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# the Montrose Mirror

## DMEA ANNOUNCES RESULTS OF QUIET ELECTION



Photo by Gail Marvel

On June 6, Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) held their annual meeting at Columbine Middle School. (L to R) DMEA Attorney Sarah Abbott, Board President Stacia Cannon, Director Jock Fleming, Director Kevin Williams, Director Jacob Gray, Director Emily Sanchez, Director Damon Lockhart, Director Steve Metheny, and Director Bill Patterson (term-limited). Director Enno Heuscher was absent.

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE-The Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) held their annual meeting on June 6, 2024, at Columbine Middle School in Montrose. The Treasure Hunt themed meeting included a gift bag with local products, face painting, a photo booth, community booths, live entertainment, and food trucks.

The event was scheduled from 4:30 – 8:30pm, with the business meeting scheduled from 5:30 – 6:30pm. The event was well attended, but the business portion of the meeting was not a big draw for participation. Still, the threshold of 50 registered members met the requirements for a quorum.

Absent was Board of Director Enno Heuscher; all other board members were present. Board President Stacia Cannon opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance, Damon Lockhart gave the prayer, and Jacob Gray reported the quorum. Eye rolls, head shakes, and a

*Continued pg 26*

## HALT THE DOLORES: NOTES FROM THE WEST END...

By Doris Van Ness

NUCLA-It was announced on Sunday, June 2 that Senator Michael Bennet would be coming to Nucla for a listening session, to hear our side of the Halt the Dolores. Then the games began; the proponents said he really was coming on Friday, but for a private meeting with them and to do a fly over the Dolores River. Bennet would be in Nucla at the high school to meet with the opposition at 1pm, then that got changed to 3pm so he would have more time on Sunday to meet with the proponents.

On Tuesday, the town of Naturita put a notice on the old drive-in sign that Senator Bennett was coming. Scott Braden, the head of the proponents, took the sign and Photo-shopped it to change it to Protect the Dolores on Facebook (see Photo). Braden was called out by the town:

*"You are three steps over the line Mr. Braden, with the photo shopping of our Uranium Drive in Sign. Whether that was your intention or not let me give you the backstory and consequences of this escape. Shame on you for taking a beloved,*

*Continued pg 40*



West End Photo by Doris Van Ness.



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# UPDATED GUIDELINES FOR LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

*Dear Readers:*

We appreciate your letters! We like reading and hearing opinions from all perspectives. We are sharing herewith our updated guidelines: In the past we have had one rule, to be implemented at the editor's discretion. We are now including two more suggested "Rules" for letter writers. **RULE 1.** The Dead Horse Rule has been in place from the start of the *Mirror*. This is somewhat self-explanatory, but there are times when something has been said so many times it can run afoul of the "Dead Horse Rule," in which case we will inform the writer.

**RULE 2.** While there are always exceptions, a letter can often say what needs to be said in one page or less. Our pages are 8.5 X 11, we use a 10 pt Calibri font; letters that are roughly 800 words fit well within this suggested guideline.

**RULE 3.** Please limit repetitive mud-slinging to avoid bumping up against Rule 1. Also, in the case of those writing to intentionally discredit a public official or candidate for public office, please provide a link to the source of your allegation if possible. Unsourced, unproven allegations are not credible, and could in fact be untruths.

Thank you,  
Caitlin Switzer,  
Montrose Mirror Editor

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## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

### BOCC MANAGEMENT PRACTICES UNDER SCRUTINY



*Editor:*

Opinion Letter. I would like to remind the Citizens of Montrose County Of the 5900 and Banner Rd. Box Culvert project. The road has been closed for about a year. Originally the experienced county foreman involved in this project recommended to the public works director that the project be awarded to a commercial contractor due to its size and available county Road & Bridge manpower. The men and women of Road & Bridge are very diligent in their efforts. After a year citizens can evaluate for themselves the time, cost and inconvenience to those who use the road. Picture attached.

*Chuck Bell, Montrose*

## 2024 Republican Primary

# Mark Roeber



## THE COLORADO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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# COUNTY APPROVES MAJOR SUBDIVISION, HEARS FROM CITIZENS CONSIDERED ABOUT ELECTIONS STATEWIDE



**Citizen Jill Lafferty read a proposed resolution on election integrity.**

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-All commissioners were present as Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) Chair Roger Rash called the regular meeting to order on Wednesday, June 5. Rash asked all to remove cover as BOCC Vice Chair Sue Hansen led in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

Pastor Curt Mudgett of Cedar Creek Church delivered the invocation.

"Father, we thank you for this new day that you've created, thank you for the beautiful weather that we enjoy," Mudgett said, "...for the beautiful surroundings, for this part of our wonderful state...may we have kindness toward one another...we just pray that we as a people would care for our neighbors and have our ears open for the needs of others..."

## PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Constituent Jim Day spoke, "I am a volunteer with United Sovereign Americans...today I come to you as a concerned citizen sharing alarming information about our state's database. While the numbers are staggering and hard to comprehend, one thing is clear, they don't add up...Just like our checkbook must balance, so must our votes...our audit of the 2022 election using only official data provided by state election officials, shows that the 2022 election may not have been accurate or legally compliant. We are not saying one candidate won over another or any election should be overturned. The state's official data from the certified election shows that votes as counted were not all valid and accurate under the law...we are

happy to meet with you to go over this information...this data and our request for an investigation have been shared with state election officials and law enforcement...today we come to you...for support and action..."

Day said he brought a resolution for county officials to review and approve.

Two speakers, Ann Holderman and Jill Lafferty, then took turns reading the resolution into the record.

Final speaker Ed Lafferty said he is also a volunteer with United Sovereign Americans. Lafferty said, "...You have heard a powerful resolution outlining massive inaccuracies in our 2022 election...you heard us ask for meaningful remedies...laws are being ignored...the checkbook is not balancing...how much is it costing us not to fix the problem...the cost is immeasurable so I urge you to show your agreement by passing the resolution...the website is Unite4Freedom.com...I urge you to check it out...official data shows these concerns are valid...at the same time government representatives at all levels are not being transparent and responsive to what our citizens audits have found. Our right to choose our representatives in legally valid and transparent elections is the right on which our constitutional republic is founded...we appreciate your time."

BOCC Chair Roger Rash thanked the speakers and asked them to leave information on the resolution, saying that staff would respond.

Rash also said that the BOCC meeting was not being livestreamed due to problems with the Granicas platform, but it was being recorded.

## COUNTY MANAGER

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

## CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda Items were approved unanimously with Resolution No. 31-2024 assigned to Item 3; Resolution No. 32-2024 assigned to Item 19; Resolution No. 33-2024 assigned to Item 20; Resolution No. 34-2024 assigned to Item 21; and Resolution No. 35-2024 assigned to Item 24.

## GENERAL BUSINESS AND ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Commissioners voted unanimously to approve [Resolution 36-2024](#), for the purchase of real property located at 141 West Main Street in Naturita. The building is the Naturita Elementary School building which has been leased to the County and to the Montrose County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) since February. Due diligence has been completed, and facilities and IT teams have been through the building numerous times, Waschbusch said. "It's been working well."

BOCC Vice Chair Sue Hansen said she appreciates the opportunity to consolidate some of the county buildings that are over in the West End. "...I feel like this is a really great opportunity for us to do that and then free up that county land for business development in the West End...I'm glad we're doing this."

## PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Planner Kim Ficco presented for consideration the [Thornburgh Estates Two Minor Subdivision \[MI24-001\] proposal](#) to divide 36 acres into three lots at 399335107004, 21263 Highway 550.

Constituent Bruce Norwood said that Government Springs Road is a collector road, and access should be limited. "...It's busier and busier and busier...we've got enough access right now."

The proposal meets all county regulations and site distance requirements, and the speed limit in the area is 20-25 miles per hour. County Engineer Ron Nichols said that the road is safe, and that traffic slows down when approaching the tight curve. Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the [Thornburgh Estates Two Minor Subdivision \[MI24-001\] proposal](#).

Also approved unanimously were the [Cedar Minor Subdivision \[MI24-009\] proposal](#) to divide three lots from a 138-acre parcel at Parcel 376927100002 and the [Miguel Road Minor Subdivision \[MI24-010\] proposal](#) to divide 35 acres into three lots at Parcel 376927200071.

After some discussion, commissioners voted unanimously, as recommended by the Planning Commission, to approve with



# COUNTY APPROVES MAJOR SUBDIVISION *From previous pg*

conditions the Kearny Major Subdivision Preliminary Plan [MA23-001] proposal to divide 64.217 acres into 33 lots at 399316102003. County Planning & Development Director Tallmadge Richmond listed the conditions; Builder Scott Stryker answered questions and discussed the project, which is located south of the old Riverside School on the 6600 Road. Conditions include widening the 6600 Road to county standards and paving when required by traffic counts. The developer will pay a fair share of pavement when required.

Also approved unanimously were:

**-The Amended Plat of Lots 1 & 2 T. Davis Minor Subdivision [AM23-003] proposal** to create easements and adjust boundary lines of the T. Davis Minor Subdivision;

The Jenkins-Raimer Extension [EXT24-003] proposal to extend the time period to file an approved plat for recording; and

The Orchard Blossom Minor Subdivision Extension [EXT24-004] proposal to extend the time period to file an approved plat for recording.

With no executive session and no further business, commissioners unanimously voted to adjourn.



**Builder Scott Stryker answered questions and discussed the Kearny Major Subdivision during the BOCC meeting on June 12. Mirror staff photo.**



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Mike Simpson-Watercolors

## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

### FAMILY VALUES ARE BASED ON LOVE, HONESTY, AND RESPECT

*Editor:*

This letter is in response to Lisa Reynolds' letter published Monday, June 3.

I am a heterosexual woman who is celebrating her 45th wedding anniversary on June 9, 2024.

My husband and I are honest and respect our wedding vows. We have two sons who are productive citizens. They have learned

to be accepting of other people, who are different from themselves, regardless of race, handicap, sexual orientation or religion. Those are some of the family values my husband and I have promoted in our family.

I know two homosexual families, personally, with children who fit my definition of good family values. The parents love each

other, are honest, and respect their children.

Their children are loving, respectful and for the most part have open minds. Not every heterosexual family I have encountered should have families.

Ms. Reynolds and I will just have to respectfully agree to disagree.

*Raye Highland, Montrose*

### I STRONGLY URGE EVERYONE TO VOTE FOR SCOTT MIJARES

*Editor:*

I am well aware the campaign season is the "Silly Season," but I think it is time to stop being silly. Scott Mijares is a registered Republican and if you have had the opportunity to talk with him, you know he is a conservative Republican. Exactly when did he register as a Republican? I don't know and, actually, I don't care. I

know that he is a conservative Republican. I also know that he is a successful business man and Montrose County desperately needs a business man's approach to county government. Scott Mijares has paid his taxes when due his entire life. He does not need to promise to pay off his tax liens before taking office, because he has no tax liens. Scott will also sit down, like an adult,

with Sheriff Lillard to make sure the Sheriff's office is properly and fully funded. The safety of the citizens of Montrose County deserves nothing less. I strongly urge everyone to vote for Scott Mijares in the current primary election. The winner will be the next commissioner for District 1.

*Ben Alexander, Montrose*

### PAST PERFORMANCE AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST ISSUES PLAGUE DUNLAP

*Editor:*

FROM WHERE I SIT S22: An opinion article. At Thursday's "Candidate for County Commissioner Forum" Candidate Dunlap touted his record of his past performance as Sheriff of Montrose County as justification for his election to the BOCC. While this may be expected, what was not said is that many law enforcement personnel that worked with and for him have expressed opinions far to the contrary of his opinion of his work as sheriff. Further no one except Mr. Murdie (I believe his undersheriff) has stepped forward with compliments. This includes Gene Lillard, the present sheriff of Montrose County, who is one of the persons to whom he passed the operational and logistical mess at the end of his term. Among those issues was a run-down headquarters building and a lack of individual safety equipment for the Deputies. The absence of body armor for

the deputies is significant. All this in spite of his turning back to the BOCC lots of PSST money voted for the betterment of the department by the county electorate in 2007.

One could wonder why he had a private garage service sheriff's vehicles when the County shops were charged with doing so. Did he not know the system, just did not follow it or was there another reason?

Another serious issue is not generally public knowledge. That is that his daughter-in-law is the Chief Financial Officer of Montrose County's Finance Department. As a Commissioner this could invite the appearance of a conflict of interest on a plethora of financial issues. MOST if not all questions/decisions of the BOCC involve county funds. His recusal (non-participation in discussion or voting) on any financial question would limit discussion and voting to the other two commis-

sioners. Making him a de-facto part time commissioner. This election is about the citizenry 'hiring of two full time commissioners, not part time help. I WOULD NEVER PUT MYSELF OR A RELATIVE WHERE SUCH AN APPEARANCE MIGHT BE HAD. No moral person should either. Sheriff Gene Lillard's "NON SUPPORT OF DUNLAP" and public support of Candidates SCOTT RIBA and SCOTT MIJARES speaks volumes. It the only way to straighten out the PSST and FPPA issues for our county law enforcement. It will go a long way in making our County Government a government 'OF THE PEOPLE, BY THE PEOPLE AND FOR THE PEOPLE of Montrose.

Vote for the two SCOTTS, RIBA AND MIJARES, for Montrose County Commissioner and be treated with dignity when you ask to be heard.

*Bill Bennett, Montrose*



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# CITY OF MONTROSE APPROVES CHILD CARE GRANT APPLICATION

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-As they have been in previous recent meetings, members of the public were waiting to address the Montrose City Council at the regular council meeting of Tuesday, June 4.

Mayor J. David Reed welcomed all and called the meeting to order. Councilor Judy Ann Files was absent, all other councilors were present.

All joined in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Pro Tem David Frank had no changes to the meeting agenda.

## CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Reed read the rules that apply to public comment and welcomed speakers to the dais.

First to speak was John Brown, who said that as elected officials, city councilors have a responsibility to those they were elected to serve. "You are merely one of us; we have entrusted you to be caretakers of all that we hold dear...we are all part of the fabric of this community, including our opinions."

Brown asked that Council take another vote on declaring Montrose to be a non-sanctuary city. "I would encourage the council to have another vote on this as soon as possible...I hereby request that the topic for non-sanctuary city be put on the agenda again for public comment."

Dave Stockton spoke. "I too want to talk about this ball that never stops bouncing..."

Stockton said that those wishing to put an issue on the ballot to have the City of Montrose declared to be a non-sanctuary city should do the work themselves, by filing a petition and gathering the requisite number of signatures.

"They don't want to do that because it's a difficult task. Also, they just might find there is not enough support for it," Stockton said. "The request for an official declaration of a non-sanctuary city is being driven by a national politics. It's a request being driven by one man, keen on the fears of people, those fears being we are being invaded by an army of brown-skinned people."

"It's unfortunate that our country is being driven by partisan politics. It's also unfor-

tunate that partisan decision making has trickled down to the state and the county. You as an elected body in theory is a non-partisan council. I ask that you cast away any regional and national political party pressures and make your decisions based on what is right by all the people.

"I ask that no further action be taken on this issue by Council..."

Next to speak was Tony Hoag of the Citizens Climate Lobby, who said that at the previous council meeting he was referred to as "the climate guy."

"I wear that name, I like it, it's a good fit," Hoag said.

He asked that the city lead efforts to spur development projects that can reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and noted that the city has built a 164-Kilowatt solar garage over the parking lot at the new public safety building. "Kudos to you for having the vision and energy to implement that project, thank you. We're hoping that the city can do more projects to reduce greenhouse gas emissions."

Hoag talked about three projects that have been identified in neighboring Delta, including the public safety building, which will be heated with electricity; a seven-acre solar field, and approval of a microgrid power source to keep the lights on in an emergency.

Hoag said that new projects will take money and vision to build. "...my intent is good, and it is for the citizens of the city that I speak..."

Several volunteers from United Sovereign Americans spoke next, starting with Jim Day.

"...today I come to you as a citizen concerned about our voter database," Day said, "...just like your checkbook must balance so should our votes...if a company had that significant of a discrepancy in its books, the company would almost certainly conduct an audit."

"Our audit of the 2022 election, using only official data provided by state election officials, shows that the 2022 election may not have been accurate or legally compliant. We are not saying any one candidate won over another or that any election should be overturned...today we will be presenting you with a resolution...we are happy to meet with you...this data and

our request for an investigation have been shared with state election officials and with law enforcement...we're asking that you listen to the resolution, ask questions if you have them, and then vote promptly for its passage..."

Two speakers, Ann Holderman, and Jill Lafferty, read the citizen resolution into the record.

Holderman spoke first, "...it is the duty of our election officials to ensure that our elections are accurate, free from distortion and manipulation...votes counted must be eligible voters...the number of votes counted must equal the number of voters who voted..."

Lafferty listed a number of election guardrails that the United Sovereign Americans would like to see implemented, including audits and reconciliation to ensure compliance with existing federal laws.

Ed Lafferty said "massive inaccuracies" were found in the 2022 election. "You heard us ask for meaningful remedies...laws are being ignored, bottom line, the checkbook is not balancing...the cost is immeasurable, so I urge you to show your agreement by passing our resolution..."

Lafferty referred councilors to the website [Unite4Freedom](https://unite4freedom.com), "I encourage you to check it out..."

Next to speak was Phil Moomjean, who cited information from a [report released by the Common Sense Institute](https://www.common-sense.org/report-released), and said that Denver has incurred costs of up to \$340M in caring for migrants.

"While this information comes out of Denver, I think's naïve to think that these issues aren't going to be coming to Montrose," he said. "We're already seeing that influx...Denver decided local taxpayers should shoulder the costs...who pays these costs in Montrose...does Montrose collect this type of data on the school system...does Montrose know the cost..."

Moomjean read portions of the Common Sense report, and recommended that council undertake another vote on the resolution to become a non-sanctuary city.

Karen Lee said that she has lived in Montrose for 13 years and works in the health care field.

"We've seen how much the city and



## CITY APPROVES CHILD CARE GRANT APPLICATION *From previous pg*

County has grown in the last 13 years, and I concur with what the gentleman just said—we don't have the resources," Lee said. "The hospital's taxed—we are hiring travelers at the hospital to handle what we have now. And to have more people come in, whether they're illegal immigrants or not, is going to tax our city severely...as far as the highways, we've got the bridge out going to Gunnison—how are we going to handle more people going back and forth between here and there?"

Ron Smith spoke next, "...First of all, I pray and encourage a culture of cooperativeness and honor in your stewardship serving your voters...and your constituents in our city and community, free of adversarial and intimidating and abrasive interchanges."

Smith said, "I pray and hope for the seriousness of us the taxpayers' plea to make this city great for all our citizens."

Smith asked council for greater accountability with regard to the successes and failures of taxpayer funding of private enterprise.

"Particularly in restaurants," he said, "where some restaurants are being funded to have a competitive advantage, and we're in an environment now where a lot of restaurants are struggling every day to even stay afloat."

"As for the climate world," Smith said, "my wife and I have planted 27 trees on our property. I don't know that we're going to make a massive difference in this world, but if we're going to go down that road I really encourage that we focus on what will really help the environment and not be a transfer of wealth..."

"Last but not least, I've had some recent travel through Denver," Smith said, "...a sanctuary city, even though some people won't agree with me, becomes a tent city...with insidious abuse of drugs and alcohol. If you haven't driven by that area or a number of those areas, I suggest that you do so."

"I ask that you reconsider the vote on that proposition."

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council voted to approve the [minutes of the May 21 regular Council meeting](#).

### RESOLUTION 2024-08

Council voted to approve Resolution 2024-08, as [discussed previously](#) at Monday's work session. [Resolution 2024-08](#) authorizes the filing of a Colorado Department of Early Childhood Employer-Based Child Care Grant application for the purposes of adding childcare capacity within the City of Montrose.

### EAGLE RANCH SOUTH SUBDIVISION PRELIMINARY PLAT

Planner II William Reis [presented information](#) on the Eagle Ranch South Subdivision Preliminary Plat; staff recommended approval.

Mayor Reed said, "There have been no changes since it was presented at work session, correct?"

Reis said, "This was not presented at work session."

"Excuse me, my mistake," Reed said. Comments from the public were taken, and [some are included in the meeting packet](#). Constituent Dave Stockton said that drainage is a pressing concern; City Engineer Scott Murphy spent time talking about the drainage situation.

Following some discussion those councilors present voted unanimously to approve the Eagle Ranch South Subdivision Preliminary Plat.

### SAN JUAN AVENUE/6530 ROAD SIGNAL DESIGN CONTRACT

As previously discussed in work session, Council voted to approve the [award of a professional services contract to 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.

### STAFF REPORTS

There were no staff reports.

### COUNCIL COMMENTS

Reed said that there was a tremendous turnout at MADA for the historical cultural district proposal. "Lots of good discussion...I think it was unanimous that the community wanted to move forward with further consideration and refinement of the proposed project..."

In addition to Mayor Reed, Councilor Ulibarri, and city staff, a representative from History Colorado was present as well, he said.

Mayor Pro Tem David Frank said the Fourth of July parade is being re-routed this year. Councilor Ed Ulibarri said that there will be many community activities planned for the Fourth. "I would recommend that everybody take a look and spend some time in Montrose enjoying the festivities."

Councilor Doug Glaspell praised a local police officer, Jonathan Roberts, for saving a life.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned.



249 8500

ANONYMOUS

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see something, say something



# VOTE

**TUESDAY, JUNE 25, 2024**

## **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



**Working Lands in Working Hands**



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

970-261-7576



# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## JURY FOUND TRUMP NOT ABOVE THE LAW

Dear Editor:

I just read this post, "How difficult is it to get any twelve people to agree on any one thing? Now, multiply that by 34."

Am I happy that a former president of the United States was found guilty of falsifying business records with an intent to defraud? That he did so 34 times? And that he was found guilty on all 34 felony charges? No I am not. Because he never should have done what he did, criminally and morally.


It wasn't the Biden administration who did this. It wasn't the Democratic Party. There was only one quarterback, Donald Trump. And Justice reigned. First a grand jury found there was enough evidence to go forward with prosecution. Then a jury of twelve citizens of the United States of America, listened to the evidence presented, and found the man, Donald Trump, guilty on ALL counts and not above the law.

Trump is just a man. On May 30th the law proved this.

Sentencing is scheduled for July 11th. As a former Federal officer, I hope again that Trump will be treated simply as a man. I hope his sentencing involves jail time. His 34 felony convictions were not victimless. What he did was against the American public. An attempt to buy silence before the election. The election he lost in popular votes, but won through the Electoral College.

If Trump goes to prison he can revoke his protection by members of the Secret Service, therefore removing the ominous duty of trying to watch over a man serving his term in jail. Richard Nixon revoked his Federal protection, so as to not burden the taxpayers. Sorry, but I think Trump will continue to defraud the American citizenry.

Jon Sering, Montrose



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

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

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

**GAIL MARVEL**  
Montrose Author & Reporter

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



# SECOND ANNUAL FAMILY FISHING DERBY



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*The Montrose Mirror, January 29, 2024, Page 6*

## **WE ENDORSE SCOTT RIBA FOR MONTROSE COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 3**

To the Citizens of Montrose County:

As citizens of Montrose County we endorse Scott Riba for Montrose County Commissioner District 3. We have known Scott Riba for a long time and respect his straightforward approach and honesty. He tells it like it is.

The Montrose County Commissioner race for District 3 is critical. This county needs a commissioner who understands business, who has the best interests of the county and its citizens as his focus, and is willing to stand up and dig in his heels to see that decisions made by the county benefit our citizens in the best possible way. He will not be a "yes" man but a voice to be heard. No one can satisfy all the people all the time. But Scott Riba will do his best to represent you in a positive manner.

Please join with us and support Scott Riba in the upcoming election for Montrose County Commissioner District 3.

**Gene R. Lillard and Deb Lillard, Montrose**

## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### THE FRUITA FARMERS & MAKERS MARKET IS IN FULL SWING!

#### *Special to the Mirror*

FRUITA-The Fruita Area Chamber of Commerce is proud to present the kick-off to the 2024 Fruita Farmers & Makers Market! Starting on June 8th and continuing until October 26th, the Fruita Farmers & Makers Market will be a hub of activities for everyone to enjoy! Located at beautiful Reed Park in Fruita (250 S. Elm St. Fruita, CO) every Saturday morning, from 8:30am-12:00pm.

With a plethora of local vendors, the market is sure to be a treasure trove of goodies waiting to be discovered. From fresh produce straight from local farmers to unique, handcrafted items made with love, there's something for everyone!

Join us for Family Fun Days, which is every second Saturday of the month! These Family Fun Days include bump-in-jumps, friends from Moon Farm, and activities for everyone to enjoy. Also enjoy live music from local musicians each week!

The Fruita Farmers & Makers Market will also feature educational presentations

this year, with speakers from Family Health West, Atlasta Solar, and local farmers. These presentations have a wide range of topics, from health and wellness, saving the environment, and supporting the people who put food on our tables.

You can view our presentation line up on our website or follow us on social media to find out what topics will be discussed.

Of course, at the heart of it all is the incredible array of local produce! From fresh apricots to juicy tomatoes, you can shop with confidence knowing that you're supporting local farmers and enjoying the freshest produce grown locally in Western Colorado. While at the market, enjoy delicious food from food trucks and vendors!

And don't forget to shop all the amazing artisan and handcrafted items that are featured at the market! When you shop at the Fruita Farmers & Makers Market, you are supporting local, and continuing to support the hard work of local farmers, vendors, and the businesses around us! The Fruita Farmers and Makers Market

also accepts Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) cards and participates in double up food bucks (DUFb). DUFb will match up to \$20 on your SNAP card towards purchasing additional raw Fruita and veggies.

Gather your loved ones and join us at the Fruita Farmers and Makers Market for a summer filled with fun, food, and plenty of local delights! Please note there is construction being completed on the park and plan to park and walk (public parking is located at the Fruita Civic Center and on the corner of Mulberry and McCune), ride your bike or carpool. For updates on the Reed Park improvements, please visit [fruita.org](http://fruita.org)

Thank you to our community partners for helping make this event possible, Atlasta Solar Center, Family Health West, US Bank, City of Fruita, R & W Benefits, and Cruise Planners: Todd & Sonee Kumro. To learn more about the Fruita Farmers & Makers Market, go to [fruitafarmers-market.org](http://fruitafarmers-market.org).

# SEE SOMETHING - SAY SOMETHING



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3 bed/1 bath • 1,056 sq ft • 1-car garage

**\$324,900**



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Discover the charm of this sweet 2-bedroom, 1-bathroom home nestled on a tranquil cul-de-sac.

With a 1-car garage on a spacious lot, a laundry center conveniently plumbed for a gas or electric dryer, the convenient & efficient tankless hot water heater, fresh interior paint, a fenced yard with mature trees, a large wood deck, and plenty of room to park an RV or small boat, you do not want to miss the opportunity to make this peaceful retreat your own!

2 bed/1 bath • 900 sq ft • 1-car garage

**\$285,500**



#### LESLIE GORE, CRS

Associate Broker  
C: 970-275-3195  
O: 970-249-7653  
LeslieGoreRealtor@gmail.com



#### DIANE HAYNES, CRS

Associate Broker  
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# MONTROSE CLASSICAL ACADEMY

## A Tuition-Free, Public Charter School Opportunity For Montrose!

<b>Saturday, June 15th</b> <b>10:00-11:00 a.m.</b> <b>Community Room</b> <b>Montrose Police Dept.</b> <b>434 S. First Street</b>	<b>Saturday, June 29th</b> <b>10:00-11:00 a.m.</b> <b>Community Room</b> <b>Montrose Police Dept.</b> <b>434 S. First Street</b>
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Join us for a video and Q & A about plans to open a tuition-free, public charter school in Montrose in Fall 2025. Charter schools present another educational choice and have many advantages for children and their families. Please attend a meeting and visit our website [www.montroseclassical.org](http://www.montroseclassical.org) for more information.

**OPEN COMMUNITY MEETING - All are welcome!**





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2 BATH



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1 CARPORT



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- 2 Homesites

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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## SCOTT MIJARES HAS THE EDUCATION, QUALIFICATIONS WE NEED IN A COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Editor:

Did you know this about Scott Mijares? Scott has the education we need in a commissioner. He has a Bachelor's degree in business. He has studied enough to pass the securities broker's exam near the top of the scores. He has worked helping educated people understand the nuances of complex financial investments. These are qualities we need in a County Commissioner.

Rick Bleier, Montrose

## WE HAVE A COUNTRY TO SAVE-PLEASE VOTE!

Dear Editor,

It's sad to see that many Republicans in Montrose did not vote in our last DMEA election and now we have a Democrat on board. I am writing and URGING people to now, PLEASE VOTE!! You should have already received your new JUNE PRIMARY ballot in the mail; if not, it's imperative you CONTACT OUR COUNTY CLERK and get a ballot!!

I wanted to share my recommendations as we have a COUNTRY TO SAVE! I'll preface to say that I am a TRUMP supporter and sad to see Lauren Boebert leave our district. The good news is that we have a good Candidate to fill her place! I'm tired of "bought and sold" politicians THAT DO NOT WORK FOR US! I want fighters! Here are my top 4 recommendations:

**Ron Hanks for CD3** is a A CONSISTENT CONSERVATIVE with a PROVEN track record to fight for us. <https://hanksforcolorado.com/> He will replace Lauren Boebert to fight on our behalf! A 32 year veteran; wants the Federal Reserve audited; a BUDGET for every department!!; no more omnibus spending bills; doesn't compromise; and has not changed his message to appear better before the voters, like the other Candidates have. We can trust him to fight for us in Washington and not just be like another politician. (Side note: Velera voted for Biden in 2020 and claims to have flipped Pueblo Republican, yet Donald Trump WON Pueblo in 2016- while Velera was still a Democrat flip flopping his political affiliation 18

times!! Yikes! And what about Jeff Hurd?? He's missed every debate; petitioned onto the ballot- rather than face the grassroots Republicans at Assembly; and is funded by the never Trumper Koch brother's "American for Prosperity." **Trump, himself, has warned us about that organization!!** Some say, "You need big money to win"... UM, then we're back to the professional politicians again!! Remember Lauren Boebert WON in our district without big money, so don't believe that lie!!

**Larry Don Suckla for HD58** This man will NOT be bought and sold and the DC status quo doesn't work for him! <https://sucklafor58.com/> When he was County Commissioner for Montezuma County during Covid, they announced that the County would pay any fines the State charged them for shutting down their businesses. The State tried to fine, but Larry Don ended up getting all fees waved! No one had to shut down their business!! That's amazing leadership that doesn't CAVE to BIG GOVERNMENT! Larry Don supports limited government, believes in protecting our water and 2nd Amendment rights, and associates with R CALF- who PROTECTS the INDIVIDUAL RANCHER. (Side note: His opponent, Roeber, went into a private/ public partnership with the federal government and associates with the Cattlemen's Association who partners with big processors that mess with our food production. We need the best of the best! Land grabs are top on the government's list right now, like the Delores Mon-

ument agenda.

**Scott Mijares** A successful business owner that will "go to bat" on behalf of our Sheriff's Department that is deeply struggling financially due to funding. He protected our county from a harmful, leftist agenda that was almost brought in from Chicago called "Unify Montrose." (He vetted this dangerous organization that was after our local kids in the name of "childcare.") Scott has courage to address tough issues with creativity and "outside the box" thinking. Government is hiding behind dark money organizations and Mijares has his eyes wide open to their sneaky schemes. Check out his resume here.

**Scott Riba** Scott stands in what he believes to be true and has done a great job leading our local Republican Party. As a local farmer and rancher who cares about our land, he will be vigilant about protecting us from land grabs and to whatever else the government tries to throw our way. I appreciate that he's a good listener and has responded to any concerns we have brought to him. For example, he went with us to our current County Commissioners since we have concerns about using the Dominion Machines in our elections. He is also making the Sheriff's concerns about their budget one of his top priorities. (Our Sheriff, Gene Lillard, has publicly stated his confidence in Scott for this position.) <https://scottformontrose.com/> Thank you for voting! ~Jodi Woodden



# DMEA ANNOUNCES RESULTS OF QUIET ELECTION From pg 1

courtesy laugh went to Kevin Williams when he offered levity, "Electrical puns are revolting!"

The 2023 audit is available on the DMEA website. It was reported that DMEA and its subsidiary Elevate are on strong financial footing and the audit review is positive.

Cannon recognized Board Director Bill Patterson (term-limited) and thanked him for his 12 years on the board and his contribution to the co-op.

Cannon gave the Presidents report, "There are 42M people across the US that co-ops are delivering power to. We offer safe, affordable, and reliable energy. There is no rate increase for 2024, nor are we projecting a rate increase for 2025."

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Jack Johnston introduced a few out-of-town partners who contribute to the success of DMEA, and he expressed gratitude for the DMEA Team (125 members). He said,

"Last year we had 55,000 [phone] calls and 14,000 emails. We've had an amazing, successful, and productive year." Johnston highlighted DMEA's humanitarian projects, i.e. Light up the Navajo, Operation Round-Up, installing power to some homes in Guatemala, sponsorships, and scholarships.

He said, "[Each month] 9,000 members round-up their electric bills to help others [less fortunate] with their electric bills." Funds are dispersed by the Operation-Round-Up Board.

There were no audience questions during Q & A.

However, two members offered compliments.

## **Election Results and newest members of the DMEA board are:**

District 1 – Ryan Sedgeley received 2,519 votes (58.1%). Sedgeley defeated contender Toby Romero Jr.

District 2 – Steve Matheny received 1,605



**Chief Technical Officer Kent Blackwell (left) hosts a community table during the Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) Annual Meeting. Photo by Gail Marvel**

votes (36.4%). Matheny defeated contenders Ken Norris and Jesse Haywood. District 5 – Kevin Williams (unopposed) received 3,748 votes (100 %).

With no further business, Cannon adjourned the meeting and attendees continued to enjoy the rest of the event.



## **Marc Catlin<sup>for</sup> Senate Dist 5** **Heart of the Colorado River Basin**

Water and natural resources are vitally important to all of Colorado. Our industries, ranging from agriculture, recreation, to tourism are based on the foundation of water.

I am a proud advocate for the Western Slope and will continue to advocate for the values held by the people in Senate District 5.

I actively defend and protect public health, education, public safety, law enforcement, veterans issues, and our diverse economic drivers.

I consider Western Colorado's economic viability and natural resources a high priority. The discussions and issues I bring forward are to guide policy in a direction to improve and protect the interests held by our citizens. As your Senator, I will continue to stand up and speak out when government or special interest groups encroach on these rights.

**Americans are extraordinary people.**

**Stand Firm - Stand Strong**

**Use the rights you've been given by the Great Creator, not by another man.**

**Please VOTE!**

Paid for by Catlin for Colorado. Registered Agent Marc Catlin.



# THURSDAY, JUNE 20TH

## BROTHER AND THE HAYES

### LIVE AT HEALTHY RHYTHM



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[WWW.BROTHERANDTHEHAYES.COM](http://WWW.BROTHERANDTHEHAYES.COM)





# **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 portrait is orange.

## **LARRY DON SUCKLA**

**Going to REPRESENT YOU, and  
OUR Freedoms**

**Send me a Message or Call  
970-570-5850**

**[www.sucklafor58.com](http://www.sucklafor58.com)**

**Paid for by the Committee to Elect  
Larry Don Suckla**

# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## RICHARD NICHOLS, P.E., NAMED PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE— Montrose County is pleased to announce the promotion of Richard Nichols P.E., as the new Public Works Director. Richard Nichols P.E., is a seasoned, professional engineer licensed by the State of Colorado with extensive experience in civil infrastructure and large project experience. He will lead the Public Works Department in its mission to enhance the quality of life for residents through sustainable and efficient public services.

Mr. Nichols brings more than 40 years of experience in public works, senior engineering level management experience and large-scale construction project experi-

ence. Mr. Nichols served as County Engineer for Montrose County, where he successfully managed projects including the Chipeta Signal with CDOT Region 3. He is currently working on the Kinikin Road repair and completing several other road and bridge projects.

Mr. Nichols has a Chemical Engineering degree from the Colorado School of Mines, and is a certified Professional Engineer. His other experience includes cost estimating, hydrological analysis and construction management.

"I am honored to join and look forward to collaborating with the community, staff, and leaders to continue building and maintaining the vital infrastructure that

supports our residents' daily lives," said Mr. Nichols. "Together, we will strive to ensure that our public works systems are resilient, efficient, and responsive to the needs of our county."

In his new role, Mr. Nichols will oversee the planning, development, maintenance, and operation of the county's public works, including roads, bridges as well as operations.

He will also focus on advancing practices and innovative solutions to enhance service delivery and support the county's long-term growth and infrastructure goals.

For more information about Montrose County Public Works, please visit their [webpage](#).

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- 1 3/4 Bathroom
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- Corner Lot
- Built in 2022





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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### DELTA HEALTH WELCOMES NEW CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, ELIZABETH (LISA) LEE

#### *Special to the Mirror*

DELTA— Delta Health is pleased to announce Elizabeth “Lisa” Lee as Delta Health's Chief Financial Officer (CFO) on June 3, 2024.

Lee is a seasoned finance professional with over 25 years of financial management experience. Originally from the city of Chicago, Lisa graduated from Loyola University Chicago with a BBA in Business Administration, majoring in public accounting. Following her academic journey, she obtained her CPA certification.

“We are thrilled to welcome Lisa to our Leadership Team,” said Delta Health Interim Chief Executive Officer and Chief Legal Officer Julie Huffman. “Her depth of experience and proven track record will be in-

strumental as we continue to navigate the complexities of the healthcare landscape and help to secure the financial health of Delta Health.” Lisa's journey in healthcare finance began at Loyola University Medical Center, where she spearheaded comprehensive financial endeavors including budgeting, forecasting, financial and statistical reporting and analysis.

Her time there laid the groundwork for her subsequent role at Rush University Medical Center, where she managed the financial affairs of a substantial internal medicine medical group comprising over 350 providers.

Eager to embark on a new adventure, Lisa is thrilled to join Delta Health, where she looks forward to collaborating with the

team and contributing to its ongoing success. “I am excited to join Delta Health and look forward to working with the talented team of professionals,” stated Lee. “Delta Health is at a great point to start making healthy financial strides to support the organization's strategic initiatives.”

Lisa joins Delta Health at a pivotal time as the organization continues to stabilize and seeks to expand access to care in Delta County. Lee's leadership will be crucial in driving financial performance and supporting the organization's long-term goals. “I am confident Lisa will be an outstanding addition to our Delta Health Team, and I cannot wait to show her what an amazing hospital and community we are,” commented Huffman.

## FIREWOOD PERMITS NOW AVAILABLE FOR ONLINE PURCHASE

#### *Special to the Mirror*

DELTA— Firewood permits for the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests are now available for purchase through a new online E-Permit system. A flexible and convenient service, permits can be purchased online or via mobile device, eliminating the need to visit a Forest Service office.

Visit the GMUG firewood permits webpage to learn more about gathering firewood or to purchase a permit online. Traditional firewood permits will still be available to purchase at local Forest Service offices or participating vendors. The Forest Service will continue to enhance and improve the online permit system's quality and will introduce additional special forest product permits in the future.

“We are excited to launch the new online firewood E-permit system, which will make it easier for forest users to get the permits they need,” said Acting Forest Supervisor Jim Pitts. “This new digital tool reflects our dedication to making things simpler, more accessible and focused on the needs of the public.”

For more information about the firewood program on the GMUG National Forests, please call (970) 874-6600.

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



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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### SAN MIGUEL POWER ASSOCIATION BOARD APPOINTS VALENTINE SZWARC TO FILL VACANCY

#### *Special to the Mirror*

RIDGWAY-After interviewing four candidates, the sitting directors of San Miguel Power Association (SMPA) decided to appoint Ridgway resident, Valentine Szwarc to fill a board vacancy left by the recent passing of incumbent director, Debbie Cokes.

The SMPA Board comprises seven seats, each representing a different geographic district within the service territory. Szwarc will step in to represent his fellow SMPA members in Board District #6, which covers part of Ouray County including Ridgway and much of Loghill Village. He will remain in the position for the duration of the term, which is up for re-election in the summer of 2026.

Szwarc brings with him, a combination of system engineering experiences in the fields of Aerospace Engineering and Information Technology, along with a Master of Science (MS) in Engineering and an Executive Master of Business Administration (EMBA).

Locally, he serves/has served on the Ridgway-Ouray Community Council (ROCC), the Ridgway Dark Sky Committee, and the Top of the Pines (TOP) Board of Directors, along with other community initiatives.

"I look forward to working with Mr. Szwarc in the coming years on the SMPA Board," said SMPA Board President, Rube Felicelli. "We also appreciate the efforts of the other candidates who applied for the position. This decision was not

easy." Szwarc will appear before the membership, for the first time as a director, at this year's SMPA Annual Meeting on June 6th, at the SMPA Nucla Office (170 W. 10th Ave., Nucla). Members may also join via Zoom by registering at <https://www.smpa.com/content/annual-meeting-election>.

At the conclusion of this meeting, another new SMPA Director will be announced, as the winner of the District #1 Board election to replace outgoing director, Doyle Garvey.

This director will represent the area including parts of Montrose, San Miguel, Ouray and Dolores Counties including Basin, Bedrock, Naturita, Nucla, Paradox, Redvale, Slick Rock and Uravan.

## Kate's Summer Creative Classes By Appointment Only

To schedule a class for group of 10-20, text 970-729-1188  
or visit <https://kathrynrburke.com/contact-me/>

[kathrynrburke.com/class-videos](https://kathrynrburke.com/class-videos)

## Scheduled classes resume in September

### Kathryn R Burke, Creative Inspirationist

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5June2024

**HANKS REACTS TO CD3 DEBATE**

Former State Representative Ron Hanks was pleased to participate in the 3rd Congressional District debate in Durango, Colorado.

Noticeably missing from Tuesday night's debate was the Never-Trump "Americans for Prosperity" candidate, Jeff Hurd. Jeff Hurd has missed every debate, and only attended the GOP assembly in April to electioneer – not to participate in the assembly process. The attendees at yesterday's debate were noticeably irritated by the disinterest shown by candidate Hurd, who seems to be following the Joe Biden campaign model of hiding from the voters, a tactic presumably encouraged by his establishment-Republican endorsers, such as ousted Congressman Scott Tipton.

Also missing were questions on the most important issues facing our nation. Vital national security issues such as open borders, illegal immigration, energy, inflation, crime, manufacturing, and agriculture were not asked directly. An audio review revealed Hanks brought up those issues independently 31 times. Candidate Russ Andrews mentioned those issues five times, and Webb, Varela, and McCrackin addressed only 1 of those issues a single time. These national security issues are the fundamental concerns congressional members will be dealing with. Without question, they are the most important issues to the voters, and the lack of dialog on them was troubling.

Rep. Hanks reiterated his emphatic support of President Trump's America First agenda. He mentioned his previous efforts in the Colorado House to legalize Constitutional Carry of Firearms and to restore Election Integrity. Further, Hanks' background in National Security was evident in his answers to questions on aid to Ukraine and Israel, given his experience in Russia, the former Soviet Republic of Kazakhstan, and his 10 years as an Arabic linguist.

Rep. Hanks delivered several blows to candidate Varela's ongoing battle with the truth. Hanks referred to Varela as the fake-Republican in the race, and further destroyed Varela's assertion that he is a pro-Trump conservative, noting Varela voted for Biden in 2020. Hanks finished by noting Varela suffered significant setbacks with the retraction of endorsements by former Congressman Tom Tancredo and Veterans for Trump.

The CD3 debate, while somewhat limited in reach, was a vital effort to reach voters in this crucial election, and Rep Hanks is on record saying there should be more debates across this 27-county district.

**###**





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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## IMPROVEMENTS TO OWL CREEK PASS ROAD BEGIN NEXT WEEK

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### *Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE— The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests announce the temporary closure of a portion of County Road 8 (National Forest System Road #858)—Owl Creek Pass road for road maintenance operations. The reconstruction, conducted by Ouray County Road and Bridge, will begin on June 10 and last through June 21.

Operations include rebuilding the road with gravel crushed from the Owl Creek gravel pit and improving drainage along a five-mile stretch beginning at the gravel pit and ending at the Sleeping Indian Lodge.

This section of Owl Creek Pass road will be closed for the duration of the project, with a brief weekend opening planned for June 14-16. The gravel pit and the Owl Creek Vista Overlook/Trailhead area will also be closed during construction and will not open for the weekend. Flaggers will be stationed at each end of the closure to redirect traffic.

"We appreciate the public's patience during this relatively short closure," said Ouray District Ranger Dana Gardunio. "This work will help ensure the long-term viability of this road."

Detailed information and a map of the closure can be found [here](#).

For more information on this project, please contact Ouray County Road & Bridge at (970) 626-5391 or visit their [web-site](#).

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](#)).





# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## ONGOING CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES AND CLOSURES IN THE IRONTON AREA



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### *Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE — Beginning this week, San Miguel Power Association (SMPA) will begin the first phase of operations for the Red Mountain Powerline Project. This multi-stage project will reconstruct approximately 4.5 miles of transmission line from the Red Mountain substation to the Idarado substation along Highway 550 south of Ouray.

Closures will be instituted in the following areas of operation for public safety: St. Germain area, Iron-ton Townsite, south side of National Forest System Road (NFSR) #895—Greyhound Mine road/Spirit Gulch road, and dispersed camping near NFSR #886—Corkscrew road and NFSR #884—Brown Mountain road.

Additionally, SMPA will conduct foot traffic control at National Forest System Trail (NFST) #250—Richmond trail, allowing hikers to travel through the area intermittently when safe.

SMPA has established a public information [website](#) to alert the public about ongoing activities in the area. Closure signs will be placed in the areas identified while work is occurring. The website and signage will be updated as operations progress.

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](#).

**News, if unreported, has no impact.  
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*Thank you for reading The Montrose Mirror.***

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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### MONTROSE POLICE HOSTING SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE UNTIL AUG 6

#### *Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE— To help prepare local Montrose County School District students for success in this upcoming school year, the Montrose Police Department is hosting a school supply drive open now until Tuesday, August 6.

Anyone interested in helping can drop off supplies inside the Montrose Police Department lobby at 434 South First Street in downtown Montrose, Monday through Thursday, 7 a.m. - 6 p.m., through August 6.

Useful items include crayons, dry-erase markers, pencils, tissues, ring binders, glue sticks, composition books, headphones, earbuds, high-lighters, pocket folders, colored pencils, loose-leaf paper, erasers, and backpacks.

Montrose Police Chief Blaine Hall said officers plan to gather all the donated items inside the lobby of the Police Department for members of the school district to collect and disperse where they're needed most following the conclusion of the drive. "The Montrose Police Department is very excited to coordinate a school supply again drive this year in partnership with the Montrose County School District," Hall said. "These much-needed items will go to kids throughout the school year to support those who may not be able to purchase them on their own."

Hall said he is proud to know that throughout the school year teachers can hand out these supplies to kids who are in need. The Police Department hopes the school supply drive will continue to be an annual event to help support local school children.

"Thank you so much to all of our citizens who donate," Hall said. "I challenge the community to fill the Police Department!"

For information about the City of Montrose visit [CityofMontrose.org](http://CityofMontrose.org).

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**June 25th**

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# MADAMS, MURDER, AND MAYHEM



This historical walking tour will examine the seedier side of local history. This walk will visit the sites of the notorious saloons, jails, and historical buildings. The tales will intertwist history and legends on the famous and scandalous local characters of the area.

June 14th will be the first tour for the season.  
Limited spaces are available.

Please RSVP at 970-249-2085.

Admission is \$10.00/person.

The walk starts at 7:00 pm

MEET AT THE MUSEUM

21 N. Rio Grande





# HALT THE DOLORES: NOTES FROM THE WEST END From pg 1

*iconic treasure of the community and defacing it for what the majority of the citizens do not believe in. Shame on you for falsely portraying on our town marquee a message we did not ask Senator Bennet to endorse. Shame on you for using a media that does not belong to you nor do you have any right to its space. This sign was rescued from ruin by a fund-raising campaign of people who grew up going to the Uranium Drive In. It was their first date, it was a gathering place, it was a family movie night and lifelong memories were made there. Shame on you for thinking you could intrude on that. Most of all, shame on you for the ignorance in believing our community would fall for such tactics. At the very least, an apology is needed and a retraction from all the sites you posted this to.*

*-Kathy Cooper Town of Naturita"*

As soon as Kathy called him out, the Facebook post came down.

Also on Tuesday, Sean Pond--head of the Halt the Dolores group--talked to the owner of Blondies in Naturita (the only place to eat in Naturita) and found out that they would be closed for the weekend, because Camp V had hired him to do food for the 400+ people who would be coming to Naturita on Friday to help promote the monument. The big question is who is paying for all of those 400 plus people to come here and stay at Camp V, with the food provided, to meet with Senator Bennett on Sunday morning for a private meeting????

I had taken petitions to Moab to a friend, and he took them to his place of business to get signatures. I called him last week to say that I would be coming over to pick them up and he told me he had four pages completed, and they would be at his store. When I arrived to get the petitions, someone had taken them. My friend and his employees all said that the petitions were there on the counter for me, but they got really busy with customers and when they went to get the petitions for me, they were gone. On my way home I stopped at the spring where there were stickers saying, "Halt the Dolores" on a metal sign for stickers and it was gone--so I re-stuck

more stickers up.

I have put up Halt the Dolores signs in Bedrock three times and they keep getting taken down. No, the wind did not blow them away, I had them braced them with big rocks, the size of basket balls.

Scott Braden has a financial backer known as Hansjorg Wyss, who has not only backed him financially but has trained him on how to shut down public lands-- closing thousands of miles of roads and trails-- which is hurtful to ranchers, farmers, miners, and everyone else who enjoys the outdoors. This is his job.

These are also the antics we are dealing with to fight the monument. The proponents have more money, and they don't care who they hurt as long as they get their way. What was the saying in the movie *Field of Dreams*? Build it and they will come. Well, they are coming and will continue to come. People who have never heard of this area are showing up to see what the proponents are talking about. The traffic has already increased; people are coming and camping where they shouldn't, bringing their trash and leaving it for the locals to clean up. I want people to drive Highway 90 and see how bad the road is, full of potholes, and now trash. On Tuesday someone did a lot of graffiti on a concrete barrier on Paradox hill. There never used to be that kind of trash until they started this monument proposal.

The roads in this area cannot handle the traffic and are falling apart just from the locals, so with 400 plus vehicles just this weekend how much more will they fall apart? We do not have cell phone service from Naturita to Utah, and no ambulance or fire service in that area. What happens if there is an accident, or a fire? Who is going to take care of it? Not the Monument proponents.

Sean and Dannell Pond as well as Amiee Tooker have worked very hard to get the information out about what the proponents are trying to do here. Yes, the Ponds and Aimee have had a lot of help from other citizens of the area, but they are the driving force behind all of us.

On Sunday, the room was packed with more than 600 people in attendance and



**After the town of Naturita put a notice on the old drive-in sign that Senator Bennet was coming, Scott Braden, the head of the proponents, took the sign and Photo-shopped it to change it to Protect the Dolores on Facebook (see Photo). Braden was later called out by the town. Photo by Doris Van Ness.**

maybe 100 more out in the lobby. We were very fortunate to have Cleave Simpson, District 5 State Senator, and Mark Catlin of House District 58 come and help us fight back on Sunday June 9. We also had candidates who are running for CD3-- Ron Hanks, Russ Andrews, as well as Curtis McCrackin, and Stephen Varela. Lew Webb could not make it but sent a representative, with a statement in his stead. Also present were Larry Don Suckla, who is running for HD58, Montrose County Commissioner Sue Hansen, and candidates for Montrose County commissioner Scott Riba, Scott Mijares, Rick Dunlap, and Lou Stark.

Hansen did not get to speak, but she did give me a statement as follows, "We have had several meetings with Senator Bennet and I feel we are making some headway. We will have more meetings and I am hoping that we will be work on a supplemental proposal for us to redraw the bounders of the monument and scale it down to a manageable size."

Senator Bennet opened the meeting at 3pm with a statement thanking everyone for coming out to see him. Everyone was given approximately three minutes to speak, and we heard from the proponents

## HALT THE DOLORES: NOTES FROM THE WEST END From previous pg

protect this area for future generations. One gentleman said that the area has 160 miles of rafting on the river from McPhee reservoir to the Utah state line that are needed for recreation. Another said that he grew up back east and came to this area and has rafted, camped, hiked, and fell in love with the area and wants others to find this peaceful place and enjoy it as well. The area needs to be protected; it is so unique and special. One woman from Durango said that she wants the area protected so others can see the true beauty of the area. In total, seven people spoke in support of the monument, and of the importance of protecting it from the people who have lived here and taken care of the land for 100 plus years.

Opponent Aimee Tooker also spoke. "We are here because of our love of the community and this land. We are blessed to have this community and the Dolores River Canyon Country as our home and our back yard."

Tooker also said that the West End is a Tier One coal affected community. "There are four in the state of Colorado. The Colorado General Assembly and Governor Polis

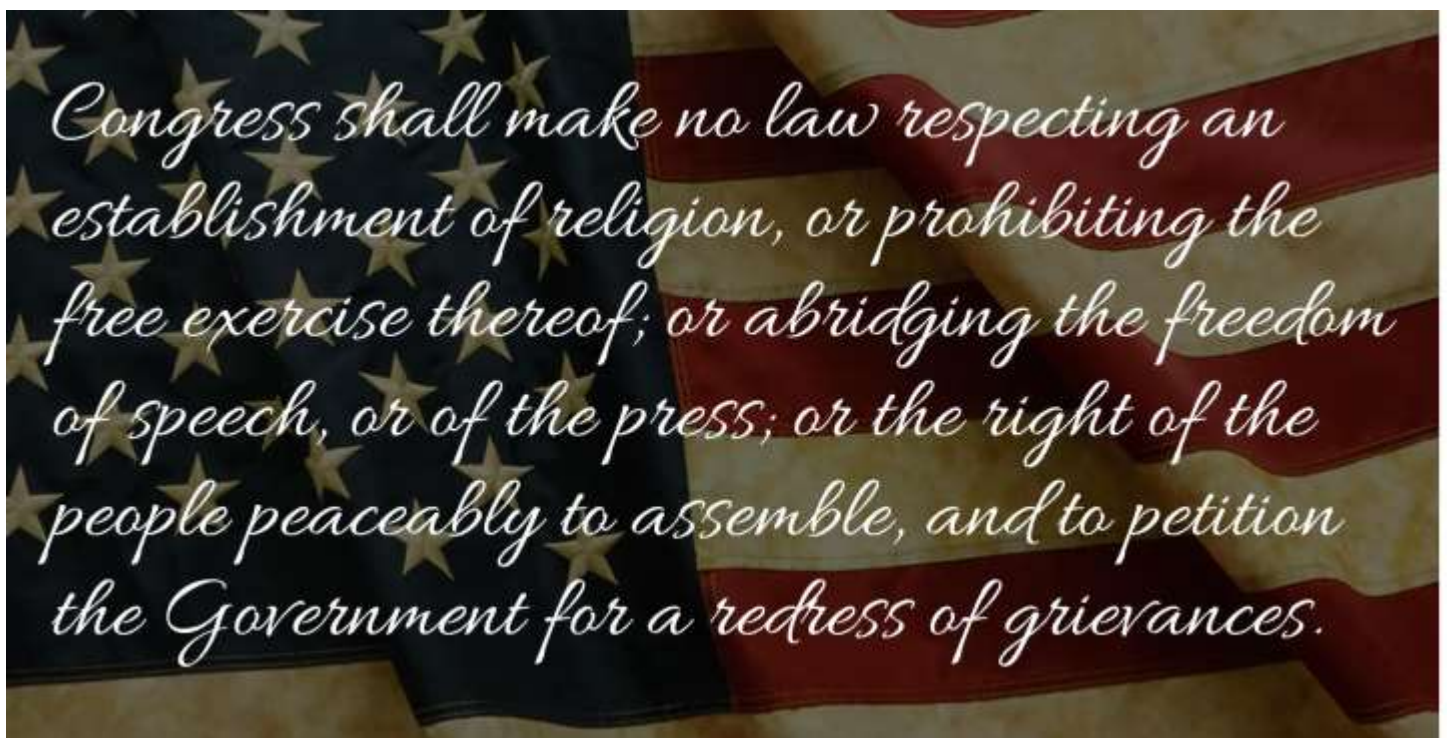
*signed house bill 19-1314, declaring a moral commitment to this community for a Just and Inclusive Transition away from coal. With the signing of this bill, it also created the Office of Just Transition and the Just Transition Advisory Committee which I am a member of. The Colorado Just Transition Action Plan specifically states support and resources for our community to drive our own economic transition. We do not want to be force-fed a single recreation industry nor do we want to be wiped off the map. Senator Bennet, if you and Senator Hickenlooper want to truly honor the commitment that the state of Colorado has made to this community, and you want to honor the principles of locally led conservation that President Biden has laid out in the "America the Beautiful" Initiative, then let us write the monument proposal and let us design the map. I know we can do it better, more inclusive and with truly local stakeholder input. As our Senators representing the State of Colorado in Washington D.C. please honor the commitment that the State of Colorado had made to this community."*

State Senator Cleave Simpson stated that he just found out about the monument in mid-March and the calls, letters, and e-mails have stacked up in his office over this issue. He hopes that Senator Bennet will take what the people here who live in the area have to say, give them more value, and weigh them against the outsiders who only come here to visit.

The opposition had facts, and true stories about why it should not happen. A woman from Gateway asked the question of the proponents, "How would you feel if we came to your gated community, your cul de sac, camped, took away your freedoms, left our trash, and invaded your home? We live here and take care of the land; you only visit and then you go home to your safe place. This is our safe place and you want to invade it."

Senator Bennet said that he had taken a lot of notes and the had not made a decision on the monument.

In closing, my own opinion is that we do not want the monument and we are willing to fight to keep the area the way it is. We are and have always been good stewards of the land we love.





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## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

### EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT AND RESPONSIBILITY TO VOTE BUT DO SO WISELY

*Editor:*

To date primary election emphasis has evolved around the PSST approved in 2007 as an enhancement fund for our Sheriff Department. It has been documented that contrary to the intention of the original ballot question, the county has continued to make charges against the PSST absent Sheriff initiation or approval.

When combined with commissioner refusal to consider the FPPA retirement program for our MCSO, our collective county security has been put at great risk. Our Sheriff Department is unable to compete for or retain qualified personnel. With commissioners supporting Stark and Dunlap to maintain their status quo, it's no wonder that Gene Lillard is strongly supporting and recommending voters support Mijares and Riba.

In the last few weeks Chuck Bell, a former Road & Bridge employee, has highlighted mismanagement issues as well as concerns about employee intimidation by commissioners. Given the fact that the Road & Bridge Director suddenly disappeared from public view and it became known that the county quietly settled a suit by another former Road & Bridge employee, it certainly seems that a second county department is in turmoil, making your vote in this primary election even more critical.

The greatest responsibility of any citizen is to exercise their right to vote in all elections to determine the direction of respective governing bodies. Our ballots for the primary were just delivered last week and voting your choice of candidates could not be any easier. Simply vote for your desired candidates, sign your ballot, and either mail or place in the drop box at the County Clerk's office on 2nd Street.

In the April City of Montrose council election only 26% of registered voters cared enough about the direction of city government to vote, even after three councilors voted in favor of sanctuary status! Certainly a disgusting turnout! In the county wide 2022 election 64% of registered voters exercised their most precious right, and in 2020 84% did likewise. The primary vote currently before us deserves at least an 84% or better turnout, as the future viability of our Sheriff Department and our collective public safety are in jeopardy.

Our Sheriff Gene Lillard has publicly endorsed the two Scotts, Ribas and Mijares for the two commissioner seats. His endorsement of Riba and Mijares is in my opinion a plea for help that has not been forthcoming from our current commissioners. If undecided or in doubt about your vote take the time to talk to or visit with Sheriff Lillard. In any event exercise your right and responsibility to vote but do so wisely.

*Dee Laird, Montrose*







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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### DELTA COMMUNITY PARTNERS HOSTING FLAG DAY FUNDRAISER

#### *Special to the Mirror*

DELTA— Delta Police Department is partnering with Ziggi's Coffee, Jack FM, and the Delta Area Chamber of Commerce to support the Delta High School JROTC Program (Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps) with a Flag Day fundraiser on Friday, June 14th from 8am-1pm at Ziggi's Coffee located on 53 Stafford Lane.

Join us while we celebrate our nation's symbol of unity and pride, with a Flag Raising Ceremony performed by the

JROTC cadets from Delta High School, followed by a performance of the National Anthem by Ziggi's staff, culminating in an afternoon of family friendly activities alongside community partners to commemorate this inaugural event.

"This is for the kids, JROTC Cadets, and the community," said owner of Ziggi's Coffee and current CEO of USJAG (Uniformed Services Justice & Advocacy Group), Nic Gray. As an Iraq combat veteran, Nic exemplifies commitment to social impact

through his work within the veteran community, and this event is a way for him to give back to Delta's youth by connecting them to life opportunities, and paths that foster success for the next generation of leaders. Proceeds from sales on Flag Day to benefit Delta High School's JROTC program.

Follow the Delta Police Department social media pages for more information and updates on the day's events.

[Facebook](#) & [Instagram](#)

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# COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

## HUMAN REMAINS FOUND IN PARK COUNTY

*Special to the Mirror*

PARK COUNTY - On Tuesday, May 28th, 2024, at approximately 12:24 PM, the Park County Sheriff's Office received a report of potential human remains found in an area outside of Bailey on United States Forest Service (USFS) land. Officials from the Park County Sheriff's Office, the Park County Coroner's Office, and the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) confirmed the finding as human remains. The location of the discovery is a remote camping area outside of Bailey, the scene remains secure. Forensic specialists and authorities are conducting a meticulous examination to collect evidence and ascertain the circumstances surrounding the finding. The process of identification is underway, conducted with utmost care and respect for accuracy.

As of now, information regarding the case is limited. Collaboratively, the Sheriff's Office, the Coroner's Office, and CBI are diligently working to unravel more details. Further updates will be provided as new information emerges.

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## CITY CONSIDERS USING FORMER CHARTER SCHOOL FACILITY FOR EMPLOYEE CHILDCARE



**Montrose City Council work session of June 3. Work session screenshot.**

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-Mayor J. David Reed welcomed all to the Montrose City Council work session of June 3, with a brief explanation for those not familiar with work session format.

"...This is a time when council hears of various projects and matters affecting the city that will subsequently come before council for action...we do not take any votes...and we do not take public comment but of course the public is always welcome to attend..."

Councilor Judy Ann Files joined the session virtually; Councilor Doug Glaspell was absent. All others were present in Council chambers.

### DISCUSSION ITEMS

Public Works Director Jim Scheid gave an update on moving forward with the Montrose Veterans Memorial Plaza, planned for the area near the Montrose Botanic Gardens and the Pavilion.

Council will consider approving a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Montrose Veterans Memorial Coalition and with Montrose County for the construction of a Veterans Memorial Plaza. Scheid said, "...We have created an MOA to describe the project and set responsibilities for different parties..."

Mayor Pro Tem David Frank asked about handicapped accessible parking, Scheid said that accessible parking will be available.

Said Frank, "I am very excited about this, and I think that the design element is going to be noteworthy, it's going to be a real draw for Montrose, it's going to be a landmark for a lot of future genera-

tions...and a great location."

Councilor Ed Ulibarri said, "...I think the veterans deserve some kind of recognition for the service they provided our country, I think this is very fitting...there's groups of travelers from different states, especially on motorcycles...one of the things they look for are memorials for veterans so that they can stop and pay their respects..." Ulibarri thanked those veterans in attendance for their service.

**Background**-A memo from Scheid to Council provides information on the progress to date. "Since the work session with City Council on March 4, 2024, City Staff have been working with members of the Montrose Veterans Memorial Coalition (MVMC) and Montrose County to establish terms of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)...The location is to be the City parcel that is to the West of the Montrose Botanical Gardens near the Montrose Pavilion... There is no specific dollar amount being authorized as part of this MOA for contribution from the City or the County...The cost of the project and its phases is unknown at this time. Once design has reached a point that a cost estimate can be performed the project may be presented to the City of Montrose and Montrose County for funding requests... The City intends to procure a Design Team to establish site grading, drainage, irrigation relocation, utility services, ADA accessibility, site layout, structural elements, lighting, signage, etc. Once the design is substantially complete, the City will have expenses related to the procurement of a General Contractor for cost estimating services prior to establishing a contract for the construction activities. This project is not specifically budgeted in the 2024 budget and may need to be supplemented in the 2024 budget."

Council heard an update as well from Pavilion and Events Manager Kathryn Schroer on [activities planned for the Fourth of July](#) and on Fireworks Display Permit Approval; Municipal Code requires approval by City Council on June 17.

On Wednesday, July 3, the 60-piece Air Force Band will play at the Montrose Rotary Amphitheatre at 6pm.

On July 4, The 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade will begin on Main Street at 10am. A food village, vendors, kids' activities and a beer garden at the Montrose Rotary Amphitheatre will begin at 1pm. At 6pm Farmer in the Sky will open for Headliner Jordan Rainer at 7:30pm. Fireworks will begin at dusk.

"A lot of fun things happening," Schroer said, "We hope to see you there."

Also considered was an ordinance for the Otter Pond Circle Special Improvement District Final Assessment of Costs. City attorney Chris Dowsey was scheduled to present the ordinance but had missed a connecting flight to Montrose, so City Engineer Scott Murphy and Public Safety Attorney Matt Magliaro discussed details of the ordinance, which will come before Council June 17.

**Background**-A memo from Dowsey to Council states, "It was found that the Otter Pond Dam was failing in the summer of 2022. The HOA reached out to the City to see what assistance could be provided...The City has a procedure in its code to create a Special Improvement District ("SID") (to) ...have the City up front the cost of the project related to City infrastructure, then defray the cost to all members within the SID. In January 2024, City Council adopted ordinance No. 2653, Creating the Otter Pond Circle Utility Relocation Special Improvement District...an amount up to \$420,000 in costs associated with the improvements within the District would be repaid to the City by an assessed value of 1/85 of the actual total cost for the improvements plus interest, where applicable, to each parcel. Final costs for the relocation of the water and sewer utilities and repair of the roadway total \$419,993.40... The assessment cost to each individual owner within the SID equates to \$4,941.10 per parcel (\$419,993.40/85 = \$4,941.10). Parcel owners have the option to prepay their balance with a 2% discount for a specified period after the final assessment ordinance is adopted. The second option is annual payments over 20 years with 4% interest accruing, this will be paid through the County Assessor to be dispersed to the City's SID fund."

Continued next pg

## CITY CONSIDERS USING FORMER CHARTER SCHOOL FACILITY FOR EMPLOYEE CHILDCARE

*From previous pg*

The next discussion item involved a lease extension agreement for the Straw Hat Farm Market Kitchen Store at 514 South First Street. The City of Montrose purchased the property in 2011; Council will consider a five-year extension of the existing lease that will run through February 28, 2030.

**Background-** A [memo](#) from Community Development Specialist Chris Ottinger to Council states, "The City of Montrose purchased the property located at 514 S 1st Street in 2011. The property contains a 4,701 square foot building which was originally constructed in 1935 and has been periodically remodeled since that date... (tenant) Straw Hat Farm Market & Kitchen Store has recently been seeking a grant to expand their kitchen and would like to renew their lease early to solidify a longer-term presence at the property. They are requesting a five-year lease extension that will run through February 28, 2030. Their lease rate for the extension would remain unchanged... Attached is the current lease as well as the [proposed lease amendment](#) reflecting the five-year extension. City staff is recommending approval of this lease extension."

Utilities Director David Bries said that brass shavings had been found in a gear box at the wastewater treatment facility, indicating anticipated failure. At the next council meeting, councilors will be asked to [approve the sole source purchase](#) of one 42H6T Amwell clarifier drive unit.

**Background-** A memo from Bries to Council states, "The wastewater treatment plant utilizes three clarifiers to separate the treated water from the solids at the end of the process. These solids are returned to the treatment process or to the digesters, and the clean water goes to the UV disinfection system prior to discharge to the Uncompahgre River. The design of the treatment plant requires the use of at least two clarifiers at all times to properly separate the solids and the clean effluent. During routine maintenance of the gearboxes/drive units on clarifiers 1 and 2 last month, it was discovered that there were

some brass metal shavings in the oil. After checking the oil two weeks later, we discovered that there was a significant increase in the amount of brass metal shavings in the oil. We discussed this finding with the manufacturer and were advised that there will likely be a failure of one or both of the gearboxes within the next 6+ months. It was recommended to purchase one brand new unit (\$58,400.00) to replace one of the failing units. Currently the expected lead time is 12 - 14 weeks from order date. Between now and the delivery date of the equipment, staff will solicit proposals from mechanical contractors to remove the failing unit and to install the new gearbox unit. Staff expects the contractor costs to remove and replace the gearbox unit will be in the \$25-\$30,000 range. After replacement of the failing unit, it would be sent in for a rebuild (\$38,800) and then be used to replace the other gearbox on clarifier 2. The plan is to send in the second gearbox to be rebuilt in 2025 and to keep it in our inventory for a future replacement. The \$58,400 cost for the replacement gearbox was not included in the 2024 Wastewater Treatment budget but is a critical piece of equipment and a failure of this piece of equipment could potentially cause NPDES permit violations. Staff will monitor expenditures and if needed a budget amendment would be done near the end of the year. Currently staff believe there is sufficient budget authority without a budget amendment."

Council considered approving a grant application to the Colorado Department of Early Childhood, for funds to remodel and furnish the former Passage Charter School facility as a long-term childcare option for City of Montrose employees. Requested funds of up to \$800,000 will be used to retrofit and furnish the city-owned property at 703 S. 9th street.

**Background-** A [memo](#) from Community Development Director Jace Hochwalt is included in the meeting packet. Among the findings noted in the memo, "a recently completed survey for City staff, as well as other governmental and quasi-govern-

mental agencies including Montrose County School District, Montrose County, Montrose Recreation District, Montrose County Fire District, Montrose Regional Health, 7th Judicial District of the State of Colorado, Montrose Library, and Western Colorado Regional Dispatch Center. The survey received nearly 300 responses, with the consensus being that additional childcare options are needed in Montrose. The survey results reflected that 33 families want to enroll their infant or toddler in childcare but are currently unable to do so because of availability or cost. Furthermore, 69 survey respondents indicated they were considering having a newborn in the next two years."

Also cited in the memo is the Montrose County Childcare Needs Assessment completed by Root Policy Research in late 2021, which reflected a shortage of childcare spaces, and which classified Montrose County as a "childcare desert."

### COUNCIL/STAFF COMMENTS

Councilor Judy Ann Files said she had attended a [Colorado Flights Alliance](#) meeting in Telluride with City Manager Bill Bell the previous week. "It was really good to get back into that..."

City Engineer Scott Murphy provided a construction update; the best place to stay informed is the City's [Moving Montrose Forward website](#), he said.

Mayor Pro Tem David Frank asked about irrigation at Altrusa Park.

Public Works Director Jim Scheid said that crews are working on it; the park has been watered and needs more water. "We're working through irrigation issues...we have issues getting water to the site and we also have impacts from construction..."

Scheid also said that the façade has been removed from the new city hall structure, exposing the 1940's-era brick. "...I'm just really pleased that the brick and the headers are in such good condition that it could allow for re-use."

With no additional council or staff comments and no further business Mayor Reed adjourned the work session.



## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### MOTORISTS CAN EXPECT BRIEF DELAYS BETWEEN SILVERTON AND OURAY BEGINNING JUNE 10

*Special to the Mirror*

**SOUTHWEST COLORADO** — On Monday, June 10, the Colorado Department of Transportation will begin month-long operations to replace several culverts on US Highway 550 between Silverton and Ouray. June 10 through 13, motorists can expect alternating traffic and brief 15-minute delays at several stream crossings between Silverton and Ironton, Mile Points 71 and 81.

Maintenance crews will replace existing metal culverts with durable Polyethylene culverts made to withstand corrosive elements and sustain high volumes of debris flow. Work is weather permitting.

CDOT urges motorists to slow down and watch for flaggers, work crews and heavy equipment.

**Traffic Impacts**

Daytime work hours range from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

Motorists should plan for 10-15 minute delays and should allow for extra travel time

Expect one-lane alternating traffic guided by signs, cones and flagging personnel

A speed reduction will be enforced through the work zones.

A sitting County Commissioner with 2 years left on her term is campaigning for a candidate to serve on the Montrose County Board of Commissioners. If this seems odd and unethical, it is.

The voters get to decide who represents them, not an elected official. Montrose is better served by a board that is made up of 3 independent thinkers who are there to serve the public, not another commissioner.

**Vote for Scott Mijares for County Commissioner**

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## COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

### REP. HOLTORF CELEBRATES SIGNING OF WOMEN VETERANS APPRECIATION DAY BILL

*Special to the Mirror*

DENVER - Representative Richard Holtorf, a proud veteran, celebrated the signing of HB24-1236, a bill that establishes June 12th as "Women Veterans Appreciation Day," an observed state holiday dedicated to honoring the service and sacrifices of women in the military.

"As a veteran myself and a commander of troops through the battalion command level, I've seen the remarkable contributions of women in the Army," said Holtorf. "This bill is a testament to their dedication and the unique challenges they face. It's about time we gave them the recognition they deserve."

The newly signed bill acknowledges the growing role of women in the military, who now make up approximately 16% of the active-duty force in the United States. By setting aside June 12th as a special day, the bill aims to not only honor past and present women veterans but also inspire future generations of women to pursue careers in the armed forces.

Holtorf emphasized the importance of this recognition, stating, "This day isn't just about reflecting on the past. It's about looking to the future and showing young women that they too can serve our nation with honor and distinction. This day will highlight the distinct and invaluable role women have played and continue to play in our military," Rep. Holtorf added.

Representative Holtorf concluded, "I would like to honor past and present women veterans and also inspire future generations of women to serve their country in the armed forces."



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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## THE REPUBLICAN PARTY SHOULD NEVER GET INVOLVED IN THE PRIMARY

*Editor:*

In 2020 when I was the chair of the Montrose County republican party. Several people in the central committee wanted to get involved in the primary and hand out literature and do neighborhood walks and such. I strongly disagreed and said that would be an effective way to divide the party. My reasoning was that people are very enthusiastic about supporting their candidates and having some people in the central committee supporting one candidate and others supporting another candidate was going to create a serious division. I was overridden and now four years later we have party chairs running for office in contested primaries. And the division within the party is the size of the Grand Canyon and growing. Prior to 2020 the party stayed neutral by not being involved in the primary. It is impossible to be neutral when the head of the party is choosing sides in his own race and the central committee is endorsing candidates in other contested races. This is total corruption of the mission of the party. And it is sowing the seeds of the party's demise.

In every political contest the opposing candidates are constantly looking for a weak spot in the other candidate to exploit. And when this happens and the party is picking winners and losers then the whole party is weakened, and vulnerable to the democrats who will exploit this. But our current republican party leaders do not seem to care because they have put their political aspirations ahead of what is best for the party and what is best for the community and the citizens.

And you compound this by having two county commissioner candidates that are corrupt and dishonest (Riba & Mijares). That leads to a lot of personal attacks that becomes a distraction away from the issues. But to be silent is to allow corrupt candidates to either be elected or lose to a democrat in the general election after the democrats expose their weakness.

And one of the functions of the central committee is to vet the candidates. And you cannot properly vet the candidates if you are not allowed to call them out for dishonest and false statements.

Some people have been calling out the candidates that I support saying these candidates should distance themselves from me. Let us get one thing straight I do not work for any of the candidates. I am not associated with any campaign for any office. I do what I do for three reasons. 1: I am a concerned citizen and as a passed central committee chair, I have knowledge as to how the republican party should do business. 2: I totally dislike dishonest politicians who take advantage of uninformed voters. 3: I got involved to level the playing field and supply the list of potential assembly delegates that I had from 2020 and 2022. The same list that Riba had and was using to try and gain an advantage. And that may be why Rick Dunlap got the most votes at the county assembly. That and the fact that all the elected county officials except one support Rick Dunlap.

Not being part of the central committee is very liberating in that I am not constrained by the corrupt bylaws of the central committee. My only constraint is my Christian values. Everything I say is provable. I do good research and background checks. This is the computer age, very little is hidden anymore. So, if you are a couple of dishonest men like Riba or Mijares you will be exposed. Louis Stark totally accepted full responsibility for his tax lien problems and has been open and honest about it from the very beginning. Scott Riba is a liar as well; he provided a letter to Scott Mijares dated February 5<sup>th</sup> stating he verified Mijares party affiliation, but public records prove that Mijares did not become a republican until February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024. So, Scott Riba cannot be trusted either. Rick Dunlap is the man I am voting for as commissioner in district three, he is a good Christian man who has

spent his life in service to this country and this community.

These dishonest men and the corrupt central committee are endorsing other candidates that should not be trusted as well. Ron Hanks is an election denier who has been endorsed by Mike Lindell (the pillow guy). Mike Lindell, who was a billionaire, has bankrupted himself by making false accusations against Dominion. He was sued and lost in court. Lindell also was a key player in the Tina Peters scandal. It was his employee who used a stolen ID to access the voting machines in Grand Junction. Tina Peters provided the stolen ID. This will all be proven in court.

Jeff Hurd is the man I trust for CD3 he is a good Christian man with good Christian values.

Larry Don Suckla is not someone I would trust to succeed Mark Catlin in HD58. He is brash and arrogant and that will not serve him well in the legislature with democrats in control by 46 to 19. Mark Roeber is cut from the same cloth as Marc Catlin. Roeber has the same negotiating skills as Catlin, he will be successful in the legislature.

The ballots go out in the mail this week. Please vote, too many people do not bother to vote in the primary and that is a huge mistake. It is the primary that decides who you get to vote for in November. And the best candidates have the best chance of winning in November. The link below is from a background check I did on Mijares. It is not an official document. But I'm Not the only one who has found this info. I do not know how Hawaii does their voter records but here in Colorado when I pull up my voter records it shows that I affiliated as a republican, August of 2000. I suspect Mijares could find his records from Hawaii if he wanted to. If he would stop lying to me, I would stop looking into his past.

[2004 voter info.jpeg](#)

*Ray Langston Montrose*



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# BLACK CANYON CLASSICS 29<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CAR SHOW

By David White

This past Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, saw our largest local car club (Black Canyon Classics) hold its 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Car Show in the City of Montrose's Cerise Park. As has been the case in years past, the show was well attended and those of us who grew up "wrenching" on cars had a field day looking at the classics from most of the decades of auto production in the USA. The net revenue raised by the club

through these annual car shows is used to

benefit local non-profits. This year, the show raised money for Partners and Faultless as well as for the Black Canyon Classics Scholarship Fund. The club is more than just a group of hobbyists who hang out on Friday nights in the parking lot at the local Culver's restaurant or elsewhere. They truly love our community and want to support those groups that make Montrose a desirable place to live. This year's featured car was the Buick Riviera. Several awards were given out to

participants who were judged to have the best-in-class vehicle present. Local businesses deserve mention for their sponsorships and contributions to make the show one to remember. Turner Automotive, Flower Motor Group, Montrose Ford-Nissan, Black Dog Equipment, Scott's Printing, Star Drive in Theater, Home Loan State Bank and San Juan Federal Credit Union as well as vendors and food purveyors that were at the show all day helped to make it a phenomenal event.



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



# OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

## YOUR VOTE MATTERS – LOCAL ELECTIONS AND THEIR CONSEQUENCES *There are more elections than you know! Know them & Vote in them*

By David White

By now, most of you who are registered GOP or unaffiliated voters will have received your ballots to vote in the upcoming June 25<sup>th</sup> Primary. Two weeks from tomorrow and it will be here and over.

Most of the focus in this year's Primary has fallen on the Republican Party candidates for Congress and County Commissioner. With the "abdication" of her seat in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District, Lauren Boebert created a void that has been quickly filled by six (6) GOP candidates vying to take on the Democrat Party nominee. Lots of rhetoric and accusations have been flying for the last few months amongst the candidates and their supporters as well as some of the big money donors driving the mailings and non-stop commercials we're all being bombarded with on radio, TV and social media. Varela, Hanks, Webb, Andrews, McCrackin and Hurd are the GOP candidates for this race. The following are other seats up for election that are either contested or uncontested:

-Uncontested: State Board of Education – Sherri Wright  
 -Uncontested: Regent of the University of Colorado at Large – Eric Rinard  
 -Uncontested: Regent of the University of Colorado – Congressional District 3 – Ray Scott – **(NOTE: As of 5/30/24, Kristine Sposato has withdrawn from the CU Regent-District 3 Republican Race. A vote for Kristine Sposato will not be counted.)**

-Uncontested: State Senator – District 5 –

Marc Catlin

-Contested: State Representative – District

58 – Larry Don Suckla or Mark Roeber

-Uncontested: District Attorney – Seth

Ryan

-Contested: Montrose County Commissioner – District 1 – Scott Mijares or "Big Lou" Start

-Contested: Montrose County Commissioner – District 3 – Scott Riba or Rick Dunlap

While the above are the high-profile seats, let's not forget that Colorado has a number of taxing entities that fall under different State Statutes that ALL have elections. While public notice is given, most of these are polling place elections falling at odd times and dates. Notice of elections are often hard to find too. Locally, such entities as the Montrose Recreation District, the Montrose Fire Protection District, West Montrose Sanitation District, Montrose RE1-J School District, Delta-Montrose Electric Association and others have elected boards that, in many cases, are allowed to levy a property tax. It would be wise to pay attention to these elections too as they will impact your finances in more ways than one.

With much at stake, it is very important to vote. The DMEA election last week is a case in point as those wanting the "green agenda" to be the future of DMEA have become firmly in control of that organization with some board members wanting



to see a ban put in place on the use of gasoline, coal and most other fossil fuels. While that goal is ideologically based, the practical reality is that fossil fuels will be around for decades more to come.

Simply put, just don't let your vote go to waste or you may wish you had paid more attention to what's going on around you!

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



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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### CITY ROADWORK CONTINUES; PLEASE RESPECT WORK ZONES AND DETOURS

#### *Special to the Mirror*

Beginning Tuesday June 11, contractors will close the intersection of Mesa Ave and Niagara Road to allow for asphalt milling operations. Additional milling will occur along S Hillcrest between Walden and Sunrise Dr. Traffic will be maintained along Hillcrest through the use of lane shifts and flaggers. This round of asphalt repairs is expected to be complete by the end of the day. Future closures for paving will come as final paving and intersection opening is quickly approaching.

S 5th - Townsend to Park

The contractor has completed stormwater installation along S 5th and is wrapping up concrete replacements. Currently the plan is to reopen S 5th from Townsend to Park with a gravel shoulder. This segment will be closed in the future to finish the mill and overlay portion of the project from Cascade to Park at the next available scheduled opening between the multiple specialty subcontractors.

S 5th - Junction to San Juan

Contractors have begun the process of replacing aging waterline along S 5th from Junction Ave to San Juan Ave. S 5th will be

closed to all thru traffic and parking. Individual water shut-off notifications will be distributed as appropriate.

S Nevada

Contractors will continue the process of replacing existing individual services to be tied over to the new mainline. After the new waterline is fully in service, roadway reconstruction will begin. The City asks that all motorists and pedestrians respect all work zones and detours. Visit [www.MoveMo.co](http://www.MoveMo.co) for routine project updates and information on other large capital projects taking place throughout the city.

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# COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

## PARTNERS OF DELTA, MONTROSE AND OURAY RECEIVES \$12,500 FROM WOMENS GIVING CLUB

### Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The Women's Giving Club convened on May 16 for their second quarterly meeting. The winner of the funds was Partners of Delta, Montrose and Ouray who received \$12,500. Head of Donor Relations and Recruitment Manager Lissette Rivière did a compelling presentation of their dedication to building one-to-one mentoring partnerships between young people and responsible, caring adults. Partners serves youth ages 6-17. Congratulations to Lissette and the Partners organization. For more information please visit [partner-west.org](http://partner-west.org).

Our other presenters were the Montrose Children's Museum. Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting will be on June 29th and 30th from 9 am to 6 pm. They are located at 221 Colorado Ave., Unit A. Please check them out at [montrosechildrensmuseum.org](http://montrosechildrensmuseum.org).

Finishing out the night was a presentation from Sharon Howard with the Montrose Animal Protection Agency (MAPA). Their outreach is all about the animals; spay or neuter procedures for families earning \$40,00 or less in addition to education

outreach for families and classrooms. Learn more about them at [montroseanimalprotectionagency.com](http://montroseanimalprotectionagency.com).

Next meeting will be August 1st, 5:30 p.m. at Bridges Golf and Country Club.

The Women's Giving Club is always welcoming new members! Don't wait for a formal invitation, just show up. Our donations to local non-profits in this community will soon reach \$400,000. You can be a part of something magical that has a positive impact in our community.

For more information please call Phoebe at 970-209-9598

## CHANGING NEEDS?

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

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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### BUSINESS INCUBATOR CENTER RELEASES 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

*Special to the Mirror*

MESA COUNTY – The Grand Junction Business Incubator Center (BIC) just released its 2023 Annual Report. As Colorado's longest-operating business incubator, BIC prioritized, strengthened and launched programs with a laser focus to achieve a singular goal—fortifying economic development in the Mesa County and surrounding region. The Business Incubator's CEO Dalida Sassoon Bollig reflected on the positive work the incubator team was able

to accomplish, work that directly impacted economic growth and sustainability over the course of the previous year. "I am proud of our organization, our results, and the work that my colleagues and I do to serve our community. The annual report shares key highlights from 2023 that exemplify this," Bollig Sassoon stated.

In 2023, BIC received Congressional recognition from Congresswoman Lauren Boebert (CO-CD3) for strategic and effective operations serving startups and small

businesses.

BIC brought back the Small Business Holiday Expo, a long-standing annual event that had fallen off during COVID. At the event last December, over 30 start-up businesses who showcased and sold their goods were able to engage with over 600 community members.

A new for-impact initiative titled Strategic Training for Non-Profits and Agencies was launched in collaboration with Mesa County Behavioral Health; it aims to build capacity to boost the nonprofit sector, demonstrating BIC's commitment to economic diversification.

"The World Comes to Grand Junction" was a huge success. This international event hosted locally and in partnership with Representative Matt Soper and local economic development bodies, emphasized BIC's focus on international commerce.

Finally, Dr. Nathan Perry of Colorado Mesa University conducted an Economic Impact Study of Nonprofits in partnership with five leading, local nonprofits, which underscores the crucial economic contributions of nonprofit organizations in our area.

In addition to these exciting efforts and events, below are a few key highlights found within the 2023 Annual - Report, which correlate directly to job creation and capital formation under BIC:

- Creation of 745 new jobs.
- Support to 446 entrepreneurs.
- Capital formation of \$5.3 million.
- Client sales totaling \$17.79 million.
- Graduation of 18 companies and launch of 43 startups.

Sassoon Bollig knows this critical work is not done without the support of key community stakeholders and economic development partners and expressed: "We are grateful for the partnerships that make our success possible. Your trust is critical as we continue to build a diverse, sustainable, and resilient entrepreneurial ecosystem."

The full 2023 Business Incubator Center Annual Report can be found [here](#).

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**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**



# COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

## REP. CATLIN DELIVERS ON FIRST INCREASE IN PAY IN 12 YEARS FOR DISTRICT ATTORNEYS

*Special to the Mirror*

On May 5, 2024, Governor Jared Polis signed into law the Districts Attorneys' Salaries bill ([SB24-013](#)).

This bill, now law, removes the statutory requirement that the state legislature review and set the districts attorneys (DAs) salary minimum, every four years.

This process has created a legal environment where the state legislature failed to increase the salary minimum since 2012. This law sets the salary minimum for DAs at the same minimum as district court judges.

It also sets the salary minimum for assistant district attorneys (ADAs) at the same minimum as county court judges. The state will contribute 80% of the DAs salary minimum and 50% of the ADAs salary minimum.

Each county of the judicial district will contribute the remaining amount proportioned to the county's population of the judicial district, as whole.

The bill received 96% approval in passing through the legislature. The prime sponsors in the house are Representative [Marc Catlin](#) (R-HD58) of Montrose County, and Representative [Barbara McLachlan](#) (D-HD59) of La Plata County. The prime sponsors in the senate are Senator [Nick Hinrichsen](#) (D-SD3) of Pueblo County and Senator [Bob Gardner](#) (R-SD12) of El Paso County.

Representative Catlin says, "rural communities are struggling to find attorneys to serve in DA's Office. It is difficult to recruit young attorneys into Colorado DA's offices if the office has not seen an adjustment in pay since 2012, especially, in a time with generational increases in living costs.

If the state of Colorado truly cares about law and order, then we cannot allow these offices to atrophy. This law is a step in the right direction to keeping our communities safe."

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.





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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## WHY ARE ELECTED OFFICIALS COMPROMISING PARTY ETHICS TO SUPPORT ONE CANDIDATE OVER ANOTHER?

Editor:

This year's County Commissioners race has been one of the most contested in recent memory. It all seemed to come to a head when I entered the race just days before the deadline against the uncontested Republican candidate Steven Louis Stark. Within days the attacks from my opponent's side started rolling in. I had just tipped over the apple cart and they were mad. The powers that be and their hand selected candidate all of a sudden had to campaign. Now the voters of Montrose had a choice. A choice that showed a sharp contrast between candidates. I think the people deserve that. ([candidate comparison](#))

Unfortunately, our current County Commissioners do not. Instead they rallied behind Steven Louis Stark as their choice for your next County Commissioner in District 1. It started when Commissioner Roger Rash seconded the nomination for Stark behind his campaign manager, [Mark Ellis Neuhardt](#), at the Republican Caucus in April. Soon after, Commissioner Sue Hansen began campaigning for and helping raise money for Stark on her Facebook page. In both cases these two Republican elected officials ignored their promise as Republicans to remain neutral in a primary race between Republican candidates. Instead they used their political capital and public trust to tip the scales in favor of

their candidate without even talking to me about my qualifications or what kind of commissioner I plan to be. But why? Why are these elected officials compromising party ethics to support one candidate over another? Why would all three commissioners be so hell bent on electing a candidate that has been grossly negligent in his responsibility as a tax payer for over 22 years? This is extremely disturbing and is worthy of an answer from all three of these public servants.

Commissioners Hansen, Rash, and Caddy were not interested in learning about me or what kind of commissioner I might be. They have decided that they are the King-makers and they will decide for you who will represent you on the Montrose Board of Commissioners. In my opinion this is a tremendous disservice to you, the voters and does not speak well for all three.

### [My Priorities](#)

- 1) Resolve the dispute between the BOCC and the Sheriffs Dept. regarding the Public Safety Sales Tax. (PSST)
- 2) Get the Sheriffs Dept. enrolled in the Fire Police Pension Association of Colorado so our Sheriff can recruit, train, and retain highly skilled deputies to serve our community. (FPPA)
- 3) Review all Departments within the County to bring greater efficiencies to our tax payers. Small adjustments can be meaningful savings to a budget over time.

4) Bring greater transparency to the decision making process and restore public confidence. Greater representation and more accountability are a must.

5) Bring greater awareness to the various taxing agencies that are largely responsible for the property tax we all pay. Positions on these boards need to be advertised and we need to have board members who are fiscally conservative and frugal with our tax dollars.

These are my top five priorities. If you decide to elect me as your next County Commissioner I will work with my fellow commissioners to set this agenda into action. It has been said that Commissioner Hansen can't work with me. I am sorry to hear that.

I like Commissioner Hansen and think that she has done some great things for the County of Montrose. I believe I can work with her and I find it hard to believe that she would object to any of the priorities I have outlined above. I believe the people of Montrose will be well served by a Board of Commissioners that come to the table with new ideas on how we can make life better for all of us in the beautiful community of Montrose Colorado.

Please elect Scott Mijares for County Commissioner on June 25th.

*Scott Mijares*

[scottm4montrose.com](mailto:scottm4montrose.com)

[scottm4montrose@gmail.com](mailto:scottm4montrose@gmail.com)



# RUN AT THE ROSE BARREL RACING EVENT!

*Photos by Gunnison Clamp*



The Run at the Rose barrel racing event returned to Montrose late last week, with racers and horse owners hailing from across the west. The event, in its 4th year, took place at the Montrose County Fairgrounds Event Center. For those interested in seeing more barrel racing action, check out the upcoming 11th annual Colorado Classic, which runs from the 13th through the 15th! For more information on the Colorado Classic, contact Kayla at [coloradoclassicfuturity@gmail.com](mailto:coloradoclassicfuturity@gmail.com). Photos and cutline by Gunnison Clamp.

A black bear is shown from the chest up, holding a smartphone in its paws. The bear is looking at the screen. In the background, there is a scenic mountain landscape with green hills and snow-capped peaks under a blue sky with clouds. A person's hand is visible at the bottom, holding the bear's arm.

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## COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

### MARY LOUISE MARDOCK *January 24, 1929 — May 31, 2024*



MARY LOUISE MARDOCK born on January 24, 1929 in Wichita Kansas, passed away peacefully on May 31, 2024. She was the

adored daughter of Frank and Leota McCurry and loving wife of Robert L. Mardock. Her warmth, care and guidance as a mother to her children extended to her grandchildren, great grandchildren and great-great grandchildren.

Mary was a graduate of Friends University with a degree in Home Economics. When she wasn't sewing, knitting, cooking and baking delicious homemade bread, cakes and cinnamon rolls for her family, she was busy being a Cub Scout Den Mother, Girl Scout Leader, in charge of the kitchen at the Methodist church (who named her Woman of the Year) and a Docent at the medical museum, which she was in charge of for one year. Mary was one of the founders of the SW Medical Auxiliary and President for one year. She helped put together the Harris County Medical Society Auxiliary Cookbook in 1982. Mary's favorite memories were traveling with fami-

ly to Mexico, Bethlehem, a Mediterranean Cruise, England, France, Spain, Germany, Belgium and Switzerland.

Mary was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Bob, her son Frank, three sisters and one brother. She is survived by two brothers, two daughters, three sons, two sons-in law, two daughters-in law, 17 grandchildren, 27 great grandchildren and three great-great grandchildren, all of whom will profoundly miss her nurturing spirit. Mary's life was a testament to the power of love and the bonds of family. Her friends, who became an extended family, will fondly remember Mary's kindness and the joy she brought to their lives. Mary Louise Mardock's legacy of love and dedication will continue to live on through the countless lives she touched. Celebration of Life Service: June 20, 2024 at 2:30 P.M. at the United Church of the San Juans, Ridgway, CO

### PATRICIA EWEN: CELEBRATION OF LIFE

*There will be a celebration of life for Patricia Ewen on Friday, June 14 at the Bridges Golf Course. Meet and Greet - 1 pm to 1:45 pm-Celebration - 2 pm.*

*Now more than ever...*

*Thank you for reading*

**THE MONTROSE MIRROR**



ISSUE 472 June 10, 2024

# ART & SOL

## SHARING MINISTRIES HELPS LOCALS AND FAMILIES KEEP FOOD ON THE TABLE



Sharing Ministries Food bank photo by Kathryn R. Burke.

Story and image by Kathryn R. Burke

MONTROSE—Founded in 1996, Sharing Ministries is a non-denominational faith-based, non-profit food bank based in Montrose and serving Montrose, Delta, Gunnison, Ouray, and San Miguel counties. Its mission is to “provide nutritious food to those in need while facilitating education about healthy living and a connection to other community resources.” They definitely do that, but how it’s orchestrated is genius and depends on a lot of dedicated volunteers.

I recently visited their facility (open weekdays 9:30 am to 12:30 pm) to see how they do it. First stop was the front desk, where food recipients check in and receive their pickup number. If they don’t yet have an account, one can be established.

Next stop is the waiting area, which has a few extra items customers might need. After submitting their number, they wait while the order is filled back in the enormous warehouse where food is stored. That 9,000 S.F. facility (which also houses offices, a conference room, and kitchen where healthy food prep is taught) was a

hive of activity. When their order has been filled, a volunteer helps them load it into their vehicle. For those who can’t drive or come in to pick up their (phoned-in) order, volunteer drivers deliver the food.

Throughout the entire process, which is seamless, all of those volunteers are

exceptionally friendly and helpful—so important to folks who often need that connection.

I was literally awestruck watching them in action. A platoon of highly efficient volunteers prepared orders and loaded grocery carts—just one tiny part of the overall operation, which annually serves 580 tons of product to roughly 80,000 client visits a year. There are designated sections for frozen and fresh foods, produce, baked goods, and canned items on flats (purchased from the Food Bank of the Rockies, their major food source, at a cost up to \$10,000 a month—which is why the organization depends on financial contributions!). Other areas also store personal hygiene and cleaning items, specialty items for babies, and even for pets. Everything is very-well organized, even the outdoor garden beds where veggies...and flowers...are grown...and lovingly tended.

While volunteers scurry between storage cases to fill orders—each designated by the size of the family—others are busy in back. At the loading dock, one group unloads and weighs in daily donations from local food stores, restaurants, churches,

and other organizations which contribute via community food drives. At the dock, others box up silage which goes to farmers and ranchers to feed their stock; in return the food bank is gifted fresh eggs, pork sausage, and other animal proteins. Near the front, more volunteers sort fresh baked goods—even pizzas, which come in daily.

Sharing Ministries Food Bank distributes through their own Supplemental Food Program as well as two USDA programs: The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) and the Senior Supplemental Program. Most people receive food twice per month and seniors over 60 who qualify for the USDA Ever Green Program may receive three times per month. A food order typically includes fresh produce, dairy, meat, frozen items, canned goods, pasta, rice, cereals, and more—healthy food representing all the sustaining food groups. Special arrangements may also be made based on need (such as gluten or dairy free). A sock program distributes new socks to those in need, including special socks for diabetics. Sharing Ministries is also an information clearing house, connecting people with resources that can assist with other needs, like housing, health care, and more.

The Food Bank needs help—both people and money. Donations to purchase food can be made directly from their website, <https://sharingministries.com> or mailed to Sharing Ministries Food Bank. Volunteers are needed to help at the distribution center. Please contact them if you can help. Sharing Ministries, Inc., 49 N. 1st St., Montrose CO 81401. 970-240-8385.



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# CARTOON BY TIM JONES

## WEEKLY CARTOON

### SOUR GRAPES

by Tim Jones



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# COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

## DAVID J. ROTHMAN WINS 11TH ANNUAL KAREN CHAMBERLAIN AWARD

### *Special to Art & Sol*

CRESTED BUTTE: Long-time poet performer, anthology editor, scholar professor and host of festivals and conferences David J. Rothman won the 11th annual Karen Chamberlain Award for Lifetime Achievement in Colorado Poetry at the Mountain Words Festival in Crested Butte May 26th.

"David's work has been an inspiration for all of us in the Gunnison Valley," noted Mountain Words Festival director Brooke MacMillan. "We are honored to celebrate him and his invaluable work."

The literary honoring is a collaboration of the Telluride Institute's Talking Gourds Poetry Program and Crested Butte's Mountain Words Festival.

"The Chamberlain Award is given for outstanding service to poetry in Colorado," noted Talking Gourds director Art Goodtimes, "and for publishing a body of powerful work. David has certainly done that for Colorado. His publishing of the Western Slope anthology of poets, *The Geography of Hope*, and his rediscovery of Colorado poet Belle Turnbull being among his many amazing accomplishments."



David accepted the award at the tail end of the Mountain Words event and gave a short reading of his poetry.

The Chamberlain Award began in 2014 at the Karen Chamberlain Poetry Festival when the late Reg Saner of Boulder accepted the honor for the first time. Past awardees include Marlyn Krysl of Boulder, Aaron Abeyta of Antonito, Katie Kingston of Trinidad, Veronica Patterson of Loveland, and the late poets Chris Ransick of Denver, Bruce Berger of Aspen and Jack Mueller of Ridgway.

For more information, visit [tellurideinstitute.org/chamberlain-award](https://tellurideinstitute.org/chamberlain-award) or text Talking Gourds Poetry Program at 970-729-0220



*Talking Gourds director Art Goodtimes and Poet David J. Rothman with the 11th annual Karen Chamberlain Award for Lifetime Achievement in Colorado Poetry at the Mountain Words Festival in Crested Butte May 26. Courtesy photo.*

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## COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

### BUDDHIST MONK TO PRESENT PROGRAM ON MEDITATION

#### *Special to Art & Sol*

MONTROSE-The community is invited to a special program on "Meditation for Today," by Geshe Kami Rita Sherpa, international Buddhist scholar and currently a fellow in the Exchange Visiting Scholar program at the University of California, Irvine. He will be presenting the program on Saturday, June 22 at 7 pm at the Ute Indian Museum. He will also be speaking about "The Purpose of Life from a Buddhist Perspective."

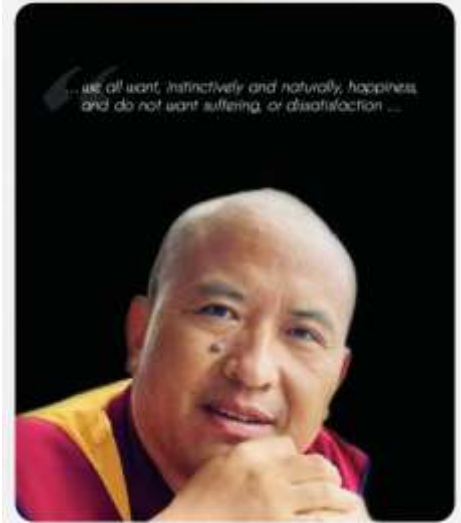
Beginning his studies at age 11 with Lama Zopa Rinpoche at the Kopan Monastery in Kathmandu, Nepal, Geshe Sherpa was ordained on completion of his studies. In 1994 he received the full Bhikkhu ordination from His Holiness the Dalai Lama in south India. He is currently a teacher of Buddhist meditation at Kopan Monastery lecturing in English, Tibetan and Nepali. He has recently begun to travel overseas to teach Buddhist Meditation to the general public, as well as for universities. "I greatly enjoy sharing more about basic meditation practices and Buddhist traditions," he said.

Meditation is one of the fastest growing practices to improve mental well-being

and mental health, tripling between 2012 and 2017, according to the 2017 U.S. Survey, with 45-55 percent of all Americans meditating in 2023. Meditation also helps with relaxation, reduces anxiety and stress, and supports improved physical health. In a recent study, 86 percent of the people surveyed reported they felt better emotionally after meditating and 79 percent reported improved health and faster healing.

The practice of meditation is thousands of years old and is found in cultures all over the world. In the past few decades, science has begun to seriously study meditation and found that meditation can positively affect your brain and mental health. Meditation practices have many different forms with "contemplation" and "mindfulness" two popular methods in America. You don't have to be religious to practice meditation. Many people are drawn to Buddhist meditation techniques.

Hosting this special program on meditation is the Western Colorado Friends of the Himalayas, a local nonprofit organization established in 2002 to provide humanitarian, educational, and cultural support to people in the Himalayan region.



*Geshe Kami Rita Sherpa. Courtesy photo.*

Event sponsors are Meditation Spaces Art Gallery and Studio, 12 S. Uncompahgre Avenue in Montrose, and Ridgway Spirit Fest. The program is free to the public and chai tea and refreshments will be served. Donations are appreciated. For more information call 970-970-275-3671. For more information about the program, call 970-275-3671 or 970-209-1395.

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## COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

### SMITHSONIAN TRAVELING EXHIBITION HIGHLIGHTING CHANGING LANDSCAPE OF RURAL AMERICA IS COMING TO PAONIA, COLORADO

#### *Special to Art & Sol*

PAONIA-The Blue Sage Center for the Arts in Paonia is the only venue on the Western Slope of Colorado to host "Crossroads: Change in Rural America," a Smithsonian Museum on Main Street (MoMS) exhibit from June 18 - July 20th at Blue Sage Center for the Arts, 228 Grand Ave, in downtown Paonia. The Blue Sage is open Tuesday through Saturday from 11 am -4 pm. The Smithsonian traveling exhibit, "Crossroads," explores the evolving landscape of rural America. From sea to shining sea, the vast majority of the United States landscape today remains rural, with only 3.5% of the landmass considered urban. Yet, since 1900, the percentage of Americans living in rural areas dropped from 60% to 17%. The exhibition looks at that remarkable societal change and how rural Americans have responded.

Americans have relied on rural crossroads for generations! These places where people gather to exchange goods, services and culture, and to engage in political and community discussions are undoubtedly an important part of our cultural fabric. Despite the massive economic and demographic impacts brought on by these changes, America's small towns continue

to creatively focus on new opportunities for growth and development.

"Crossroads" allows us all to reflect on Paonia's history, present and future, and we are so excited to explore what the future may hold for our community," says Blue Sage Director Ali Lightfoot about the exhibit. "We want to have conversations about what makes our community unique and also explore what we have in common with other rural communities around the country. We hope you can make it out to see the Smithsonian Exhibition and attend some of our free public events!" Events include:

- Friday, June 21st, 5-7pm  
Smithsonian Opening Reception: Free food & free music from The Ordinary Two
- Friday, June 28th, 5-7pm  
Sage Alley Free Music with David Starr
- Friday, July 5th, 5-7pm  
Sage Alley Free Music with David McClellan
- Friday July 6th, 7-9pm  
Concert Series At Azura Cellars: Hazel Miller & The Collective
- Friday, July 12th, 5-7pm  
Sage Alley Free Music with George Weber, Lynn Pulford & Randal Utterback
- Saturday, July 13th, 4-6pm

Free Film Screening & Community Conversation: The Five States of Colorado

- Friday, July 19th, 5-7pm  
Sage Alley Free Music with Ellen Staphenhorst

The exhibition is part of the Museum on Main Street, a unique collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES), state humanities councils across the nation, and local host institutions. To learn more about "Crossroads" and other Museum on Main Street exhibitions, visit [www.museumonmainstreet.org](http://www.museumonmainstreet.org).

Support for Museum on Main Street has been provided by the U.S. Congress, Colorado Humanities, and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

To find out more about Blue Sage events or the local showing of this exhibit, contact the Blue Sage at 970-527-7243. For information about other tour locations or background on the exhibit contact Jennifer Macias, History Programs Coordinator, at [jennifer@coloradohumanities.org](mailto:jennifer@coloradohumanities.org) or 303 894 7951 x17

To learn more about the exhibit, see video on Smithsonian website:

<https://www.sites.si.edu/s/topic/OTO3600000aR1sGAE/crossroads-change-in-rural-america>



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We are now accepting Montrose County Fair & Rodeo Royalty Applications. Please return completed applications to:

randilynmadison25@gmail.com OR  
tlgibson15@gmail.com

All applications are due June 28 by 5PM and can be found on [montrosecountyfairandrodeo.com](https://montrosecountyfairandrodeo.com)





# COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

## THE DECKER ROOM WELCOMES CIE HOOVER'S ART IN AUGUST



Ouray artist Cie Hoover's new exhibition, "Out of the Woods," will come to Ridgway's Decker Room at The Space to Create Building Aug. 1-31.

### Special to Art & Sol

RIDGWAY— From wood-based sculptures to wood-based wall art, Ouray artist Cie Hoover's new exhibition, "Out of the Woods" will come to Ridgway's Decker Room at The Space to Create Building Aug. 1-31. This exhibit marks Cie's first solo exhibit in Ridgway since 2020 and will be ushered in with an opening reception on Friday, Aug. 2 from 5-8pm as part of First Fridays Art Walk.

People might recognize Cie's work from his 12ft sculpture "Crescendo" adjacent to the pavilion in Ridgway's Athletic Park. Since his last exhibit in Ridgway, Cie has also created public art installations for Alamosa, Fraser, and for Nashville International Airport. He has also signed on to the prestigious artist roster at Slate Gray Gallery in Telluride, and most recently partnered with Wagner Custom Skis to create one-of-a-kind artworks on their wood veneer skis. Those who attend the exhibit will see a showcase of compelling new wall mounted works, sculptures, and even several sets of showcase skis.

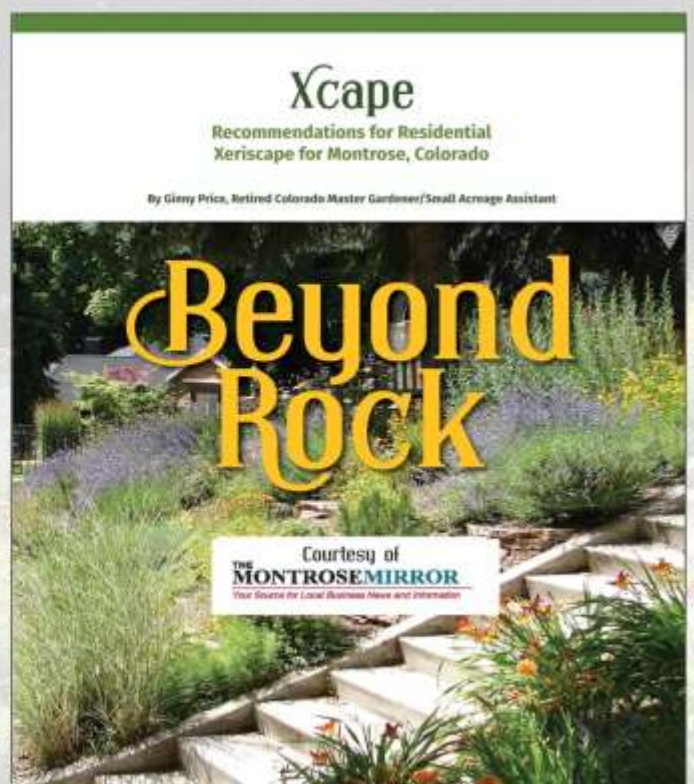
In conjunction with the exhibit, Cie will also be hosting a wood-based art workshop through Weehawken Creative Arts on Saturday, Aug. 3rd. The workshop, which will also take place at The Decker Room, will be an afternoon introductory workshop into the world of wood-based art. Students will have the opportunity to learn about wood carving and wood burning techniques, and be inspired by Cie's solo art exhibit happening at The Decker Room during the class.

Registration for the workshop is required no later than July 22. Link at: [https://anc.apm.activecommunities.com/weehawkenarts/activity/search/detail/5059?onlineSiteId=0&from\\_original\\_cui=true](https://anc.apm.activecommunities.com/weehawkenarts/activity/search/detail/5059?onlineSiteId=0&from_original_cui=true) or at <https://weehawkenarts.org/education/adult-art-classes/>

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# MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY

## ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

**Office Hours:** By appointment.

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

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

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

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

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

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

## BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Olathe, Co 81425

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

Pastor Gabe Skillo

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Sunday 6 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Study/Prayer 7 p.m.

## CELEBRATION CHURCH

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

**Office Hours:** By appointment

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

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

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

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

**Senior Pastor:**

Pastor Brandon Mathis

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

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

**Demographics:** Multi-generational

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

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

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

## CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

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

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

**Pastor:** Tim Onnen

**Worship:** Sundays at 9 AM

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

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

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

## FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

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

**Pastor:** Buddy Cook

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

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

*disciples in Montrose Colorado and around  
 the world.*

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

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MONTROSE

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

**Contact:** 970-249-4732, [in-  
 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 dentures.

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

## ROSEMONT BAPTIST CHURCH

**Affiliation:** Southern Baptist

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

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

**Contact information:**

Phone: 970.249.4887

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

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

**Senior Pastor:** Rolland Kenneson

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

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

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

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

matter what stage of life they are in.

**Children's services:** We have a fun Sunday School for children from four years old through youth. We provide Children's Church during the Sunday Worship Services where children four years old through 9 years can learn to be 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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# 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

**June 14**-There will be a celebration of life for Patricia Ewen on Friday, June 14 at the Bridges Golf Course. Meet and Greet - 1 pm to 1:45 pm-Celebration - 2 pm.

**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!

**June 22**-On Saturday June 22, at 7 pm, Meditation for Today, free lecture by Buddhist monk, Geshe Kami Rita Sherpa, Ute Indian Museum, hosted by Western Colorado Friends of the Himalayas, Meditation Spaces and Art Gallery, and Ridgway Spirit Fest. Chai and refreshments, donations appreciated. 970-275-3671 for information.

**June 29**-16th annual Ridgway RiverFest, Saturday, June 29, Noon to 5 p.m., Rollans Park, Ridgway. The event benefits the Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership, a Ouray County nonprofit watershed group dedicated to helping protect the economic, natural, and scenic values of the Upper Uncompahgre River Watershed. Info: <https://ridgwayriverfest.org/>

**June 29**-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. Get your admission tickets in advance at [www.montrosechildrensmuseum.org](http://www.montrosechildrensmuseum.org).

**June 30**-On Sunday, June 30th, 3pm - Patriotic Concert: Montrose Community Band **Free Concert** at the Montrose Pavilion. Come for a rousing selection of patriotic music. More Info <https://montroseband.com/concert-schedule>



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*Deb Reimann took this photo of an old ranch windmill near Horsefly, "A still-standing symbol of our hard working ranch folks."*

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