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# the Montrose Mirror

© Issue No. 587 May 27 2024

## REMEMBERING THOSE WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES FOR OUR NATION

American Legion Post 73 Montrose raising flags at Valley Lawn Cemetery on May 25, in preparation for Monday's Memorial Day Ceremony. Services are planned for Valley Lawn Cemetery at 9am and Grand View Cemetery at 11am. Photo courtesy of CB Williams.



## MURA BOARD TOURS COLORADO OUTDOORS PROJECT



The Montrose Urban Renewal Authority (MURA) Board met on May 22 for a tour of the Colorado Outdoors Urban Renewal Area. The patio of the newly opened Shelter Distilling (bar and restaurant) overlooks the Uncompahgre River, which gives customers a sample of the outdoors lifestyle offered in Montrose. Photo by Gail Marvel.

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE-On May 22, in lieu of a monthly business meeting, the Montrose Urban Renewal Authority (MURA) board took a tour of projects in the Colorado Outdoors Urban Renewal Area. Some construction projects are completed, while others are in various stages of being fully operational.

Facilitated by Colorado Outdoors Director of Community Relations Heidi Dragoo, the tour began at the recently opened Shelter Distilling. Master Distiller and Co-Founder Jason Senior, who lives in Montrose, gave the board a behind the scenes guided tour of the facility and explained the state-of-the-art automated system.

Reminiscent of Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory, which is for kids, Shelter Distilling sparks the adult imagination for spirits and distilled products — whiskey, canned cocktails, and beer. Specialized equipment (i.e.

**Continued pg 10**

[Memorial Day Services scheduled for 2024!](#)

[City Council Hears Updates from Region 10, Project 7!](#)

[Speakers pack chambers, Hold City Council Accountable!](#)

[City Council Hears Updates From Region 10, Project 7!](#)

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## ANNUAL HAM RADIO TAILGATE PARTY

REGIONAL-The Montrose Amateur Radio Club is hosting its annual Tailgate Party on Saturday June 1, 2024, at the Lions Pavilion, Confluence Park, Delta from 8 AM to 11 AM. Admission is free.

All attendees will be included in the drawing for door prizes. The grand prize is an ALINCO digital mobile handheld radio. You must be present to win.

According to Steve Schroeder, Tailgate Party Chairman, "The Tailgate Party is an opportunity to buy, sell, and trade amateur radio equipment and supplies. Some very good deals on used equipment can be found. Sellers can find good homes for equipment they no longer use, and new hams can pick up what they need to get started. It is also a social gathering that gives hams an opportunity to get together in person with those they meet on the air."

Tables for sellers are available for \$5.

Coffee, water, and doughnuts are available for a donation. The event is sanctioned by the American Radio Relay League.

For more information contact Lew French, KOLMF, at 970-417-6142

## THE MONTROSE MIRROR

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

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

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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### MONTROSE PRIDE CELEBRATION JUNE 8 @ CERISE PARK AMPHITHEATER

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-Montrose Pride will take place June 8, 2024 from 3 pm to 8 pm at the Cerise Park Amphitheater. Featuring: blankslate. Food, vendors, Live Music, Comedy and Drag. This is a family-friendly event and all are welcomed!



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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### CITIZENS CLIMATE LOBBY MEETS JUNE 3

Special to the Mirror  
MONTROSE--On Monday June 3rd at 5pm- Citizens' Climate Lobby monthly meeting Montrose Safety Complex meeting rm (police 434S 1st) nonpartisan, national, environmental. All Welcome. For info call 970-765-9095.



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# **Vote KEN NORRIS, P.E., MBA**

## **for DMEA Board**

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

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

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

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

# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## CITY OFFICES CLOSED TO HONOR MEMORIAL DAY

### *Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE — City of Montrose offices will close in observance of the Memorial Day holiday on Monday, May 27. City Hall, the Downtown Visitor Center, Municipal Court, Animal Shelter, Montrose Pavilion, and Public Works will all close in observance of the holiday.

Police Department offices will be closed but officers will be on duty and responding to calls.

The Black Canyon Golf Course will be open. The Rusty Putter restaurant and the snack bar located at the golf course will also be open. City residential trash customers who would normally receive service on Monday, May 27, will instead be served on Tuesday, May 28, and Wednesday, May 29. Monday customers located south of San Juan Avenue will be served on Tuesday, May 28. Monday customers residing north of San Juan Avenue will be

served on Wednesday, May 29.

Recycling customers who would normally receive collection service on Monday, May 27, will instead be served on Friday, May 31.

Residents with questions about route adjustments are encouraged to call City Hall at 970.240.1400 or visit [CityofMontrose.org/Trash](http://CityofMontrose.org/Trash). For information about the City of Montrose visit [CityofMontrose.org](http://CityofMontrose.org).

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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### THERAPY DOGS MAKE A DIFFERENCE AT MONTROSE HIGH SCHOOL

By Krista Brundage

Montrose High School counselor

MONTROSE-For the past three years, the students and staff at Montrose High School have eagerly anticipated a special event every two weeks: Therapy Dog Tuesday. On these days, the school welcomes a group of adorable therapy dogs, accompanied by their dedicated and kind-hearted owners from Morning Star Therapy Dogs. The sight of these lovable pups strolling through the hallways and visiting classrooms brings smiles to faces all around. Teachers can request visits from the therapy dogs, ensuring that both students and staff get to experience the comfort and joy these furry friends provide.

The initiative, led by Morning Star Therapy Dogs, has become a beloved tradition at Montrose High School. The therapy dogs are more than just cute companions; they offer emotional support and stress relief, contributing to a positive and welcoming school environment. As one student put it, "Seeing the therapy dogs always brightens my day. It's a great break from the stress of schoolwork, and I always look forward to Therapy Dog Tuesday." As a student clerk for the counseling office, Blake Reule, who guides the dog owner from class to class, said that "Watching the students' faces light up when the dog came into their room was very fulfilling. The dogs always brought life

wherever they went."

The impact of these visits goes beyond just a momentary smile. Research has shown that interaction with therapy dogs can reduce anxiety and improve overall mental health.

For the students and staff at Montrose High School, Therapy Dog Tuesday is a highlight, fostering a sense of community and well-being.

Thanks to Morning Star Therapy Dogs and their enthusiastic owners, Montrose High School continues to be a place where both education and emotional health are nurtured.

Here's to many more Therapy Dog Tuesdays in the years to come.



# Happy Memorial Day

As we share precious moments  
with our children and loved ones  
this holiday weekend, please take  
this time to honor and remember  
those have sacrificed and served  
to protect us.

Scott & Juli Mijares

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## MURA BOARD TOURS COLORADO OUTDOORS PROJECT From pg 1



*The Montrose Urban Renewal Authority (MURA) Board met on May 22, 2024 for a tour that started at Shelter Distilling. Reminiscent of Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory for kids, Shelter Distilling sparks the adult imagination for spirits and distilled products — whisky, canned cocktails, and beer. Above, Master Distiller and Co-Founder Jason Senior explains the state-of-the-art automated system.*



four-vessel SK brewhouse, stainless steel fermentation tanks) came from Italy, Washington, and Oregon.

Because of the ageing process, it can take two years for some products to become produced and ready to sell locally. However, wooden casks of bourbon, shipped from Shelter's California location, are currently held in a temporary storage area at the Montrose location.

Senior said, "Our process [building/opening] has been remarkably smooth."

The next stop on the tour was a new one-half acre park, the Flex Park, which is located behind the Rec Center's space, and which will be open to the public in the next couple of weeks. Montrose City Engineer Scott Murphy said, "Sod will go down

this week. The park is next to the public restrooms, so we expect those using the walking trails will use the park as a rest area."

Toasty, an all-day eatery with a breakfast flare, will open in August. When asked about seating a contractor said, "I think 75...but don't quote me on that!"

Open for only five weeks, the Fairfield Hotel has maintained an 80 to 90 percent occupancy rate for the last two weeks. General Manager Norman Mark said, "That could change once school is out. We're still trying to find the price point that works for Montrose. Right now, our rooms are \$49 to \$199 a night. The one negative we've heard is that we don't [yet] have shuttle service."

The Fairfield offers a hot complementary breakfast. Mark said, "The kitchen is not glamorous, but I like our kitchen. We have a fitness center. The swimming pool and hot tub are open from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m."

Handicapped rooms are now referred to as "mobility accessible rooms." Mark said, "We have eight or nine hearing impaired rooms that are equipped with doorbells and flashing alarm lights. There are surveillance cameras in all hallways for the security of the guests and for housekeeping security." Mark decided the tour of the Fairfield would not be complete without showing off the utility room — complete with computerized hot water and fire suppressant systems.



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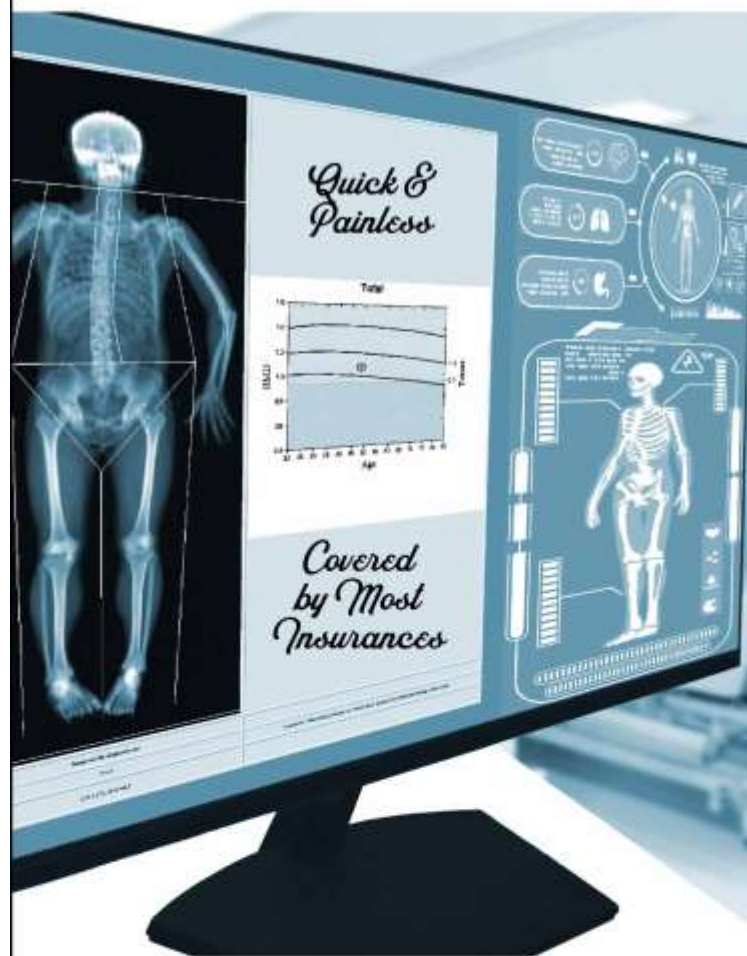
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## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

### THANK YOU RICK DUNLAP

*Rick Dunlap,*

I thank you for validating your Army service in the Republic of Vietnam. I wish to congratulate you on having been decorated by the Army with the award of the Bronze Star Medal. I would certainly recommend that you wear the Combat Distinguishing Device as authorized in your citation.

*With all due respect, Bill Bennett*

2024 Republican Primary

Mark Roeber



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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## DRAWDOWN OPERATIONS COMPLETED AT CRYSTAL RESERVOIR—AREA CLOSURE LIFTED

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE — The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests' Ouray Ranger District has announced the completion of drawdown operations at Crystal Reservoir. The area closure has been lifted. The closure was initially put in place as a precautionary measure to mitigate potential public safety concerns during the drawdown process. Recent dam assessments revealed poten-

tial structural concerns and forest officials decided to temporarily close access to the dam and conduct a drawdown process to mitigate potential risks.

With the drawdown process completed, dam and geotechnical engineers will perform a more detailed inspection in the coming weeks.

"We appreciate the public's cooperation and understanding during this critical period," said Dana Gardunio, Ouray District

Ranger. "Public safety is always our top priority. Now that the drawdown is complete, we can move to the next step in the process."

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

## Endorsement Announcement

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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## MEMORIAL DAY 2024 SERVICES AT VALLEY LAWN AND GRAND VIEW CEMETERIES

### Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-It's a busy weekend and generally the kick-off of summer, and to so many, this weekend is much, much more. It is a time to remember those who lost their lives in war—those who made the ultimate sacrifice so the USA can remain free. Main Memorial Day ceremonies will be Monday, May 27 at Valley Lawn Cemetery, 10870 Hwy 550, at 9 a.m. and Grand View Cemetery, 16300 6450 Ct., at 11 a.m.

Here is a breakdown of the ceremonies along with other events this weekend hosted by local veterans' organizations:

On Saturday, May 25 at 9 a.m., the American Legion Riders will place US flags at the veterans' gravesites at Valley Lawn. The public is invited to observe and participate. American Legion Riders commander John Boughton is organizing the observance events at Valley Lawn.

Also on Saturday, the Veterans of Foreign Wars will be selling poppies at City Market South and Murdoch's from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., according to Commander J. Bob Brueske.

Sunday, May 26 at 8 a.m. the VFW and others will place US flags at Grand View Cemetery then Cedar Creek Cemetery. Once again, the public is invited.

At 8 a.m. on Monday, May 27 the VFW will line a section of lane at Grand View Cemetery with large US flags.

The American Legion Post 73 and American Legion Riders will host a Memorial Day ceremony on Monday, May 27 at 9 a.m. at the Valley Lawn Cemetery, according to Post Commander Dave Vergamini. The ceremony will include presentation of the colors, invocation, and W.L. "Lance" Bach, author and retired Navy Seal captain, will be the featured speaker.

Following that ceremony the riders will form a procession in memory of the "22," Vergamini said, and will ride to the 11 a.m. ceremony at Grand View Cemetery (up on Sunset Mesa past the soccer fields). The procession will bring awareness to the "22 a Day" – an effort to prevent suicide in the veteran community.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars-led ceremony at Grand View will feature a veteran Navy chaplain. Following the Grand View ceremony, the riders will continue the procession through Montrose and along a route to Olathe and back to Montrose which will cover 22 miles.

The American Legion Riders is an arm of the American Legion, and they are well known for their charitable work, according to the Riders' [website](#). If you are interested in joining the American Legion Riders, please contact John Boughton at [sea-bee@montrose.net](mailto:sea-bee@montrose.net).

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## CITY COUNCIL HEARS UPDATES FROM REGION 10, PROJECT 7



**City Council Work Session May 20, 2024. Meeting Screenshot.**

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-Mayor J. David Reed opened the [regular work session](#) of the Montrose City Council on Monday, May 20. "Council work sessions are open to the public...we don't take public comment at our work sessions, but we do discuss many topics, most of which will coming before Council within a couple of weeks..."

All councilors were present for the session.

### INTRODUCTION OF NEW CITY EMPLOYEES

The first item of business was the introduction of new City employees. Joining the City team are:

- Part-time Animal Shelter Technician Karlee Brack;
- Victim Advocate Marissa Abeyta;
- Parks & Special Projects Worker Cameron Patterson;
- Staff Attorney Greg Stunder;

Mayor Reed said, "We're glad to have you on board; we know you'll enjoy your tenure with the City of Montrose."

### DISCUSSION ITEMS

The first discussion item was [a report](#) from Michelle Haynes, current executive director of the Region 10 League for Economic Assistance & Planning. Region 10 LEAP is [one of 14 designated planning and management organizations](#) statewide. Region 10, which is funded in part by area municipalities such as the City of Montrose, serves a six-county territory that encompasses Montrose, Delta, Gunnison, San Miguel, Ouray, and Hinsdale counties.

Haynes outlined the services that Region 10 brings to the community with state and federal funding, including the Small Busi-

ness Resource Center; Area Agency on Aging; Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP); and regional services such as the Gunnison Valley Transportation Planning Region (GVTPR), Community Economic Development, and the Regional Broadband Network.

Region 10 charges a yearly assessment to area municipalities. For 2024, the City of Montrose will be assessed \$19,399, with \$10,000 in additional business support. Region 10 is also involved with the CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) small home village project on San Juan Avenue, helping to support the project with \$1.2M in grant funds in return for homes being allocated for seniors, who will be served by Region 10 AAA and Hilltop Community Resources case management services.

"We were very excited to work with CASA to make that project happen," Haynes said, adding that she expects the grand opening to take place in July.

The second discussion item was a Project 7 Water Authority Update on the Regional Water Resiliency Program. Project 7 is a collaboration between seven local water entities,

- The City of Montrose;
- The City of Delta;
- The Town of Olathe;
- The Tri-County Water Conservancy District;
- The Chipeta Water District;
- The Menoken Water District;
- The Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association UUVUA).

It has been nearly a year since the last update on the water resiliency project, Utilities Manager David Bries said. "This

project's been envisioned for 20-some years...I think we've gotten some traction in moving forward..." He introduced members of the design-build team, who presented information.

Miles Graham of Project 7 said that there are three important points, "That we leave here today...understanding what the regional resiliency program is and why it is needed; to go deeper into where they are in the process (design-build phase); and to really understand the potential implications to rate payers and what the most recent financial modeling shows."

Project 7 covers the entire Uncompahgre River Valley, he said, and gave a brief history of the Project 7 Water Authority, which was established in 1977. "...There's been a lot of regional cooperation in delivering water to our valley...we've got a 40-year plus track record of delivering great high-quality water to the valley and doing it in a way that shares costs and shares infrastructure." The Regional Water Supply Program was initiated in 2019, and adding a second treatment facility and water supply source to the existing single source system would reduce risk to the regional drinking water supply from wildfire, drought, and infrastructure failure, he said.

Elements of the program would include a new raw water transmission line from Ridgway Reservoir; a new drinking water transmission line; and a new water treatment facility.

Owner's Representative and Project Engineer Rick Huggins of Garver Consulting discussed the design-build process, and Sagrado Sparks of the McCarthy CDM Smith Joint Venture discussed the current status of the project and the path forward.

The numbers are bigger than they were last year, Huggins said. The overall program is now sitting at \$172,394,936. A guaranteed maximum price will be negotiated at the end of this year. The per household cost for all of the steps to get clean drinking water to the City of Montrose is coming in at \$40 per month, he said. Grant funds may be available.

"Early in 2025 we will start construction services...construction will be ongoing through the middle of 2027...wrapping up in 2028," he said.

The final work session discussion item,

*Continued next pg*

## CITY COUNCIL HEARS UPDATES FROM REGION 10, PROJECT 7 *From previous pg*

San Juan/6530 Road Traffic Signal Design Contract Award, was discussed by City Engineer Scott Murphy. Council will consider the award of a professional services contract to low bidder HDR Engineering in the amount of \$148,413.72 for completion of design studies and civil design associated with the San Juan Avenue/6530 Road Traffic Signal Project.

**Background**-A memo from Murphy to Council states, "The intersection of 6530 Road and the San Juan Bypass (US Hwy 50) is controlled by the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) (as) part of the highway system. As such, before a signal may be installed at this intersection, it is necessary for the traffic volumes to cross established volume thresholds (formally known as signal warrants). Recent traffic studies performed for nearby residential subdivisions indicate that these signal warrants have been met and a signal project can move forward. The project awarded herein aims to complete the nec-

essary design and permitting with CDOT. Construction of the signal is tentatively scheduled to begin 3Q 2025 and is included in 2025's proposed budget. The City has also been experiencing continued traffic growth at the intersections of 6700 Road/Hwy 50 and 6450 Road/Hwy 50. The traffic growth at 6700 Road is primarily due to completion of its missing link between Sunnyside and Miami Roads. In response to this traffic growth and requests from the public, the City also plans to perform formal warrant studies for these two intersections in the late summer of 2024 as part of this project. The driver behind waiting until later in the year is to ensure counts are representative of typical conditions; traffic volumes are currently skewed due to the Niagara/Hillcrest detour and construction/bridge closures on Highway 50 east of Montrose. If studies indicate that signal warrants are met at these intersections, the City would then integrate formal traffic signal designs into future

budget years..."

### COUNCIL/STAFF COMMENTS

Glaspell said that Montrose Police and Public Works cleaned up a major trash pile over the weekend.

There was a Public Works Expo scheduled at Cerise Park on May 23, Bries said.

Montrose will host the District 10 CML Conference on May 23, Reed said.

Mayor Pro Tem Dave Frank said, "I'm the chairman of district ten so were looking forward to seeing a lot of our other fellow CML representatives visiting Montrose and seeing the great food at Trattoria Sofia."

Councilor Judy Ann Files said there would be a MURA tour on Wednesday.

City Manager Bill Bell said, "We can talk along the way, we've got a few projects that are in the works right now...like the Green Line Development mixed-use commercial..."

With no further discussion items, the work session was adjourned.



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**J. MARK ROEBER  
REPRESENTATIVE  
FOR CO HD58**

## ON THE ISSUES

- I will fight for the values and lifestyle we enjoy in HD 58
- I will continue to fight and protect Colorado's water rights
- Agriculture and natural resources remain the pillars of HD58. This district should be represented by someone who not only understands those industries, but lives in them every day
- I support multiple uses of our public lands (e.g., agriculture, mining, oil and gas, renewable energy, timber, recreation, etc.).
- I believe in LOCAL control
- I am adamantly opposed to the Antiquities Act that is being pushed forward to be signed by the President to create a Dolores River National Monument



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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## DELTA HEALTH HOSTS 14TH ANNUAL WESTERN SLOPE TRAUMA CONFERENCE



*Participants listen to a guest speaker during the 2024 Trauma Conference. Courtesy photo.*

*Special to the Mirror*

**DELTA**— Delta Health hosted the 14th Annual Western Slope Trauma Conference on May 1 and May 2 to provide vital knowledge and skills for emergency service providers in Colorado. This conference was one of the largest yet, with over 80 people in attendance.

Community and regional providers were given educational opportunities that were trauma related. Day one focused on Emergency Medical Service (EMS) providers and day two focused on inpatient providers such as doctors, nurses, techs, and surgeons.

"This conference allows our region to stay up to date on how to provide the best care for trauma patients," said Kayleigh Wright, RN, BSN, TCRN, Trauma Nurse Coordinator for Delta Health. "It provides in-person education on topics that are rising trends or issues being seen within the trauma community. Being a rural region, it is important to be able to offer these types of conferences to our local providers."

Each year the conference gives EMS providers a live-event scenario to exercise how they would care for patients in difficult situations. This year, Delta Health had an "airway rodeo" as their live event. This consisted of six difficult airway scenarios. Some examples of the scenarios were a building collapsing with patients trapped inside, which limited visualization and the



*Trauma Conference participants during their live action event. Courtesy photo.*

ability to get to them. They also worked scenarios in which a patient required intubation upside down airway management while entrapped in a vehicle, and a pediatric intubation scenario.

"This live training allowed both our pre-hospital providers as well as in-hospital providers to gain practice on difficult scenarios," said Wright. "Hands-on training is huge because it allows for the education to turn into muscle memory for our providers before they even occur," said Wright.

It is important that the Delta Health Trauma Program can host this locally to give providers within the region an opportunity to attend an in-person conference that is relatively close to many facilities.

This year's conference had eight different speakers. On day one, Care Flight spoke on obstetrical trauma and resuscitation, and a physician from New Mexico spoke on the management of orthopedic injuries in wilderness environments. In addition, there were geriatric trauma lectures and pediatric respiratory lectures.



*Trauma Conference participants during their live action practice emergency event. Courtesy photo.*

"On day two we covered penetrating chest trauma, compassion fatigue and resilience and trauma case reviews from San Joaquin General Hospital, California," said Wright. "We also covered upper extremity traumas provided by a provider from the University of Colorado Hospital Division of Plastic Surgery."

The topics were highly informative for participants.

"I would like to thank all of those who came and supported our conference as well as those who gave recommendations on topics they would like to hear in the future," said Wright. "I am extremely happy with the turnout and appreciate everyone who helped put it together. I look forward to hosting more amazing trauma conferences in the years to come."

To learn more about the Emergency and Trauma services available at Delta Health, visit [deltahealthco.org/emergency-services/](https://deltahealthco.org/emergency-services/) or call 970.874.2425.



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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

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#### *Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-Amateur radio operators from the Montrose Amateur Radio Club are participating in the 2024 Museum Ships Weekend by operating radio station NOP commemorating the service of the ship USS Montrose on June 1 and 2, 2004. This annual worldwide event is sponsored by the Battleship New Jersey Amateur Radio Station and historically draws participation from over one hundred museum ships and ship memorials around the world.

The USS Montrose is honored with a memorial consisting of the ship's bell and an interpretive sign located in the park at the corner of Townsend Avenue and Main Street, in Montrose. Rules for the event specify that stations celebrating a ship memorial must be within site or the memorial. Accordingly, the station will be located in the Auto Zone parking lot across the street from the memorial. The call sign NOP is to be used to simulate the ship's original call sign of NPPP.

This event encourages radio operators to contact as many museum ships or ship memorial as possible, learn the history of the ships contacted, and commemorate both the ships and those who served upon them.

The public is invited to visit the USS Montrose station during the day on Saturday and Sunday. Operations typically end mid-afternoon on Sunday. Please come visit us and learn about the USS Montrose and its history of service during World War II, Korea and Vietnam.

For additional information contact Lew French KOLMF at 970-417-6142, visit [montrosehamradio.org](http://montrosehamradio.org), or visit the Montrose Amateur Radio Club on Facebook.



# COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS



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## TRAILERS NEED TO BE ROAD READY

*Special to the Mirror*

COLORADO—If your trailer gets what troopers coin as “the wobbles,” it can be extremely hard to recover the vehicle and avoid a devastating crash. Many factors contribute to the wobbles, including wind, terrain and road damage, but the primary ingredient is an improperly loaded and mounted trailer. One of the biggest errors people make is not paying enough attention to the weight distribution of what they are towing. “You want to see a flat plane between your vehicle and your trailer or camper,” stated Major Brett Williams, District 5 Commander of the Colorado State Patrol. If what you are towing is tipping forward toward the hitch or back away from the hitch, you have less traction and, therefore, more swaying. You need to balance your load.”

You should place more weight before the trailer axle (or closer to the vehicle). Front loading helps evenly distribute the weight between the tow vehicle and the trailer.

If you are pulling a camper, place heavier items lower to the ground in the camper. Only light things should go in the overhead cabinets to help keep a lower center of gravity and make the trailer more stable going down the road.

Remember, the bigger the trailer, the more sensitive it will be to the wind, and the faster you go, the more you will sway. Be prepared to drive slower and allow others to pass safely.

Watch this helpful video on how to properly load your trailer: [Preventing the Wobbles](#)

In addition to checking weight distribution, you will need to ensure the vehicle is hitched correctly.



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Join Dr. Michael McCann for an overview of the types of hernias, how to recognize them and what options are available to address them.

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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## A STARK CONTRAST

*Editor:*

Hello again, my name is Lou Stark, running for Montrose County Commissioner District 1.

While out campaigning I often consider the reasons why I am running. The reasons get reinforced the more I talk to people.

We want good, respectable government. A government that successfully and efficiently moves us forward into the future and not backwards.

We do not get good government by electing people with personal, or political agendas. We do not get it from people who create conflict, are motivated by greed, and are self-indulgent power seeking.

Like you, I too have watched my entire life as politicians at all levels of government play games with each other. These political games come at the cost of our tax dollars, integrity, safety, and sometimes our liberties and freedoms.

We have watched through the years as it became a tradition in our political campaigns to tear down your opponent, rather than have productive conversation about solutions to our issues as a community.

We have watched candidates and political organizations make sight unseen promises to anyone and everyone who asks, then turn around and only deliver to the highest bidder or largest voter block. All the

while increasing the burden on our lives and paychecks.

It angered me so much that yes, I did, in my youth, error and protest by not paying taxes. At the time I felt I could not morally give money to a government that did not seem to care about its people, but gave billions of dollars to organizations that already had plenty.

Yes, I know this was wrong and yes, I have spent a lot of time and money to fix it and make it right. I will note do not be misled, the debt is not 80,000+ it is around \$9,600 and again it will be paid before I take office. If you are concerned, please reach out.

The fire that fueled that decision has not gone away. I want good government. We want good government. How do we get good government?

We get good government through appreciating teamwork. Working together as a community, for the betterment of all, is part of the purpose of government. We are all on the same team.

We get good government by appreciating that communication matters. We achieve more success when we discuss our differences and issues with respect for each other, rather than hate or by creating more conflict and anger.

We get good government through logical and intelligent decision making, based on facts not emotions or greed.

We get good government through honest

discussions and transparent resolutions.

County Commissioners are representatives of the community not dictators. They are there to represent us through management and oversight of our tax dollars for the purpose of creating a successful and safe community for all.

Good government is not about who has the most money or the best speech. Talk is cheap. Action speaks louder than words.

I have spent 9 months working to show you that I am dedicated to this position and this county. I am ready to work. Put me to work.

I will help to protect this community.

I will protect our constitution.

I will safeguard our budget from fraud, mismanagement, special interest groups and anybody who thinks they can manipulate it to line their pockets.

I take our tax dollars very seriously. Every penny is hard earned and every penny matters. The mistakes of my past are proof of how serious I take this.

I am asking Republicans and Unaffiliateds to get out and Vote Stark in the primary and let me get to work. I'm ready. Mail in ballots come out June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Primary is the 25<sup>th</sup>.

Vote Stark!! Heck Yea!!

Thank you for reading. Find me on Facebook, text or call 970-620-0086.

*Lou Stark, Montrose*

*Candidate for Montrose County*

*Commissioner District 1*



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**The Montrose Mirror**

# **COLORADO HOUSE District #58**

A portrait of Larry Don Suckla, a man with short grey hair, wearing a light-colored cowboy hat, a light blue button-down shirt, and a dark leather jacket. He is smiling and looking towards the camera. The background of the entire advertisement is a solid orange color.

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# SPEAKERS HOLD CITY ACCOUNTABLE FOR PRIVATE INVESTMENT WITH PUBLIC FUNDS, RESCINDING NON-SANCTUARY CITY DESIGNATION, REPLACING BIKE TRAIL SEGMENTS WITH PAVEMENT OF 'SUBSTANDARD' WIDTH, LACK OF IRRIGATION FOR ALTRUSA PARK, AND REFUSAL TO ALLOW VULGAR LANGUAGE IN PUBLIC COMMENT

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE- Mayor J. David Reed welcomed everyone to the regular meeting of the Montrose City Council on Tuesday, May 21, for which all councilors and a number of citizens were present. Reed said, "Would you please join me in the Pledge of Allegiance." Mayor Pro Tem David Frank had no changes to the meeting agenda.

## CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

With a number of citizens wishing to speak, Mayor Reed read aloud the instructions pertaining to public comments.

First to speak was Richard Brown. Brown said, "... A lot of us are concerned about the question of Montrose being a non-sanctuary city or not, and the question of illegal aliens and human trafficking that's going on all over the country and particularly in the State of Colorado."

The option of doing nothing has already been tried, Brown said.

"We've already done nothing, and we've seen the results of that," Brown said.

"Things are deteriorating daily, across the state across the nation--we're rapidly becoming a third world country, and if we don't watch it we're going to be a third world city.

"The impact on schools now is horrendous...we're being played, kind of like a cheap drum..."

Brown asked that council take a re-vote on the issue, after a recent meeting saw Council rescind its initial decision to become a non-sanctuary city.

"At the last meeting where this question was addressed," Brown said. "...a lot of people came up here thinking they were congratulating you on a decision you'd already made...come to find out it wasn't the decision that was handed down...it appears that maybe the squeaky wheel had been greased...let's do a re-vote and let's see where everybody stands here. You know that was the biggest crowd at

City Hall that's ever been here...I think you would owe us as citizens a re-vote, so we can clearly see who stands for America, frankly, and who stands for illegality and human trafficking." He also suggested putting the issue to a vote of the people.

"You're elected to represent the people, and we appreciate that," Brown said. "...but at the same time, we don't want you to be mini-dictators, we didn't elect you for that...let us vote, you can do that..."

Jim Bowen also spoke, "...Denver has been a sanctuary city since 2017...right now...they're closing their shelters...what they're doing is relocating them to other communities...inaction is approval...we don't need busloads. We're already getting groups in airplanes....is our responsibility to illegals coming in... or is it to our own citizens? Is it to our own schoolchildren..." "Protect the citizens here first, not the people coming in."

Next to speak was Ron Smith, "...I would like to openly discourage private partnerships with the city taxpayers' funds... it's a clear runway to conflicts of interest, collusion, corruption, under the table deals and inducements, and bribes—it's an open pathway for that."

Also, "I would ask that you re-vote on the non-sanctuary proposal that Mr. Glaspell put into place," Smith said. "There was obviously some undue influence over a matter of two or three weeks where that vote changed significantly..."

John Brown spoke next, quoting the Gettysburg Address. The City Council betrayed their constituency, he said, when they failed to pass a non-sanctuary city declaration. "...the City Council violated our trust."

Brown said, "...Montrose has not even



**Mayor J. David Reed asked for a show of hands for those wishing to make public comment.**

begun to address its own veterans and homeless population and all it takes to support its legal declaration. A non-sanctuary declaration is not discriminating against race or nationality, but recognizing the difference between legal and illegal... put it to a vote of the people...time is of the essence..."

Dr. Jeffrey Krebs spoke. While a county resident, Krebs said that he has owned a business in the city. He asked Council to consider whether Montrose has adequate affordable medical resources for an added influx of uninsured, unvetted illegal aliens, and whether Montrose has enough bilingual classroom space for additional non-English speakers, who may not even speak Spanish. He asked that consideration be given to available jobs, housing, transportation, and food. Krebs also asked how the influx would impact the farm workers who come to the area to work each year.

Next to speak was Tony Hoag, who discussed the non-profit Citizens Climate Lobby. "...Now we're working on a climate action plan..." CCL is seeking partners, he said, adding that temperatures in Montrose over the past 100 years show increasing heat both in the annual average temperature and the low temperature in the winter.

Lori Michaels said that Altrusa Park is once again burning up. "...The water is

# ***SPEAKERS HOLD CITY ACCOUNTABLE From previous pg***

is not being turned on there and the irrigation doesn't seem to be being used there...this is now the third summer that Altrusa is actually having to take care of the end of the park where their garden is...we are having to bring in hoses and manually water it...it's taking a lot of manpower to keep it going." She also thanked City Engineer Scott Murphy for sending someone to pick up trash left on the border of her property last week by a construction crew.

Clay Goldberg asked Council about the replacement of concrete on the bike path, especially on the path that runs on the west side of the river out to Cobble Creek. "They've been replacing large sections of that to a substandard width—only six feet wide...it's difficult for people to really use it...there are a lot of problems with it..." Wheel ruts left alongside of the paths are creating a dangerous situation, he said. "...If you would just replace these sections with better concrete, looking to the future, and a good width, maybe over a ten-year period we have a new bike path..."

A speaker who refused to give his name said that "vulgar" language is free and protected speech. "I could stand up here and curse as much as I want," he said. "It's free speech, it's protected speech. I just wanted to put that out there."

Sherman Hebein spoke. He voiced support for those who spoke before him, "Other than the climate guy, whom I disagree with...I don't want to see Montrose become a sanctuary city," he said. "I also would encourage you not to accept largesse from the governor in the form of money or other inducements in an attempt to turn Montrose into a sanctuary city. I have enough trouble already with people overrunning my fences and being obstreperous."

Casey Bollinger said that he agrees with previous speakers. "I don't want to be a sanctuary city..."

Jeff Olinghouse said that he agreed with previous speakers, and that he received a text this week saying that Colorado is now ranked 47th on the list of U.S. states as far as public security. "And I think that says a lot about Colorado taking on

more, frankly, illegal aliens. I don't have anything against immigration, but I think they need to do it legally..."

Karen Jenkins said she came to Montrose from the Front Range about seven years ago. "...I hope that you will not allow the illegals to come in. I have no problem if they come in vetted...I have a lot of friends that are now vetted and regular citizens of the United States. But to come in and give them everything that they can possibly give them and watch our veterans receive not very much, I am against that."

Jenkins said she is also against allowing illegal immigrants to vote. "...It is a crime. They cannot vote if they're not a legal citizen. Please take care of our veterans..."

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Council voted unanimously approve the minutes of the May 7 regular city council meeting.

## **ORDINANCE 2663-SECOND READING**

Ordinance 2663, for the annexation of the Blowers Addition, has not only been approved on first reading, but has been previously discussed seven times by Council, as noted by Planner William Reis. Reis presented a brief recap of the annexation, at long last Council voted unanimously to approve on second reading.

Also approved unanimously was Ordinance 2664, zoning the Blowers Addition as an R-L, Rural Living District.

## **ORDINANCE 2662 – SECOND READING**

Council approved on Second reading Ordinance 2662, granting and authorizing the conveyance of an interest in City-owned real estate pursuant to § 1-9-2 of the official Code of the City of Montrose (West South First Street Right of Way).

## **RDMJK WOODGATE DIVISION OF PROPERTY, AMENDMENT NO 1 PLAT**

Council considered the RDMJK Woodgate Division of Property Amendment No. 1 plat to dedicate right of way and associated easements needed for the upcoming roundabout project at the intersection of Woodgate and East Oak Grove Roads.

John Brown spoke to Council, "When the intersection of Woodgate and East Oak Grove was put in, knowing that...the city was planning on putting in a roundabout at that point, ...was the work that was being done on the Woodgate East Oak

Grove intersection taking into consideration the future work that was going to be required so that we wouldn't have to duplicate work again...?"

City Engineer Scott Murphy said that when the city began realignment, the effort was still ongoing to acquire property for the roundabout. With the exception of pavement, a hydrant, and some electrical cabinets that will be relocated, the infrastructure and work that was previously done will remain. A sewer will be added.

## **Council voted unanimously to approve the RDMJK Woodgate Division of Property. SPRUCE POINT UTILITY SERVICE AGREEMENT**

Also approved unanimously was the Spruce Point Utility Service Agreement with Chipeta Water District and Spruce Point Development Company, LLC to provide City of Montrose water service to currently undeveloped portions of the Spruce Point Subdivision.

**Background-** *A memo from City Engineer Scott Murphy to Council states that while the area is currently within Chipeta water service area, it became apparent that Chipeta's water system would not be able to support the proposed density without substantial, cost-prohibitive system upgrades. "As a result, the developer has requested the city consider servicing the area."*

## **STAFF REPORTS**

City Finance Director Shani Wittenberg presented the Sales, Use & Excise Tax Report for March as well as the First Quarter Budget Review. Everything looks very positive, Wittenberg said.

## **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilor Ed Ulibarri said that a visitor from Ohio had complained that the City's Disc Golf Course was difficult to navigate. "I didn't even know we had a Frisbee Golf Course," Ulibarri said. "I didn't even realize Frisbee golf was popular."

City Manager Bill Bell said that part-time Visitor Center CSR Gunnison Clamp has designed a new disc golf map, "It's being printed as we speak."

Deputy City Manager Ann Morgenthaler said that the disc golf course also has new signs. With no further business, Councilor Judy Ann Files moved to adjourn, and the motion was approved.



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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### HERNIAS & YOUR HEALTH PRESENTATION ON JUNE 4

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-General Surgeon Dr. Michael McCann, D.O. FACS, FACOS will be presenting a free educational seminar for the public titled "Hernias & Your Health." The presentation will be held in Montrose Regional Health's Conference Rooms A&B on Tuesday, June 4 from 6-7 p.m. No reservation is required. A question & answer session will take place at the end of the presentation to address any questions and provide additional information for attendees. For more information about the presentation or to schedule an appointment with Dr. McCann, contact his office at 970-497-5979.

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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### WAXLER EARNS PRESIDENT'S LIST HONOR AT CSC

*Special to the Mirror*

CHADRON, NE-- Alexandra Waxler of Montrose, Colo. earned President's List honors at Chadron State College for the Spring 2024 semester. The President's List consists of students with a 4.0 cumulative grade point average on a 4.0 scale. To qualify, students must be enrolled in 12 credit hours of coursework, be seeking their first bachelor's degree, and have no incomplete grades during the semester. Cities, states, and countries listed are provided by the students.

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# UNITED STATES NEWS BRIEFS

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Special to the Mirror  
WASHINGTON, D.C. – The National Grocers Association (NGA), the leading national trade association representing independent supermarket retailers, held a Congressional Best Bagger Showdown during its annual Fly-In for Fair Competition, an event during which independent grocers travel to Washington D.C. to advocate on Capitol Hill for policies that create a level playing field in the grocery sector.

The competition took place Wednesday, May 22 between the winner of the 2024 Best Bagger Championship, Madison Ireland of Harmons Neighborhood Grocer and Congresswoman Celeste Maloy (UT-02). "Grocery bagging is one of the most important customer service skills and it's always a pleasure to come together and highlight the talent of the nation's best bagger," said Greg Ferrara, NGA President & CEO. "We thank Congresswoman Maloy for taking the time to compete in this fun event against a fellow Utahan."

Ireland won this year's Best Bagger Championship in March at The NGA Show, the only trade show created exclusively for the grocery industry. The Best Bagger Championship, sponsored by PepsiCo, is held annually during The NGA Show to showcase the talents of the nation's best grocery baggers in a fun and competitive atmosphere. Contestants are judged by speed, proper bag building technique, weight distribution in the bag, as well as style and attitude.

[Click here](#) to view video of the competition.



**Competition courtesy photo.**

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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## FOUR GOOD MEN FOR THE FUTURE OF COLORADO

Dear Editor,

Why do we need these four good men? A good place to start is here at home in Montrose County with Scott Riba who is running for Montrose County commissioner. I have been concerned about election integrity since watching the 2020 election. I have been in contact with commissioners and my clerk and recorder to the point of requesting work sessions with the sitting commissioners. Scott Riba had enough interest that he attended both of the work sessions that I had requested going over contract law and the fact the commissioners are those that sign the contract with voting machine companies. Scott Riba has had enough interest in our county that he attends not only work session meetings but also commissioner meetings that are held twice a month asking questions and watching how our county is being run by both commissioners and administrators, he is awake and aware. There is a big issue in the West End of Montrose County called the Delores Monument. Scott has had enough interest in that issue to protect Montrose County from federal overreach that he has attended every meeting, including but not limited to, attending a listening tour by U.S. Senator Hickenlooper. Scott has not missed one meeting discussing that issue of the Delores Monument. I feel Scott Riba is one that will be my voice and represent the People of Montrose County well.

The second man I would like to speak about is Scott Mijares, who is also running for Montrose County Commissioner. He had me at the word "go" when he announced he would be running for Montrose County Commissioner due to the fact, as a business owner in the City of Montrose, he took the time to sit as a delegate and listen when our sitting commissioners decided to bring a man into our county from Chicago. This man represented Unify Montrose who decided that Montrose County tax payers needed to pay for child care for working families in Montrose County. Scott Mijares took the time to sit down with this gentleman for two hours each at three different sittings to learn exactly what he stood for and it was not "unifying" Montrose. This man

had an agenda that our three sitting commissioners were going along with and Scott had the fortitude to explain to anyone who was interested why it was a bad idea.

Scott asked, "Why do we need a man from Chicago telling Montrose County taxpayers to pay for child care for working families?" Good question Scott Mijares, especially when our county could be spending those dollars on road and bridge repairs. Spending just to spend without good reason and allowing an organization like Unify Montrose needs to stop. We need better representation for the People and I feel Scott Mijares is the one that will bring reasonable decision making back to our county. Scott, too, will stand up against the federal government's land grab called the Delores Monument and represent our voice in Montrose County. He, too, has attended the meetings held to Halt the Delores Monument.

The third good man is Larry Don Suckla running for Colorado House District 58. There are many examples that show that Larry Don Suckla will not be afraid to stand and represent the People when he wins his run for HD 58. Many examples come from how he represented his people in Montezuma County as commissioner. Larry Don would not allow the state health department to come into his county during the COVID agenda and fine or shut down businesses. If

the health department was going to fine any business in Montezuma County then the commissioners announced that the county would pay the fine and take it off of the total the state was going to charge them. Not one business was fined or shut down and not one church shut their doors to the People attending unless the church made that determination. The next example; Larry Don stood for his People when he had to meet with Colorado County Incorporated (CCI). The taxpayers would fly Larry Don to these NGO's meetings where most of Colorado's 64 county commissioners would meet and discuss bills that were being discussed by our legislature that could become more regulations upon the People. The commissioners could vote to support, to not support or to

be neutral so as not to "hurt" anyone's feelings. If Larry Don did not agree with the bill that was being heard in our legislature he had the wherewithal to literally stand alone and vote "no". He would be the only one where other commissioners, if they didn't agree, would stay neutral. Larry Don started noticing that other commissioners would start standing with their "no" votes, too. Larry Don has proven himself to be a true leader of the People. Larry Don will represent the People's voice against the Delores Monument, too, or any other land or water grab for that matter.

Lastly, the fourth good man to represent the People of Colorado would be Ron Hanks for Congressional District 3. Ron Hanks is a proven man of his word who fought for the second amendment on the floor of our Colorado House of Representatives. He also was involved in the longest floor fight in Colorado history against the Democrat's heinous abortion bill. Ron is a 32 year veteran. He wants the Federal Reserve audited, a budget for every department, no more omnibus spending bills. He is the only conservative option. My concern is that Ron has two questionable candidates running against him. One is Stephen Varela whose spending is very concerning. Here is his FEC report for March 2024. Seems like if he were elected it would be like doing the same thing over and again expecting different results and he calls himself conservative. [https://www.fec.gov/data/cycle=2024&data\\_type=efiling&committee\\_id=C00865501](https://www.fec.gov/data/cycle=2024&data_type=efiling&committee_id=C00865501)

The next candidate running against Ron Hanks is Jeff Hurd who appears to be supported by establishment Republicans. Watching establishment Republicans for the past twelve years is another example of doing the same thing over and again expecting different results. If we want a Republican to win we need Ron Hanks for CD3, the only "right" choice.

All four of these men are not afraid to address the topic and stand up for election integrity.

*Respectfully, Barbara Hulet*

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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## YOU DESERVE THE BEST LEADERSHIP AT THE COMMISSIONER LEVEL

*Dear Voters of Montrose County,*

Last year, I announced my candidacy to serve as your county commissioner. I live in District 3 but want to assure you that regardless of what district you are from or your party affiliation, I will work for EVERY citizen in Montrose County.

I have lived in Montrose for 43 years. My wife Karen is a native of Montrose and her family has operated the same cattle ranch since 1917. Together, Karen and I have 3 grown sons, 8 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren with another on the way.

My background is one of leadership, management and public service. I retired from the US Army after 21 years where I served in various capacities to include a Vietnam War combat veteran, Training NCO and recruiter. Since my time in Montrose I have been a firefighter, member of the sheriff's posse, Montrose County Fair Board member, and served the citizens of this fine county for 29 years as a law enforcement professional. I have been a small business owner and hold an associates degree in business management. Currently, I serve on the boards for Grace Community Church, Welcome Home Alliance for Veterans and West Montrose Sanitation District.

During my three-term tenure as Montrose County Sheriff, I established many partnerships and worked closely with the Board of County Commissioners, other elected officials and county staff across many departments to manage and administer a nearly \$12 million budget. A portion of that budget was from the Public Safety Sales Tax (PSST), a .75% tax approved by voters in 2007. In accordance with the PSST ballot language, I utilized the available funds for capital expenditures and costs associated with the S.O. and Regional Dispatch Center. We were able to do many great things with the PSST funds to include; upgraded patrol vehicles, uniforms, ballistic armor, firearms, Taser's and Mobile Data Computers to name a few. As required, I reported the expenditures of the PSST funds to the BOCC annually. In some years, the expenditures were highlighted in the Montrose Daily Press.

As county commissioner, there will be many business decisions to be considered. Whether it's adding a full-time employee to a county department, the county's North Campus facility or the sheriff's office asking the county to fund the Fire and Police Pension Association (FPPA), anything is on the table for consideration and deserves a thorough look. I will not rubber stamp any proposal without first gathering facts, data and considering the long-term fiscal impact to the financial viability of Montrose County and you, the taxpayers.

Running a clean campaign and sticking to the issues has been my focus. I don't believe in name calling, mud slinging or finger pointing. I have old fashioned values and believe in the old adage of "sticks and stones..."

One thing that 29 years in law enforcement and being an elected official will give a person, is thick skin. Despite what you do, there will always be critics out there. However, there are certain things that I won't tolerate and one of those is someone questioning my military service.

For some time now, Bill Bennett and most recently, Dee Laird, both of whom are regular letter writers and self proclaimed experts of all things City and County, have called upon me to publicly release my DD214 to "prove" my military record. After I didn't heed to Bennett's callout, Laird took it upon himself to "investigate" and question my service record. Specifically, the validity of me being the recipient of the Bronze Star Medal.

Bill Bennett, from one veteran to another, shame on you. You obviously doubt my military record or you wouldn't have called me out for my DD214. As you are well aware, upon our return from Vietnam, there were no victory parades or Welcome Home signs. Instead, we were spit on, cussed at and looked down on by our own people for many years. I have much higher expectations of you than that.

Dee Laird, you have never served our country so I will tell you that the content of your letter is both despicable and disgusting. As a veteran, I can think of no

bigger insult than someone questioning the existence of my Bronze Star. Both the current and former Veterans Service Officers said nobody has ever contacted them in regards to my service record and went on

to say that they are prohibited from divulging any information without a signed release by me.

But, since my word about my service record and Bronze Star Medal means nothing to either of you, I make a proposal; I agree to meet either of you in person and show you my DD214. Once you confirm for yourselves that I was indeed awarded the Bronze Star, you have to submit a public letter of apology to me through the Montrose Mirror and Montrose Press. You can reach me at 970-275-0102.

Scott Riba, I don't support law enforcement? Here's a newsflash, I am all things law enforcement, 110 percent! For nearly 29 years, I wore a badge and served right here in this community. I am the first of three generations of law enforcement in my family to serve this community. You've never worn a uniform, never worn a badge. You've merely formed an opinion about a BS story of bad paint, a sagging ceiling tile and a clogged toilet.

Montrose County, you deserve the best leadership at the commissioner level. I am a professional, a proven leader and lifelong public servant. I understand county government, I know the processes and will work to ensure you receive the highest level of service and leadership from your commissioners. I represent you and your interests.

*Please vote for me,  
Rick Dunlap, Montrose County  
Commissioner District 3.  
Thank You and God Bless!*



**Rick Dunlap, Candidate for Montrose County Commissioner District 3. Courtesy photo.**



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or with cash/check at the  
Botanic Gardens on June 8.**



# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## WHY ARE OFFICIALS SO DETERMINED TO KEEP PSST AND FPPA FROM MCSO?

*Editor:*

FROM WHERE I SIT: An opinion piece. Ignorance can be defined as innocently following a failed policy and expecting improved results. Ignorance, at the highest levels, applied to leadership, is what we have in Montrose County. I went to a meeting several months back where the Sheriff's position about the PSST was presented to the BOCC all sitting holier than thou at the head table. Before long the resistance of the Board to anything presented by the assembled minions was more than obvious. The first words out of Hansen's mouth told me we should not have bothered going to the meeting. It degenerated from there and the opposition of the BOCC became vehement, loud, unanimous, vitriolic, mean, nasty and obviously not amenable to listening to about a hundred persons in attendance. A good part of that crowd were deputies (some of whom have since quit the force) and my laughter was almost audible when I heard the nasty bullying Roger Rash trying to get the Sheriff to move the crowd outside. Hansen followed suit and Caddy just sat on his laurels like a chastened pet. Citizens of Montrose, this is leadership as demonstrated by the Montrose County Board of County Commissioners that you elected!

This what we get when we have a meeting on 'their turf'. In their meeting room. A place where they have the authority to run you out and they can close and lock the doors. A venue where they 'know it all' not from knowledge but SOLELY BECAUSE THEY WERE ELECTED. I say sarcastically, they got a 'doctorate' in Municipal Operations during the two days (election days) when they were elected. I just reviewed their biographical data (all three of them) on the county website and heard from each that county government is about 'listening to the people.' Well from what I have recounted here, they do

not practice what they spewed to get elected. All their pap about leadership and listening to their constituents is unmitigated camel dung.

Yes, America the Beautiful where the citizens vote to tax themselves FOR A PURPOSE and then their elected officials do as they darned well please with the funds generated. Not exactly the America I fought for!

So where does that leave us? A BOCC with none practicing their endowed leadership but all three who know EVERYTHING and don't need or want to listen to THEIR public!

Well, we the people want the PSST straightened out AND we want to hear from FPPA. On neutral ground chaired by FPPA not one of the 'turn-coats!' Simply put we want to know why the county has ripped off the PSST funds belonging exclusively to the Sheriff by the vote of the people and we want to know why the BOCC is so vehemently opposed to the Sheriff's Department having FPPA as a retirement plan. We want to know why this triumvirate of 'know-it-alls' who obviously 'know nothing' about leadership, municipal management or votes of the electorate are SO DETERMINED TO KEEP THE PSST AND FPPA from the Sheriff and his department. And why they are so bent on getting two equally incompetent candidates elected to the BOCC? Is it just because Hansen wants people on the BOCC that she can get along with (get her way with)? (her words not mine) Or is it because of a more nefarious reason?

FACT: The Montrose County Sheriff's Department has just hemorrhaged several more officers. It will not be long until there is no deputy in the west end and the sheriff will be serving court documents in Montrose in person! And then (and may God forbid) some deputy will get in a tight spot and there will be no help for him/her to call on. We will not have a functioning

Sheriff's Department. Perhaps, instead, we will gather a bunch of 'deputies' who are 'willing' to work for the palpable wage scale presently offered---in other words unemployed cops 'fired' or 'let go' from the more desirable departments. You know what I mean...the ones who no one else will hire but that Montrose will have to because of urgent need. Our county will soon find out what they have hired---citizen mistreatment, protection rackets and other corruption followed by huge lawsuits will soon take all the funds and much, much more money that could have been used to hire better quality---NOW! Or maybe we will just have to get a UNION to solicit more equitable wages for the ones we have---and by that time the money might be used to stick up for the lemons we have hired. The new county commissioners AND the people of Montrose will just love dealing with a UNION. It has gone that way before.

Sooooo my fellow citizens what is it going to be? Are you going to hire two commissioners, one of whom has a very questionable past and one who has returned sizable amounts of PSST money to the commissioners when he was sheriff and seems to have very little confidence from or support of the law enforcement community? Just to get two that will agree with Hansen to maintain the STATUS QUO of the triumvirate that has CREATED this mess? We have the opportunity in this election to elect a government we can respect and one that can and will prevent Hansen's tirades and disrespect of us! Let's do it! Let's hire the two SCOTTS, SCOTT RIBA AND SCOTT MIJARES TO THE MONTROSE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

Please remember that it is the rank-and-file employees that have the final say and they are saying "goodbye" without replacements. It in fact that bad.

*Bill Bennett, Montrose*

# UNITED STATES NEWS BRIEFS

## UMWA CHALLENGES EPA'S NEW CARBON EMISSIONS STANDARD

*Special to the Mirror*

TRANGLE, VA-The United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) on Monday, May 20, filed a Petition for Review for the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) recently implemented carbon emission standards for coal-fired power plants. The petition was filed with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

UMWA International President Cecil E. Roberts issued the following statement today:

"The impact of this rule will be devastating not only for our members but for thousands of families throughout coalfield communities. This devastation will occur quickly if this rule stands, as there are no equivalent jobs ready or even in the pipeline to replace the jobs that will be lost. This created exactly the situation we have been working to prevent for many years.

"In 2021, the UMWA released our "Preserving Coal Country" initiative, which made our first priority for the coalfields very clear: Preserve as many coal jobs as possible. Our analysis of this new EPA rule is that it will wipe out the vast majority of them by 2032. Those are our members, and we are obligated both legally and morally to fight for them. We will always put them first.

"We further believe this rule does not meet the bar set by the Supreme Court in its 2022 decision in West Virginia vs EPA. We therefore have no choice but to file this petition, suing the EPA and stopping this rule from ever being implemented."

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***Montrose County Commissioner  
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***Doors open to public at 5:00p***

***Friendship Hall***

***Montrose County Fairgrounds***  
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***Montrose County Commissioner District 1 and District 3***

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**Lou Stark - District 1 Candidate**

**Rick Dunlap - District 3 Candidate**

**Scott Riba - District 3 Candidate**

***Sponsored by***  
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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## TELLURIDE VALLEY FLOOR WORK CONTINUES

### Special to the Mirror

NORWOOD— The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests, in partnership with Trout Unlimited (TU), announced that reconstruction work will begin mid-June at the Telluride Valley Floor site (Site) in San Miguel County, Colorado.

The site, accessible via Boomerang Road and recreational trails from the Town of Telluride, covers approximately 34 acres. The bridge reconstruction and removal of the remaining mine tailings are set to begin in June and conclude September 2024. River restoration and revegetation work are projected to be completed in 2025.

Between 2020 and 2022, the Environmental Protection Agency carried out a Removal Action to address around 50,000 cubic yards of mine tailings contaminated with arsenic and lead. These tailings were historically deposited along the riverbanks and floodplains at the site. The amount of tailings encountered and removed from the site was approximately double the initial estimates, resulting in a significant shortfall of material on-site. The planned work includes:

- Reconstruction of the Boomerang Bridge.

Recreational trails at the site will be re-routed around the construction areas.

The portion of the San Miguel River that flows through the site will be closed to floaters during portions of the bridge construction.

Closure signs and fencing will be posted on the re-routed trails and the river closure.

- Removal of the small amount of mine tailings expected to be underneath and around the old bridge foundations concurrently with the reconstruction of the Boomerang Bridge. The tailings will be transported and disposed of at a Forest Service-approved off-site landfill.

They will not be transported through the Town of Telluride. Sedimentation control and other measures will be taken to safely remove the tailings without causing a release.

- Stabilization of eroding riverbanks.

Realignment of the San Miguel River to mitigate the potential for river avulsion and to increase sinuosity.

- Revegetation of barren areas affected by previous actions at the site.

"The GMUG National Forests and project partners see this site as a "blank canvas" and are excited about the partnerships this pro-

ject has already created, said Acting Norwood District Ranger Brian Hoeftling. We look forward to restoring this site's ecological function as it serves as a case study of collaboration and a unique approach to restoration."

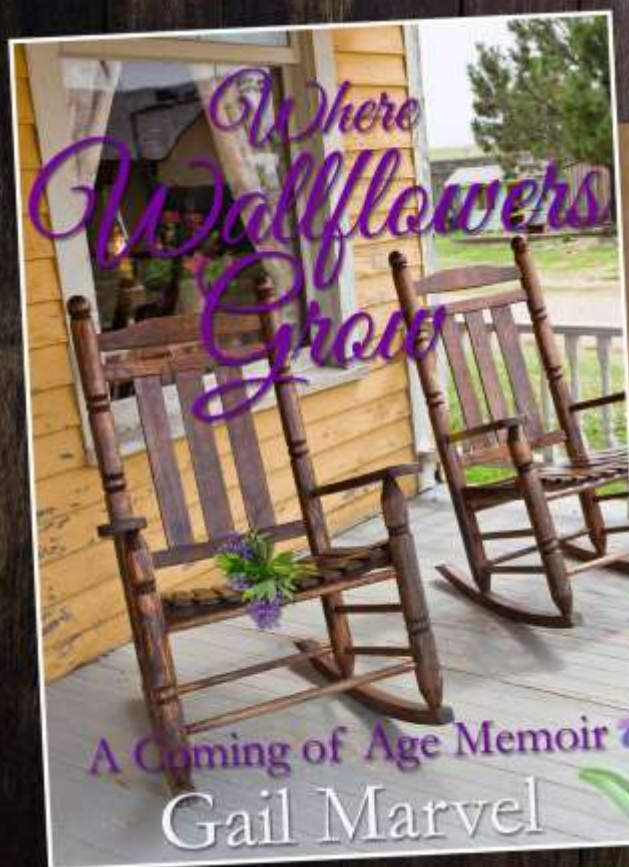
A public meeting hosted by TU is planned for June 6 at Telluride Town Park (under the white awning) from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Specialists will discuss the upcoming plans to reconstruct the Boomerang Bridge and the proposed restoration of National Forest System lands along the Telluride Valley Floor. Refreshments will be provided. Interested members of the public are encouraged to attend. Parking is limited.

For additional information regarding the proposed actions, contact Bryan Barrett, GMUG National Forests On-Scene Coordinator, at [Bryan.Barrett2@usda.gov](mailto:Bryan.Barrett2@usda.gov) or 970-250-5024.

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

Connect with us on social media ([X](#) [Twitter](#)) and [Facebook](#).



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

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

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

**GAIL MARVEL**

Montrose Author & Reporter

*Where Wallflowers Grow* is available online at [Amazon.com](#) and [wingedpublications.com](#).



# WELCOME HOME ALLIANCE FOR VETERANS—A BEACON OF HOPE

By Kathryn R Burke

MONTROSE-Welcome Home Alliance for Veterans began 13 years ago, as Welcome Home Montrose, known as the Warrior Resource Center (WRC). Founder Melanie Kline was inspired by a news story about a volunteer program assisting the recovery of injured veterans at Walter Reed Hospital through kayaking. It focused on how adventure and recreation helped them heal. Kline envisioned how Montrose and the surrounding area, replete with myriad recreational opportunities, could offer something similar to help veterans (including those suffering from mental or physical disabilities) transition to civilian life and thrive.

Key civic leaders and organizations were approached and offered their support. Grants and donations were obtained. A non-profit status was established, and WRC moved into rental space at the corner of Park and East Townsend downtown, where they remained for six years. Meanwhile, Kline sought funding to purchase their own building. She was able to secure a USDA Rural Development loan, and WRC was now able to purchase the building at 4 Hillcrest Plaza Way in Montrose to provide the local military with needed services and support.

Now known as Welcome Home Alliance for Veterans (WHAfV), the organization is growing as it continues to meet its mission to provide “support for active-duty military, our veterans, and their families. WHAFV utilizes equity, diversity, and inclusion as [the] guide for housing assistance, mental health services, moral injury, MST, food insecurities, and other needs.” (<https://www.whafv.org/>)

“WHAfV stands as a beacon of hope and support for our veterans,” explained Executive Director, April Heard (also an Army veteran). “We owe our existence to the unwavering support of our community, whose generous donations and sponsorships have been the backbone of our operations. We provide services, resources, and guidance to help (honorably) discharged and retired military transition

smoothly into civilian life. It’s a journey of mutual respect and appreciation, highlighting the importance of coming together to honor the sacrifices made by these men and women serving our country.”

Today, support for military and their families includes a variety of weekly and monthly activities from coffee, to fishing, to learning to play the guitar.

Active-duty and veterans can enjoy coffee together: every Thursday at WRC, 8-10 am; the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday, monthly, 10 am-noon at the Sherbino Theatre in Ridgway; the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed., monthly at the Nucla Airport in Montrose West End from 10 am-noon; and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday monthly at the Pondy in Cedaredge from 10 am-noon. Military wives meet for lunch at the Center the last Friday monthly, with a potluck or food supplied by local restaurants.

Project Healing Waters (PHWWF) provides therapeutic outdoor recreation through fly fishing as a rehabilitation tool for an ever-expanding group of disabled active (or retired) military service personnel across the Veterans Affairs Healthcare System.

Guitars for Veterans, under the auspices of Colorado Western Slope Veterans Affairs, meets Fridays at 2 pm at the Center. Instructor Bill Ball, a gifted musician and music teacher and owner of Precedence Music Academy in downtown Montrose, is also a veteran. He shares his understanding of how music can heal by teaching veterans how to play the guitar. Veteran Service Office (VSO), Phillip Rich (whose office is in the Montrose County Building) is involved in many programs and fundraisers. He is available to meet with veterans to help understand and obtain benefits and services through the V.A. George Delahanty, Readjustment Counselor, is available at WRC Thursday mornings. He also runs a support program “Wives of Warriors” for spouses of military men. The group meets at WRC on alternative Fridays at 1 pm.

WHAfV also hosts The Montrose Stroke and Brain Injury support group. Open to

the public, it meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays at WRC, noon-1 pm. A Caregivers Support group meets Tuesdays, noon-1 pm.

Other support and fundraising efforts by the WHAFV include a monthly 50/50 Raffle (where winners get half the cash pot!); a Window Sticker program where local business and services offer a veteran discount; military Swag Store at the Center; and big-ticket events like the spring golf tournament, Art Silent Auction in September—submissions wanted; more on that later—and; Blue Jean Ball in October.

Next up—and less than two weeks away—is The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Freedom Festival Golf Tournament, Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup> at the Bridges. Started by former director and board member, Mike Trickey, the event includes an 18-hole tournament with a 4-person modified scramble, a raffle, and a chance to win hole-in-one prizes. Players are invited to a lunch after the tournament, announcing the winners. Registration is now open, for teams and individual players, with sponsorship opportunities for businesses and individuals who wish to show their support.

All proceeds go to benefit local veterans and their families in Montrose, Delta, Ouray, and San Miguel Counties. Please contact WRC to sign up or to sponsor a golfer or a team.

For more information on the tournament, as well as other services, activities, and programs, contact April Heard, Executive Director, or Amy Eifling, Volunteer (and Event) Coordinator, 970-765-2210 or email [whafv@whafv.org](mailto:whafv@whafv.org).



**April Heard, Army Veteran and Executive Director of the Welcome Home Alliance for Veterans.**

# 10th ANNUAL FREEDOM FESTIVAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

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To sign up email [kellie.green@whafv.org](mailto:kellie.green@whafv.org)

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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## BOCC MANAGEMENT PRACTICES UNDER SCRUTINY

*Editor: Opinion letter:*

In the Mirror several questions were asked by Mr. Bennett concerning my February 19, 2024, article in the Mirror. "COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR WASTING TAXPAYERS' DOLLARS". My response to those questions and other issues concerning the public management practices of the sitting Montrose County Commissioners shall continue to be posted over the next few weeks in a series of "opinion" articles addressed to the Editor of the Mirror. Last week I answered questions 1 thru 5. The following are my opinion answers to questions 6 thru 9 asked by Mr. Bennett.

Question # 6 . Were the employees of Road & Bridge ever threatened directly or indirectly if they complained and would their positions be eliminated?

Answer: On April 22, 2020 during a foreman meeting the public works director brought up the subject of calling or emailing the commissioners. We were told by the public works director to tell our families, friends and construction crew members to refrain from posting anything BAD ABOUT THE COUNTY OR BAD THINGS WOULD HAPPEN and that specifically the commissioners, county manager and I are sick of it.

In my opinion the threat to our jobs came when the public works director stated that WE WILL DOWNSIZE AND CONTRACT EVERYTHING OUT. This was the final straw. To the best of my knowledge this was brought up because of a post on Facebook BY A CITIZEN AND AN EMAIL SENT TO COMMISSIONER Sue Hansen by an employee's wife. We informed our crew members of the directive and to say the least it did not set well with the Road & Bridge employees for a lot of reasons. I also had a conversation with the Fleet De-

partment, and they expressed similar concerns of feeling like they were being coerced and threatened.

The nerve to include family members in his directive and trample on the First Amendment rights of private citizens tells us all a lot about the people and the policies we were dealing with.

Question #7. Was a specific Commissioner involved with or charged with overseeing the R&B department?

Answer: It is my opinion that commissioner Roger Rash was. I will be reporting further on projects for the state – CDOT- that I thought may be questionable.

Question #8 . Were there any reports or concerns or specific incidents brought to the BOCC or county HR department ?

Answer: Yes. We were told by the Public Works Director that we worked by the seat of our pants, and we were referred to as WEEDS and INCOMPETENT. The other foreman and I went to the HR department several times over the years with what we considered very valid and specific complaints of violations of county policies. It is my understanding that the commissioners and county manager were aware of the problems as reported. The response we received from HR was that it was a communications problem. In other words, it all went under the rug.

Question # 9. Have any R&B employees ever reported of harassment and/or intimidation for any reasons mentioned herein?

Answer: Yes. A lead man at R&B with 15 years' experience and whom all other foremen considered very experienced and competent was berated in front of other employees as to his competence and ability to handle emergency situations which he had done many times. It is my understanding that the employee filled a letter of grievance with the HR department. I am

not aware of a positive result for the employee. We in attendance were all stunned by the Public Works Director's lack of leadership and managerial tact.

Opinion: Although I am aware of many concerns of WASTE and ABUSE at the R&B department including an often hostile and abusive work environment it is the county commissioners that are responsible for the management practices of their employees. The Commissioners created the environment at R&B by their lack of concern and unwillingness to sit down with the employees in a respectful manner to fix obvious personnel management problems and what we considered to be wasteful spending of taxpayer dollars on overpriced and questionable projects. I will note that the R&B employees and our families are also taxpayers. The upshot of my reporting is that instead of having an attitude of what's going on at R&B and how as we commissioners can correct valid problems what we received instead was an attitude of VINDICTIVENESS AND WE WILL ELIMINATE YOUR JOBS if you bring problems forward. Leadership by "FEAR" is how I can best describe what I believe to be the Commissioners attitude towards us . There is no passing the buck. The commissioners themselves oversee their personnel, contracts, and the management of the county. I have more reporting to do on specific projects concerning Waste and Financial abuse of taxpayers' dollars. Never once did we get a thank you for wanting to make the R&B department a model of efficiency that all taxpayers would expect from our commissioners as a routine course of doing business.

The only time I can recall that they were nice to us is when they needed our votes to be elected. More to come.

*Chuck Bell, Montrose*

## COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

### MUMC HOSTS ANNUAL GRANNY'S ATTIC ON JUNE 15

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-On June 15- 8 am to 1 pm, 19 S. Park Ave., come join us for the Annual Granny's Attic at the Montrose United Methodist Church sponsored by the United Women In Faith. Lots of great items to choose from! Free coffee and homemade cinnamon rolls!! Baked goods for sale!

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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### COLORADO PARKS & WILDLIFE TO PRESENT NEW MASTER PLAN FOR SWEITZER LAKE MAY 30

#### *Special to the Mirror*

DELTA— Colorado Parks and Wildlife has developed a new master plan for Sweitzer Lake State Park and invites the community to a public meeting scheduled for May 30.

The open house to discuss the park plan will be held from 3:30 to 6 p.m. May 30 at the Delta Public Library's community room. "We will be showcasing the future plans for expansion of the park," said Park Manager Scott Rist. "We will have drawings and renderings of the expansion, and we look forward to being able to host community members to come look at the plans and have their questions answered."

Planning for the park expansion has taken place throughout the last year following CPW acquisitions of properties that previously neighbored the park. Through these acquisitions, CPW has grown the park property from 314 acres to 593 acres, including three additional ponds.

CPW has identified areas within the new park boundary that are suitable for development as well as areas that will be left in their natural state to support wildlife habitat and pollinators.

Included in the plan are the additions of four campground loops on the southwest end of the park, a recreation area that includes a ropes course, an archery range, a recreational pond, several wetlands for wildlife and a new visitor center that also features an amphitheater.

"There are several upgrades to the current park and some great ideas for the new parts of the park," Rist said. "We are excited to show these plans to the public, as this expansion will provide camping, more day-use areas and allow for more water sports at the park."

Sweitzer Lake State Park, located near the town of Delta, is surrounded by mountain views. The park has provided year-round visitation since 1954. From the park, visi-

tors are treated to views of the Grand Mesa, West Elk and San Juan ranges.

Originally built solely for recreational use, Sweitzer Lake State Park features a 137-surface acre reservoir. The warm and calm waters make the lake great for water skiing and wake boarding. DELTA— Colorado Parks and Wildlife has devel-

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**Several planned improvements to Sweitzer Lake State Park will be unveiled to the public at a meeting May 30 at the Delta Public Library. A new visitor center, to replace the pictured current visitor center, is part of the new master plan for the state park located near Delta. CPW photos/ Dustin Daskocil .**

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**Montrose county deserves honest representation  
on the board of county commissioners.**

**Scott Mijares and Scott Riba are both dishonest men.**

**Mijares on numerous occasions has publicly stated  
that he was a lifelong republican. Mijares became a republican  
for the first time in his life on February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Scott  
Riba assisted with this lie by providing a letter dated Feb 5<sup>th</sup>  
that he had verified Mijares's party affiliation, that letter  
appears on Mijares's web site. Scott Mijares voted the  
democrat ballot in the 2020 presidential primary. These  
facts can be verified by a records request from the Montrose  
county clerks' office and the Ouray County clerk's office.**

**Both these men will lie to try to win an election to an  
office that neither deserve.**

**Vote for Louis Stark County commissioner district 1.**

**Vote for Rick Dunlap County commissioner district 3.**

**These men are honest.**

**Paid for by Ray Langston**

# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## BEING REMOVED FROM A CORRUPT ORGANIZATION IS A BADGE OF HONOR

*Editor:*

Being twice removed from the Montrose GOP is nothing to be ashamed of. In fact, I wear that as a badge of honor. When an organization becomes corrupted by one mans political ambitions to the point that they push good hard working resolute volunteers out of the party to clear the way for him to run for office in a contested primary. Then it is time to remove the entire executive committee and rebuild the party. The results of these actions are easily quantified by looking at past voter turnout. In the 2018 mid term the republican turnout here in Montrose County was 83%. The republican turnout in the 2022 mid term was 72%. That is a 11% drop in republican voter turnout. The whole purpose of the GOP is to turnout the registered republicans in an election. When you look at the numbers for 2022, we lost five seats in the house and two seats in the senate here in Colorado. All those seats could have been won if we turned out the republicans in the same numbers as we did in 2018. In the 2020 presidential election we turned out 91% of all republicans in Montrose County (I was the chair). We will need comparable results this year to get Marc Catlin elected to the senate in SD5. We will need comparable results as well to get Mark Roeber elected to HD58, as well as Jeff Hurd elected to CD3. But first we need a strong turnout in the primary to get these candidates to the general election. We can no longer count on the Montrose GOP to turn out the vote because they have been corrupted by a corrupt Chair and executive committee that are so arrogant that they no longer follow their by-laws and the by-laws have been corrupted by the corrupt leaders.

I recently attended the meet and greet in Nucla sponsored by the Montrose GOP. It was a total embarrassment there was a total of twenty-one people in attendance and if you subtract the candidates and their guest that traveled with them then the attendance was a meager ten people. Six candidates traveled 180 miles round trip from Montrose or 280 miles round trip for Mark Roeber. For the opportunity to speak in front of ten people. So, like I said, the Montrose GOP cannot be counted on to turn out the votes. And in this case, it might be intentional because if we get a good

turnout in the primary both Scotts will lose. Scott Riba is a California transplant who has been a part of a few boards here in Montrose County. But everywhere he goes controversy follows. In 2016 he was the chair of the Montrose GOP.

During the December monthly meeting when we should have been celebrating Donald Trumps election. In stead the meeting erupted into chaos as Riba and the then secretary got into a public argument over Riba running multiple bank accounts. Which was unnecessary because the party did not have a raffle account at that time. So, there was no need to have a segregated bank account.

While on the fair board there was controversy about the judging of a sheep and Riba complained and was promptly told to get over it. While being the chair of the DDA (Downtown Development Authority) there was a controversy about funding. The city council put a little over one million dollars seed money in and only \$120,000 was spent on its intended purpose. So, the city council closed the DDA. But I and a lot of other citizens would like to know what happened to the rest of the money. At the Nucla meeting Riba lamented about how none of the current county commissioners endorsed him, but they all endorsed his opponent. He also included how he suspected that Sue Hansen recruited Rick Dunlap to run against him. Rick promptly told him that was not true. Riba, the reality is that you do not have as many supporters in the central committee as you think you do. And who was it that went to Gunnison to recruit someone to primary Marc Catlin? Last year at the fair while I was staffing the Republican women's booth. Multiple people from the central committee came and talked to me about how they did not trust you and we needed to find someone to run against you. In other words, you reap what you sew.

But the most disturbing thing about the county commissioners' race is Scott Mijares. This man is a con artist. Whom is being enabled by Riba and the rest of the executive committee. But the most disappointing part of this is he is also being enabled by our current county sheriff. The highest-ranking law enforcement officer in this county is trying to get a con artist elected to

the board of county commissioners.

Mijares claims to be a lifelong republican and that is a total boldface provable lie. He became a republican for the first time in his life February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024. In 2004 in Hawaii Mijares was registered as a democrat. In 2020 while living in Ouray County Colorado he was registered as unaffiliated and voted the democrat ballot in the presidential primary. So, he voted against President Trump. In 2002 while living in Hawaii he was convicted of third-degree assault. In 1997 while living in Florida he was adjudicated in civil court to be in violation of SEC regulations, fined \$19,000 and permanently banned from ever trading stocks or securities. His collage business degree must not have taught him ethics. When questioned about these issues, in typical con artist fashion he deflects and says he just has no idea how the county clerk could show his affiliation as unaffiliated. And someone else must have voted his ballot in the 2020 presidential primary. And the SEC issue was all due to the people he was working for, but his name was on the litigation. So, why is this con artist so desperate to be elected? Maybe because he is in financial distress? His little whiskey bar is only open 4 days a week. So, it possibly is not turning much of a profit if at all. And once again his business degree did not teach him much about location, location. Nor did his business degree teach that a town of this size is in the process of building bypasses that bypass downtown. And most of the people of this community prefer having a cocktail with dinner. And because of the legalization of marijuana people are not drinking as much.

Maybe he wants to use his position as a commissioner to influence the city to allow pot smoking in bars in the city limits? This man should never be considered for any elected office. In the good old days, the citizens of this community would run this man out of town rather than vote for him.

In the county commissioner races this is an easy choice for me. Rick Dunlap and Louis Stark are the only sensible choices. These men are professionally qualified and honest.

Their opponents are two very dishonest men who should never be considered for any office.

*Ray Langston, Montrose*

## COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

### DELTA COUNTY TO EXPAND BICYCLE RACK NETWORK THROUGH CDOT'S REVITALIZING MAIN STREETS PROGRAM

*Special to the Mirror*

DELTA—The Colorado Department of Transportation and Delta County are proud to celebrate a bicycle infrastructure project on the western slope of Colorado in Delta County. The project was funded through CDOT's Revitalizing Main Streets (RMS) grant program, providing opportunities for local Colorado governments to enhance multimodal transportation options.

Delta County, both as the applicant and recipient of the grant, spearheaded efforts to obtain funding for specialized bicycle racks in areas across the county to encourage greater multimodal usage among local residents. Delta County collaborated with acclaimed blacksmith artist Ira Houseweart, a fifth-generation resident of Hotchkiss. Houseweart developed creative concepts for bicycle racks that fulfill a practical purpose and capture the beauty of the landscapes and varied recreational pursuits found throughout Delta County. "We are truly blessed to have Ira Houseweart right here in Hotchkiss, a small mountain town in Delta County. He's not

just a blacksmith; he's an artist who breathes life into metal, shaping it to tell stories of beauty and function. His work is more than mere utility; it's a testament to craftsmanship and creativity," said Delta County Commissioner Don Suppes.

Houseweart was born and raised in the Town of Hotchkiss and has a passion for metalwork. His admiration for metalwork was strengthened through his family. "My grandfather taught me the blacksmithing skill, and I began my career fixing equipment," says Houseweart. Houseweart quickly realized his skill could become an art form and took on more artistic blacksmithing projects over time. He now primarily spends time creating metal artwork in the shop on his family farm. "This collaboration between a local artist and local and state government entities has produced a creative and unique project that will strengthen local economic opportunities, enhance community pride,



**Blacksmith, Ira Houseweart, CDOT Mobility Services Project Manager, John Marcantonio, and Delta County Commissioner, Don Suppes. Courtesy photo.**

and make it easier to improve local public health," said Darius Pakbaz, CDOT Director of the Division of Transportation Development. The RMS grant program allows for sparks of creativity and unique approaches to integrating pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure through projects such as the creation of bicycle racks throughout Delta County. The locally tailored bicycle racks will be available to the public by the end of summer 2024.




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## *Memorial Day Services*

*Monday, May 27*

**Valley Lawn Cemetery**

*10870 Hwy 550, 9 a.m.*

**Grand View Cemetery**

*16300 6450 Ct., 11 a.m.*

# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## GOVERNOR POLIS IN PAONIA SIGNS MARC CATLIN'S BILL TO FUND COLORADO WATER PLAN

*Special to the Mirror*

COLORADO-On Monday, May 20, 2024, Colorado Governor Jared Polis signed the bi-partisan Sports Betting Tax Revenue Voter Approval (HB24-1436) bill. If voters approve of the measure in November, the state funds collected from sports betting will be transferred to the water plan implementation cash fund to be used for water conservation and protection projects. Since the collection of state funds from sports betting was passed in 2020 by the voters, the sports betting market has grown at a faster pace than expected.

This ballot measure will ask Colorado voters if the state can direct the funds generated from the thriving industry to the same water plan implementation cash fund that voters approved of in 2020. The bill passed the legislature with 97% approval.

The bill was signed into law in the district of one of the prime sponsors, Marc Catlin, who currently represents Paonia. The signing took place at the Orchard Valley Farms & Market and the Black Bridge Winery. The other prime sponsors are Colorado Speaker of the House, Julie McCluskie (D-HD13) of Summit County, Senator Dylan Roberts (D-SD8) of Eagle County and Senator Cleave Simpson (R-SD6) of Alamosa County.

Representative Catlin says, "First, I want to thank Governor Polis for coming to beautiful Paonia for the bill signing. The Colorado Water Plan is important for Colorado and the West. The voters of Colorado felt that it was important enough to put money toward the plan in 2020 and this reinforces their wishes. The future of the west needs water and these

are the investments that need to be made to ensure that future."

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



**Marc Catlin. Courtesy photo.**

## RIDGWAY STATE PARK REMINDS VISITORS TO KEEP DOGS ON LEASH

*Special to the Mirror*

RIDGWAY- Following several incidents in recent years, Ridgway State Park rangers are cracking down on visitors with off-leash dogs. The day-use area of Ridgway State Park at the Dallas Creek entrance had become a popular place for visitors to let their dogs run off leash. However, park staff have responded to several complaints in recent years ranging from dog bites and fights to off-leash dogs chasing and harassing wildlife.

"We had an incident last year of an off-leash dog that chased a deer through the park and onto U.S. Highway 550 where the deer was hit by a motorist," said Park Manager Johnathon Freeborn. "We obviously can't have incidents like that and want all of our visitors to feel safe."

This is not a new regulation. Ridgway State Park is aligning its enforcement with regulation 2CCR 405 #100.C.16 pursuant to C.R.S 33-15-102 (1), which states: "To allow any dog or other pet on Parks and Outdoor Recreation Lands, unless the same shall be under control and on a leash not exceeding six feet in length. This requirement for dogs or other pets to be on a six foot leash shall not apply when the animal is confined in a vehicle or vessel...Any person having a dog or other pet creating a nuisance or disturbance or who fails to properly control a dog or other pet may be evicted from the park or recreation area."

E-collars are not a valid leash or pet restraint, and a pet running around dragging a leash not held by an owner also does not qualify as being under control.

Additional signage has been installed to accompany existing signage related to dogs on leash throughout the park.

Park rangers will be handing out informational cards on the importance of keeping dogs on leash, and the park has purchased six-foot leashes to hand out to visitors who do not have dogs on leash and are not near their vehicles to access one.

"Right now, we will be focused on education and making sure our visitors are compliant with this regulation," Freeborn said. "But we are documenting contacts and looking for repeat offenders and will issue citations if needed."

Those with questions, concerns or complaints can stop into the Ridgway State Park Visitor Center, talk to a ranger or call 970-626-5822



**Ridgway State Park is stepping up enforcement of dogs being on leashes. Courtesy photos.**



# COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

## JAMES C. HOADLEY

*January 6, 1936 – May 17, 2024*

JAMES "JIM" HOADLEY 88, passed away on May 17, 2024, at the Colorow Care Center in Olathe, Colorado. Jim was born at the family home in Olathe on January 6, 1936, to Carl Hoadley and Pearl (Anders) Hoadley. He attended all grades in Olathe, graduating from Olathe High School in 1954.

He married his High School sweetheart, Carol Crane, 68 years ago. Their family includes sons, Terry (Maggi) residing in Colorado Springs, CO. and David (deceased).

He served a tour of duty with the U. S. Army, located in Fairbanks, Alaska prior to it becoming a state. Upon discharge he served with the National Guard.

Jim was a State Certified rural domestic water system operator, a vocation he enjoyed until effects of Multiple Sclerosis made it no longer possible. He was diagnosed with MS 45 years ago. From that point on he was faced with a multitude of obstacles which he met head on with acceptance and fortitude. He took up swimming laps at the Montrose pool and could be found there week-day mornings for many years.

He was a volunteer fireman with the Olathe Fire Department for 37 years, active on calls when able, then transitioning to the Treasurer position. Many life-long friends came from that association.

Jim was a member of the MS Gabbers located in Montrose, participating in not only social but educational programs as well.

In the 60's he served with Jaycee members to establish the "Happiness School" for disadvantaged youth prior to the School District implementing Special Education. He was an Old Timer's Association Coach for youth summer baseball, the 9-10 yr. old group as well as the 11-12 yr. group. He had a deep desire that those programs continue for the Olathe area youth.

Jim is survived by his son, Terry (Maggi), granddaughter Amy (Ray), great grandsons Corbin and Ayden. Granddaughter Amber (David), great grandson Grady, and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Preceded in death are half-brother Wayne Andrews and half-sister Atta Faye Dixon (Andrews).

As the MS progressed, he needed addi-



tional care resulting in his residency at the Colorow Care Center in Olathe where he remained for the past 9 ½ years. Recently he received additional care from Hope West/Hospice.

Graveside Memorial Services will be held at the Olathe Cemetery, June 7<sup>th</sup> at 11 AM. Crippin Funeral Home is assisting the family. 970-249-2121

*Now more than ever...*

*Thank you for reading*

**THE MONTROSE MIRROR**

## COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

### ADONIS JOE VIALPANDO JR.

*July 1, 1991 — May 15, 2024*

ADONIS JOE VIALPANDO JR., age 32, passed away on May 15, 2024. He left behind a legacy of kindness, gentleness, and love for anyone who knew him. His family will always remember his smile that he shared with everyone.

He lived a clean life, with love for family and the Lord!

Adonis was born in Montrose, CO on July 1, 1991. He attended school in Montrose and graduated from Montrose High School. Adonis was a hardworking and responsible man who worked at the Montrose Daily Press for 12 years up until his illness about two years ago.

He is survived by his loving wife Amanda Vialpando. Survived also by his children Brooklyn Vialpando and Kaiden Vialpando and his parents, mother Monica and step-father Tony Suarez, and his father Adonis Vialpando Sr., and his sister Alexis Suarez. He is survived by grandma Maria Abachiche, great-grandma Sadie Vialpando and numerous uncles, aunts, and cousins. Adonis loved all his family with an

unconditional and pure love. There are no words to describe the hole that he has left in our lives.

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing." 2 Timothy 4:7-8

Our precious boy, you fought the good fight, and you finished the race. We will always love and miss you. Now you are in heaven with your Grandpa Ernie



Abachiche, and Cousin Vince Abachiche, among other relatives. The Lord made you whole again and all your fears, pain, and tears are wiped away. Until we see you again sweet boy, know that we will miss you and love you always!

### JAMES "JIM" RODNEY WARDLAW

*February 26, 1947 — May 18, 2024*

JAMES "JIM" RODNEY WARDLAW of Olathe, CO was born February 26, 1947 in Paonia CO to Raymond and Hilda (Minerich) Wardlaw, and passed away suddenly and unexpectedly May 18, 2024 at Montrose Memorial Hospital.

He attended both Paonia and Roaring Fork High Schools and graduated from Roaring Fork High School in 1965. Instead of being drafted into the Army, he enlisted in the Air Force. He worked as an Aircraft Airframe Repair Technician on B-52 bombers and KC135 in-air refuelers.

Jim married Cynthia L. Demuele in December 1965. While stationed at Seymour Johnson Air Base in Goldsboro, NC their first son, Raymond, was born January 30, 1967. Their daughter Denice was born September 10, 1969. Ray was 12 and Denice was 10 when their mother passed

away of complications with lupus. She was only 30 years old.

In 1980 Jim married Patra Nimon and their son Robert was born June 8, 1982 in Glenwood Springs. The marriage ended in divorce. At this time Jim worked at ARCO Coal (West Elk Mine) in Somerset, CO as a warehouse supervisor. He retired in 2010 after 28 years.

Jim married Sheryl Davis in April of 1995 and they recently celebrated their 29<sup>th</sup> anniversary. His passions in life were hunting, fishing, reloading and carving, but most of all his family.

Jim is survived by his wife Sheryl, brothers Alan Evans and Bonnie of Iowa, Raymond and wife Peggy Wardlaw of Montrose, CO and Len and wife Cindy of Delta, Colorado; children Raymond, Denice and husband Matt Riffey, Rob and wife Danelle Ward-

law; granddaughters Sydney Reynolds, Rachel Buck, Madison Riffey, Rebecca LeBaron, Rory Wardlaw and Blair Wardlaw. His grandson is Brodie Wardlaw and he was also blessed with 2 great-

granddaughters, Penelope Reynolds and Georgia Buck. He was preceded in death by his parents and brother John Wardlaw.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions can be made to Hope West in Montrose, CO, 725 S. 4<sup>th</sup> St. Montrose, CO 81401.

Cards are welcomed at 53648 Falcon Road, Olathe, CO 81425



ISSUE 470 May 20, 2024

# ART & SOL

## MONTROSE WOMAN'S CLUB AWARDS LOCAL NON-PROFITS

Story and photos Kathryn R. Burke

MONTROSE-The Montrose Woman's Club presented their annual awards to local charities on Monday, May 20, at the Lion's Clubhouse. Proceeds are from table rental income at the club's annual craft bazaars, run by volunteers and held at Friendship Hall, Montrose Fairgrounds.

This year's recipients are Kids Aid Montrose, the Montrose County Sheriff's Posse, Sharing Ministries Food Bank, and Welcome Home Alliance for Veterans.

Kids Aid Montrose, founded in 2009, provides food for students who are struggling with food insecurity. Each child is given a bag of food on Fridays to get them through the weekend. They serve approximately 230-250 students a week during the school year. The donated money will go to purchase the food. Mike Bussing oversees their operation. 970-209-1155. [www.kidsaidmontrose.com](http://www.kidsaidmontrose.com).

Tax deductible donations can be made online, <https://kidsaidmontrose.com>, or mailed to Kids Aid Montrose, P.O. Box 965, Montrose, Colorado 81402

Montrose County Sheriff's Posse. Working at the behest of the County Sheriff, the Posse, which was founded in 1964, provides services to the sheriff's office — including search and rescue and other emergency and community safety services— and to any other county agency requesting help through the Sheriff's office. The Posse, under the direction of Board President, Dan Hiebert, is composed of 42 volunteers who are highly trained, qualified, and certified for the operations they perform. Donations, such

as this award, help to provide upgraded equipment, staff training, and to keep up with technology.

"We are so grateful for the ongoing support of the Montrose community," said Paul Gottlieb, Fundraising Committee Chair. "The Posse could not operate without it."

970-765-7033. <https://www.mcspi.org/> Tax deductible donations can be mailed to Montrose County Sheriff's Posse P.O. Box 717, Montrose, Colorado 81402

Sharing Ministries Food Bank, founded in 1996, provides nutritious food to those in need while facilitating education about healthy living and a connection to other community resources. They also provide personal hygiene products, socks, and pet food. The organization is run by volunteers with approximately 25,000 volunteer hours and serving roughly 80,000 client visits per year. We could not continue our mission without the generous donations and volunteers in our community. Executive Director, Oneda Doyal, has been with Sharing Ministries Food Bank for 16 years. (970) 240-8385. [www.sharingministries.com](http://www.sharingministries.com). 491 N. 1<sup>st</sup> St., Montrose

(Pictured with Oneda, Katie Yates, Program Associate.)

Tax deductible donations can be made online, <https://sharingministries.com/donate/>, or mailed to: Sharing Ministries, Inc., 49 North 1st Street, Montrose CO 81401-3660

Welcome Home Alliance for Veterans (WHAfV) was founded in 2011 by Melanie Kline, her goal: "to unite Montrose, re-



**Front Row: Katie Yates & Oneda Doyal, Sharing Ministries; April Heard, Welcome Home Alliance for Veterans. Back row: Paul Gottlieb, Montrose Sheriff's Posse; Shannon Stogdill, Kids Aid Montrose.**

gardless of religious and political differences, with our love and respect for America's veterans and servicemembers."

The mission of WHAFV is to bring communities together, providing support and resources to active-duty military, veterans, and their families assisting with housing, food insecurities, moral injury, mental health services, and other needs.

"We are supported by grants and community donations," explains Executive Director, April Heard (an Army veteran), who asks that golfers. "Please sign up for the 10th Annual freedom Festival Golf Tournament, June 8th, at the Bridges."

970-765-2210 | <https://www.whafv.org>. 4 Hillcrest Plaza Way, Montrose.

Tax deductible donations can be made online, <https://www.whafv.org/> or mailed to: WHAFV, 4 Hillcrest Plaza Way, Montrose CO 81401.

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# COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

## MONTROSE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM ANNOUNCES GRAND OPENING & RIBBON CUTTING



*Above left, Museum Founder and Director Mallory Shaffer. At right President of the Montrose Children's Museum Board of Directors Whitney Murphy. Courtesy photos.*

### Special to Art & Sol

**MONTROSE** — The Montrose Children's Museum is thrilled to announce its grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony! After months of anticipation, the museum is finally ready to welcome visitors and celebrate this exciting milestone.

The grand opening weekend will take place on Saturday, June 29th and Sunday June 30th from 9 am to 6 pm. Families are invited to join in the festivities, which will include interactive exhibits, hands-on activities, and entertainment for children of all ages. Attendees will also have the opportunity to participate in the official ribbon

cutting ceremony, marking the official opening of the museum.

The Montrose Children's Museum is a long-awaited addition to the community, offering a dynamic and engaging space for children to explore, learn, and play. With a focus on play and interactive displays, the museum aims to inspire curiosity, foster creativity, and ignite a love of learning in young minds.

The founder and board of directors are enthusiastically working to create a community-supported space where businesses share their brand and purpose through learning initiatives and play, forever connecting the children and families on the Western Slope. "The new Montrose Children's Museum will be a regional destination that will combine learning and fun for all children and their families, no matter their abilities or economic status," said museum founder and Executive Director, Dr. Mallory Shaffer.

This new museum is set to be an exciting and inclusive space that will captivate and educate children throughout the region. With interactive exhibits and engaging programming, the Montrose Children's Museum will provide enriching experiences for kids of all backgrounds. This is a truly remarkable initiative that will make a

positive impact on the community.

"We anticipate the museum to be a premier destination experience where families can engage in play, and children can tinker and experiment in an environment conducive to those goals. You have to see it to believe it!" said Whitney Murphy, President of the Montrose Children's Museum Board of Directors.

The new museum is on a mission to foster a learning environment that ignites imagination and fuels creativity for children and adults alike! With interactive play in a hands-on learning museum, this place is set to inspire children's intellect, curiosity, and a lifelong love of learning.

Get ready to have your imagination sparked and your creativity fueled - this museum is going to be an incredible experience!

Montrose Children's Museum will officially open to the general public at 9 a.m. on June 29th at 221 Colorado Ave., Unit A, Montrose, CO so be sure to reserve your admission tickets in advance at [www.montrosechildrensmuseum.org](http://www.montrosechildrensmuseum.org). Don't miss this chance to be a part of the Montrose Children's Museum's grand opening celebration. It's sure to be a weekend filled with fun, discovery, and lasting memories for the whole family. We can't wait to see you there!



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970-249-8990

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970-323-6215

**Delta: CB's Tavern**  
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# COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

## ANGLERS AWARDED PRIZES FROM 2024 BLUE MESA LAKE TROUT TOURNAMENT



**Gunnison's Greg Frisina is awarded a check by CPW District Wildlife Manager Clayton BonDurant after Frisina earned the first-place prize for the 2024 Blue Mesa Reservoir Lake Trout Harvest Incentive Tournament. Courtesy photo.**

### Special to the Mirror

GUNNISON – Fifty individual anglers participated in the 2024 Blue Mesa Reservoir Lake Trout Harvest Incentive Tournament, and the top participants were awarded cash prizes this week.

In total, heads from 898 lake trout measuring 24 inches or less were submitted for potential prizes this year. First place went to Gunnison's Greg Frisina, who submitted 282 lake trout heads after he fished for

228 hours across 22 days.

Frisina earned the top prize of \$3,000, and he also won five of the 20 randomly drawn \$200 cash rewards that every angler who turned in a fish was eligible to win. In all, 14 anglers claimed cash prizes for participating in the tournament this year.

"We thank everyone who participated this year for helping us implement our management goals of the Blue Mesa fishery," said CPW Aquatic Biologist Dan Brauch. "This year's submission totals were definitely lower due to a lack of suitable ice on the lower two basins of Blue Mesa, and that really limited the ability of anglers to target smaller lake trout that this tournament is geared toward."

The lack of suitable and safe ice for ice fishing at Blue Mesa this year led to a noticeable drop in fish turned in compared to previous tournaments. In 2020, 4,055 lake trout heads were turned in by 338 anglers in the first year of the tournament. In 2021, 1,704 fish were turned in by 179 anglers. Subsequent lake trout monitoring following the first two years of the tournament led CPW to not conduct a tournament in 2022 and 2023.

This year's tournament was held Jan. 1 through April 30. CPW will continue to monitor the fishery before announcing

any future harvest incentive tournaments at Blue Mesa Reservoir.

This harvest-incentive tournament helps aquatic biologists maintain management goals of the reservoir. Unsustainable levels of predation by lake trout can lead to rapid declines in kokanee salmon abundance and in lake trout growth and body condition. Research has demonstrated that increased removal of primarily small, young lake trout improves kokanee fry survival, the overall abundance of kokanee and produces more trophy lake trout.

"We are seeing improving kokanee abundance with restored reservoir conditions following the last two winters and subsequent runoff," Brauch said. "The previous drought years combined with significant degradation of habitat during those years has resulted in lower kokanee survival through the drought period. However, with the reservoir levels recovering and with the success of the tournament and additional management, we are pleased to see better conditions for kokanee at this time." Anglers are encouraged to harvest small lake trout to continue to maintain balance in the fishery at Blue Mesa Reservoir. Anglers ages 16 and over must possess a valid Colorado fishing license. All [Colorado Fishing Regulations](#) and [Boating Regulations](#) apply.

# SEE SOMETHING - SAY SOMETHING



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ANONYMOUS CALL

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**Contact Information:** (970) 249-2451  
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 don@allsaintsmontrose.org](mailto:pgor-<br/>
  don@allsaintsmontrose.org)

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 day service. We would love to welcome  
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Pastor Gabe Skillo

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Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Sunday 6 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Study/Prayer 7 p.m.

## CELEBRATION CHURCH

**Denomination:** Southern Baptist Church  
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**Address:** 2900 Sunnyside Road, Mont-  
 rose, CO 81401

**Office Hours:** By appointment

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

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

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

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

**Senior Pastor:**

Pastor Brandon Mathis

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

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

**Demographics:** Multi-generational

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

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

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

## CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

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

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

**Pastor:** Tim Onnen

**Worship:** Sundays at 9 AM

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

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

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

## FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

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

**Pastor:** Buddy Cook

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

Wednesday: Prayer Boot Camp - 7 PM  
**Mission Statement:** *Montrose First Church  
 of the Nazarene exists to make Christlike*

*disciples in Montrose Colorado and around  
 the world.*

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

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MONTROSE

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

**Contact:** 970-249-4732, [in-  
 form@fpcmontrose.com](mailto:info@fpcmontrose.com),  
[www.fpcmontrose.com](http://www.fpcmontrose.com)

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jesse G. Mabanglo

**Worship Service times:** 9:30AM,  
*We strive to encourage, challenge and*

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

# MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY From previous pg

## HILLCREST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**Denomination affiliation:** United Church of Christ

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

**Office hours:** By appointment

**Contact information:**

Phone number: (970) 249-9047

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

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

**Current Pastor:** Rev. Wendy Kidd

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

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

on life's journey.

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

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

## MONTROSE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**Denomination Affiliation:** United Methodist

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

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

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

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

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

**Senior Pastor:** Rolland Kenneson

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

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

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

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

matter what stage of life they are in.

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

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

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

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

## ST. STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

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

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

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

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

**Rev. Dec.** Garrett Agajanian

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

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

**Sunday:** Holy Communion 10 am.

Fellowship following service.

Children's nursery available (unstaffed).

# MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY From previous pg

## SUMMIT CHURCH OF MONTROSE:

### Denomination affiliation:

Southern Baptist

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

**Office hours:** Varies

### Contact information:

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

website:

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

**Senior Pastor:** Interim Pastor.

**Worship service times:** Sunday Worship is

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH OF MONTROSE

**Denomination Affiliation:** Independent Baptist

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

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

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

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

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

**Current Pastor:** Roland Kassales

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

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

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

### Church Directory

#### Mirror Editorial Staff

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

### information to the Montrose Mirror:

Name of church

Denomination affiliation

Address Office hours

Contact information (phone number, email address, website)

Name of current Senior Pastor

Worship service times

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

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

Do your church services include Sunday School and childcare?



## Local Immunization Providers

Visit [www.montrosecounty.net/immunizations](http://www.montrosecounty.net/immunizations) for updated information on immunization providers.  
Questions? Call (970) 252-5011

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Christy@cimarroncreekcommunity.com www.cimarroncreekcommunity.com

# SAVE THE DATE! LOCAL EVENTS CALENDAR

## ONGOING-

**TRUE GRIT WALKING TOURS-June and August in Ridgway**-Every Friday 3 pm guided free True Grit walking tour departs the gazebo in Hartwell Park. Arrive 15 minutes early. The one-hour tour covers downtown locations where True Grit was filmed. **July in Ridgway**-Every Friday 3 pm and Monday 10 am. Guided free True Grit walking tours depart the gazebo in Hartwell Park. Arrive 15 minutes early. The one-hour tour covers downtown locations where True Grit was filmed. Call 469.682.9710 to arrange a custom tour for \$10 per person at a time of your choosing.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## MONTHLY

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

**June 1**-The Montrose Amateur Radio Club is hosting its annual Tailgate Party on Saturday June 1, 2024, at the Lions Pavilion, Confluence Park, Delta from 8 AM to 11 AM. Admission is free. All attendees will be included in the drawing for door prizes. The grand prize is an ALINCO digital mobile handheld radio. You must be present to win. Tables for sellers are available for \$5.00. Coffee, water, and doughnuts are available for a donation. The event is sanctioned by the American Radio Relay League. For more information contact Lew French, KOLMF, at 970-417-6142

**June 1**-Delta Rock Wranglers' Rock, Gem & Mineral Show. 9am to 5pm. Bill Heddles Rec Center in Delta. Free admission all ages.

**June 3**-Monday June 3rd at 5pm- Citizens' Climate Lobby monthly meeting Montrose Safety Complex meeting rm (police 434S 1st) nonpartisan, national, environmental. All Welcome. info at 970-765-9095.

**June 4** - General Surgeon Dr. Michael McCann, D.O. FACS, FACOS will be presenting a free educational seminar for the public titled "Hernias & Your Health." The presentation will be held in Montrose Regional Health's Conference Rooms A&B on Tuesday, June 4 from 6-7 p.m. No reservation is required. A question & answer session will take place at the end of the presentation to address any questions and provide additional information for attendees. For more information about the presentation or to schedule an appointment with Dr. McCann, contact his office at 970-497-5979.

**June 6**-DMEA Annual Meeting to take place on June 6 at Columbine Middle School in Montrose (610 York Street), from 4:30 to 8:30pm.

**June 8**-Montrose Pride will take place June 8, 2024 from 3 pm to 8 pm at the Cerise Park Amphitheater. Featuring: blankslate. Food, vendors, Live Music, Comedy and Drag. This is a family-friendly event and all are welcomed!

**June 8**-Karaoke at the Theatre, what's that? Come check it out, June 8, 7 PM at Magic Circle Theatre, 420 S 12th St, Montrose, behind Safeway. Only \$5 cover charge! Snacks and alcoholic/nonalcoholic beverages are for sale in the lobby. Hope to see you there!

**June 15**- 8 am to 1 pm, 19 S. Park Ave. Come Join Us for the Annual Granny's Attic at the Montrose United Methodist Church sponsored by the United Women In Faith. Lots of great items to choose from! Free coffee and homemade cinnamon rolls!! Baked goods for sale!



## SPILLWAYS OPEN AT MORROW POINT DAM

Photo by Linda Lake

**REGIONAL**-Photographer Linda Lake captured this amazing image of yet another rare occurrence at Morrow Point Dam. Said Lake, "The last couple of times they opened all four spillways was in 2014 and in 2017...before that it was in 1982! What a spectacular sight to see! So beautiful!"



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