a halt to this false electioneering. Hopefully after this 'opinion' piece is read our voters, the electorate, verily the soon to be employers of these two Commissioner hopefuls will be examined in every voter's mind on the basis of what he or she knows the issues are that need their august intellect and problem solving abilities.

I want to know THAT THEY KNOW what the five most pressing Montrose County issues are and what they intend to vote for to correct those issues. Should any one of those issues be embarrassing to their predecessor or the third member I want promises made in public to all of us that SUNSHINE will shine as an X Ray above all else.

I have noticed that most often, the 'average joe' when elected suddenly becomes the all-knowing fount of knowledge. We, the electorate have no need for this kind of 'education'. We have need of Commissioners who recognize their shortcomings. The type of person who will study the problem at hand and form an opinion based thereon. But then,

if and when discussion proves that opinion faulty, all or in part, endeavor to travel the 'right road' through further study, discussion and compromise.

We the electorate or Montrose the county have no use for commissioners who are seeking the office 1) to move to higher office, 2) for self-aggrandizement in their waning years, 3) for their employment or the employment of their friends, 4) to fatten their retirement purse. WE WANT COMMISSIONERS WHO HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN PRIVATE ENTERPRISE AND WILL ENDEAVOR SELFLESSLY TO USE THOSE TALENTS TO MAKE OUR COUNTY BETTER THAN IT IS.

And who recognize that they work and are fully accountable to their constituents for their behavior and actions. We do not expect them to 'hide behind their gavel or title.' Commissioners must be open to public discussion of a duration of more than 3 minutes with dialogue to perfect what is being asked or said so that the question may now or later be answered in full.

Now for "HOLD THE PRESSES"

As reported in the Montrose Mirror February 19<sup>th</sup> we again have an issue with improper handling of personnel issues at county Public Works Department. It amounts to MIS-MANAGEMENT AND HARASSMENT OF EMPLOYEES! The accusations have been publicly brought forward. A similar situation occurred some 12 years ago and caused a major shakeup at the county. I guess those who have not paid attention to county government in the past are bound to repeat the past's blunders. But back to the issue at hand. There are specific rules or laws mandating how an investigation of this matter must be conducted and by whom. An agency outside the county must be utilized to

investigate. ALL past lawsuits against the county (of a similar nature) must be cited. All of our candidates must tell us how they would handle the outcome of this investigation and ensure full transparency.

One of our commissioners verbalized support of "UNIFY MONTROSE" which was brought to our community by a Chicago organization ostensibly so we could identify and manipulate our community (whatever that means). Anyway it is ludicrous that anyone would take seriously an offer by a 'suspect forum' from Chicago to 'improve' our community. Chicagoans cannot even 'improve' their own community without trying to export their failures to us. Candidates should articulate their feelings about "Unify Montrose", about paying for it and its possible impacts on our fair city.

Throughout this 'Opinion Piece' I have spoken to what we want and what we do not want in a commissioner. I have been pretty clear. Montrose County, in my two decade plus residence, has grown from a sleepy community to a much more populous community and a good deal more complex political structure. We cannot any longer tolerate dolts like a couple of the commissioners of the past 25 years. And since we have only succeeded in getting one to quit the Board before the end of his term we had better concentrate in getting the best we can on the first try. There is a lot at stake for the next four (or eight) years.

LET'S DO OUR BEST TO DO IT RIGHT THIS TIME AROUND. If we do a good job in November maybe our elected employees will begin to listen to us.

Now the question is, "WHAT ARE YOUR CONCERNS".

*Bill Bennett, Montrose*

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# Kate's Creative Classes

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**LaNoue DuBois Winery**, Saturday afternoon, 1:30-3:30 pm. Montrose. \*

**WHAfV**, Saturday afternoon, 1:30-3:30 pm. Montrose.

**Weehawken**, Ridgway, ARTbar \* Tuesday evening. Sat. afternoon. Ridgway.

**Dragonfly Creative**, Saturday afternoon 1:30-3:30 pm. Ridgway.

\* Adult beverage available

## MARCH

Sat. March 2. Wine & Watercolor

*Watercolor Iris painting*

**LaNoue DuBois Winery** \*

Thr. March 7. Poured Aryclic

*Art Therapy!*

**Mosaic** \*

Sat. March 9. Spring Wreaths

*Grapevine wreath workshop*

**WHAfV**

Sat., March 16. For the Birds

*Birdhouse decorating workshop*

**Weehawken**

## APRIL

Thr. April 11. Garden Gnome Houses

**Mosaic** \*

Sat. April 13 Paint Patio Pillows

**Dragonfly Creative**

Tue., April 16. Paint Your Pet

**Weehawken ARTBar** \*

## APRIL

Sat. April 20. Animal Pictures

*Horse Portrait with Alice Billings*

*Dogs & Cats with Kate Burke*

**LaNoue DuBois Winery** \*

Thr. April 25. Alcohol Ink

*Abstract Painting*

**Mosaic** \*

## MAY

Thr., May 8. Bilingual Mother's Day

*Cards. (mixed media)*

**Mosaic** \*

Tue., May 21. Alcohol Ink

*Spring Florals*

**Weehawken ARTBar** \*

## JUNE

Sat., June 8. *Paint in the Pasture*

*with Alice Billings*

**Thunderheart Haven Ranch,**

**Ridgway. 1-4 pm.**

<https://KathrynRBurke.com/Education>

## COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

### JANICE ANDREWS (STEVENS) July 27, 1921 - February 10, 2024



Born July 27, 1921 in Olathe, Colorado to

Mittie and Lester Stevens, Janice had one sister Mildred (deceased), 15 years older. Janice attended schools in Olathe, Colorado, graduating in 1939 and Western State College in Gunnison, Colorado, graduating in 1944. Her teaching career began in 1941 at a two-room rural school named Highland located 5 miles NW of Olathe (salary \$80/mo). Taught one year (1945-46) at Montrose High School. From 1946 - 1976 she taught English at Olathe Grade School at the Junior High level. (Total

teaching career 34 years) Met Wayne Andrews (deceased) July 1945 who was home on furlough from the US Air Corps just returning from missions flown over Germany. (The romance began ...) He returned to duty in August and received his discharge Oct. 12, 1945. They were married three days later on Oct. 15. In August 1946, daughter Diana Gayle was born. Bought first home on South Sixth Street in Olathe. (4 bedrooms, all hardwood floors - \$6,000) It took several years to pay this off. June 1959, son Gary Douglas was born, 13 years younger than his sister. Retired from the Montrose School District in 1976, the same year Wayne retired from his position at Tri-County Water Conservancy District. They could now devote all of their time to the apple orchard near the top of Ash Mesa Hill where they built their new home in 1972. In Oct 1995 Wayne and Janice celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. In June 1996 Wayne passed away. In 1997 Janice

sold their Olathe home and moved to Montrose.

Her children and grandchildren are her pride and joy: daughter Gayle who retired from teaching 2005; grandson Jace; great-grandson Andrew; grandson Dirk (Lisa); great-grandsons Dominic, Maverick & Lennox; son Doug who retired as school principal in Littleton, Colorado, and his wife Gaylene; grandson Riley (Sara); twin great-granddaughters Charlie and Frankie; stepson Robert Andrews (deceased), a retired attorney living in Wrightwood, California; grandson Tony (Danielle); great-granddaughter Remy.

Janice still drove at age 101. She also was a huge fan and loved watching every Rockies and Broncos game. Beautifully played the piano. She will be loved and missed every day. The family wishes to express their gratitude to the entire staff at Colorow Care Center in Olathe, Colorado, and to the staff at HopeWest Hospice Group in Montrose/Delta.

*Now more than ever...*

*Thank you for reading*

**THE MONTROSE MIRROR**

ISSUE 458 Feb. 26, 2024

# ART & SOL

## NOISES OFF, A HILARIOUS AND CLASSICALLY COMIC PLAY

By Cheryl Capshaw

MONTROSE-*Noises Off* first opened in 1982 at the Lyric Theatre in London, England. It is both a farce and an embedded narrative, a delightful play-within-a-play. Michael Frayn conceived of the idea in the early 1970s while watching one of his own plays from backstage. While listening to the conversations among the actors, he was amused and inspired.

Eventually, Frayn wrote the script for his concept in the form of a one-act play called *Exits*. His colleagues and critics loved it so much, they talked him into expanding it into a full-length play. The current title comes from the stage direction that refers to contrived sound effects or, in this case, unintentional noises coming from backstage.

The play *Noises Off* is in three acts, all situated backstage during the "first act" of the other play that is happening simultaneously, a production called *Nothing On*. As the audience views the play from an implied "backstage," they will meet the following characters: The arrogant director of

*Nothing On* is Lloyd Dallas, played by Scott Pollak. Dotty Otley (Corie Smith) is a veteran television star turned stage actress. Garry Lejeune (Rich Burt) is the lead actor in *Nothing On*, a professional who needs a script in order to form a complete sentence.

Brooke Aston (Samantha Beer) is a young, inexperienced actress from London who is always losing her contact lenses.

There are three other characters popping on and offstage, Frederick Fellows (Dalyn Pearson), Belinda Blair (Molly Benson), and Selsdon Mowbray (Bill Bottomly). Attempting to keep all of this running smoothly are the stage managers: Poppy Norton-Taylor (Spencer Crosby) and Kim Allgood (Abrielle Weaver). All of these characters are involved in rivalries, affairs, dropped lines, nosebleeds, and love triangles, and six of them will play characters-within-a-character in the play-within-a-play. The Magic Circle Players version of this award-winning play is directed by Dru Weaver, and she is assisted by Janel Culver. Actors, directors, and theatre patrons

will certainly enjoy and relate to this playful parody that shows how wacky and wonderful it is to be involved in live theatrical productions. This fantastic show opens March 15, 2024 and will run for three weekends.





# You are Invited!

**Celebrating 67 Years!**

## MEDC's 2024 Annual Meeting Luncheon!

**March 7, 2024 (Thursday) at the Montrose Pavilion**  
located at 1800 E. Pavilion Place, Montrose, CO 81401



*Caring for you like family.*

**Keynote Speaker:**  
**Jeff Mengenhauen**  
**CEO - Montrose Regional Health**

**“Navy SEAL’s approach to Creative Business Growth”**

“Find out why Montrose Regional Health is growing so fast, where they are going and the positive economic impact to our community. Also, discuss how the Navy SEAL approach on creative endurance will elevate any business.”

**\$45 for Investors \* \$55 for Non-Investors** (Catered by the Stone House)  
**RSVP by 3-1-24: [patriciac@MontroseEDC.org](mailto:patriciac@MontroseEDC.org) or (970) 249-9438**  
**Check-in begins at 11:30 a.m. - Plated Lunch & Program - 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.**

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# Watercolor & Wine

## Sat. March 2nd, 1:30-3:30 pm



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Mountain Scene.  
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# WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS NOW IS LOVE

By Rev. Dr. Arlyn Macdonald

**MONTROSE**-During this month-long celebration of Love in February, it is a good time to reflect on the important effects of Love for the greater community of life. The world is not going to change until we grow our ability to be loving and compassionate. Love and compassion and kindness are the gifts we inherited from our Creator, but we have forgotten our birthright. The world is not going to change until enough individuals remember who they are and change their lives to act with kindness.

It is such a simple thing to open the heart and feel love and compassion for others, to do kind deeds. Instead, we continue to feel hatred, frustration, and anger--not only toward others, but towards ourselves. It doesn't help to see our leaders modeling such aggressive and unkind behaviors. Great religious and spiritual teachers continue to tell us that love and compassion are the ways to greater fulfillment of life, to happiness and peace for everyone, but many people hear and act only on the hate.

What is worse is that our young people believe that an act of hatred is the answer to all their problems. We continue to have young people taking up guns and shooting each other and innocent bystanders at schools, malls, parades, and rallies. And

the suicide rate among young people continues to rise. When the focus on solving the world's problems is shooting and war, what can we expect?

How can we affect change in the world? We can affect change by realizing it really does matter if we are kind, compassionate, and loving. That we need to take personal responsibility to fill our lives with love, compassion, and kindness. And if enough of us do this, the world will shift.

In scientific studies, it has been proven that it only takes ½ of 1% of any group to change the direction of the entire group. You could be part of that ½ of 1% group. Instead of allowing yourself to feel anger, make the shift to understanding and compassion. Maybe the driver who cut you off on the highway is rushing to the side of his dying child. It doesn't matter what the reason, try blessing him instead of cursing him. Allow room for kindness and compassion to step into your heart. Your heart is what matters.

Instead of being frustrated having to wait in line, strike up a compassionate conversation with those around you. It is said that each person you meet has a message for your life.

Instead of feeling anger about war or other conflicts, stop and take a breath, and start radiating love and compassion to the people on all sides, even the ones with



*Grace Community Church parishioners shared love (in the form of food and groceries) with those in need at the Ferguson Plumbing Parking lot on Spring Creek Road on Saturday, Feb. 24. Photo by B. Switzer.*

whom you disagree. We don't know what is really happening in their lives, but love and compassion will make a difference.

Make it a point to be kind to the members of your own family, no matter what. Be kind to your neighbors, people you meet on the street, and especially to strangers. Smile and give a helping hand. The energy of kindness and compassion is contagious. The recipients of your kindness will pass it on. Let's be a part of the solution to peace in the world instead of adding to the problems. The world needs your love, kindness, and compassion. The world needs that ½ of 1% to make a shift. What the world needs now is Love.

25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION  
THE VOICE OF OUR COMMUNITY

# KAFM

88.1 & 96.9

LINE-UP OF EVENTS

25TH ANNIVERSARY  
CELEBRATION  
SPRING DRIVE  
FRIDAY, MARCH 1  
TO  
FRIDAY, MARCH 8

MIMOSA AND BLOODY  
MARY BRUNCH  
SUNDAY, MARCH 3RD  
10AM-2PM

FAITH ELIZA IN  
THE RADIO ROOM  
SATURDAY, MARCH 9TH  
7PM

AT 7AM ON MARCH 5, 1999 KAFM FLIPPED THE SWITCH AND WENT LIVE.

JOIN US IN CELEBRATING OUR 25TH YEAR OF BROADCASTING!

# 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-<br/>
  don@allsaintsmontrose.org)

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

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

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

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

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

## BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Olathe, Co 81425

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

Pastor Gabe Skillo

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Sunday 6 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Study/Prayer 7 p.m.

## CELEBRATION CHURCH

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

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

**Office Hours:** By appointment

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

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

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

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

**Senior Pastor:**

Pastor Brandon Mathis

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

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

**Demographics:** Multi-generational

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

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

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

## CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

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

**Contact:** 970-633-0226

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

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

**Pastor:** Tim Onnen

**Worship:** Sundays at 9 AM

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

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

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

## FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

**Denomination:** Church of the Nazarene

**Address:** 705 South 12th Street

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

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

**Pastor:** Buddy Cook

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

Wednesday: Prayer Boot Camp - 7 PM

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

*disciples in Montrose Colorado and around  
 the world.*

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

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MONTROSE

**Affiliation:** Presbyterian

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

12PM **Contact:** 970-249-4732, [in-](mailto:in-<br/>
  form@fpcmontrose.com)

[form@fpcmontrose.com](mailto:in-<br/>
  form@fpcmontrose.com),

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

**Pastor:** Jesse Mabanglo

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

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

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

# MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY *From previous pg*

## HILLCREST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**Denomination affiliation:** United Church of Christ

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

**Office hours:** By appointment

**Contact information:**

Phone number: (970) 249-9047

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

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

**Current Pastor:** Rev. Wendy Kidd

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

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

on life's journey.

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

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

## MONTROSE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**Denomination Affiliation:** United Methodist

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

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

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

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

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

**Worship service times:**

8:30 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual

9:45 a.m. Christian Education & Fellowship

11 a.m. Sanctuary

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

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

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

## ROSEMONT BAPTIST CHURCH

**Affiliation:** Southern Baptist

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

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

**Contact information:**

Phone: 970.249.4887

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

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

**Senior Pastor:** Rolland Kenneson

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

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

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

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

*matter what stage of life they are in.*

**Children's services:** *We have a fun Sunday School for children from four years old through youth. We provide Children's Church during the Sunday Worship Services where children four years old through 9 years can learn to be 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](mailto:arlyn@spiritaware.org),

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

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

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

## ST. STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

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

**Contact:** [ststephensmont-](http://ststephensmontrose.com)

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

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

**Rev. Dec.** Garrett Agajanian

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

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

**Sunday:** Holy Communion 10 am.

Fellowship following service.

Children's nursery available (unstaffed).

# MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY From previous pg

## SUMMIT CHURCH OF MONTROSE:

### Denomination affiliation:

Southern Baptist

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

**Office hours:** Varies

### Contact information:

phone number: 970-275-7026

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

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

**Senior Pastor:** John DeSario

**Worship service times:** Sunday Worship is at 9 am followed by a time of fellowship and snacks. Summit Church has frequent Bible studies and other events for adults, young adults, youth and children. Please visit <https://www.summitchurchmontrose.org/events> for more information.

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

*Lord. Summit Church has people of all ages!*

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

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

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

*We meet for prayer at the church every Wed. at 6:30.*

## VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH OF MONTROSE

**Denomination Affiliation:** Independent Baptist

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

**Office Hours:** Monday-Friday 8am-12pm

**Contact Information:** Phone (970) 249-

6874; email at [info@vbcmontrose.org](mailto:info@vbcmontrose.org);

website: [vbcmontrose.org](http://vbcmontrose.org)

**Current Pastor:** Roland Kassales

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

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

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

### Church Directory

#### Mirror Editorial Staff

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

### information to the Montrose Mirror:

Name of church

Denomination affiliation

Address Office hours

Contact information (phone number, email address, website)

Name of current Senior Pastor

Worship service times

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

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

Do your church services include Sunday School and childcare?

**Local Immunization Providers**

Visit [www.montrosecounty.net/immunizations](http://www.montrosecounty.net/immunizations) for updated information on immunization providers.

**Questions? Call (970) 252-5011**

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**970.708.1014**

[telluridemaintenancesolutions@gmail.com](mailto:telluridemaintenancesolutions@gmail.com)

SERVING MONTROSE, OURAY,  
SAN MIGUEL, MESA, AND  
SURROUNDING COUNTIES



# COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

## HONOREES ANNOUNCED FOR THE 2024 WOMEN OF DISTINCTION AWARDS *Phoebe Benziger to receive Lifetime Achievement Award*

*From Tonya Maddox, Our Town Matters*

MONTROSE – In celebration of Women’s History Month, Our Town Matters is proud to announce the names of 20 remarkable women who will be recognized at the annual Women of Distinction Awards Gala on Friday, March 8th.

The 2024 Women of Distinction are:

- Jane Marie Amundson - Alpine Bank
- Deann Balash - Montrose Education Foundation
- Joan Chismire - Ouray County Ranch History Museum
- Gabrielle Clay - Studio 14 by Gabrielle
- Catherine Frates - A Time to Dance
- Michelle Gottlieb - The Dolphin House
- Betty Hayes - Welcome Home Alliance For Veterans
- Sonja Horn - Fabula
- Rebekah Lansdown - Kin Connect & Foster Connections
- Erin Liles - Salon Polished
- Amanda Lovette, MD - Delta Health Pediatrics
- Kimberly McGehee - She She Boutique
- Bethany Maher - Mexican American Development Association
- Correna Montoya - Land Title Guarantee
- Nancy Murphy - Region 10
- Kathryn Schroer - City of Montrose
- Chrissy Simmons - Maslow Academy
- Linda Sullivan - Sullivan Construction & Architecture
- Michelle Wingfield - DART
- Cheryl Zahniser - Budget Blinds Montrose-

The Annual Women of Distinction Awards event was created to spotlight and recognize the important role women play locally in the economy and in society. The honorees represent the most distinctive women in business, government, education, and not-for profit fields.

Our Town Matters founder, Tonya Maddox will once again serve as the Master of Ceremonies and host the popular red-carpet interviews prior to the event. The evening will also include a special tribute video and Lifetime Achievement Award presentation to local philanthropist, Phoebe Benziger.

This year’s event will be held at the Montrose Pavilion on Friday, March 8th at 5:30 PM. There will be a dinner catered by Tammee Tuttle, owner of The True Grit Café & Catering, an awards ceremony, dancing, photos and more. The 2024 honorees and all the honorees since 2017 will be eligible for the coveted Woman of the Year award which will be announced at the awards event.

Presenting Sponsors of the 2024 event are TEI Rock Drills and Our Town Matters. The Gold sponsors are Alpine Bank, Camelot Gardens, David & Gaynell Mize, Shelter Insurance - Megan Wilson, and The Bridges. Tickets can be purchased online at [events.ourtownmatters.net](https://events.ourtownmatters.net) or by calling 970-765-0913.

*About Women of Distinction Awards*

In 2017, the Annual Women of Distinction Awards event was created to spotlight and recognize the important role women play locally in the economy and in society. Each year, the honorees represent the most distinctive women in business, government, education, and not-for profit fields.



Just in thyme for spring ...

**The Mirror**

Homegrown content with flavor.

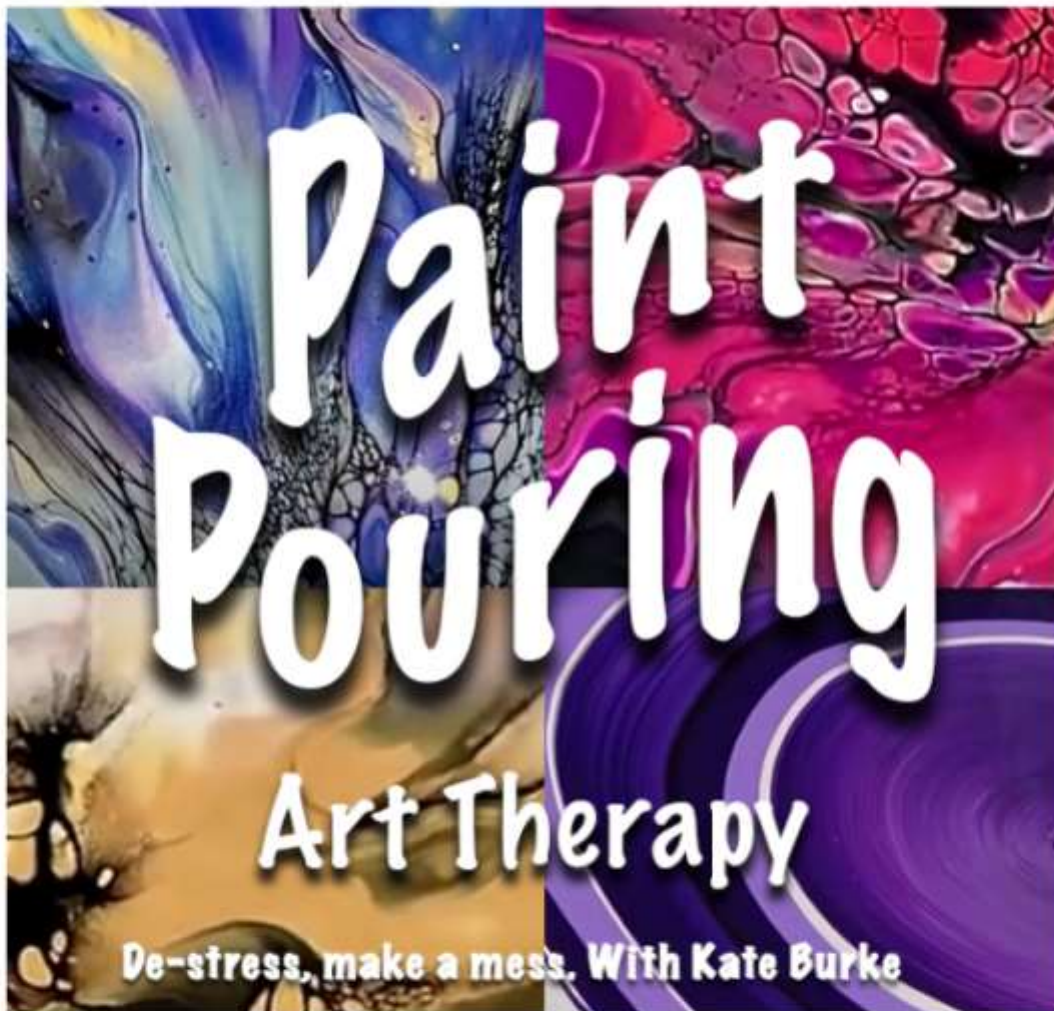




# MOSAIC MONTROSE

21 N. Cascade Ave.

## Thr., March 7. 5:30 pm



Experiment with free-pour acrylics. Fun, messy, and a great stress reliever. Examples, demonstration & detailed instructions. Practice on heavy paper then create your final piece on canvas. Everything provided plus a drink and colorful M&Ms to snack on.  
\$50, Newbie | \$45, Welcome Back.

Sign up in store or online.

<https://kathrynRburke.com/product/030724M>



# CARTOON BY TIM JONES

WEEKLY CARTOON

## SOUR GRAPES

by Tim Jones



## DineOutMontrose.com



Lighthouse Eatery  
970-964-7570

Double Barrel Taco Co.  
970-417-4340

Trattoria de Sofia  
970-249-0433

Rib City  
970-249-7427

Stone House  
970-240-8899

Mimo's  
970-249-0616

Sidelines Sports Bar  
970-765-0129

Amelias Hacienda Restaurante  
970-249-1881

Delta: Pour Ernie's  
970-546-0074



Alpen Confections  
970-648-0609

Remington's at the Bridges  
970-252-1119

Crash Burger  
970-249-0825

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

Tacos & Beer  
970-964-4448

Pahgre's  
970-249-6442



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

Horsefly Brewing  
970-249-6889

Rio Bravo  
970-964-4477

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

Fiesta Guadalajara  
970-249-2460

El Jimador  
970-249-8990

Busy Corner White Kitchen  
970-323-6215

Delta: CB's Tavern  
970-399-3570

# COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

## KAFM COMMUNITY RADIO CELEBRATES 25 YEARS OF BROADCASTING IN THE GRAND VALLEY

*Special to the Mirror*

GRAND JUNCTION – In 1992, a small group of civic-minded citizens gathered together to discuss the possibility of creating a locally owned, operated, and programmed community radio station in Grand Junction, Colorado. In mid-1998 the board decided to put 88.1 at 16 watts on air, not knowing if many would be able to hear the station or would support it. Transmitter site facilities on Black Ridge were constructed in 1998 and the original studio facilities, on West Independent in Grand Junction, were constructed in 1999. The station made its first broadcast on the

morning of March 5, 1999, with the call letters KAFM.

The history of bringing such a gem to the community and the airwaves began with friends and music lovers gathered around a dining table. “The first meeting of what was to become the Board, of yet unnamed KAFM, occurred around my dining table,” said co-founder Mickey Krakowski. “We discussed whether there was the need for a small, grass roots community radio station serving a diverse group of listeners in the Grand Valley.

Discussion basically was centered around, “If we build it, will they join?” Early on it

was decided that we would play any genre of music that programmers were willing to bring.”, continues Krakowski, who is also the Presenter of “Bad Dog Radio.” In 2001, KAFM purchased its current facility at 1310 Ute Avenue.

To celebrate all that has been achieved in the past 25 years, KAFM will kick off the entire year’s celebration during their 25th Anniversary bi-annual Radiothon, on Friday March 1, 2024. An Open House and Sunday Brunch is scheduled on Sunday March 3, from 10am to 2pm, in the station’s Radio Room venue and KAF é , and is open to the public.

### HAVE YOU MISSED MORTGAGE PAYMENTS AND NEED HELP?

Do you feel you need help to navigate your next steps because of missed mortgage payments? If you want help prior to your home going into foreclosure, call or text me. I can help you learn about the process and your current needs. I am here to help; I am your Local Short Sale and Foreclosure resource.



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michelleklippertrealtor@gmail.com

 **The Real Estate Store**   
500 E. Main St. Montrose, CO 81401



# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## **COLORADO WEST PERFORMING ARTS BALLET COMPANY PRESENTS THE LITTLE MERMAID IN MONTROSE MARCH 2-3**

*Special to the Mirror*

REGIONAL-The Colorado West Performing Arts Ballet Company will be performing The Little Mermaid Ballet in Montrose at the Montrose Pavilion, on March 2 at 2 and 7pm, and on March 3 at 2pm. For more information visit <https://www.coloradowestpac.org/>

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# WHAFFV Welcome Home Alliance for Veterans

## Spring Wreath Workshop Sat., March 9th

1:30-4:00 pm  
In the Cantina

Everything you need to make a pretty wreath: silk flowers, ribbons, bling, and the wreath.

We provide tools: wire, & cutters, florist tape, scissors, glue gun.

No experience necessary. plus a snack and soft drink.  
\$40 Open to Public  
\$35 Military Discount

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Call me, 970-729-1188

or Sign up online  
<https://kathrynRburke.com/030924v>



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or friends

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# SAVE THE DATE! LOCAL EVENTS CALENDAR

## ONGOING-

**MONTROSE FARMERS MARKET** (970) 249 0705 Centennial Plaza, 433 S. 1st St. Montrose, CO 81401

[www.valleyfoodpartnership.org](http://www.valleyfoodpartnership.org). Year-Round Farmers Market, Saturdays 9am-1pm (Summer), every other Saturday 10am-1pm (Winter). Accepts SNAP and Double Up Food Bucks.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**THE HEALING COLLECTIVE OF WESTERN COLORADO** welcomes local practitioners, who focus on healing the whole being. Meetings are on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month and both are from Noon-1 pm, upstairs at the Mother Earth store on Main Street . We support one another with our practices, business, and personal needs. For more information please contact Erin Easton at [ErinKEaston@gmail.com](mailto:ErinKEaston@gmail.com)

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

## MONTHLY

**Feb. 1-April 12**-AARP Foundation Tax-aide in Montrose – Feb. 1 - April 12, Tue, Thu, Fri 9am - 2pm at the Montrose Pavilion Senior Center. Free income tax preparation for anyone, free of charge, focused on individuals over 50 or low/moderate income. Appointments are required, call 970-252-4889, M-F 9-2. More information about the program is available at: [taxaide.aarpfoundation.org](http://taxaide.aarpfoundation.org)

**Feb. 28**-On Wednesday, February 28th, Montrose City Manager Bill Bell will speak at the Montrose Forum at CMU's Cascade Hall. Join us on Wednesday from 8 - 9 am at The Forum for City Manager Bill Bell *Unfiltered!*

**March 2-3**-The Colorado West Performing Arts Ballet Company will be performing The Little Mermaid Ballet in Montrose at the Montrose Pavilion, on March 2 at 2 and 7pm, and on March 3 at 2pm. For more information visit <https://www.coloradowestpac.org/>

**March 4**-On Monday, March 4 Citizens' Climate Lobby will meet at 5pm at the safety complex mtg rm, 434 S 1st Street, to promote local environmental solutions to climate change. Non-partisan, national, All [welcome.info](http://welcome.info) at 970-765-9095.

**March 9**-The Museums of Western Colorado presents our Annual Speakeasy Fundraiser: Night on the Barbary Coast on Saturday March 9, 2024. Come join us for a night of debauchery honoring Grand Junction's historic red-light district, the Barbary Coast. The event is a fundraiser that supports the Museums of Western Colorado, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Tickets are available on our website now! Be sure to bring a form of ID, as this event is for folks 21 and older only. **For more information visit:** [www.mowc.co](http://www.mowc.co) Instagram: @museumsofwesternco Facebook: @crossorchards Twitter: @museumsofwc You Tube: Museums of Western Colorado



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# READER PHOTO SPOTLIGHT: DEB REIMANN



At left, Photographer Deb Reimann snapped this handsome guy playing peek-a-boo in Escalante Canyon.



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