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the Montrose Mirror

CITY COUNCIL HEARS FROM PUBLIC AT MARCH 20 MEETING



Karen Sherman Perez of the Hispanic Affairs Project said that she spoke for 100's of fearful people as she expressed opposition to the non-sanctuary city resolution on March 20.

By Caitlin Switzer
MONTROSE-All Councilors were present for the regular meeting of the Montrose City Council on Tuesday, March 20. Joining Council were three youth city councilors, including Sydney Bell, Hunter Barton, and Reign Icasiano. Constituents were also well represented, with an overflow crowd in attendance.

Mayor Barbara Bynum called the meeting to order at 6pm and led all in saying the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Pro Tem J. David Reed had no changes to the meeting agenda.

CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Although the time for public comment on non-agenda items is clearly labeled as such, Bynum carefully and slowly explained to the standing room only crowd, "We always, the next item on our agenda at every meeting is what's called, Call for Public Comment on Non-agenda items," Bynum said.

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RE-1J BOARD OF EDUCATION IMPLEMENTS TEACHING AND LEARNING ACADEMY PROPOSAL IN 3-2 VOTE AT SPECIAL MEETING, TWO DIRECTORS NOT PRESENT

By Caitlin Switzer
MONTROSE-With two board members absent, the Montrose County Board of Education approved [Resolution 08-2024](#), in support of the [Teaching and Learning Academy](#) proposal, in a three to two vote taken during a [special meeting](#) held on Tuesday, March 19. Present for the session were Board President Sarah Fishing; District A Director Neisha Balleck; District B Director Ted Valerio; District D Director Tom West; and District F Director Jody Hovde. Board Vice President Stephen Bush and District C Director Alice Murphy were absent. While the regular board meeting that presented the proposal on March 12 drew a standing room only crowd, constituent turnout was smaller this week, possibly due to the first night of the 2024 Fourth Grade P.E. Showcase being held concurrently at Montrose High School.

The Special Meeting Agenda included one discussion item, the proposed [Teaching and Learning Academy](#), followed by a vote to approve

Continued pg 43



At a special meeting on Tuesday March 19, the Montrose County School District RE-1J Board of Education voted to approve [Resolution 08-2024](#) as amended, implementing the proposed Teaching & Learning Academy model at Johnson Elementary School.

Photo by B. Switzer.

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SAN MIGUEL COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS UPCOMING

Special to the Mirror

SAN MIGUEL COUNTY --- Two upcoming meetings of the San Miguel County Planning Commission (CPC) should serve to remind county residents of the changing nature of the county. With draft solar regulations in hand and ready for in-depth discussion, the Wednesday, March 27 work session will take place in both Norwood and Telluride. That meeting will be held jointly with the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC). As a work session, no decisions will be made.

On Thursday, April 4, the regular CPC meeting agenda items include Land Use Code amendments for the Community Housing Zone District, and for Mining Hazards, as well as land use development applications.

Ahead of the Wednesday, March 27 work session, draft solar regulations are now available online at <https://www.sanmiguelcountyco.gov/781/Renewable-Energy-and-Natural-Resources>. The meeting will be held simultaneously in Norwood at the Sheriff's annex and in Telluride in the BOCC meeting room and begin at 9:30 a.m. Commissioners may be present at either location. Staff will be at both locations.

The Thursday, April 4 meeting will be held in Telluride and begin at 9 a.m. Draft LUC amendments and land use application materials are available at <https://www.sanmiguelcountyco.gov/490/Other-Resources>.

Both meetings will also be available via Zoom. Please visit bit.ly/42yroK8 for agendas and Zoom info

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Special to the Mirror
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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

RICK DUNLAP IS THE BEST CHOICE FOR DISTRICT 3 COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Editor:

Let's talk about a person who has worked for others in the United States Army and in law enforcement for over four decades. A person who has proven himself fiscally responsible, consistent, and dedicated to all Montrose County citizens. This person held tight to his word and did EXACTLY what he said he was going to do as the Montrose County Sheriff, and he did it with honesty and grace.

I think you all know who I am referring to now - RICK DUNLAP. You could not ask for better representation as your next County Commissioner in District 3.

There have been some folks who have questioned whether Rick did what he was supposed to with the Public Safety Sales

Tax funds. I am here to tell you, he DID – I was there. I ask you to refer to two articles printed in the Montrose Daily Press dated March 26, 2008; one titled, "County Leadership More Transparent", and the other titled, "County Displays Benefits of Sales Tax" and you will see. Rick utilized those funds to purchase the necessary equipment to bring the Montrose County Sheriff's Office into the technological 21st Century. Rick hired additional deputies to better promote public safety throughout the entirety of Montrose County. Rick procured new vehicles to replace the dated unreliable junk that we were driving every day. Rick instituted the mobile data computer program, which allowed all deputies to remain mobile and readily avail-

able to respond to calls for service. And Yes, Rick bought TASERS for all deputies; a resource they never had prior to his tenure. Knowing Rick Dunlap as long as I have known him, and having the great opportunity to work both for and with Rick, I know he has the skills, knowledge, and commitment to community necessary to serve everyone. I have a tremendous amount of respect for this man; he taught me a lot about being a sheriff and public servant. Rick is the best choice for District 3 County Commissioner in Montrose County.

VOTE RICK DUNLAP, District 3 County Commissioner

Respectfully,

Adam W. Murdie, Gunnison



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

CULTIVATED MEAT COULD DRAMATICALLY REDUCE OUR PANDEMIC RISK

To the editor,

Legislators who seek to reduce our greenhouse-gas emissions should support increased public funding for cultivated-meat research. For those who don't know, cultivated meat is grown from livestock cells, without slaughter. Traditional animal agriculture is one of the leading causes of global warming.

While cultivated meat faces a number of technological hurdles, it has the potential to serve as a much greener alternative. Politicians should help advance the field of cellular agriculture for the sake of our planet. Also, cultivated meat could dramatically reduce our pandemic risk and the suffering we inflict on animals.

Jon Hochschartner, Granby, CT

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

GREAT OLD BROADS FOR WILDERNESS TO HOST MONTHLY MEETING AT RIDGWAY LIBRARY

Special to the Mirror

RIDGWAY-The Northern San Juan Broadband of the Great Old Broads for Wilderness is hosting their monthly meeting at Ridgway Public Library. This program will be presenting Peggy Lyon, botanist for **Colorado's Natural Heritage Program**. She will present a program on Trees of the Northern San Juans, including identification, characteristics, stories and amazing facts. **Monday, April 8, 1pm** at the Ridgway Library. This is open to non-members and members. Hope to see you there!



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MONTROSE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS APPROVE RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO DOLORES CANYON NATIONAL MONUMENT, CONSIDER SUP FOR GRAVEL MINING OPERATION



Applicant Todd Haynes spoke during a public hearing on the Haynes Excavation Inc Storage Area [Special Use \[SU23-006\] proposal](#).

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-All commissioners were present for the regular meeting of the Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) on Wednesday, March 20. BOCC Chair Roger Rash opened the meeting; Commissioner Sue Hansen led in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

Pastor Roland Kassales of Victory Baptist Church delivered the invocation, "...I ask that you would give wisdom today in the meeting, I thank you for our citizens gathered here who care about our community...Father we ask for your blessing, your prosperity..."

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

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

COUNTY MANAGER

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda items were approved unanimously.

GENERAL BUSINESS & ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Follow a brief presentation by County Engineer Keith Laube, Commissioners voted to approve a change order, authorizing the Chair's signature on the [Second Amendment](#) to the [Construction Contract](#) for Installation of CIP Class D Concrete for the Carnation Road and 5900 Road Box Culvert Projects in the amount of \$20,839.59, as reviewed by Counsel. The project was awarded to Con-Sy Inc. on December 6, 2023. The Second Amend-

ment is due to changes in the design of the box culvert wing walls and to expedite the schedule. The Second Amendment increases the contract amount from \$356,093 to \$376,932.59.

Commissioner Sue Hansen asked what caused the change to the wing walls, Laube said that it was a design change. BOCC Chair Roger Rash said, "And did we request the change or did they request the change?"

"They requested it," Laube said, adding that the contractor and county had agreed it was the best path forward.

Hansen asked if it would expedite the path forward.

Laube said the change of design will make things go faster. "Obviously we're behind schedule on this project."

"If I lived out there, I'd be mad," BOCC Vice Chair Keith Caddy said. "It's taking this project too long to get done."

Commissioner Sue Hansen agreed. BOCC Chair Roger Rash said that Laube and his staff have worked hard on the project.

Billy Pierson and Debbie Pierson offered public comment on the [Second Amendment](#) to the [Construction Contract](#) for Installation of CIP Class D Concrete for the Carnation Road and 5900 Road Box Culvert Projects, which Billy Pierson referred to as a "mess."

"The road's been closed almost a year now...I'd like to know what's going on...my family's lived on that road for 75 years," Billy Pierson said, "Not to be snarky or mean, but the Golden Gate Bridge was built in four years and four and half months..."

"It's real inconvenient...it all adds up to frustration and not much happening,"

Debbie Pierson said.

Rash said that there would be a SWOT analysis, "We can't be perfect every time."

Commissioners voted to approve [resolution 19-2024 in opposition](#) to the proposed Dolores Canyon National Monument.

BOCC Vice Chair Keith Caddy said, "I think...with this resolution we're going to be supporting the West End and their wishes not to have a national monument over there; I know a lot of people that live out of the area would like to see a national monument over there, but I think it would directly affect the people who live

in the West End, in Montrose and Mesa County, Dolores and San Miguel..."

Hansen said it would also affect those in this part of Montrose County, and said that there is information available online, and that commissioners can be reached to discuss the proposal.

Rash said that advocates spoke only to around 1,700 people but did not talk to the 42,000 Montrose County citizens. He said it was a case of outside interests, "trying to jam something down our throat...I'm proud to carry this resolution."

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Commissioners opened a public hearing on the [Serendipity Ranch Waiver proposal](#) [WV23-004]. The proposal is for a waiver of the Montrose County Subdivision Regulations, Section 3.20.B.a: Lots in Minor Subdivisions shall have a minimum road frontage of two hundred (200) feet at Parcel 376535300043, 60245 Oak Grove Road. The zoning is General Agricultural. The waiver proposal was continued to the meeting of April 3.

Commissioners voted to approve the [Freudenthal Amended Plat \[AM24-001\] proposal](#) to vacate a 15' utility easement at Parcel 399305207001 64275 OAKLAND RD Zoning: General Residential.

Rash opened a public hearing on the Haynes Excavation Inc Storage Area [Special Use \[SU23-006\] proposal](#) to establish a gravel mining operation at Parcel 399317208001, 64583 Ranger Road. The zoning is General Agricultural. The Planning Commission had recommended approval with conditions. The project is described in the meeting packet, "The applicant proposes to operate a Gravel Mining Operation on approximately 5.8 acres within a larger 8.2-acre parcel zoned General Agricultural (A). The site is located at 64583 Ranger Road. The proposed gravel mining operation is not a typical gravel mining operation. This proposed operation does not include batch plants, mining or crushing, or bringing new material to the site. The proposal is specifically to store the current material until the material can be utilized. The proposed operation is currently running on the property. When the operator was informed that this was in violation of the Zoning Regulations, they applied for a special use permit to bring

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OPPOSE DOLORES CANYON NATIONAL MONUMENT *From previous pg*

the operation into compliance.”

Also included in the [packet](#) are a [site map](#) and [comments on the proposal](#).

With a number of attendees signed up to speak on the special use proposal to establish a gravel mining operation, Rash and Hansen said that they would have to leave shortly for the West End, and the hearing would be continued when they had to leave.

Planning & Development Director Tallmadge Richmond presented information on the SUP application.

First to speak was Applicant Todd Haynes, who said that he has always tried to comply with the laws and gave a history of the operation.

Haynes answered questions from commissioners. He said that he was told by former Planning Director Steve White that he did not need to apply for a special use permit, in response to a direct question, “...he said no, you are fine, go ahead...”

Nearby neighbor Mike Huston said that the County’s zoning codes do not allow the operation to exist, saying that the Special Use Permit does not allow for the

standalone stockpiling of aggregate materials, “...That is exactly what is being requested here today...” Huston asked Commissioners to deny the application.

David Schneider said that he lives within site of the storage pile, “I’m in favor of what he’s done...Haynes’ pulling material out has not been an increase on that road...it is not an unsightly stockpile...” He urged commissioners to approve the permit.

Heather Cammisa said she could not ask for a better neighbor than Haynes Excavation, and that any questions of integrity have no merit. “...I don’t see a problem.”

A number of speakers spoke of Haynes’ public service as a volunteer fire chief, and his support for neighbors and the community.

David Swedlow said the site is clean and relatively noise free, and that gravel is a needed resource in Montrose County.

Other neighbors raised concerns over the amount of “product’ on site, said that the location is unsightly, that there are trucks, and a lack of communication regarding the amount of aggregate.

David Allison said that he lives nearby and has also worked for Haynes, who he said has found himself in a difficult situation, “...The neighbors are expected to bear the brunt...those bridges are not built for loaded super dumps, they are tearing the roads up...”

Maya Haynes, who helped to start Haynes Excavation with her husband Todd, said that the company wants to address the situation in the best possible manner without hurting neighbors or their business.

David Briggs said he has lived in Montrose for 40 years and has seen gravel piles go up and down all over the county, “Why don’t we just grant the special use permit and make this one disappear?”

Commissioners closed the session, but kept public comment open, and continued the hearing until the BOCC meeting of April 3.

“We do read every comment,” Rash said, “It is important to us...”

Also continued to April 3 was a Public Health Report.

The BOCC meeting was adjourned.

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GAIL MARVEL
Montrose Author & Reporter

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

GRAND VALLEY WELLNESS ADDS MEDICATION MANAGEMENT, WILL HOST AN OPEN-HOUSE EVENT

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE—Grand Valley Wellness, a local provider of mental health and wellness services in western Colorado, is excited to announce the addition of Medication Management to its operations. To celebrate the expansion, the company will host an open house event on April 11 from 4-6 pm at its Montrose location (300 N Townsend Avenue) from TIME. This event is open to the public and will allow community members to meet the staff and learn more about the services offered.

Grand Valley Wellness provides various mental health and wellness services, including individual and group therapy. The company is proud to accept most insurances, including Medicaid, making its services accessible to many individuals and families needing support.

“We are thrilled to be expanding with the addition of Medication Management and look forward to serving the community with our comprehensive mental health and wellness services,” said Dr. Laura Blair, Founder and Co-Owner of Grand Valley Wellness. “At our open house event, we invite everyone to come and see our newest office space, meet our team, and learn more about how we can help support mental and emotional well-being.”

The open house event will feature facility tours, an opportunity to meet the staff, refreshments, and giveaways. Those interested in attending are encouraged to RSVP by contacting Grand Valley Wellness at 970-399-5990.

The new Montrose office location will join Grand Valley Wellness’ existing locations in Delta, Mesa, and Garfield counties and another new location in Ouray County, further extending the company’s reach and impact in providing access to quality mental health and wellness services in Colorado.

For more information about Grand Valley Wellness and their services, visit their website at www.gvwellness.net or contact them at 970-399-5990 or info@gvwellness.net

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RED HAWKS BOYS' LACROSSE WINLESS THROUGH THREE GAMES

By Cliff Dodge

MONTROSE-The Montrose Red Hawks lacrosse team, winless in three starts, hit the road on Wednesday, March 21 to take on the Middle Park Panthers. The Red Hawks have dropped their first three contests, all in league play, are 0-3 both in overall play and in league play.

The Grand Junction Tigers outplayed the Red Hawks 14 to 6 as Eli Sauer, Jayden Casias, Moss Inman, and Will Plumhoff all scored. Sauer, Casias and Elijah Womack all had assists. Red Hawks goaltender, sophomore Patrick Alvarez, stopped 13 of the 27 shots he faced.

The Crested Butte Titans invaded the Red Hawks pitch on Saturday, March 16 and defeated the home team by the score 9-4. Womack, Sauer and Casias all hit the score sheet with goals.

The third game of the season featured the Telluride Miners. The visitors won the match 17 – 5 as Womack, Sauer, and Casias again scored for the Red Hawks. Maverick Powers also chipped in with an assist. Sophomore goaltender Patrick Alvarez played well in goal, stopping 12 of the 22 shots the Miners put on the Red Hawk's goal.

RED HAWKS GIRLS' LACROSSE STRUGGLES STARTING 2024 SEASON

By Cliff Dodge

MONTROSE-The Montrose girls' lacrosse season got off to a rocky start as the Red Hawks dropped their first four games including a league tilt with the Telluride Miners.

Head coach Chris Allison knew his young and inexperienced team would be severely challenged, given the fact that 18 of the 24 players on the Montrose roster are underclassmen.

The first game saw the Pueblo West Cyclones invade the Montrose pitch and prevail 9-5. Junior Ali Sauer, Senior Savannah Kolk, and Junior Maddison Coca all scored goals for the Red Hawks. The Cyclones fielded 36 ground balls compared with only 17 for the Red Hawks. Sophomore Abby Segal stopped 9 of 19 shots on goal.

The Santa Fe Demons defeated the Red Hawks 12-4 in their next outing. Savannah

Kolb scored three times for the Red Hawks, while Sophomore Natalie Trask also hit the scoring column.

The Battle Mountain Huskies ran roughshod over the Red Hawks in their third home game, losing to the Huskies 18-2. The fourth game featured the Miners of Telluride in a league match, which the Miners won 15-4. Freshman Cheyenne Whitcomb, juniors Ali Sauer and Maggie Cline all scored for the Red Hawks.

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Thursday, March 28, 2024

7:30 p.m.

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\$25 Adults (Advance Purchase)

\$28 Adults (At the Door)

\$5 Students (18 yrs and under)



One for the Foxes, a dynamic transatlantic trio, features Ireland's Tadhg Ó Meachair (piano, accordion) and Dave Curley (vocals, guitar), alongside Colorado, USA's Joanna Hyde (vocals, fiddle). Irish and American folk music, this band's highly personalized sound emerges in a manner both eclectic and grounded.

This is their second OCPAG performance.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MHS WINTER GUARD HEADED TO STATE CHAMPIONSHIP



Montrose High School Winter Guard.
Courtesy photo.

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Montrose High School Winter Guard, part of the MHS Band program, is the only SA (Scholastic) team on the Western Slope and ranked 2nd in their division. Recently, they placed 1st in the Palisade

competition and 2nd in the Broomfield Legacy competition.

They are preparing to head to Denver April 5th and 6th to perform in the Magness Arena in the Colorado State Tournament.

Winter Guard, the *Sports of the Arts*, is a competitive sport that relies on an ensemble's skill level rather than school size; levels rank from novice to professional. Unlike Color Guard, Winter Guard is performed indoors with recorded music, costumes, movement, and dance choreography for an entertaining, high-energy show.

Every member of the team serves a critical role only they can fill, no one is benched. Teamwork skills are taught through the basics of sportsmanship, goodwill, discipline, and camaraderie.

Team member Leonor Nieves Chavez was

the 2023 recipient of the RMCGA (Rocky Mountain Color Guard Association) Performer Scholarship. Other members have joined the professional Winter Guard International and Drum Corps International.

The students and the parents of MHS Winter Guard are working hard to help generate donations to help offset the cost for the Colorado State Tournament in Denver April 5th-6th. They're asking for one dollar/mile donations, so if you donate \$20 – you just helped us get 20 miles closer to our goal. Denver is 265 miles away – one way. Your encouragement and willingness to donate sends a message that Montrose is proud of their accomplishments and wishes them much success.

To donate, link to: <https://sites.google.com/mcsd.org/mhsbandprogram/winter-guard>

4TH ANNUAL GATE CHESS TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Fourteen RE-1J students took part in the Fourth Annual Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) Chess Tournament held on March 11 at the Montrose Regional Library. Participating students were from Centennial Middle School (CtMS), Columbine Middle School (CMS), Olathe Middle High School (OMHS), and Peak Academy. Pictured left to right are Jack Bates - CMS - 6th grade - 3rd Place; Sawyer Bates - CMS - 7th Grade - 1st Place;; Damien Banks - CtMS - 8th grade - 2nd Place; Beth Kruis - CtMS GATE - Chess Tournament Coordinator.



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COUNCIL CONSIDERS GRANT APPLICATION TO ENERGY AND MINERAL IMPACT ASSISTANCE FUND

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-City work sessions are not an opportunity for the public to comment, Mayor Barbara Bynum said as the Montrose City Council gathered for a regular work session on Monday, March 18.

"...The point of city council work sessions, this is an opportunity for council and staff to talk about things that will be on upcoming city council agendas, at which point when we vote we will take public comment," Bynum said, adding that the public is able to sit and watch the work sessions.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW CITY EMPLOYEES

The work session began with the introduction of new City employees.

Joining the City team are:

Trash & Recycling Operator Paul Plush;
Utilities Worker Mike Lopez;
Parks and Special Projects Worker Chris Gebes;

Executive Assistant to Police Command Staff Courtney Billi;

Court Clerk Rebeqah Love;

Utilities Worker Seth Brewer; and

Customer Service Technician Arlene Inskeep.

Following introductions Mayor Bynum welcomed the new staff members, "Thanks for coming and we look forward to seeing you out there in the real world."

DISCUSSION ITEMS

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

Background-a memo from Murphy to council notes that "additional detail on the City's street maintenance program can be found in the street capital and maintenance plan...as well as on the Street Maintenance tab of the Moving Montrose Forward webpage at www.MoveMo.co. ...Street maintenance project plans were prepared in-house by the City's engineer-

ing department (and) were put out to bid on February 15, 2024 and were publicly received on March 7, 2024. Bids were received from four contractors... bid totals include a 10 percent contingency."

Also presented for discussion was the 2024 Sidewalk Improvements Project Expense Authorization. Public Works Director Jim Scheid and Streets Superintendent Nik Pridy were present to provide a briefing to Council. Council will be asked to authorize expenses for sidewalk improvements as part of the 2024 MoveMo Project in the amount of \$150,000.

Following the presentation by staff, Mayor Bynum thanked them for putting all of the sidewalk projects in one place and asked about a sidewalk between Humdingers and the airport. City Engineer Scott Murphy responded, "...big storm trunk, full widening, right-of-way acquisitions would all be required to make that happen..." Montrose Regional Airport is looking at grants, Murphy said.

Background- A memo from Pridy to Council states, "The City of Montrose has requested formal bids through the Invitation for Bid process for on-call concrete construction services. The successful bidders, Avila Concrete, Bull Basin, OEC Construction, and Agave Construction are responsible for providing on-call concrete services on an as-needed basis at various locations throughout the City... The City of Montrose Public Works and Engineering Departments utilize the On-call contracts to complete concrete work throughout the City from several different sections of the annual City Budget. Below are the totals for concrete work budgeted in 2024:

- MoveMo sidewalk improvements (proposed) = \$150k
- 50/50 Sidewalk Replacement Program = \$50k
- ADA Accessibility Program = \$50k
- Main Street Sidewalk Improvements = \$125k
- South 1st Street Sidewalk Improvements = \$50K
- Missing Sidewalk Link on S. 5th = \$25k
- Main and Lot Sidewalk Improvements= \$42K
- Concrete work as part of the Street Improvements portion of MoveMo = \$175K
- 401 N 4th Street Missing Link \$40k

-Concrete Trail Improvements = \$20k
Total for 2024 = \$727,000"

Council considered the Streets Crack Seal Material Purchase Recommendation. The City will be asked to consider the purchase of crack seal material from DISSCO (Denver Industrial Sales) for the City's Streets crew in the amount of \$103,454.80.

Background-A memo from Pridy to Council states, "The City of Montrose Streets Division is preparing for the upcoming crack seal season that will be self-performed. This includes 33.7 lane miles of streets that will be crack sealed for Zone E in our Street Maintenance Plan...The material to be utilized and purchased is specific to our area and local climate. The City has utilized Low Tack Type 1 from Denver Industrial Sales & Service Company for the last several years with great results. For compatibility and warranty with existing equipment, we are requesting the authorization of a Sole Source waiver and the purchasing of this material. The pricing provided is comparable to that of other crack seal material and to what has been purchased in years past by the City of Montrose Streets and Engineering Divisions."

Councilors heard a Streets Pavement Marking Contract Award Recommendation. Council will consider awarding Stripe a Lot LLC of Montrose, CO a professional services agreement in the amount of \$285,000 for the service of applying regulatory pavement markings to streets and parking lots within the City of Montrose.

Also considered was a Parks Fertilizer and Herbicide Applicator Contract Award Recommendation. Council will be asked to approve the award of the Parks and Vacant Lot Fertilizer and Herbicide Application Contract to Aspen SavATree of Ridgeway in the amount of \$110,000.

Background-A memo from Parks Superintendent Daniel Payne to Council states, "The City of Montrose was in search of qualified contractors with Qualified Supervisors or Certified Operators through the Colorado Department of Agriculture who can carry out spray operations to control weed growth and fertilize 28 parks, around 149 acres of turf, and 18 vacant

COUNCIL CONSIDERS GRANT APPLICATION TO ENERGY AND MINERAL IMPACT ASSISTANCE FUND

From previous pg

lots throughout the City. The requested services include fertilization and weed control twice a year - once in the spring and once in the fall - for all turf areas. Weed control will also be performed twice a year for all vacant lots, with some of these lots requiring mowing once annually. Additionally, contractors are expected to ensure the sidewalks, roadways, picnic areas, and walkways within these areas are thoroughly cleaned after the work is completed. The City's Parks Division issued an RFP and received five qualified bids that met all the requirements. A scoring matrix was utilized for selection."

Council considered extending the Parks Turf Maintenance Contract to Green and Bearit of Montrose in the amount of \$138,000.

Background-A memo from Parks Superintendent Daniel Payne to Council states, "The City's Parks Division contracts the turf maintenance of 13 out of the 28 Parks that have turf. This amounts to about 75 percent of the total City Park turf area, not including Sunset Mesa or Cedar Creek Cemetery. The contractor will perform weekly mowing, trimming, edging of all walks, cleaning up trash and debris, performing irrigation checks, and final cleaning up all sidewalks, roadways, picnic areas, and walkways within those parks. The City has been working with Green and Bearit since 2017, performing on-call services, mowing vacant lots, irrigation maintenance and repair, and helping with other parks when needed. They have been the primary contractor for park turf maintenance since 2019. Green and Bearit have been flexible for events, weather, or

other needs of citizens utilizing the park system and are generally great contractors to work with."

"Now let's talk about a dump truck," Bynum said, as Council looked at purchasing one Western Star dump truck from Transwest Truck Trailer RV in the amount of \$219,311.

Background-The city issued an invitation to bid in February and received three qualified bids on March 7. A memo from Fleet Superintendent Shane Brandt recommends purchasing from Transwest Truck Trailer RV, "due to the quicker delivery time and previous experience with the City of Montrose. The Fleet Division has budgeted 265,000 in the 2024 budget 600-8005-944-000 for this purchase. Purchasing from Transwest Truck Trailer RV will make this purchase \$45,589.00 under budget."

Council reviewed an Energy and Mineral Impact Assistance Fund Grant Application Authorization.

The agenda notes that staff are asking for Authorization of an Energy and Mineral Impact Assistance Fund Grant Application. City Engineer Scott Murphy said that half of the funds (\$1.5M) would go toward the city to help with the water line project while the other half (\$1.5M) would be "geared toward offsetting costs for site improvements for the housing portion...first phase at 120 multi-family units to start..."

Background-A memo from Community Development Director Jace Hochwalt states, "The grant application request would be specifically for public water infrastructure improvements within 6600 Road, as well as utility improvements for a

proposed multi-family middle-income housing development that would serve residents who fall between 60 percent and 140 percent of Area Median Income (AMI). This would provide housing options for a large portion of the public that does not qualify for lower income housing options, but that cannot afford the current market rate housing options. In addition to the housing, there will be a small proposed transit station...the grant application is due April 1, 2024, and submission of the grant is contingent on the City securing a water service area boundary change along the 6600 Road corridor from the Tri-County Water Conservancy District. Conversations with the District are ongoing."

GENERAL CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Councilor Doug Glaspell praised contractors for doing a fine job on the sidewalk on south 5th Street.

"They had some ugly weather to work with, but it didn't seem to slow' em down. They did a fine job."

Murphy said that CDOT will be holding some transportation planning meetings, "sounds like April 29 at 9:40...more geared toward possibly elected officials and planning type staff..."

There has been some talk about using congressionally directed spending for the extension of Rio Grande Avenue, Murphy said. "It's about a \$12 to \$14 Million dollar project..."

Mayor Bynum said that Council should be on board with continuing the process, and reminded all that a special meeting was scheduled at Noon for annual evaluation of the City Attorney, with a regular meeting the following evening.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE REGIONAL HEALTH WELCOMES PAUL PERROTTI, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE – Montrose Regional Health welcomes new Chief Financial Officer Paul Perrotti to its leadership team. Mr. Perrotti will play a critical leadership role at Montrose Regional Health, overseeing financial planning and financial operations while simultaneously maintaining the organization’s goals, values, and overall vision. “I am excited to be working on the Western Slope,” said Perrotti. “Montrose has a great healthcare system. Montrose Regional Health is a highly responsible member of the community with fantastic leadership and an intensely patient-centered focus.”

“We are excited for Paul to join our leadership team,” said Jeff Mengershausen, Chief Executive Officer of Montrose Regional Health. “He is bringing a wealth of financial knowledge to MRH. Through Paul’s leadership, he will help elevate the hospital to the next level - enabling us to stay independent and better serve our growing community’s healthcare needs.”

Having extensive experience in previous financial leadership roles, Mr. Perrotti has brought innovation and growth to every position he has held. In his previous roles, Paul has served as a Chief Financial Officer, Chief Operating Officer, and Chief Strategy Officer in healthcare organizations. Paul is a licensed CPA, and Six Sigma Master Black Belt.

Prior to joining the team at Montrose Regional Health, Mr. Perrotti acted as the Assistant Chief Financial Officer at Scion St. Francis-Emory healthcare, where he was responsible for several post-acquisition and systems projects. Perrotti started at Montrose Regional Health on March 18, 2024.



Paul Perrotti. Courtesy photo.

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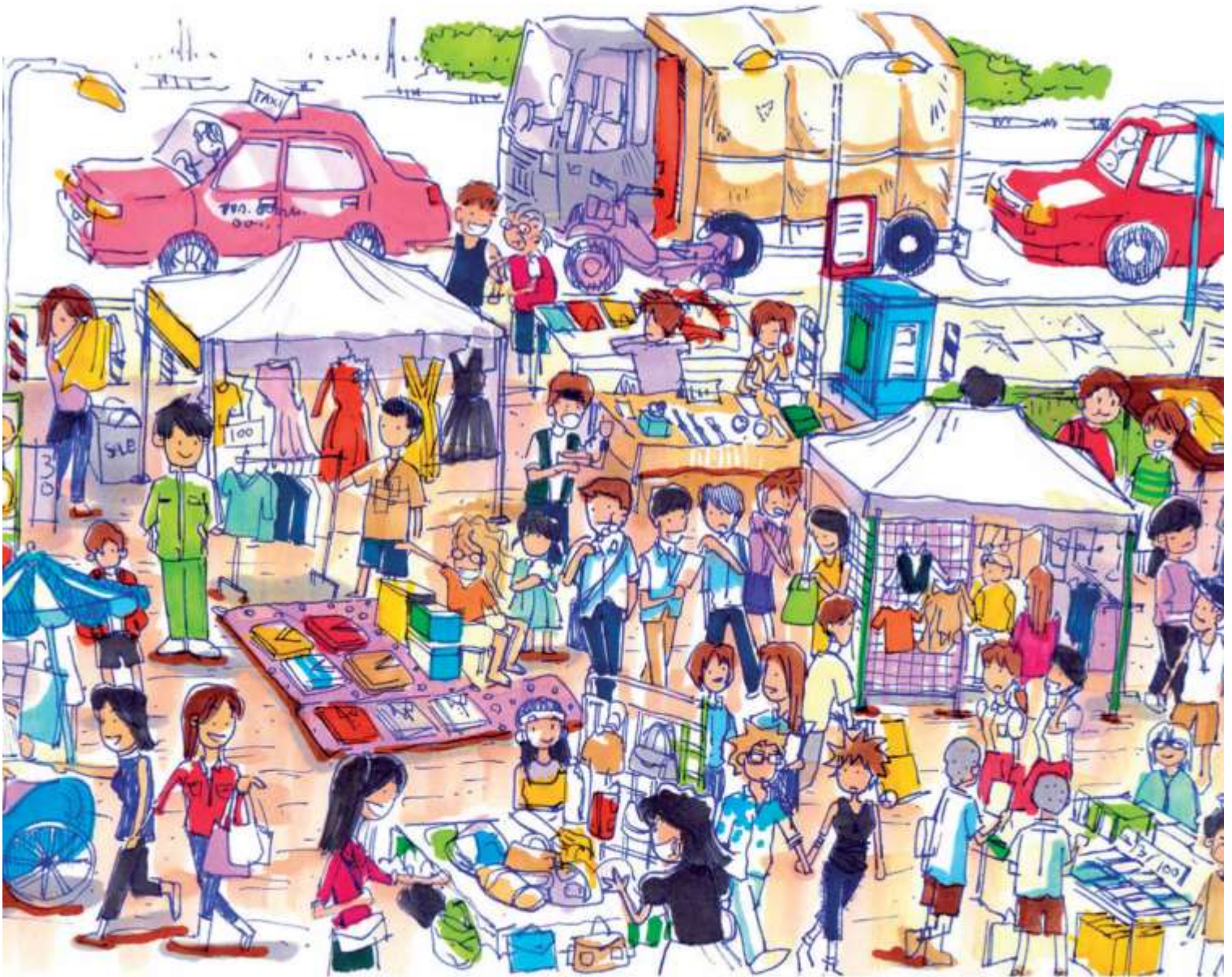
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LOCAL CANDIDATE BIO: MARK ROEBER (HD 58)



**Interview with J. Mark Roeber
conducted by Darnell Place-Wise**

Tell us about yourself and your family.

I am a 4th generation cattle rancher; my family settled at the base of Mount Lamborn in 1889. I have lived on my ranch nearly my entire life, other than the time I spent in Denver & Fort Collins while attending college, and Jody finished her degree. I have always had a love of cattle ranching, and natural resources. I spent my young adulthood herding cattle and learning all about the process of natural resources. Through the Cattlemen's association I became involved in politics, and better understood how the decisions that were being made, affected the Ag industry.

My family has a long lineage of public service. My great-grandfather was the County Assessor, in the 1890's, for Delta County. My grandfather was instrumental in the early grazing advisory boards in the North Fork. My father was also involved in many different civic groups, especially the Lions Club.

I have been married to my high school sweetheart for 43 years; we share four children who have all gone on to educated careers. We have a daughter who served 10 years in the military and is an endodontist. We have another daughter who is a Nurse Practitioner. We have a son that is an attorney, and a son that has a degree in Range Science and has taken over the ranch. We also have seven beautiful grandchildren who are all involved in agriculture either in the 4-H or on the ranch.

I served two terms as a Delta County Commissioner from 2013 -2020. During this timeframe, two (2) out of the three (3) Delta County coal mines shut down; we testified at several National Hearings as well as hearings at the State and Re-

gional level regarding the importance of coal and the economic impact to Delta County. I also helped the transition to high-speed internet effort and implemented a Land Use Code for unincorporated Delta County. In 2020 I was the Commissioner Chair during that first year of the COVID-19 pandemic, and spearheaded the approach that Delta County took, in that we combined leads from Delta County, Delta County Health Department and Delta Health to form the Incident Command Team.

In 2017 - 2020 I served on the Colorado Counties, Inc. Board of Control, and served as the President in 2019.

You were on the Delta County Board of Commissioners for 8 years; what made you want to jump back into politics?

I really have not ever quit politics. The current County Commissioners appointed me to the Colorado River District Board, and this brought water to the forefront for me. Seeing what is ahead for challenges in terms of water and agriculture, I felt like we needed to have a voice in the State House to advocate for those two issues.

I am also the President of the Public Lands Council and am in my fourth term of the Bureau of Land Management's Resource Advisory Council, which is appointed by the Secretary of the Interior and the President.

I am a big believer of local control, private property rights, and local control over public lands. I am not doing this for myself. I feel like I have so much to give; I will absolutely continue to advocate for the issues we are facing regardless of the outcome on November 5.

What differentiates you from your opponent?

Experience and continued service, and I am a lifelong Republican. I have not just "gone away" after my County Commissioner terms were up; I feel like I attend more meetings now than I did when I was a commissioner. I have gone to the next level as far as advocacy with the Public Land's Council and the River District. I am also very collaborative. I know that we need to figure out a way to work together if we are going to get anything accomplished. An example I have is that in 1996, West Elk Livestock Assoc. was meeting with Environmental groups to discuss how

cattle grazing is a benefit to the environment vs. a detriment; by the end of our meetings over 3-4 months, our cattle pool was able to get them to see it from a different perspective, and they changed their minds and worked with us, vs. against us

What are the top issues you feel Western Colorado, and House District 58 are facing?

In addition to water and agriculture being critical issues, all rural America is going to be dealing with infrastructure needs in one way or another; transportation is a big issue. The Western Slope continues to get left out of the equation as we just do not have the population, but our roads are important for all forms of economic survival. The markets getting ag products out depend on good roads, the Tourism industry depends on good roads. Transportation is vital to the success of this region.

Rural America does not want a handout, we want to work for what we have, but we need local control to address other issues like housing, and land use regulations.

What is your stance on the Delores Monument issue?

I am adamantly opposed to the Antiquities Act that is being pushed forward to be signed by the President. This monument proposed designation is not about preserving something, it is about stopping something—uranium mining. That is really what is behind this, and too often we have seen this with too many bills coming forward, it is not about preserving, it is about stopping something else, and it makes it difficult to set those kinds of rules for the future generations, it is short-term thinking.

In the past month, the Public Lands Council has put out three articles in their daily newsletter that goes to nearly all members of Congress speaking about this project. Right now, there are 10 - 15 proposed monuments, and what it all boils down to is our Congressional staff, especially Senators Bennett and Hickenlooper weighing in. I plan to meet with them in D.C. in April. On March 21, I spoke in D.C. to the Western Congressional Caucus and met with staff of the Senate Energy Committee regarding multiple issues including the proposed Delores Monument.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

LOUIS STARK: FROM SOMEONE WHO KNOWS

A Letter to the Editor:

Introductions are in order before I dive into the meat of this letter. My name is Rachel Mariluch, I am a disabled Navy Veteran, I served on the great ship USS Enterprise as a Nuclear Electronics Technician for more than 6 years. I love my country and all its freedom. I was born in Rifle Colorado and am the proud sister of Louis Stark.

It was so exciting to me when he decided to run for county commissioner, I could not wait to support him. I have been following his campaign and I knew it was only a matter of time before the practiced politicians started spinning his life to suit their agenda and narrative. Mr. David White had much to say about Louis, I do not know Mr. White and it is unfortunate he does not know Louis better. His commentary seems based on Google searches and is lacking in the department of truly knowing Louis. Which leads me to writing you this message, an honest accounting from someone who was there.

First the elephant in the room: Louis? Steven? Lou? I am going to set the record straight. His is and always will be Bubba. I have called him Bubba since I learned how to talk. Our mom is the only one who calls him Steven (normally because he is in trouble). Everyone else I know calls him Louis or Big Lou. Big Lou is something he has been called since eighth grade. It makes people smile to say and hear; he is

Big Lou.

Based solely on my reading of Mr. Whites article the two candidates are quite different. Our family grew up poor. I remember thinking food stamps were such pretty colors when my mom would get our groceries. No one was planning for our college, we could not afford new clothes, and hunting season seemed more important to us than other families. Bubba (Lou) was always pushing me to do as good as I could in school, go to college, get a good job and make my way. To do my best every day, to be honest, to have integrity. He did his best to lead by example but yes he did drop out of high school and could not afford to pay for college. He was too busy helping our single mom take care of herself and me. He knew one more mouth to feed was hard on our family and he tried to be independent as early as he could. But that is a steep learning curve for anyone.

Bob Cunningham came into our lives, a hard-nosed stubborn Vietnam Veteran, police officer, and sheriff deputy maybe some of you have had the pleasure of knowing him as he lived and died in Montrose. Bob helped Louis with bail bonding and getting on his feet. Which is where Lou honed his skills for paying attention to everything around him, the people you work with and for, and how to tell when someone is feeding you a line. Lou is always aware of what type of people he

does business with has no time for people who lie, cheat, and steal. He learned, the hard way sometimes, that there are people out there who will take advantage of your good nature and use it to their advantage. You should ask him about it sometime, ask him about his taxes too. Bubba owns every mistake he has ever made and will not blame his situation on anyone but himself.

I know that he has learned these things and continued to better himself throughout his life because he has always helped me learn from his experiences. He inspired me to be my best self, to do it different.

By following his advice, listening to his lessons, I graduated early, joined the Navy, got my college degree in Business Management for Science and Technologies, and it would not have been possible without him. He helped me build a successful life at the cost of his own happiness at times. Now he wants to do that for Montrose County. He has had one heck of a life, ask him about it. Louis Stark is not a practiced politician, he is not a high powerful man, he won't lie, cheat, steal, or be careless with your future. He is not that kind of man. Anything he does not know he will learn; he is prepared to dedicate his big heart and life to your county. Which makes me think your county is pretty special.

Rachel Mariluch, North Carolina





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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

BERNIE LANGE JOINS KREX ANCHOR TEAM



Bernie Lange. Courtesy photo.

Special to the Mirror

GRAND JUNCTION- KREX News Channel 5 has announced that Bernie Lange will be joining the station as main anchor for its newscasts at 5pm, 6pm, and 10pm.

Mr. Lange will be joining the KREX team beginning March 25, 2024. He arrives after working as a main anchor in the Grand Junction/Montrose television market for 15 years.

After graduating from the University of Colorado with a Bachelor of Arts in Mass Communications, Mr. Lange began his career working in a marketing position for the Colorado Corn Growers Association. His career then led him to a position with Vistar Creative Media, before finding his way to broadcast TV in 2008.

Bernie brings with him more than 20 years of experience in broadcast television, marketing, and public relations. He is a multi-award winning journalist, broadcaster, and

editorial leader. He is a resourceful creative director, strategic thinker, and is an articulate presenter and public figure.

KREX is thrilled to welcome Bernie Lange to the team.

KREX News Director, Terri Chappell, said "I had the chance to work with Bernie many years ago, and we feel very fortunate to be able to hire someone with his integrity, experience, journalist ethics, and track record of community involvement."

About KREX News Channel 5

KREX News Channel 5 is the first broadcast television station to operate on the Western Slope, airing its first newscast on May 22, 1954. The station is owned by Nexstar Media Group Inc

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MONTROSE TRACK/FIELD TEAMS SWEEP DELTA INVITATIONAL

By Cliff Dodge

MONTROSE-The Montrose Co-ed track and field team invaded the lair of the Delta Panthers last Friday and won both sides of the competition. The boys team took first place with 203 points while the girls team scored 167 points to cement their victory.

Head coach Matt Imus described the competition as follows. "We feel like it was a real good way for our team to start the season. We had an idea about the veterans who have been with us regarding what they can do but we also have a lot of young kids that have never competed at the varsity level. We wanted to see them under pressure to see what could be accomplished in a varsity match. The entire team has been working hard at practice and we knew the work will pay off in results in a varsity meet."

Imus explained that the objective of all varsity programs is to continue to improve the product and the hard work in practice paid off for the Red Hawks. "We are always looking to build the program and we need our varsity players to show the way in practice, to show the younger kids what it takes to excel, and to be a real contributor to the team effort. Many of our kids tied or beat their performance best at the Delta meet, which tells us the practices are paying off and the team is improving by leaps and bounds."

The Red Hawk boys outscored the other nine schools by well over 100 points as they cruised to victory. Delta placed second while Cedaredge came in third position. The girls' team finished with 67 points, 7 points ahead of Cedaredge while Delta came in third. The following is a listing of the events and how the Red Hawks fared across the board.

Women's 800 meter SMR-1st – Montrose

Women's 4x800 meter relay-3rd – Montrose

Men's 4x800 meter relay-2nd- Montrose

Women's 100 meter hurdles-1st – Madison Lucero, Montrose

Men's 110 meter hurdles-4th Dylan Jessop, Montrose

Women's 100 meter run- 1st – Sarah McGarry, Montrose, 2nd- Audrey Righter, Montrose

Men's 100 meter sprint 1st,-Alonzo Leiba, Montrose, 3rd- Deklan Wooden, Montrose, 4th – Austin Zimmer, Montrose

Women's 4x200 relay-2nd – Montrose A team, 3rd-Montrose B team

Men's 4x200 relay-1st – Montrose A team

Women's 1600 meter- 4th - Olivia Cook, Montrose, 7th-Naomi McGarry, Montrose-8th – Jaiden Bressett, Montrose

Men's 1600 mete-6th – Phineas Howe, Montrose, 9th- Jose Chavez, Montrose

Women's 4x100 relay-3rd – Montrose A team

Men's 4x100 meter relay-3rd – Montrose A team

Women's 400 meter run-3rd – Matilda Johnson-Freeman, Montrose

Men's 400 meter run-1st – Bohdan Walchle, Montrose, 3rd-Zack Browning, Montrose, 6th- Cutter Travers, Montrose

Women's 300 meter hurdles – 1st – Sarah McGarry, Montrose, 2nd- Madison Lucero, Montrose, 3rd- Riley Embrey, Montrose, 4th- Meaghan Wright, Montrose

Men's 300 meter hurdles- 5th- Dylan Jessop, Montrose

Women's 800 meter run-2nd -Millie Crane, Montrose, 6th- Georgia Ficco, Montrose

Men's 800 meter run-5th- Caleb Yeager, Montrose

Women's 200 meter run-1st – Sarah McGarry, Montrose, 3rd- Hope Stephens, Montrose

Men's 200 meter run-1st- Alonzo Leiba, Montrose, 2nd- Deklan Wooden, Montrose, 4th- Zack Browning, Montrose

Men's 3200 meter run-6th- Zach Quaid, Montrose

Women's 4x400 meter relay 4th- Montrose A team

Men's 4x400 meter relay-1st- Montrose A team, 4th – Montrose B team

Women's High Jump:-6th· Makenna Cline, Montrose

Women's Long Jump: -1st-Sarah McGarry, Montrose. 2nd -Audrey Righter, Montrose

Men's Long Jump:-4th- Dylan Jessop, Montrose, 7th- Austin Zimmer, Montrose

Women's Triple Jump:-2nd- Madison Lucero, Montrose, 3rd- Sienna Mora, Montrose

Men's Triple Jump:-1st- Dylan Jessop, Montrose, 2nd - Austin Zimmer, Montrose, 3rd - Korlan Gibson, Montrose, 4th – Chris Mock, Montrose

Men's Shot Put: 1st-Trevor Hill, Montrose, 2nd- Andrea Distel, Montrose,

4th – Joshua Maddox, Montrose, 5th – Bo Foster, Montrose

Men's Discus Throw:-1st -Trevor Hill, Montrose, 2nd -Andreas Distel, Montrose, 3rd- Bo Foster, Montrose, 6th- Jericho Tosi, Montrose.

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RED HAWKS GIRLS' TENNIS DEFEATS CEDAREEDGE 5-2



Red Hawks tennis player Melaina Yender (# 2 singles) prepares to return service in win over Cedaredge. Photo by Cliff Dodge

By Cliff Dodge

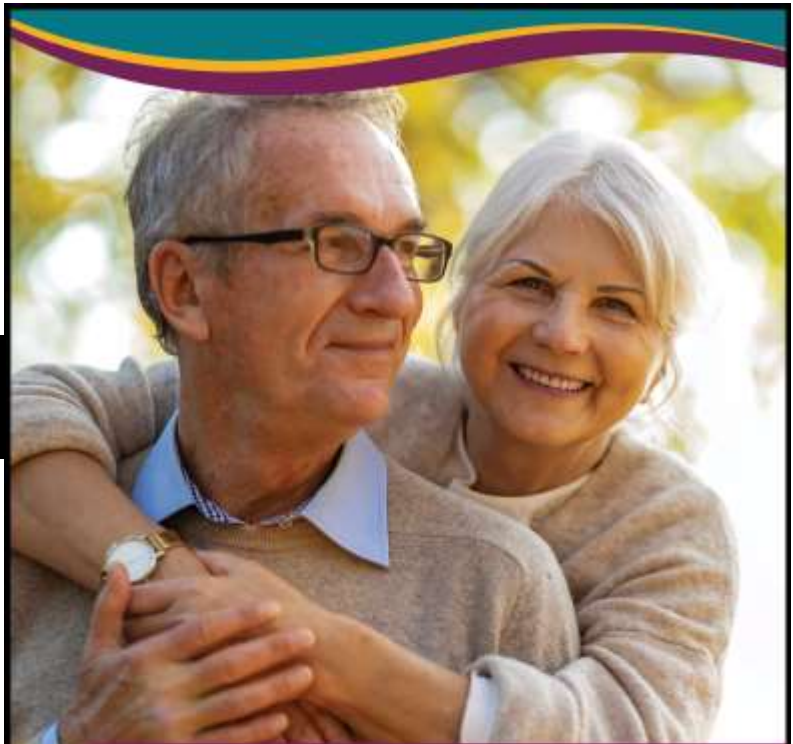
MONTROSE-The Montrose Red Hawks girls' tennis team got off to a slow start in the spring of 2024 as they lost their first four matches before breaking into the win column. The Red Hawks lost to Durango, Vail Christian, Grand Junction Central and the Grand Junction Tigers before turning the tables on North Fork, winning 7-0.

Head coach Tony Ryan explained that his team lost four top players from last year's team and five players from the Junior Varsity team last year have moved up. "The squad is young experience-wise, but we have some veteran leadership in Andie Blowers and Melaina Yender. The team is working hard to improve and be better and it will show up in their performance as we move into the season."

The results showed on Thursday when the Cedaredge Bruins came to Montrose and the Red Hawks defeated the visitors 5-2 improving their overall record to 2 wins and 4 losses. The results are as follows:

- # 1 Singles – Andie Blowers won 6-0, 6-1
- # 2 Singles – Melaina Yender won 6-1, 6-2
- # 3 Singles – Hayley Eldridge won 6-2, 5-1-
- # 1 Doubles – Go & Oldroyd won 2-6, 6-2, 10-7 tie-breaker
- # 2 Doubles – Fulks & Amundson won 4-6, 6-4, 10-8 tie-breaker
- # 3 Doubles – Kusar & Owens lost 7-5, 4-6, 5-10 tie-breaker
- # 4 Doubles – Wu & Erickson lost 3-6, 2-6

The Red Hawks next action takes place on Tuesday, March 26' when the Grand Junction Tigers come to Montrose. First serve is scheduled for 4 p.m.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

NOXIOUS WEED COST SHARE PROGRAM RESUMES

Special to the Mirror

SAN MIGUEL COUNTY--- Do you have noxious weeds on your property? San Miguel County Vegetation Control & Management (VCM) has a cost share program to assist private landowners in their efforts to control infestations of state- and county-listed noxious weeds on land they own or operate.

Cost share funds will be limited to 50% of the herbicide cost or \$125 per acre, whichever is lowest, with up to \$500 cost covered by the cost share. Ineffective herbicide application rates, incorrect species identification, less than optimal timing, and off-label treatments are not effective in noxious weed eradication. All mate-

rials purchased must be used in the current season, and all herbicides must be purchased from the county.

Cost share funds are limited and will be dispersed until exhausted. Funds are available on a first come, first served basis.

Only weeds on the Colorado Department of Agriculture noxious weed list will be eligible. If you require assistance in identifying the weeds of concern, contact VCM at 970-327-0399 to schedule an appointment. VCM will provide species ID and advice on timing to residents at no cost or create a Weed Management Plan for a \$100 fee. View the state noxious weed list at [Vegetation Control & Management | San Miguel County, CO - Official Website](https://www.sanmiguelcountyco.gov/vegetation-control-and-management)

([sanmiguelcountyco.gov](https://www.sanmiguelcountyco.gov)).

Applications for the cost share program can be filled out at [Cost Share Program | San Miguel County, CO - Official Website](https://www.sanmiguelcountyco.gov/cost-share-program) ([sanmiguelcountyco.gov](https://www.sanmiguelcountyco.gov)) or paper copies can be obtained at 1120 Summit Street, Norwood, Colorado 81423.

Applications MUST denote acreage and weed species to be treated and must be received before purchasing herbicides. All applications are subject to review by San Miguel County's Manager of Vegetation Control & Management.

For questions, please contact Julie Kolb, Manager, Vegetation Control and Management at 970-327-0399, juliek@sanmiguelcountyco.gov.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

DEMOCRATS HAVE FAILED ON THE ECONOMY, THE BORDER, CRIME, OUR CULTURE

Editor:

Liberals view big government as the solution to all your problems. Conservatives recognize that big government is the problem. While pseudo-intellectual liberals obsess about climate change, gender identity, and abortion through the third trimester, most American people sit around the breakfast table concerned about rampant crime, paying their heating bills, or losing their jobs in a Texas refinery as Biden destroys the oil industry. Most Americans are proud of their country and show the flag proudly, while the left thinks patriotism is "toxic masculinity."

Colorado Democrat legislators are as bad as any liberal in Washington. They must be proud of themselves, having created a panel to placate home and property owners ticked off about outrageous increases in their property taxes. The panel was created after their attempts to eliminate our TABOR refunds failed and they passed another bill that did little or nothing to lower property taxes. While the panel was considering options, Colorado Senate Democrats killed a Republican sponsored bill that would have actually put a cap on skyrocketing Colorado property taxes. I chuckled when I saw that one of the panel's just released recommendations is to put some type of cap on property tax increases, which Polis and his legislature have already repeatedly chosen not to do. The panel also recommended letting property owners pay their taxes in monthly increments, or allowing us poor saps to make payments over several years. You can bet that the Democrat legislature and Polis will not pass anything that will actually cut waste or limit our taxes. Out of the kindness of their hearts, they might pass something that will let you make payments or give you the illusion that they are cutting taxes. The underlying theme is that government is going to keep taking more of your money because funding more bureaucrats is more important than funding your own family.

Rather than spend time providing real relief to taxpayers, that same Colorado legislature is now concentrating on moving ten different unconstitutional anti-gun bills through the legislature. Some examples: HB24-1292 is their latest "assault weap-

ons" ban. SB24-131 would ban open and concealed carry virtually everywhere except in your home. HB24-1270 would require all gun owners to maintain liability insurance. HB24-066 would require credit/debit card transactions between consumers and licensed firearms dealers to be coded to allow the government to track who is making legal firearms purchases. HB24-1349 is an excise tax on firearms and ammunition.

Since Biden took office, prices are up 17.9%. That creates the first big problem because wages are up much less, so working families are in the hole. They need \$11,000 more each year to break even and they aren't receiving that. More damage was done when the Federal Reserve tried to lower the inflation created by Bidenomics --- resulting in much higher interest rates. Homebuyers are paying around \$1,300 more for a monthly mortgage than when Biden took office, and first-time buyers are shut out of the market. Meanwhile, because the left controls most of the media, Biden gets away with moronic utterances like inflation is due to "corporate greed" and "price gouging" rather than his over-the-top deficit spending.

The damage done to the American people by Biden since he took office is not limited to bread-and-butter issues like inflation and decreased buying power. We now have 9 million more unvetted illegal aliens across the country. Unlike Laken Riley's family, most Americans haven't begun to fathom the painful consequences of that invasion. Biden also handed energy supremacy to our enemies, and we are now involved in two foreign wars that could easily escalate into WWII. Violent crime fell every year Trump was in office after rising while Obama was in office --- not so with Biden.

Trump's popularity is the result of many things, one being that most American are sick and tired of our government screwing us for no good reason, and lying about virtually everything they do. Because Democrats can't begin to deliver on their promises, lying is mandatory for them to remain in power. One of the biggest of the big lies is their constant use of the term "insurrection." The problem is that even though they mostly control the press, they

still cannot force the facts to support the lies. The fact is, leftist prosecutors have not, and never will, charge anyone involved in January 6th with insurrection. In addition, it is now irrefutable that Liz Cheney and the Democrat kangaroo court suppressed evidence that not only corroborates the truth about Trump's authorization of 10,000 National Guard troops prior to January 6th, but also completely exonerates Trump from their ginned-up charge of insurrection.

Trump's popularity is also due to his achievements during his first term, all of which helped the American people at all levels, and none of which even remotely support the liberal narrative that Trump "threatens democracy." Under Biden, everything keeps getting worse, and the left projects onto Trump actions that Biden has actually taken in a futile attempt to paint Trump as an authoritarian despot. Democrats' use of lawfare, censorship, gestapo-like raids on the opposition, undermining the court system, and creating a two-tiered legal system are the real threats to democracy. Democrats fear Trump and his supporters, not because they really think he will be a dictator, but because they know giving him another chance to govern risks again exposing people to alternatives to their failed policies. Their ideas have failed on the economy, the border, crime, our culture, Afghanistan, Israel, and other foreign affairs. They know Trump's conservative policies will again be successful and are also in line with a vast majority of the American people. Donald Trump can't be seen to succeed where Democrats have failed, and they are willing to destroy our democratic republic to prevent that.

Everything Biden and Democrats propose involves a massive increase in the size and scope of the federal government --- meaning more spending, more taxes. and the loss of your freedoms. Thank goodness Trump is not a politician, and, unlike politicians, doesn't try to hide behind any phony politeness to distract from true intentions. In today's world, substance, toughness, and positive results are more important than being portrayed as a nice guy by the corrupt media.

Ed Henrie, Montrose

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

UNITED AIRLINES – MECHANICAL WOES A PLAGUE ON OPERATIONS

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By David White

As many folks are aware, United Airlines has been plagued by a variety of mechanical issues affecting its aircraft and flight operations as of late. Tires falling off aircraft; cargo doors coming open in flight or upon landing; engine fires; inflight engine failures, etc.

Toward the end of the week ending on March 15th, a United Airbus A320 experienced a failed thrust reverser on one engine while landing in Montrose, grounding the plane at the Montrose Regional Airport for several days until repairs could be completed. An engine thrust reverser is a vital component in stopping the aircraft after it lands. When it quits working, you'd better not try to fly off somewhere!

United C.E.O. Scott Kirby recently stated the following in an article on the AFAR website concerning their recent mechanical issues (<https://www.afar.com/magazine/united-airlines-reassures-fliers-amid-maintenance-issues>):

“Unfortunately, in the past few weeks, our airline has experienced a number of incidents that are reminders of the importance of safety,” Kirby said in the statement. “While they are all unrelated, I want you to know that these incidents have our attention and have sharpened our focus.”

He added, “Safety is our highest priority and is at the center of everything we do...I’m confident that we’ll learn the right lessons from these recent incidents and continue to run an operation that puts safety first.”

United also highlighted already planned upcoming pilot and maintenance training programs in the statement. Kirby noted that the airline will add resources to “supplier network management,” implying some blame may lay elsewhere.

As the main operator of flights in and out of the Montrose Regional Airport, I want to say that I am encouraged by United’s efforts to clean up their maintenance and safety operations and appreciate the assistance that our Montrose Regional Airport staff have offered to United to make them live up to their C.E.O.’s public statements.

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



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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

HOT DOG FOOD TRUCK RUN BY ADULTS WITH INTELLECTUAL DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES OPENS IN GRAND JUNCTION

Special to the Mirror

GRAND JUNCTION - In a pioneering move towards inclusivity and empowerment, Ariel Clinical Services is thrilled to announce the grand opening of "The Wuz Up Dawg Food Truck" hot dog food truck, operated entirely by adults with intellectual developmental disabilities. This initiative not only promises mouthwatering culinary delights but also celebrates diversity, fostering an inclusive environment where everyone's talents shine.

The Wuz Up Dawg Food Truck is not just about serving delicious hot dogs; it's a symbol of breaking barriers and challenging societal norms. Spearheaded by a team of passionate individuals committed to promoting equal opportunities, this venture aims to redefine perceptions and create meaningful employment for those often marginalized in the workforce. The menu at The Wuz Up Dawg Food Truck includes freshly baked Charley's Cookies as well as mouthwatering foods,



creatively crafted and prepared by the talented team onboard, all served with a smile by the friendly and dedicated staff. Beyond serving delicious food, The Wuz Up Dawg Food Truck seeks to foster a supportive and inclusive work environment, where Our mission is to provide safe, nurturing, and supportive environments for our individuals so that they many have the opportunities to develop their strengths, maximize their potentials and fully participate in society.

The grand opening of The Wuz Up Dawg Food Truck promises to be a fun occasion, filled with delicious food, laughter, and a celebration of diversity. All are invited to join in this momentous event and show their support for inclusivity and empowerment.



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BOARD OF EDUCATION IMPLEMENTS TEACHING AND LEARNING ACADEMY *From pg 1*

Resolution 08-2024.

Fishing called the special meeting to order and led in saying the Pledge of Allegiance. The Board of Education voted to approve the special meeting agenda.

COMMUNITY INPUT

As she had in the previous meeting, Fishing said that the board’s policy of not allowing more than 15 minutes of comment on any one topic would be waived so that all speakers could be heard. The three-minute limit on individual public comments remained in place.

First to speak was Toni Stammer, who said she spoke on behalf of Northside Elementary School’s PAC and parents.

Stammer asked about plans and any timeline to implement the Teaching and Learning Academy model at other elementary schools, and questioned whether the TLA would be implemented across grade levels or limited to one or two grade levels.

“How will you ensure that all the students at the school are being supported?” she said. “...I want to ensure that all the smaller schools...get the support that we need for all of our students and our staff...from my understanding the TLA model doesn’t necessarily work in smaller schools without us having to lose large numbers of our teachers.”

Stammer said, “...If you plan to implement this model to all the schools, how and where are we planning on finding the number of employees that would be needed to fully staff the TLA model at all six elementary schools...which makes me wonder how will we ensure equality and equity between all of our schools?”

Columbine Middle School Teacher Russell Evans said that he supports the Teaching and Learning Academy overall, because the district is short on teachers across the board. “...This is the best option on the table that we have control over,” Evans said.

Johnson Elementary School mother of four Kris Besler asked for accountability, clear communication, and transparency. Also, “You come to me first, I make the decisions when it comes to them...let’s just remember that the main investment here is me as a parent.”

Northside parent Joelle Recalde said she supports the TLA program for middle

schoolers but not for her own elementary school student. “I noticed in the last meeting you said that the school district overall is failing,” Recalde said.

“So who is accountable for the school district failing...so why would we put our trust in you to completely revamp the system if it’s already failing and you guys are at fault for this, as you said in the last meeting...we’re getting left behind yet again...”

After being told by local parents about their satisfactory experiences with the local schools, the proposal feels like a betrayal, Parent Joshua Bagley said. “Am I the only one concerned that when I ask to see the details of the model no details are provided? As a surgeon, trust me--details matter.”

The plan does not make sense academically and it does not make sense financially, Bagley said.

Emily Cloussard said that she attended Johnson Elementary School, and now teaches. Her three children are thriving at Johnson because of co-teaching. “...I just want to remind people, that in our district we’ve had reading paras in the room, we had reading interventionists in the room. They were trained, we showed them what to do with small groups, we met with them, we planned with them, we worked with them just like we want to do with this model, and guess what--it worked. The teachers were happy, our scores were showing improvement—the problem was we only had a small amount of time with them, and only during reading...”

The positions were cut under the prior superintendent, she said. “He said small group was bad, and whole group was good—those positions were cut. I was the academic coach at the time, and I could feel it throughout the school ...elementary scores from the district performance framework went from 52 percent down to 46 percent in one year...”

Johnson Elementary School First Grade Teacher Debbie Robuck said that the district is moving unnecessarily fast to imple-



Board Vice President Stephen Bush and District C Director Alice Murphy could not be present for the special meeting of March 19. Meeting screenshot.

ment the proposal, that costs should be carefully analyzed, and that she is concerned about the monumental level of tasks expected of the lead teachers.

Robuck urged the district to take the time needed to communicate with stakeholders, to listen, and to do what is right for the kids.

As a teacher, Whitney Maez said she intends to apply for employment with the district, and shared a professional development training in Denver in which she observed a team-teaching school, describing how the school day was conducted.

Colorado Mesa University Montrose President Steve Metheny spoke, discussing the role the university would play as part of the team.

Parent Jesse Bilek said he will always hold a huge debt of gratitude to the staff at Johnson. He said that the two-option model raises red flags, and asked what has been done to alleviate the staffing shortage. “This could very well be the golden ticket for our kids...but based on the way this was rolled out, we missed the most important step here--buy-in from the end users.

“...I am really disappointed for the process and for the leadership that’s been rolling this out...I have heard a lot about rumor control...well that responsibility for these rumors that are running is on you guys’ shoulders...why is there opportunity for rumor...that reason is because of the poor communication from the beginning...”

Fishing thanked those who took time to

RE-1J BOARD IMPLEMENTS TEACHING AND LEARNING ACADEMY From previous pg

comment.

Directors spent time in discussion, each sharing their opinions and reasons for holding them; Superintendent Carrie Stephenson also discussed the proposal.

District B Director Ted Valerio asked to make changes to the proposal, amending the 8th paragraph to say, "The district is committed to implementing this team-based educational model within three elementary schools at one grade level (at Johnson Elementary School, Pomona Elementary School, and Oak Grove Elementary School) while ensuring the option of one traditional classroom that is maintained at Johnson Elementary School to allow for comparative analysis of educational approaches."

A vote on the Motion to Amend Resolution 08-2024 failed on a three-two vote, with Balleck and Valerio voting to approve and Fishing, West, and Hovde voting to deny.

A second amendment proposed by Valerio, which would replace the term, "will significantly" with "may" in the final paragraph of the resolution, was improved in a four-one vote with Fishing voting to deny.

Fishing then moved to approve [Resolution 08-2024](#) as amended. Balleck said that she sees the benefits of the proposed model but would like to see it implemented at a slower pace, a sentiment expressed by Valerio as well. Resolution 08-2024 was approved in a three-two vote with Balleck and Valerio voting to deny. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

A LESSON IN EXCELLENT LEADERSHIP

Editor:

After much research and due diligence by our County Commissioners Roger Rash, Keith Caddy and Sue Hansen, below is resolution #18 from the March 6, 2024 County Commissioners Meeting declaring Montrose County as a Non-sanctuary County:

“Whereas the city of Denver, with a population of 713,000, has declared itself a sanctuary city and has served more than 37,000 migrants at a cost of \$38 million and growing; and,

Whereas in the past 2 months, Denver has seen a dramatic uptick in arrivals and is currently sheltering 4,500 people. This influx—the 4th significant surge in arrivals since late 2022—is straining capacity and based on current projections, could force the city to cut as much as \$180 million from its annual budget, and,

Whereas the City of Denver faces an accelerated budget shortfall and agency budget cuts to fund migrant services; and,

Whereas Denver’s safety net hospital, Denver Health, has seen at least 9,000 migrant patients in the past year, costing at least \$10 million in unreimbursed care; and

Whereas Denver schools face a shortfall of \$17.5 million in funding due to the continuous influx of migrants in the Denver area; and,
Whereas the city of Denver has established policies constraining individual migrants to 14 days of shelter and families to 42 days of shelter; and,

Whereas both Denver and Carbondale plan to close their shelters in March and April of 2024; and,

Whereas Montrose County supports legal immigration into the United States; and,

Whereas Montrose County recognizes the plight of those seeking refuge and asylum from oppressive governments in other parts of the world; and,

Whereas Montrose County respects the history of the United States as a beacon of freedom and opportunity in the world; and,

Whereas those who enter the country illegally can pose a significant public health and safety risk to a community when there is an increase in crime, communicable disease and accelerating demand and unsustainability on public infrastructure such as services, public safety, schools and the justice system; and,

Whereas the cascading impacts of migrant relocations from Denver poses a risk to Montrose County, its citizens and service providers; and,

Whereas Montrose County does not have the resources or infrastructure to address the human needs it is currently facing; and,

Whereas community resources within Montrose County are strained by the population of unsheltered homeless individuals; and,

Whereas over 7,500 Montrose County residents are currently receiving one or more public benefits, with an average of 700 new applicants each month; and,

Whereas while Montrose County is experiencing high inflation and housing shortages we are also experiencing cuts in federal and state funding along with increased expectations and unfunded mandates from the federal and state governments; and,

Whereas Montrose Regional Health currently has an annual total of \$9.5 million in 2023 for unreimbursed care; and Therefore be it resolved by the Board of County Commissioners of Montrose County that:

The Montrose County Board of Commissioners declares that Montrose County is not a sanctuary county and will not open shelters or provide services other than emergency services to illegal immigrants that may arrive in unincorporated Montrose County. Montrose County will continue to prioritize the needs of our local citizens.”

It is not clear to me if the members of the Montrose City Council, who voted on Tuesday March 19, 2024 to reverse their original decision declaring Montrose a non-sanctuary city, did as much research or why they chose to change their minds. Two of the people who voted to reverse the decision, David Reed and David Frank are asking for your vote on the Municipal Ballot for the City of Montrose City Council election April 2, 2024. You may want to attend the next City Council Meeting, which is April 1, 2024 at 6 pm in the council chambers upstairs in the old Elks building at S. 1st and Cascade to question their decision or voice your concerns.

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MONTROSE ALTRUSA SPRING LUNCHEON 2024: WOMEN OF THE WEST



Shopping, creative tabletops, friendship, and fashion were on the table at the 2024 Altrusa Spring Luncheon, with the theme, "Women of the West." Photos B. & C. Switzer.

COUNCIL HEARS FROM PUBLIC AT MARCH 20 MEETING From pg 1

items,” Bynum said. “So this is the time in the meeting where if you wanted to talk about a dog park or a sidewalk, something that isn’t on our agenda, this would be the time where you could come forward and address city council...”

Tamera Schlegel said her home backs up to Black Canyon Golf Course, and a large branch from a cottonwood tree at the golf course hangs over her fence and over her home. Golf Course officials told her the branch needed to be removed, but she was later told by the same official that there was no money for the removal, she said.

“And then of course I see you put in all these new trees, I see you’re putting in a new driving range, and your own tree trimmer says all the trees on the golf course need to be trimmed...if you had trimmed everything up...I wouldn’t be concerned about it, It wouldn’t affect me personally...I was told there wasn’t any money.”

Bynum asked Schlegel to leave her contact information with Deputy Police Chief Tim Cox.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council voted to approve the minutes of the February 26, 2024, special City Council meeting, the March 4, 2024, Special City Council meeting, the March 4, 2024, regular City Council meeting and the March, 7, 2024, special City Council meeting as presented.

YOUTH CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS

Youth Councilors Bell and Icasiano gave an update on the Youth City Council Food Drive, with drop box locations at City Hall, The Visitor Center, Fabula, Peer Kindness, Montrose Regional Library, and the Montrose Rec Center. The deadline will be extended, Bell said.

Mayor Bynum said, “So now we start in on the portion of our meeting, our action items, and so the first one is Ordinance 2660, and this is a second reading. And that means every time we have an ordinance, City Council reads it twice. An ordinance becomes law once City Council has voted on it two times and so this the second reading which means Council has already voted on it once...”

ORDINANCE 2660-SECOND READING

As discussed previously on first reading, Council voted to adopt Ordinance 2660,

designating the E.J. Mathews Mercantile/ Calloway Bros. building, with a historic address of 346 East Main Street, as a City of Montrose Historic Property Pursuant to § 11-3 of the Official Code of the City of Montrose.

Planner William Reis presented the ordinance for approval. Information on the designation is included in the meeting packet.

“Congratulations to the building,” Bynum said.

FLEX PARK AT COLORADO OUTDOORS LAND ACCEPTANCE

Council voted unanimously to accept Lot 24 of the Colorado Outdoors Subdivision, Amendment 7 for creation of the Flex Park at Colorado Outdoors as presented and authorize the City Manager to execute associated documents.

Councilor Ed Ulibarri said that the money for the park itself is coming from grant funds.

PUBLIC WORKS FACILITY AND RIO GRANDE EXTENSION DESIGN AWARD

Public Works Director Jim Scheid presented information on the authorization of \$800,000 for the design and initial site cleaning for the Public Works Facility and Rio Grande Extension, including a contract with Blythe Group for an initial amount not to exceed \$700,000. Scheid promised to be brief, saying that he knew the crowd was not there to hear about the Public Works Facility and Rio Grande Extension. Mayor Bynum said, “Well I hope we’ve piqued our audience’s curiosity about a public works facility and a Rio Grande extension; if you want to know more, that was gone over with maps and drawings and timelines at our work session March 4...”

Ralph Jones spoke to Council, “Just curious are there any plans to finish Rio Grande between West Main and Woodgate before going further?”

Bynum said that City Engineer Scott Murphy can answer questions.

Council voted unanimously to authorize \$800,000 for the design and initial site cleaning for the Public Works Facility and Rio Grande Extension, including a contract with Blythe Group for an initial amount not to exceed \$700,000.

2024 BLACK CANYON GOLF COURSE RENOVATION AWARD

Also approved was authorization of \$257,345.45 for a renovation and upgrade at the Black Canyon Golf Course including a contract award to Stryker and Company Inc. in the amount of \$214,772.72.

RESOLUTION 2024-04

Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution 2024-04, setting May 7, 2024, as the hearing date for the Blowers Addition Annexation.

RESOLUTION 2024-05

Also unanimously approved was Resolution 2024-05, authorizing the filing of an Energy and Mineral Impact Assistance Grant under the More Housing Now Initiative through the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) to secure funding for public water infrastructure improvements and other infrastructure improvements for a proposed middle-income housing development within the City of Montrose.

COUNCIL BREAK

Mayor Bynum announced that there would be a five-minute break before continuing to the final agenda item, as the crowd continued to grow and overflow rooms were opened to accommodate the attendance. Bynum said that as Mayor Pro Tem J. David Reed would become Mayor in April, he would run the meeting after the break, “This is a great opportunity for him to sit in the hot seat.”

Members of the Youth City Council provided water for those present in chambers.

CONSIDERATION OF THE DECLARATION TO BE A NON-SANCTUARY CITY

With 30 minutes allotted for the final item, it was clear to all that more time would be needed as Mayor Pro Tem J. David Reed gavelled the session to order following the break. Reed said that no applause, no laughter, and no outbursts of any kind would be allowed. “This is going to be run in a safe, sane, and civil way; let’s be civilized about our civic engagement—it is okay to have a difference of opinion.”

Reed spoke briefly before taking a headcount of those who wished to speak and opening the floor to public comment; he said that the rumor that Montrose is declaring itself a sanctuary city is untrue.

“We are not a sanctuary city,” Reed said. “We have no intention of moving in that direction and voting on such an issue.”

COUNCIL HEARS FROM PUBLIC AT MARCH 20 MEETING *From previous pg*

Background-The meeting agenda states, “On March 8, 2024, the Montrose City Council called an emergency meeting to further discuss these issues. During that meeting a motion passed to declare the City of Montrose a Non-Sanctuary City and to subsequently have the declaration be memorialized in a Resolution. In order to take effect, any action taken during an emergency meeting must be ratified at a subsequent regularly noticed meeting. Should this action be ratified, it will be memorialized with a Resolution.”

Reed opened the floor to public comment. The comments offered over the next few hours can be heard in their [entirety on the City’s website](#). Some highlights:

Former Montrose City Councilor and Mayor Rex Swanson said, “Legal immigrants are what built this country...We do not want and we do not need illegals...we’re already a dozen officers short in our police department...how are we going to stay safe?” Swanson said, “We already have the cartels coming here...we are asking you to declare Montrose to be a non-sanctuary city.”

Verlita Pacheco said, “My father was a Marine, he was in World War II in Guadalcanal, he was in Iwo Jima. He fought for our country, he fought for our flag. He has since passed, and I am so thanking God that he didn’t witness what I witnessed in Denver Colorado, which was illegal aliens climbing the flagpole, tearing our flag down, ripping it apart...I do not want that in Montrose. I stand with being non-sanctuary. I have seen all the destruction in Denver that I care to see.”

Karen Sherman Perez, representing the non-profit Hispanic Affairs Project, said she spoke for many. “...I want to say a few words on behalf of several of the people here who are afraid to speak...more than several—many people, dozens, hundreds, of people that I know who are fearful to even come near the City Council chambers tonight...This issue has brought out so much fear and misunderstanding about immigrants and immigration. I’ve been fortunate to work on those issues, work alongside immigrants, with farm workers for the past 20 plus years...as a Montrose native I see Montrose as a diverse and

vibrant community that has been made stronger thanks in part to our Latino Hispanic community, which makes up approximately 22 percent of our county, and that includes a significant number of immigrants who contribute in so many ways to make our community and our economy stronger.

“The City has made great strides over the last several years to be more inclusive and welcoming,” Sherman Perez said, “working alongside non-profits, community groups, to really pull in and engage marginalized sectors of our community, and that’s beautiful...I think passing a resolution that says Montrose is anti-immigrant, Montrose is not welcoming, Montrose is not safe, erodes all the work we have done...while I understand that this issue is about a potential busload of people coming to our community, we have to think about the impact it has on such a brought sector of our community; people are fearful...”

“Montrose and Colorado does have an immigration problem,” Ryan Sedgley said, “And that’s Texans and Californians driving up our housing costs...” He said that Council went out of its way to enact a resolution that does not change the status quo.

Regina Sowell said that immigration is a human problem, that the United States has helped to create the circumstances that many are fleeing, and that to come to the United States legally is a long, hard road. “Please remember you are human first...”

Mike Bohnenkamp said, “...Illegal is illegal, and I feel that helping illegals is aiding and abetting, and that in itself is just bad as the crime that’s being made...I think it’s important that we establish ourselves as a non-sanctuary city.”

Eliza Harriman said that she was against Montrose stating itself as a non-sanctuary city. “This declaration here comes with no policy change...research has shown time and time again, that crime is not an immigrant problem it’s a poverty problem...if people are worried about our schools being underfunded, about homeless people in this time, then they should look no further than 45 minutes ago this council voted for a quarter of a million dollars to go

toward a golf course...personally I believe that nobody is illegal on stolen land.”

DW Hasse said that his wife is an immigrant who came to America legally. “She is furious,” Hasse said, noting that while American veterans are living in cardboard boxes, illegal immigrants are being housed in four and five-star hotels.

Dr. Stephen Replogle said he recently visited Yuma Arizona, where he had worked for 20 years. The town had been overwhelmed by the “invasion” that has come through, he said. “You go through the town and you have gangs of 18 to 23 year-old males—there are no families that you see—you see all these people that are all 18 to 23...they’ve got their Starbucks they’ve got their cell phones and they are just wandering in the streets...”

Replogle said that a friend’s son-in-law is a border patrol agent. “He is reporting that these NGO’s...are literally handing them \$5,000 debit cards when they come across...the medical services in the area are completely overwhelmed...it’s a requirement for medical services to provide care, but the federal government is not reimbursing funds...it is non-sustainable...it is collapsing our society...”

Susan Haroutunian Hrivnak said she is a proud second-generation American. She said that her grandfather came to America legally after surviving the Turkish genocide, coming through Ellis Island, and would not have been allowed in without a skill. Her own father dropped out of high school to join World War II. “I am so grateful and proud that my grandfather was able to come here legally with education and a skill...If other people came here with education and a skill, we welcome—we’re all immigrants for crying out loud...we the people of the United States have to stand by our constitution, and our constitution holds that people come here legally...”

After public comment was completed, Reed declared another five-minute break prior to council deliberation and decision.

Following the break, Reed thanked everyone for their comments, “Take your seats...I know this is a passionate issue for all of us...my hope is...that once that decision is made, we can put this aside and continue on as a community of caring

COUNCIL HEARS FROM PUBLIC AT MARCH 20 MEETING *From previous pg*

people, and recognizing that we do have differences of opinion...whatever comes out of tonight, I ask you please let's join together and move forward."

He opened the floor to Council discussion. Councilor Ed Ulibarri said, "...I guess what really upset me, I have to say that I was kind of disappointed in the fact that the city council received a lot of derogatory comments...by the opponents to the non-sanctuary city resolution. I also received some phone calls from the same people...that were opposed to the non-sanctuary. Calling me a racist.

"That really upset me," Ulibarri said. "Because I spent some time out in California, walking with the farm workers trying to unionize them. Yeah, immigrants.

"And when I came home, here in Montrose, me and Jose Abeyta went to the banks here in town and demanded that they put bilingual clerks in to help the Mexican community here in town.

"I felt that the comments I received were reminiscent of what I went through right here in Montrose," Ulibarri said, "being called a dirty Mexican, a spic, a bean-

er...All I can say is that I was really disappointed in the comments, and with that, the comments from the councilpersons, and from the local non-profits...after many conversations that I had with the local residents...I was born and raised here, and reviewing social media, I still believe that the majority of Montrose residents support being a non-sanctuary city, and I concur with my original statement of support...I am proud to be a member of the Mexican American community here in Montrose. This is about getting resources to our legal citizens...I believe that it's the responsibility of the city to take of what I believe are the legal residents of Montrose, Colorado."

Said Councilor Doug Glaspell, "...I was the one that made this original motion...I felt that we needed to identify the fact that we do not want to harbor...people who are illegal...I don't that's fair to us to allow people are illegal to have the same kind of rights that the people who are here legally are..."

Councilor Dave Frank said it was a complex issue, with a lot of moving parts...

"The issue I have...is the process that we used to get there. The meeting that we did I felt was far too quick...our normal process is to go through a work session...and then two weeks later we vote on it, and we didn't do that. I feel like was a failure on our part to follow our own process...I don't have any problem with declaring us to be not a sanctuary city, but I felt that doing a resolution versus a statement has been very divisive in our community...I have no problem doing a declaration as not a sanctuary city, but I cannot support a resolution to do that." Frank moved to deny the declaration to be a non-sanctuary city.

"I second that," Bynum said. Council voted to approve the motion in a three to two vote, with Ulibarri and Glaspell voting to deny.

Following the vote, after nearly hours and with a large crowd still in attendance, Mayor Bynum moved to enter executive session for the purpose of obtaining legal advice, council voted to approve the motion, and the crowd was disbursed shortly after 9:40 pm.

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COMBINED COMMUNITY EFFORT APPROACH: 'WE'VE GOT YOUR BACK'

by Sieglinde Carpenter

MONTROSE-As much as people complain about traffic and one too many roundabouts on the Western Slope, change is inevitable. And, with growth comes multiple concerns for a community ranging from housing and employment to crime prevention.

Crime prevention plays a crucial role in enhancing community safety and development. We frequently hear or say, "I've got your back!" Does that mean you're willing and prepared to help or defend someone in need?

The task of protecting the residents and businesses in our community first starts with the Montrose County Sheriff's Office and the Montrose Police Department. A combined effort approach from law enforcement agencies along with volunteer support groups, such as Neighborhood Watch and Crime Stoppers, focus on building community partnerships.

"The fear of crime in any society is as damaging as the act of crime itself;" therefore, it must be a community endeavor to keep crime in check. "I've Got Your Back, We've Got Your Back" is a comforting phrase to hear, especially if you believe it's true.

The top priority of the Montrose County Sheriff's Office and the Montrose Police Department is the safety of every person in our community and surrounding areas. Together they stand, shoulder-to-



Commander Larry Witte, Sheriff Gene Lillard, Commander Tim Cox, and Deputy Steffon Bass.

shoulder, back-to-back to defend and protect us.

Be certain, while these peace officers are standing watch on our behalf, no one is above the law.

At a recent Neighborhood Watch meeting, Sheriff Gene Lillard presented Joyce Loss with the Sheriff's coin as a token of appreciation for her many years of volunteer service to the Neighborhood Watch program.

Had it not been for volunteer Rex Swanson, this program might have folded; he rallied with other citizens to reorganize the program as a community endeavor. "We Have Your Back" echoes the senti-



Sheriff Lillard presents Joyce Loss with the distinguished Sheriff's coin.

ments of what Neighborhood Watch represents, neighbors helping neighbors assisting our law enforcement agencies. Neighborhood Watch meetings are now being held at 3pm every 3rd Wednesday at the Centennial Meeting Room in the Centennial Plaza, 433 S First Street.

Stay connected, stay informed as communication is crucial. For more information, call 970-252-4499.

The Montrose County Sheriff's Office and the Montrose Police Department deserve a BIG and THANKFUL SHOUT OUT!



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MONTROSE REGIONAL CRIME STOPPERS

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

TO DATE CARNATION IS NOT OPEN, CONCRETE IS NOT POURED

Editor:

The culvert on Carnation Rd east of 6000 Rd in Olathe was deemed compromised and needed relined or replaced last May. The road was permanently closed thus causing residents to drive 2 miles each way on a gravel road to get out. Not to mention postal and other deliveries as well as emergency services delays. The county released an RFP in September 2023 to receive quotes from contractors to replace the Carnation and 5900 Rd culverts with concrete box culverts they had procured. Ridgway Valley Enterprises (RVE) was the low bidder at \$1.4M. The county decided the quote was over their budget and they could perform the project in house and save money. They then produced an RFP for the concrete placement of aprons, headwalls, and wing walls which was contracted with ConSy construction from GJ.

The contract that RVE bid on had a deadline of 12/31/23 to have Carnation Rd open to traffic or face liquidated damages for delays.

The county produced a letter to local residents in November explaining their position and promised Carnation Rd would be open in February. To date Carnation is not open, concrete is not poured. I personally spoke with Keith Laube about the schedule to open Carnation Rd. and he had no good answers. RVE and seven other contractors spent time and money to provide competitive pricing.

The county has clearly screwed this up with no accountability. I believe there are

many other county projects in similar shape.

If RVE was the contractor, I would be accumulating penalties at a rate of \$1200 per day from 12/31 until Carnation Rd is open. Probably close to \$100K and counting. I think the county should be allotting that money to the local residents based on the distance they've been traveling for nearly a year due to the closure.

*John McCollum,
Ridgway Valley Enterprises*

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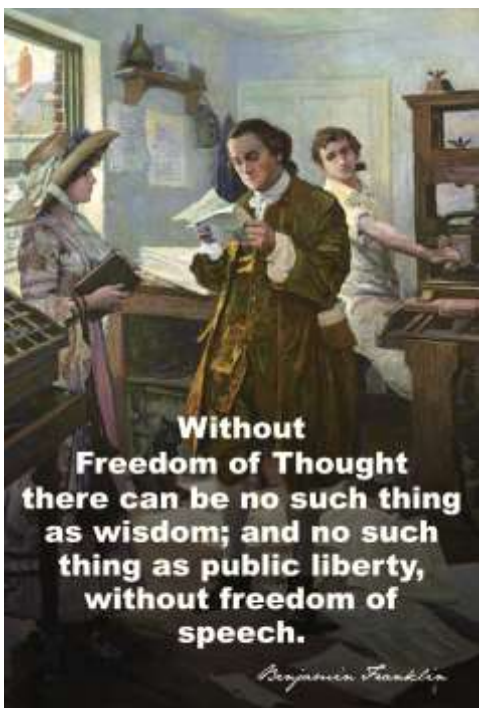
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there can be no such thing
as wisdom; and no such
thing as public liberty,
without freedom of
speech.**

Benjamin Franklin



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With Kate Burke

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

FROM WHERE I SIT: ELECTION TIME (MY OPINION)

Editor:

America is in the throes of preparing to elect new representatives to guide and operate our County which is, in fact, a \$100,000,000 business.

These elections are essential to a Republic so that we can have a few represent us all. But this hiring system only works IF we select and hire representatives on the basis of their knowledge, experience, honesty and ethical conduct. Unfortunately our American elections often turn into popularity contests.

RUMORS: Montrose County comes complete with RUMORS (lies) just like our federal government. We have some of those circulating about Scott Mijares. So you all got it straight, Scott is a businessman in Montrose and has sunk lots of money and effort into that business; he is a Republican in good standing and has been for years according to party records AND is, in fact, eligible for the District 1 seat on the Board of County Commissioners. I have verified those facts. See more below about the Two Scotts!

County Commissioner is not a place to put someone seeking wages. It not employment. It is a position where supposedly the penultimately qualified individual is selected to utilize his life experiences to govern and better his community. 'Big -Lou Stark is not one of these. His grocery list of 18 'skills' and his list of jobs is just that, a non-descript 'list' which says little if anything about success, originality, experiences or failures and says absolutely nothing of what he has accomplished. The submission of such lists indicate that he knows not what a resume is, no less what goes in it. He speaks naught of his experience with budgets, spending plans, taxation, personnel issues, amortization but he has said publically that being a Commissioner is a part time job. Ethics and citizenship are essential to being an honorable, effective and respected Commissioner. I have several documents showing that he was (perhaps still is) a tax scofflaw to the tune of in excess of \$80,000. I guess that commissioners get paid just to cut ribbons and limit constituents' comments to three minutes.

It is not. It is a job requiring endless daily work often night obligations and travel to learn what is going on in the County. He must know how and want to listen to his constituents. Just the existence of the budget in excess of \$100,000,000 should tell a candidate that Commissioner is more than a part-time job. IT IS A NEW PROFESSION. In fact, for the elected, the obligations are onerous. He is entrusted with a county vehicle for use in COUNTY BUSINESS, not as a second family car. Then, of course, the salary of a Commissioner should be a hint of

the size and complexity of the job.

Then we have our ex-sheriff, Rick Dunlap, who took over a well-run department from his predecessor and who over 12 years ran that department into the ground. When given a huge Public Safety Sales Tax revenue to improve the department did not even paint the dirty walls within which he worked. He gave much of the PSST money back to the County Commissioners so they could do what they wanted with it and set the stage for this latest County Commission to spend it all and leave the Department with nothing to improve salaries, retirement funds, equipment, body armor and other safety equipment. The current Sheriff will not endorse him for the position, nor will any of the rank and file of the department. So much for leadership! With his daughter-in-law (exemplary employee) as the chief financial officer of the county certainly a thought or two should be had as to a perception of a Conflict of Interest. Citizens of Montrose.

Why would you want to continue with the 'popularity contest' mentality of our past elections? It is high time that we picked County Commissioners who have detailed, deep and significant business experience. Montrose County with around 300 employees, a coven of lawyers, and millions in real estate deserves, just from the personnel and business side, competent and learned leadership. Insofar as its taxpaying public with over \$100,000,000 budget each year, deserves better than a near-do-well life and a good-ole-boy native son to run the organization.

Our county deserves, and we should provide for the best, most well qualified county commissioners that we can find. Persons who have owned businesses or managed someone else's businesses. People who are living on their personally hard earned money, not a taxpayer's salary. Entrepreneurs who have consistently operated more significant operations than a hot dog stand. People who have lived by their decisions; who have been employers; who have made years and years of payrolls; provided jobs and income for others and who have raised families by the sweat of their brow.

Scott Mijares---entrepreneur---A businessman. Began and built several businesses in several states. Worked his way thru college as a life-guard and as an Anheuser-Busch campus rep. Married 40 years, 3 daughters. In 2001 his family moved to Hawaii and developed a business making wooden-post cards among other products sold nationwide. Who would have thought? Wooden post cards! The business survived the Covid shutdowns and came to Montrose. While operating in Hawaii they bought the Lathrop Hardware (formerly

Tiffanys, Etc) building on Main Street and developed the now beautiful building into the Wild Horse Wine and Whiskey serving only Colorado Whiskeys. In 2023 Scott and Juli sold Vintage Wooden Postcards and continued working only on their Montrose property. Scott is running for Commissioner in order to use his experience, talents and his lifelong love of his country to serve his county, in other words 'to give back' some of what his country has given him. Now! From Scott's heading off to college until now Scott Mijares has been his own man, maker of his own (and his family's) way.

Scott Riba---Independent Insurance Agent in Montrose for 17 years. Scott is a 23 year resident of Montrose beginning with his move from California. In California, Scott had worked in product development for an Agricultural Chemical Co. He moved into the development of sensors that collect data to monitor Agricultural production. He built a bio-tech company related to agriculture. Twenty three years ago, when the time was right they sold out and moved to a ranch in Montrose County and got into the ranching business. After several years and having achieved a smooth operation at the ranch, Scott became an Independent Insurance Agent in Montrose. Independent agents work for their customer, selling them the best product available to fit their needs. Scott has succeeded in an extremely competitive business for seventeen years. Scott Riba, owner-operator of two successful businesses in Montrose. Sheriff Gene Lillard has endorsed Scott Riba for Montrose County Commissioner.

Many of our citizens look at business owners as 'other than working class' people. Having owned a couple of businesses myself that is not the case at all. The owner of a business generally works 80 or more hours a week and likely does the less appealing aspects of it. And they are the part of the business world who provide jobs to others.

Scott Mijares and Scott Riba are fine, established, successful, upstanding, energetic citizens of Montrose who have a desire to serve their community---AND HAVE THE ABILITIES TO DO SO---as our county commissioners. Elect them and build Montrose County for the future!

AUTHOR'S ENDORSEMENT: From where I sit and from what I have seen in Montrose over the past 23 years of living here, we have two of the finest candidates for County Commissioner (manager) we have ever had the opportunity to vote for. Please, let us not pass up this chance to hire two extremely qualified citizens to the Montrose County Commission.

Bill Bennett, Montrose

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

MONTROSE REPUBLICAN'S – WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?

County GOP Assembly Outcome Leads to a Contested Primary Election for County Commissioner on June 25th

By David White

You might be wondering why this letter is titled as it is given the routine “sausage making” that is part and parcel of the Colorado caucus and assembly model of selecting candidates for public office. Well, I’m going to tell you.

The Montrose Republican Party held their bi-annual County Assembly on Saturday, March 23rd where the delegates who were elected at the GOP County Caucus on March 7th came together to cast their votes for candidates for the two (2) County Commissioner seats that are up for election this November. To avoid a primary runoff, candidates must obtain no less than 70.1% of the delegate vote to avoid having to campaign in a primary election. None of the four (4) candidates came close to meeting that threshold.

Commissioner Districts 1 (City of Montrose) and 3 (Montrose County west of U.S. Hwy. 50 to the Utah State line) are up for grabs. 2024 District 1 candidates are Steven “Big Lou” Stark and Scott Mijares. District 3 candidates are Rick Dunlap and Scott Riba.

Due to term limits, current Commissioners Keith Caddy (District 1) and Roger Rash (District 3) will be leaving office in January of 2025. The Democratic Party is, as of this writing, not offering challengers to whoever the Republican Party decides will be their candidates on the November 5, 2024 ballot. An independent candidate, Trisha Murray, who is employed by the Montrose County Attorney’s Office, is running for the District 3 Commissioner seat and will not be subject to the rules of a political party.

If you’ve read the March 18, 2024 edition of The Montrose Mirror (pages 28-29) or would like to in order to gain some insight into the 2024 GOP Commissioner candidates, please visit The Mirror site here: (<https://www.montrosemirror.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/MM577FINAL.pdf>)

Of particular interest in this year’s Commissioner races is the apparent alliance between District 1 candidate Stark and District 3 candidate Dunlap who have

been campaigning together. There couldn’t be more of a “stark” contrast (pun intended) between these two. Big Lou, is by his own admission, a high school dropout; a tax evader who has amassed \$84,000 in IRS liens; a person who didn’t pay his mortgage and lost his home to a foreclosure; a “couch surfer” for some period of time while evidently homeless and several other financial and legal picadilloes that have wreaked havoc on lenders and others as well as himself over the course of the last 20+ years.

On the other end of this tag team is our former County Sheriff, Rick Dunlap, who served Montrose County for 12 years. Sheriff Dunlap earned a reputation for honesty and integrity as well as being a person with strong personal convictions, a loyal family man and one who has upheld the Constitution. An odder alliance might be hard to find, but this is politics in modern day Montrose County.

To move through the GOP Assembly process, each candidate must be nominated for the position they are seeking by someone that is a GOP party member and presumably someone with impeccable credentials and status within the community or party. The nomination must be “seconded,” presumably, by a person of similar standing.

As if things couldn’t get any odder, for this important task, Big Lou chose an unknown individual by the name of Mark Neuhardt to nominate him for this high-level County position. Mr. Neuhardt is a 32-year-old former resident of Las Vegas, NV. He has Nevada drug related criminal records in Clark County (Case Number: 11CRN003066-0000 & Case Number: 11PCN002904-0000) and traffic violations in the City of N. Las Vegas (Case Number: CR009228-11, et al.) and Montrose County (Case No. 2023T496) as well as a Chapter 7 total liquidation bankruptcy under his belt (State of Nevada Bankruptcy Court: 19-14419/ Case Number: 19-14419-ABL – Filed July 11, 2019).

Seconding Mr. Neuhardt’s nomination of Big Lou was sitting County Commissioner for District 3, Roger Rash. Mr. Rash’s nom-

ination was filled with platitudes for Big Lou, mostly revolving around Big Lou’s attendance over the last 6 months of what he claimed were all the Commissioner Board meetings as well as County budget meetings and other County events. Had these been the basis for his qualifying for the seat he has held for the last seven years, he wouldn’t be a commissioner today as he didn’t attend any of those County meetings and events while running for office as he was working for the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) as a road engineer and was way too busy to campaign. Of course, running unopposed made the necessity to do so non-essential as he’d follow the on-the-job training model to learn how to be a County Commissioner.

Needless to say, Candidate Rick Dunlap was nominated by retired Montrose physician and GOP loyalist, Dr. Jeffrey Krebs, one of Montrose’s finest. He was seconded by community activist and sycophant Jim Haugsness, who routinely crosses party lines to support candidates who are either Democrats or Independents, which is fine, but only so long as he re-registers as an Unaffiliated voter (in my opinion).

While the other two candidates (Scott Mijares opposing Big Lou for District 1) and Scott Riba (opposing Rick Dunlap for District 3) stuck to traditional protocols, their nominations and the seconds they received came from well-meaning and informed GOP party members. No drama. No one with a questionable background. Just good folks.

At the end of it all, District 1 candidates Stark and Mijares each earned 50% of the total number of delegate votes cast. District 3 candidates Dunlap and Riba too ended up with roughly a 53% - 47% split which means all four candidates will now campaign in earnest for the GOP Primary Election on June 25th.

In closing, it is incumbent on all of you reading this to vote for the most qualified candidate for the job of County Commissioner when the time comes. My biggest concern in this year’s race is Big Lou Stark. While often spoken of as being a “nice

Continued next pg

MONTROSE REPUBLICAN'S – WHAT ARE YOU THINKING? From previous pg

guy” and an “affable” person, he just isn’t qualified for the job. If by some chance he is elected, Montrose County residents will be on the hook to pay his \$101,000 a year salary which will undoubtedly be garnished by the IRS to satisfy his tax liens meaning that you and I pay his tax debt too. Sort of like paying someone’s school loan debt, isn’t it?

Furthermore, we would have a County Commissioner who does not even have a high school diploma, which is a **REQUIREMENT** for most every job in the County. A current job opening for a custodian (janitor) on the County’s website requires

a high school diploma or an equivalent.

See the following:

(<https://recruiting2.ultipro.com/MON1022MOTC/JobBoard/6c028da9-43e3-43fb-a842-c05ac9af4e47/OpportunityDetail?opportunityId=ec1015d0-74f8-4d5e-929f-99c5338ff168>)

At this point and given the apparent “tag team” coalition that supporters of Big Lou and Rick Dunlap have put together, it looks like our best bets for County Commissioners are Scott Mijares and Scott Riba. Both are conservative businesspeople with an entrepreneurial spirit as well

as folks that understand and know the value of what hard work is all about as well as being fiscally responsible individuals. Unless something dramatically changes, the differences between these candidates couldn’t be starker.

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

MONTROSE CITY COUNCIL’S ILL PLANNED DUMPSTER FIRE Why a Non-Sanctuary City Resolution Backfired

By David White

As most local folks are aware, the City of Montrose and Montrose County recently passed non-binding resolutions declaring both entities to be “non-sanctuary” entities. The City’s resolution was passed in an “emergency meeting” which meant that it had to be codified at the Council’s next official meeting.

Before the ink was dry, elected officials representing both respective governmental bodies back-pedaled and said that the resolutions were just pablum or otherwise, simply words on pieces of paper that really didn’t mean anything at all.

By doing so, what they inadvertently created was a proverbial “dumpster fire” wherein they angered both sides of the equation when it comes to how we handle the issue of illegal immigration and by extension, illegal aliens or migrants entering our City and County and placing demands on already stressed human service operations in both the government and private sectors.

While the Mayor of Montrose and candidate for Colorado State Senate District 5, Barbara Bynum called the resolution by the City Council “political showmanship”, she wasn’t content to leave it there and subsequently took her fellow Councilmembers to task for their 4-1 vote in

favor of the resolution (she opposed the measure from the start).

The result was that last week, before a large crowd of citizens (most of whom were supporting passage of the resolution) we saw brow beaten Councilors Dave Frank and David Reed strike down a vote to approve the non-sanctuary City resolution. Councilor Frank stated that the City Council would be issuing a “statement” later clarifying what the City’s stance on the subject is and how they would deal with it.

That of course didn’t go over well, and the Council decided that they’d better duck for cover and went into an executive session with their legal counsel. That forced the audience to leave. Since then, mum’s the word.

At this point, the damage is done. We’re on the map. Our elected officials tried to placate those who have some serious concerns on many fronts as to how we’re going to handle the migrant crisis plaguing dozens of U.S. cities. With the strong possibility of seeing their numbers increase in rural areas where there are micropolitan communities such as ours with goods and services as well as medical facilities available that provide an appeal that is hard to deny, what plan is in place to deal with a potential influx of jobless and homeless

people?

It is incumbent upon the City and County to get their act together and stop sending mixed messages. It’s time for a plan. It’s time to take a stand. Legal immigration done in accordance with the law is to be supported. Crashing through our borders is not. It’s that simple, but so complicated as once inside the U.S., no one is telling them to get out. Instead, cell phones, debit cards loaded with money, plane tickets, bus tickets, clothing and anything else you can name are given to them so they can stay in the country.

Like it or not, the City and County need to put the dumpster fire they started out for good. Plenty of other communities pulled in the welcome mat to these invaders. Get a plan together that’s both legal and fair but one that has teeth vs. the wishy-washy non-resolutions you threw together thinking that somehow or another they would solve all our problems.

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

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

MAJOR MILESTONE FOR CULTIVATED MEAT

To the editor,

I was happy to learn a company in the United Kingdom has produced the first canned cat food made of cultivated meat. For those who don't know, cultivated meat is grown from animal cells, without slaughter. Soon we won't have to harm other crea-

tures to feed our pets.

"This is a major milestone for cultivated meat globally and shows that we are ready to sell product," said Owen Ensor, cofounder and CEO of Meatly. "Cultivated meat gives pet parents an easy choice – high quality, tasty, nutritious, and sustainable pet food."

Despite this progress, increased public funding for research is needed for the field of cellular-agriculture to reach its full potential. Our legislators should support this so the remaining technological hurdles can be overcome. We can create a better world.

Jon Hochschartner, Granby, CT

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COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

STACEY MARION HENSLEY (SMITH)

November 16, 1967 - March 14, 2024

STACEY MARION HENSLEY (SMITH) made her home Heaven on March 14, 2024, at the young age of 56. She was born in Leadville Colorado on November 16, 1967. She spent several years there as a child and made very fond memories there. Her family plans to return her to Leadville at a later date this year.

Stacey was blessed with a servant heart and loved serving others. Making others happy and making you laugh was always one of her top priorities. After high school, she became a licensed cosmetologist. This career was one she was only able to have for a short time because she suffered from asthma and working around all the chemicals and sprays in the salon made it too difficult for her to continue. She then decided to become a respiratory therapist. She chose this profession because she suffered from asthma and personally understood how much she could help others. An early retirement was inevitable for her because of health issues.

Of all the jobs she had her favorite was being a homemaker. She found many

unique things to decorate her home with, one of which was painted rocks. She loved going for short walks to find rocks that would make the perfect canvas. These rocks not only became home decor but many times a special gift for her family and friends. Of course, in true Stacey fashion, whatever she chose to paint would put a smile on your face. One of the other things she enjoyed while being home was cooking. She will always be remembered for bringing us the most delicious shrimp pasta as well as many other dishes at family gatherings, once again serving others made her happy.

Stacey will also be remembered for her love of animals. She dearly loved dalmatians. She never had a favorite animal, she loved them all, dogs, cats, birds, etc. If there was ever a time an animal needed a home, they could find one with her. She always dreamed of having a horse but was never in a place where she could have one of her own. She also loved camping, fishing and being outdoors. Many family members have fond memories of fishing

and camping with her.

Stacey is preceded in death by her father Fred Smith and step-father Leroy Bates. Her survivors include her fiancé Nathan Gray as well as her two children

Talisha Maes and Chuck Turner. Her mother Geri Bates. Her granddaughters Brynna Carrera-Morris and Raevyn Turner. Siblings Diana (Andy) King, Rodney Chatham, Christa Broom, Chas Howard, Rodney Bates, Duane Bates, Connie (Walt) Rogers and MaryLee (Charles) Freudenthal. Many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins.

Our family always gives nicknames as a term of endearment and Stacey was given "Abby."

Abby will forever be fondly remembered and forever missed.



GLENN THOMAS JONES, JR

August 14, 1971 - March 10, 2024



GLENN THOMAS JONES, JR. peacefully passed away on March 10, 2024, surrounded by his loved ones.

Born on August 14, 1971, in Downey, California, to Glenn and Marsha Jones, he brightened every room with his warmth and smile. He had a talent for bringing joy to others through jokes and heartfelt conversations.

Glenn was proud to be one of the youngest Eagle Scouts in California. This rank in the Boy Scouts of America signifies a remarkable dedication to leadership, service, and personal growth.

Glenn loved to travel and lived a nomadic lifestyle, finding joy in varied work and the company of others. He particularly enjoyed trips to California, finding comfort in the familiarity of home.

He is survived by his father Glenn, Sr., sisters Linda (Carlos), Kymberly (Hector), and Jeanette (John), brother Cody, seven nephews (Austin, Crey, Daelin, Cade, Ethan, Bryce and Kaeleb), three nieces (Cale, Laeliana and Sidelia), one great-nephew (Owen), one great-niece (Olivia), his partner Nancy, stepchildren Robert and Jodi (Gerrod), and three grandchildren (Dylan, Jadeynn and Noah).

He was preceded in death by his grandmother Mayone Joos, mother Marsha Jones and other loving family members.

Glenn will be fondly remembered and missed by all. Crippin Funeral Home is assisting the family (970) 249-2121.

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

DAVID LEE SNOW

November 21, 1950 - March 12, 2024

DAVID LEE SNOW, 73, left this earth to join his heavenly Father in paradise on March 12, 2024. He was born on November 21, 1950, to Shirley (Javernick) and George Snow in Canon City, CO. After high-school, David went into the United States Air Force for a time. After receiving an honorable discharge, he married Collette and had two children, Stephanie Marie and David Wayne.

David always had a creative flare, excelling in any artistic endeavor he chose. From painting to woodworking, and everything in between, David created beauty throughout his life. He worked as a hairstylist and a carpenter and enjoyed the creative process involved in each.

David married the love of his life Sandy Eastwood on August 10, 1984. They lived in Montrose for many years before moving to Ridgway where David used his carpentry skills to built their home from the ground up. They later moved to Thermopolis, WY where they lived and worked for

22 years before returning to Montrose in 2022. David enjoyed visiting with people and learning their stories, tinkering around his shop and attending River of Life Fellowship in Thermopolis.

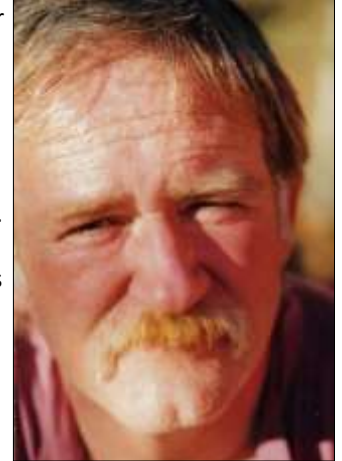
The only thing David loved more than Sandy and his family was his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

David is survived by his loving wife, Sandy; his children David (Leanette) Snow of Albuquerque, NM, Stephanie Kelly (Terry Ross Sr.) of Panhandle, TX, Gwendy Frary of Lakewood, CO, and Britta (Tom) Johnson of Montrose, CO; Brother Chuck (Pam) Snow of Pueblo, CO; Sister Angie (Vern) Clawson of Canon City, CO; Grandchildren: Skye (Javan) Mirabel, Lakota Wilson, Bylli Kelly Chelsey (Carly) Johnson, Lily (Brandon) Content, Brent Frary, Ethan Snow, and Collette Snow, Katie (Cameron) Rosenblum; Great-grandchildren: Everest, Keiri, Jude, Kimber, Ronin, Odin, Brayden, Matthew R., Tatum, Ricky, Matthew S., Jady, Arya, Hayley, Oliver, and one ex-

pected later this year; numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends. Everyone will miss his big smile, big dreams, and kind soul. Greeting him in Heaven are

his parents Shirley and George, step-father Edward Javernick, sister Sharon Pennington, daughter Shawna Still, and great-granddaughter Alyna Moore.

Private celebration of life to be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to a charity of your choosing to continue David's legacy of giving.



EARLENE A. BIRD

May 23, 1931 - March 10, 2024

EARLENE A. BIRD was born in Red Cloud, Nebraska on May 23, 1931 to Albert and Eula Willard McKinney. She passed away on March 10, 2024, at her place of residence in Canyon City, Colorado.

Earlene married James A. Bird on June 16, 1947, and made their home together in Akron Colorado where their son Ralph A. Bird was born and raised. Earlene and James were blessed with their two granddaughters Melissa and Renee Bird. Melissa and husband had two boys.

Earlene was proud of her granddaughter and loved being a great grandmother. She also enjoyed her phone calls from Renee and Melissa.

Jim and Joe Bott, nephews of James and Earlene, spent quality time with the family and enjoyed spending time on the farm playing with Ralph, their cousin and helping with chores as needed. Earlene spent her days enjoying visits from Jim and Joe before his passing.

Earlene is preceded in death by her parents, One brother and two sisters. Husband James Bird and Son Ralph Bird.

Earlene enjoyed family get-togethers and spending time with friends. She loved to crochet and embroidery. Her church family was very special to her as well.

She spoke fondly of her volunteer work at Montrose Memorial Hospital and always loved going to work.

ISSUE 462 March 25, 2024

ART & SOL

Non-Profit Spotlight: **SHEPHERD'S HAND MOVES FORWARD WITH STRATEGIC PLAN**



Staff and volunteers are pleased with the new kennels set up outside The Shepherd's Hand ... enabling clients to enter for services without their pets. Brewer is second from the left.

By CB Williams

MONTROSE—Homelessness and people in need are in the news often. To offer support for the local population, one organization in Montrose provides seven-day-a-week services.

Currently, The Shepherd's Hand's (TSH) mission is dedication to meeting the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of individuals and families in the Montrose community. The non-profit has a goal to provide a safe and friendly gathering place for delivering needed services that help make each day better, according to their website.

To fine tune their operation, Executive

Director Abbie Brewer said The Shepherd's Hand board of directors called in Lori Sharp of ThinkSharp Consulting to help them in creating, adopting, and implementing a strategic plan.

Sharp helped the board expand their thinking to plan for the future, Brewer said.

She said during a planning session they identified a draft vision, "Providing hope for a brighter tomorrow." A leading challenge with that, Brewer said, is moving from a founder-led, volunteer-driven organization to one relying more on paid staff.

"We identified that this will help make us more flexible," she said, and referenced the tough time everyone had providing needed services when COVID hit.

"We need our clients to know they can count on us to be here for them," she said. In addition, the tools Sharp brought the TSH board helped point out the need for the organization, located at 505 S Second St., Montrose, to be able to meet individual needs, e.g., ADA access.

"We want to be a trusted partner in the community," Brewer said. The planning will help the organization to be able to meet the changing needs of a vulnerable population.

Brewer said TSH has had—or is planning to have—sessions with partner organizations like the City of Montrose, CASA (Court Appointed Special Services), Hilltop Family Resource Center, Sharing Minis-

tries, Montrose County, Montrose Police Department, Association of Montrose Churches and others to learn what gaps there are in the community that The Shepherd's Hand can help fill. The Montrose Welcome Home Alliance for Veterans is another partner in the wings, since a number of homeless in the area are veterans.

Garey Martinez, a USMC captain (retired), founded The Shepherd's Hand. Now Martinez, not only founder but president of the TSH board, has retired, Brewer said, as have a couple of other board members. Aneta Martinez, Garey's wife, who was serving as administrative coordinator, also has retired. All those retirements have led to hiring staff, and to looking for new board members.

Serving on the 2024 board are Brian Goforth, pastor of Montrose Christian Church, vice president and acting chair; Susan Barrientos, executive director of Montrose County Housing Authority, as secretary/treasurer; Ed Douglas, kitchen volunteer; Jeff Allyn, facilities volunteer; and Judy Lokey, client support assistant. Many, if not most, of the volunteers are also donors, Brewer said.

She said The Shepherd's Hand has received recommendations for new board members and are particularly interested in finding someone who is a retired attorney or has a paralegal background. They hope to increase the number of board members from five to seven or so.

Continued next pg

SHEPHERD'S HAND MOVES FORWARD WITH STRATEGIC PLAN From previous pg



"The support this place has is unbelievable," she said, and expects no problems in filling the board positions. This transition from founder-led to paid staff and a new board is a key element in the development of the plan.

When all is completed and approved, the board—along with staff and more than 70 volunteers—will build off what has been identified. Here are some statements they have uncovered so far:

- Many clients are experiencing homelessness or housing insecurities, there has been an increase
- TSH must be able to flex to meet changing needs for vulnerable population
- TSH plans to strengthen their partnerships, and fill in the gaps in the community
- TSH strives to treat everyone with dignity
- TSH will provide a place without judgment

The changing needs include an increase in clients, Brewer said. "Currently we've noticed an increase in people coming here."

When asked if it is because of the larger number of people entering the U.S. across the southern border, she replied, "I don't believe it has to do with the increase in the immigration population."

Still, the Shepherd's Hand must be able to meet the challenges of any increase in requests for their services if and when they occur, Brewer said.

Next steps in the planning process

Brewer said they are in the draft process and like most strategic plans there will be elements like strengths, weaknesses, performance measures, expected outcomes, analysis of feedback from staff, volunteers and clients, and action plans—all the pieces included in an effective plan.

Jenny White, kitchen manager at The Shepherd's Hand.

Paid staff, including Brewer; Miriam Cardenas, administrative coordinator; Lelia Eden, support staff; Jenny White, kitchen manager; and Linda Granzow, food distribution; along with the dozens of volunteers will be instrumental in implementing the plan after it is approved.

And, Brewer said, there will be a system for the board and staff to "check-in" with the process periodically to assure it remains on track and moving toward achieving TSH's mission...probably a minimum of once or twice a year.

Many corporations, common and nonprofit, often address TSSH competitors in their plans. But while TSH does not have competitors, so to speak, in the Montrose area to plan around—they do have many partners and are analyzing how to improve those relationships.

"Emergency services—we need to connect clients to the right services," she said, "and housing navigation—partners can be that hub." This will be a big focus going forward.

Brewer is hoping for approval of a final draft of the plan in April.

"People are in critical need when they come to us—whether for food, shower, basic clothing, laundry, mail services, help obtaining ID, laundry," she said, "and we can help them by providing a foundation for that brighter future."



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SPRING INTO GARDENING WITH KIDS



Delta school gardening program.
Courtesy photo.

by Abram Herman, on behalf of Friends of Youth and Nature (FOYAN)

Getting kids involved in growing their own food can be fun for both of you! What better way to teach kids about where their food comes from and the importance of healthy and local foods than growing your own at home? Watering, weeding, and caring for living things also teaches kids an important sense of personal responsibility, as well as patience.

Involve your kids in the entire process—start your garden planning early, and allow them to make the decisions (with a little guidance) so they feel ownership of the project. What kind of vegetables do they want to grow and eventually eat? If you're using pots, help them research what size of pots those plants will need, and where in your yard to put them so they have the kind of sun or shade conditions they need to thrive. How often do you need to water, and whose responsibility will it be to make sure they're getting enough water? How will you tell when they're ready to eat? And, perhaps most importantly, let them plan out what you're going to cook with each vegetable when they're ready!

There are many ways you can involve kids in garden planning and care, and they'll learn a lot in the process.

Here are a few quick and easy ways you and your kids can get started with a backyard garden.

Building a garden bed can be time consuming, and it takes up a lot of space. If you're not ready to take the leap to a full-on garden bed, potted plants can work well, too. There are a lot of vegetables that will grow in pots including tomatoes, beets, leafy greens like chard and kale, hot

or sweet peppers, lettuces, onions, and even beans (as long as you have something for them to climb on).

Just make sure the pots you use are big enough for the plants you want to grow—tomatoes, for instance, will need at least an 18-24" pot—and use a high-quality potting soil that's made for vegetables, so they're getting all the nutrients they need. Sun-loving vegetables like tomatoes and peppers should be in a bright, sunny place, but make sure more delicate plants like lettuces and spinach have a little bit of shade to provide relief from the heat.

Another easy way to bring the garden into your kitchen is with herbs. Not only will your kids get to participate in the growing process, but planning the meals you'll make becomes even more fun! One idea is to start with some of your kids' favorite foods, and ask them to help you research what herbs they'll need to make it. Do they love lasagne or pizza? Oregano is critical to the Italian flavor. Are they big on pesto? Basil can be your crop of choice. Start with the final product and work backwards to help them figure out what ingredient you'll need to make it happen.

Herbs are also great because almost all of them will thrive in small pots, which are convenient and can usually be grown indoors. You could do a number of different herbs—thyme, oregano, sage, rosemary, etc.—or just stick to one that requires a larger quantity, such as basil to be used in a batch of pesto. In addition, many of these herbs can continue to be grown in their pots indoors year-round, providing fresh additions to your daily cooking beyond the normal summer garden. Your kids can help pick out or decorate fun pots, fill them with soil, start seeds or transplant already-started herbs, and pick out the spot where the plants will be happiest as they grow.

Another good option to start with is lettuce. Lettuces thrive in cooler temps, like the early spring season or in the fall, and they'll provide a continuing source of salads for your dining room table. They are easy to start from seeds, and there are many interesting and colorful varieties to choose from. Salad greens are a perfect farm to table connection—clip off some lettuce leaves, whip up a quick vinaigrette, and combine them into a fresh salad in

less than five minutes.

Lettuces have fairly shallow roots, so you can get away with a long and low container to house your whole lettuce garden. Have your kids help you pick out a variety of colorful and unique lettuces from the seed pack selection at your local nursery, fill your container with high quality soil, and plant rows of various lettuces to create a beautiful and tasty little crop of salad greens.

Many businesses have stacks of pallets that they're happy to get rid of—with a quick search on Craigslist you'll be able to find a plethora of pallets, ripe for the picking. These pallets can be repurposed into a fun and economical vertical or horizontal garden with just a little work. This is a really neat way to create a space-saving and beautiful garden for a small backyard.

There are hundreds of how-to guides for making a pallet garden that you can find online with a quick online search, but the basic process involves stapling landscape fabric inside the pallet to create multiple vertical rows for planting your vegetable garden. The main thing to be careful of in general, but especially with kids, is that pallets can have sharp nails and splinters, so be very conscious of that when you're picking out pallets and building your garden.

You can get your kids involved filling it with soil and planting all of the vegetables, or even a sweet treat like strawberries.

You and your kids can also make an art project out of decorating the pallets with a bit of paint and creativity, to make a beautiful home for your small garden!

With these simple ways to get a garden started with your kids, you'll be able to teach them about their food and where it comes from, involve them in research and planning, and cultivate responsibility and patience. Have fun and enjoy the fruits (or vegetables) of your labor!

Abram Herman is a board member of Friends of Youth and Nature (FOYAN), a non-profit that promotes opportunities for youth and families to get outside, experience outdoor activities, and explore nature. Follow our outdoor news blog and receive monthly tips on connecting your children to nature at www.friendsofyouthandnature.org



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Chekhov

Directed by Kim Santich

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

APRIL 2024

FRI, APRIL 5 & SAT, APRIL 6 @ 7:30PM
SUNDAY, APRIL 7 @ 2PM

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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® DONATES TO TWO LOCAL CAUSES



MAR courtesy photos.

accessible space for children with disabilities to enjoy physical activity and social interaction and a place for parents and grandparents to spend some fun play-time with them.

Investing in Affordable Housing

The MAR also extended its support to Habitat for Humanity, a non-profit organization dedicated to building affordable housing in the Montrose community. The \$1000 donation will assist Habitat for Humanity in its ongoing mission to provide safe and stable homes for deserving families.

Supporting Adaptive Sports

Recognizing the importance of inclusivity and recreation, the MAR donated \$1500 to Montrose Regional Hospital's initiative to build an adaptive sports park for children. This park will provide a welcoming and

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— On a beautiful spring day, the Montrose Association of REALTORS® (MAR) presented donations to two essential local organizations: Montrose Regional

CHANGING NEEDS?

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

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Holy Week Services

March 25-29, 7- 7:30 AM



Monday – St. Stephen’s Anglican Church

2504 Sunnyside Rd.

Tuesday– Seventh Day Adventist Church

1551 Valley Rd, Montrose, CO 81401

Wednesday– Cedar Creek Church

222 S. Townsend Ave.

Thursday– Christ’s Church of the Valley

10 Hillcrest Plaza Way #5876

Friday– Celebration Church

2900 Sunnyside Rd.

Services will be 30 minutes, followed by a continental breakfast.

An offering will be received for ministries of the AMC.

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY

ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

Office Hours: By appointment.

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

 don@allsaintsmontrose.org)

Worship Service Times: Sundays 9AM,

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

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

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

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

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Olathe, Co 81425

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

Pastor Gabe Skillo

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Sunday 6 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Study/Prayer 7 p.m.

CELEBRATION CHURCH

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

Office Hours: By appointment

Phone: (970) 497-4925

Email: celebrationmontrose@gmail.com

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

Worship Service Times: 9am and 10:45am

Senior Pastor:

Pastor Brandon Mathis

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

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

Demographics: Multi-generational

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

Student (middle & high school) at 9am.

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

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Denomination: Christ Lutheran Montrose
Affiliation: Lutheran Church Missouri Syn-
 od
Address: 1980 N. Townsend Ave., Mont-
 rose, CO 81401
Contact: 970-633-0226

Website: www.montroselutheran.org

Email: montroselutheran@gmail.com

Pastor: Tim Onnen

Worship: Sundays at 9 AM

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

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

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

FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

Denomination: Church of the Nazarene
Address: 705 South 12th Street
Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9 am-
 Noon and by Appointment
Contact Information: Office Phone 970 249
 -9213, mncfirst@gmail.com,
www.montrosenazarenechurch.org

Pastor: Buddy Cook

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

Wednesday: Prayer Boot Camp - 7 PM

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

*disciples in Montrose Colorado and around
 the world.*

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MONTROSE

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

 form@fpcmontrose.com)

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

 form@fpcmontrose.com),
www.fpcmontrose.com

Pastor: Jesse Mabanglo

Worship Service times: 9:30AM,

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

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

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY *From previous pg*

HILLCREST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

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

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

MONTROSE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

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

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

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

ROSEMONT BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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

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

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

SPIRITUAL AWARENESS CENTER

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

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

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

ST. STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

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

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

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY From previous pg

SUMMIT CHURCH OF MONTROSE:

Denomination affiliation:

Southern Baptist

Address: 10977 60.75 Rd. Montrose, CO 81403

Office hours: Varies

Contact information:

email: summitchurchmontrose@gmail.com

website: www.summitchurchmontrose.org

Senior Pastor: Interim Pastor.

Worship service times: Sunday Worship is

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

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

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

Lord. Summit Church has people of all ages! We have families with children (babies, school aged, recent high school and college graduates) up to retired individuals.

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

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

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

VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH OF MONTROSE

Denomination Affiliation: Independent Baptist

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

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8am-12pm

Contact Information: Phone (970) 249-

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

Current Pastor: Roland Kassales

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

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

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

Church Directory

Mirror Editorial Staff

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

information to the Montrose Mirror:

Name of church

Denomination affiliation

Address Office hours

Contact information (phone number, email address, website)

Name of current Senior Pastor

Worship service times

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

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

Do your church services include Sunday School and childcare?

Local Immunization Providers

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

Questions? Call (970) 252-5011

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What's so great about Thursday nights in Montrose? Kate's Creative Classes 5:30-7:30 pm at Mosaic

Includes drinks! Make it a date nite.

April 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Easter 31	Apr 1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	Gnome Home ¹¹	12	13
14	15	16	17	Paint Pouring ¹⁸	19	20
21	22	23	24	Alcohol Ink ²⁵	26	27
28	29	30	May 1	2	3	4

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



2nd Annual Easter

Eggstravaganza

SATURDAY MARCH 30TH 2024
10 AM - 1 PM

Western Colorado Botanical Gardens

655 Struthers Ave. Grand Junction, CO 81501

Please Bring an Easter Basket

Activities include:

Bump n' Jump

Face Painting

Raffle

Cake walk & more.

\$10
PER
PERSON

\$20
PER
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SAVE THE DATE! LOCAL EVENTS CALENDAR

ONGOING-

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MONTHLY

Feb. 1-April 12-AARP Foundation Tax-aid 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

March 28-Montrose United Methodist Church at 19 S. Park Ave-7 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service.

March 29- Montrose United Methodist Church at 19 S. Park Ave-7 p.m. Good Friday Service.

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

March 31-Montrose United Methodist Church at 19 S. Park Ave- Sunday, March 31st 8:30 a.m. Easter Service; 9:45 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt; 11 a.m. Easter Service.

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

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

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



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Sunset photo above is by Judy Kinyon; the mountain valley vista at right was taken by Linda Lake near Telluride.

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