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the Montrose Mirror

CITY CONSIDERS SUPPORT FOR PROJECTS, WELCOMES INTERN CONNOR BELL



Above, a screenshot from last week's presentation to City Council on the ongoing project to restore the Montrose Potato Growers Building. Owners Greg and David Fishing envision a space with room for their business as well as vendors, several of whom have signed lease agreements for the space. Courtesy graphic.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-With two requests for City support on the agenda, all councilors were present as the Montrose City Council gathered for a work session on Monday, June 17.

Mayor J. David Reed said, "Good morning everyone...can I have your attention please...work sessions are a time when council gets together to discuss upcoming issues and topics and items that will appear on the City Council agenda normally for action at a future council meeting and that's generally within a couple of weeks following the work session...we take no public comment or public input but of course the public is always welcome to attend our meetings."

DISCUSSION ITEMS

City staffer Anthony Russo introduced the first discussion item, "Potato Growers Horizontal Improvements Support."

[Continued pg 27](#)

BOCC RELEASES PARTIAL RETAINAGE FOR TERMINAL EXPANSION

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-Montrose Regional Airport continues to grow, as County Commissioners last week voted to release partial retainage to FCI Constructors for the Terminal Expansion Project. Also last week, Commissioners approved an agreement with a private developer, MTJ Executive Hangars, LLC for a non-exclusive right to develop and construct hangars for sale and resale on airport ground--meeting a need for more private hangar space and infusing the Montrose economy, said the Applicant's Attorney Brad Switzer. "There is some economic impetus for Montrose; it's an economic driver with great potential, as internationally people in the aviation community will be hearing about the Montrose Airport because of this development," Switzer said.

[Continued pg 18](#)



Above, the Vicinity Map for a proposed Verizon cell phone tower is included, with public comments, in the meeting packet. Courtesy photo.

[Leah Cole Honored with Mayor's First Citizenship Award!](#)

[Magic Circle Players Presents Beauty and the Beast!](#)

[OP-EDs by David White!](#)

[Kate Burke: A Visit with the Sheriff's Posse!](#)

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- **BEST Mechanic** (Greg Ellis)



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SUSPECT HOSPITALIZED AFTER ALAMOSA SHERIFF DEPUTIES RETURN FIRE

Special to the Mirror

ALAMOSA – The Colorado Bureau of Investigation is investigating a law enforcement shooting in Alamosa that left a suspect with non-life-threatening injuries. On Wednesday June 19, 2024, at approximately 12:06 am, (just after midnight) an Alamosa Sheriff's deputy attempted to contact a red Ford Explorer driving carelessly in a Safeway Parking lot. The driver attempted to elude, and a pursuit ensued, with two other deputies assisting.

The driver drove over a grassy median into a residential area, where the driver then got out of his SUV and ran on foot. An Alamosa Deputy verbally engaged an adult male in the 1200 block of 3rd St, later identified as Justin Claude Trujillo, DOB 7/24/1995. The male produced a handgun and fired at least one shot. All three deputies returned fire, striking Trujillo two times, once in the abdomen and once in the leg. Alamosa deputies provided medical intervention, and then took him into custody. Trujillo was transported to a local hospital and then transferred to a hospital in Colorado Springs, where he is in stable condition.

The suspect will face the following charges: Criminal Attempt, murder in the first degree of a peace officer (F2)

Assault in the first degree (F3)

Vehicular Eluding

(F5)

Menacing

(F5)

Possession of a Weapon by Previous Offender (F5)

All three deputies have been placed on Administrative Leave pending the investigation.

THE MONTROSE MIRROR

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

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

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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF A DUI

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO – Colorado State troopers are on the lookout for drivers who exhibit behaviors associated with impairment; in 2023, troopers arrested over 4,100 motorists engaging in this risk-taking behavior. In Colorado, one-third (3.2%) of traffic fatalities involve a driver who is impaired.

A recent calculation finds that the average first-time DUI in Colorado costs \$13,530. You will be responsible for paying court costs, towing and vehicle storage fees, ignition interlock rental fees, and much more! Plus, anticipate your auto insurance to jump up significantly.

This does not factor in the hours a person will devote to going through all the requirements, such as probation, alcohol & drug therapy, attending a victim impact panel and complying with the ignition interlock device in your vehicle. If your job has policies regarding convictions or rules specific to impaired driving, it could mean the loss of employment.

People of all ages are arrested for impaired driving in Colorado, and this crime, like many others, can stick with you for multiple years after occurring. According to NHTSA the age with the most DUIs is 21-24, but last year 30-39 year olds surpassed Colorado State Patrol arrests for impaired driving. Drivers in their 20s and 30s are historically the top two age groups year over year for Patrol impaired driving contacts.



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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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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

BLACK CANYON QUILT SHOW RETURNS TO THE PAVILION JULY 12-14

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— The Black Canyon quilt Show returns to the Montrose Pavilion, 1800 Pavilion Dr., Montrose July 12-14. Friday and Saturday 9—5, Sunday 10—3:30. Admission: \$5.00 for adults, children free. Visit blackcanyonquilts.com for more information.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

QUALITIES WE NEED IN A COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Editor:

Whom would you rather have doing your tax return for the IRS, a man with a Bachelor's degree in business or a man who didn't finish high school and had to go back and get his GED? While I commend "Big" Lou for getting his GED, it doesn't show any great intellectual prowess.

Scott, on the other hand, 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. I would much rather have him making financial decisions that will directly affect my pocket. These are .

Rick Bleier, Montrose

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

BOSOM BUDDIES ANNOUNCES 2024 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



2024 Bosom Buddies scholarship recipients include (L-R) Jackson Campbell; Connor Bell; Quincy Cooling; Sarah Ireland. Courtesy photos.

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Bosom Buddies Breast Cancer Support Group of Southwestern Colorado is pleased to announce the organization's 2024 Bosom Buddies scholarship recipients. A first-time recipient is Jackson Campbell of Telluride High School. Jackson is headed to the University of Colorado, Boulder campus enrolled in the Leeds Business School Honors Program. Continuing educational scholarships have been awarded to Connor Bell and Quincy Cooling both 2023 graduates of Montrose High School and Sarah Ireland a 2022 graduate of Telluride High School. Students in good standing are eligible to re-apply for a total of four years.

"Applicants must have a parent or guardian who has, at some time, been diagnosed with breast cancer and must be residents of either Montrose, Ouray or San Miguel Counties," said Kim Jones Co-Chair with Lori Webb of the Bosom Buddies Educational Assistance Committee. "The deadline for submitting an application is April 15th each year."

"We encourage our local 2025 graduates who qualify to visit our website and apply," said Jones. "Scholarship funds are available for full-time and part-time students enrolling in a vocational, community college, university, or accredited on-line program," said Webb. "So, students who qualify have a number of educational opportunities with the Bosom Buddies' program."

"In addition, educational funding is available to survivors of breast cancer regardless of age," said Jones. "Applicants must be enrolled in an institution of education including a high school diploma program, GED program, vocational, community college, university, or accredited on-line program. Survivor applications must be submitted a minimum of 60 days prior to the beginning of the course start date."

Educational assistance information, scholarship applications and details on programs offered by Bosom Buddies can be reviewed and downloaded from the organization's website at www.BosomBuddiesSWC.org.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

SWEITZER LAKE STATE PARK TO HOST WORLD WAKE ASSOCIATION STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT JUNE 28-29

Special to the Mirror

DELTA— Colorado Parks and Wildlife will welcome the World Wake Association for its wakeboard state championship event June 28-29 at Sweitzer Lake State Park.

There will be a practice session from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. June 28, and the competition is scheduled for 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. June 29. During this time, the lake will be “no wake” for those not participating in the competition.

Public boaters with a valid park pass will still be allowed on the east end of the lake to swim, fish and watch the competition.

“This will allow for the athletes to all compete in the same conditions,” said Park Manager Scott Rist. “There are some really talented people wakeboarding in this event, and we are excited to welcome everyone participating in the state competition to the park.

“This will be a great event for people to come out and watch, and we want to thank everyone for their understanding about the no wake times.”

Sweitzer Lake State Park, located near the town of Delta, is surrounded by mountain views. The park has provided year-round visitation since 1954. From the park, visitors are treated to views of the Grand Mesa, West Elk and San Juan ranges. Originally built solely for recreational use, Sweitzer Lake State Park features a 137-surface acre reservoir. The warm and calm waters make the lake great for water skiing and wakeboarding.



A wakeboarder is pictured at Sweitzer Lake State Park. Dustin Daskocil/CPW photo



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A VISIT WITH THE MONTROSE COUNTY SHERIFF'S POSSE



Story by Kathryn R. Burke

Images, courtesy Montrose Sheriff's Posse

MONTROSE—Once a year, in January, I receive a donation request letter from the Montrose County Sheriff's Posse. Turns out this is their only fund-raising effort. A 501c3 non-profit, they depend on public (and grant) support.

I've lived in western Colorado (Ouray and Montrose counties) for nearly 30 years and still didn't know...exactly... what or where it is or what they do, but I do Now.

Two of their officers recently gave an excellent presentation to the Montrose Women's Club, which I attended. It was clear and concise with outstanding photographs depicting their various support services, as we were shown how this unique organization came to be and how it serves the community. Last week, I followed up with a personal visit to their headquarters for an interview with officer Paul Gottlieb and director/PIO Mark Rackay to learn more.

The men explained how they work, showed me some of their tracking systems and equipment, talked about their ever-evolving technology, and walked me through their building which serves as headquarters and a training facility. This outfit is impressive! It's hard to believe what all they do and how dedicated they are. All of the members are volunteers and on call 24/7. Many members use their own vehicles and ATVs for their operations, and all have their own personal equipment, at their own expense.

"I've been with the posse 40 years," said Gottlieb, who has held multiple positions during his tenure. "Our function is to help as many people as we can, citizens and visitors, people adventuring outdoors or experiencing medical problems. We assist with special events and emergencies." Probably the biggest change he has seen during his service is the technology used, especially for search and rescue.

Rackay agreed. A retired police investigator, he recalled "when a 'portable' radio meant the radio in your patrol car could be removed and carried to a scene. Today, members carry sophisticated radios and smart phones that connect with dispatch and each other, allowing them to track anyone anywhere there is a signal."

Rackay also explained that the posse is not a direct-call out service. "We act under the orders of and are dispatched by the Montrose County Sheriff's office." The Posse responds to relayed 911 requests for help with security, search and rescue, hazardous or serious situations, wildland firefighting, evacuations, emergencies requiring traffic control, and deputy assist. Posse members are highly trained, qualified, and certified for the operations they perform. Many also have past experience with law enforcement, firefighting, wildland firefighting, search and rescue, medical emergencies, and other first responder activities.

Remember the Hartman Fire a couple summers ago? Fifteen posse members responded to the Hartman fire. When a boy drowned in Montrose; they recovered his body. A man fell on a remote mountain trail above Ouray; and they rescued him and got him medical help. During a fire in Olathe on Falcon Road, posse members directed traffic so firefighters could respond. During the Sims Mesa Fire, posse members went house to house evacuating residents and relocated a few who were stranded, needed medical help, and couldn't drive out. Posse members shut down roads, and redirected traffic. When a dog fell in a canal—they got him out, wet, but ok. A car was stuck in the snow with family and dog on board. Posse rode to the rescue; all were safe and sound.

Rugged, remote area? They can get there by truck, ATV, horseback, Jeep, boat, helicopter, or on foot. Steep terrain? Ice? Some of these folks are trained in mountain rescue, which means rappelling and ice rescue. Medical evac and care flight? They're on it. If you need help, these men and women can and will provide it.

"You have to be fully committed to the hours and time," Rackay said. "It has to be a passion," Gottlieb added. "You have to have your heart in this." From the response of those they rescue and the gratitude of the communities they serve, it is clear that these irreplaceable volunteers and first responders meet that mission...and more.





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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE POLICE DEPARTMENT ADDS FOUR NEW OFFICERS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— The Montrose Police Department welcomed four new officers to its ranks Monday evening, filling a number of vacant positions within the agency. Officers Tristin Houghtaling, Jamie Kent, Jason Robillard, and Thomas Tonar were officially sworn in during a ceremony held prior to the City Council's regular meeting. Montrose Police Chief Blaine Hall and Commander Larry Witte welcomed the officers before an audience of friends, family, City Councilors, city staff, and fellow Police Department officers in the City Council chambers located at 107 South Cascade Avenue.

Hall said the swearing-in process of new police officers to the Montrose Police Department is one of his favorite responsibilities as chief of police.

The new officers are lateral hires to the department, which means they were already certified law enforcement officers serving in other agencies before they were hired by the Montrose Police Department.

Before officially swearing each officer in, Hall told the new officers they needed to hold themselves to the highest personal standards, both on and off duty. Hall said the high level of support from city administrators, staff, and City Councilors is a sign of "how much our community supports our police officers," adding that this type of support during modern-day policing



From left to right, Montrose Police Department officers Tristin Houghtaling, Jason Robillard, Jamie Kent, and Thomas Tonar were officially sworn in Monday evening in the City Council chambers at 107 South Cascade Avenue. Courtesy photo.

does not exist everywhere.

"Your integrity is everything, it's the reason we have such a high reputation in this community," Hall said. "So don't ever do anything to disparage your integrity. When it goes away it not only goes away from you, it goes away from everyone."

Hall also took time to recognize the department's two K-9 units that have been added to the ranks in recent years. Officers Alandra "Niane" Baca and Joshua Lamphere, along with their dogs Kilo and

Floki, were recognized for their efforts and their invaluable service to the department and the community. Hall said the use of dogs is nothing new to the Montrose Police Department. Over the past 40-50 years the department has used as many as 10 dogs within its ranks, however, Kilo and Floki are the first dogs to join the department in nearly 20 years.

For more information about the Montrose Police Department visit www.MontrosePD.org.



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All applications are due June 28 by 5PM and can be found on montrosecountyfairandrodeo.com



BOCC RELEASES PARTIAL RETAINAGE FOR TERMINAL EXPANSION From pg 1

BOCC REGULAR MEETING

Commissioners were all present as Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) Chair Roger Rash opened the regular meeting of Tuesday, June 18, "Welcome everybody, please take a seat and we'll get started with this Montrose County Commissioners meeting."

BOCC Vice Chair Keith Caddy led in saying the Pledge of Allegiance, and Pastor Roland Kassales of Victory Baptist Church led in saying the Invocation.

"Let's pray," Kassales said, and asked blessings for all three commissioners. Also, "I ask that you would help us to conduct ourselves with humility, an ability to listen, to consider the concerns of others...I thank you for the citizens who are here today who care enough to show up and to make their voices heard, and to seek the prosperity of this county..."

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

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

COUNTY MANAGER

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioners voted unanimously to accept Consent Agenda items as written.

MONTROSE COUNTY LOCAL LIQUOR LICENSING AUTHORITY

Commissioners left regular session to reconvene as the Montrose County Local Liquor Licensing Authority, voting to approve a Special Events Permit for the Montrose County Fair Board at the Montrose County Fairgrounds on July 26 and July 27, 2024 before returning to regular session and reconvening as the BOCC.

GENERAL BUSINESS & ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Montrose Regional Airport Director of Aviation Lloyd Arnold presented for consideration and acceptance of partial settlement from retainage for the Terminal Expansion Project, contract #2021-189. The agenda item notes, "*The Terminal Expansion project was awarded to FCI Constructors, Inc. of Grand Junction, CO on September 15, 2021. Notice of partial settlement retainage has been published pursuant to statute and no claims have been made. Partial retainage in the amount of*

\$1,530,468.19 will be released to FCI Constructors."

Arnold said there was a change in the final line, which should read, "Partial retainage in the amount of \$1,530,480.89 and work product of \$50,649.30 for pay applications 20 and 25 for a total \$1,581,130.19 will be released to FCI..."

This is a partial release of retainage, "We still are retaining \$503,086.49, they have a few remaining items..."

Arnold presented for consideration an Airport Hangar Development Agreement with MTJ Executive Hangars, LLC for a non-exclusive right to develop and construct hangars for sale to aircraft owners and permit the developer the right to construct hangars for resale on ground owned by Montrose Regional Airport, including access to taxiways and runways. The term of this Agreement shall be for 10 years with the option of a 10-year renewal as described in the Agreement; the agreement has been reviewed by Counsel.

Arnold said, "So for the right to do this they will pay us an initial fee of \$10,000 and then a yearly fee of \$1,000. What is important to us as an airport is this a non-exclusive right, meaning we have more land available if there are other developers that want to build hangars or develop a different area of the airport...it's a nice benefit for the county; we don't have the capital outlay for the infrastructure...having hangars that are built and ready to go is just a benefit..." He recommended approval; Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the airport hangar development agreement.

The third airport item was authorization of the Chair's signature on Change Order No. 12 in reference to the Federal Grant AIP-56 for the Terminal Expansion Project. This includes Federal and Non Federal items for all costs described in the Change Order. Total cost is \$141,432.77; the total cost of work described from \$33,131,241.45 to \$36,576,360.84.

Arnold said, "...This will complete the terminal project; other than the retainage this...will finish this out...it completes the project for us."

"So this is a notable moment," Commissioner Sue Hansen said.

"For me it is, yes," Arnold said. "I thought I'd take a deep breath, maybe cry..."

BOCC Chair Roger Rash said that Arnold and his team have done an amazing job. "...Kudos to you and your staff."

Change Order No. 12 for the Terminal Expansion Project was unanimously approved.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT GENERAL BUSINESS

Rash opened a public hearing on the Ruben Gonzalez Waiver [WV24-002] proposal for a waiver of the Montrose County Subdivision Regulations, Section 3.20.B.a: Lots in Minor Subdivisions shall have a minimum road frontage of two hundred (200) feet at Parcel 372305400014, 4495 5800 RD. Representing the applicant, Ken Schaaf answered questions.

Commissioner Sue Hansen moved to deny the proposed waiver based on the fact that it does not meet criteria in the regulations for a waiver; deviates significantly from the standards required in subdivision regulations; and there are additional avenues to subdivide the property. Commissioners voted to deny the proposal.

Based on the findings of fact listed in paragraph 4 of the staff report, Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the Shavano Valley Large Tract Exemption [EX24-001] proposal to divide three lots from a 101 acre parcel at Parcel 399505100016, 58873 OLD VANCE TRL.

Rash next opened a public hearing on the Verizon Wireless Special Use [SU24-001] proposal to install a Verizon Wireless Telecom Tower (a 100 ft tall mono-stealth pole) at Parcel 376736202007, 67456 Sunnyside Road. Following some discussion amongst commissioners and County Attorney Marti Whitmore, Rash asked the Applicant to step forward.

Speaking on Behalf of Verizon was Herb Quintana of Denver. He discussed possible benefits of the proposed tower location and answered questions.

Rash said that he was concerned about the possibility of the tower falling on private property.

BOCC Vice Chair Keith Caddy asked whether it would be a problem to set the tower back 150 ft rather than 95 ft from the property line. Quintana said that

BOCC RELEASES PARTIAL RETAINAGE FOR TERMINAL EXPANSION *From previous pg*

that would not be a problem.

Rash opened the floor to public comment. A number of citizens spoke in opposition to the tower.

Comments and concerns included the possibility of negative impacts to property values, the fact that there are other possible cell phone providers and other possible locations for the tower; possible health and welfare concerns; the possibility of other entities than Verizon leasing space on the tower; and a sense of frustration that the tower is being considered despite overwhelming opposition by those who will be directly impacted.

Montrose Regional Airport Director of Aviation Lloyd Arnold asked whether a 7460 Airport Airspace Analysis had been conducted, Quintana said that it had.

Rash closed public comment and asked for a motion.

Commissioner Sue Hansen said that despite the opposition to the tower, the ap-

plicant has followed county regulations and is essentially operating according to county zoning.

County Attorney Marti Whitmore said that, as noted in the staff report, the application is in compliance with the land use code and zoning regulations as they stand. Still, the Board does have the ability to impose terms and conditions on locations, she said.

BOCC Vice Chair Keith Caddy said, "One thing I would look at would be the 150 feet. And the pine tree in an area that looks like a bunch of cottonwoods, I don't know if that would be good or not, there's other options I've been told."

Hansen said that there are people struggling for connectivity, and asked whether there were sufficient grounds to deny the application or continue the hearing.

County Attorney Marti Whitmore declined to give a legal opinion on sufficiency of the evidence outside of executive ses-

sion, but said, "You do have the ability to continue the application for further investigation...you can continue it for deliberation and final decision if you simply want to consider it further..."

Hansen moved to continue the hearing to the next BOCC meeting on July 17, "to allow us to investigate the concerns of the public and some of the other things that have been mentioned about location and whatnot..."

The motion was unanimously approved.

Public comment on the application is now closed, Hansen said. She asked Planning & Development Director Tallmadge Richmond to obtain more information on other potential locations, and to clarify setbacks. Following a brief public hearing, commissioners voted unanimously to approve a proposed amendment to the Sub-division Regulations Amendment.

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



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My name is Kathleen Curry, and I am a candidate for Colorado House District 58. For the last six years I have worked at the State Capitol on behalf of West Slope water districts and agricultural interests and served previously in the Colorado House of Representatives for six years. (2005-2010). I know how to actually get things done at the State Capitol. I have 25 years of experience working in the water profession in Colorado, and am part of a five-generation family ranch operation in Gunnison County. My commitment is to finding solutions to our challenges — not just talking about them — and my focus is on policy, not politics. If you send me back to the Capitol on your behalf, I will make a positive difference.

Thank you,
Kathleen



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

POWDERHORN MOUNTAIN RESORT ANNOUNCES 2024-25 PRICE FREEZES AND REDUCTIONS

Special to the Mirror

MESA, COLORADO – Powderhorn Mountain Resort announced a comprehensive initiative to freeze or reduce pricing on all lift ticket window rates and the Mission Affordable 4-Pack for the upcoming 2024-25 winter season. The resort says this proactive measure is a response to the economic challenges posed by inflation, ensuring guests can continue to enjoy their favorite winter sports more affordably.


This initiative extends beyond lift ticket prices. Guests will find new, everyday lower-priced menu options and a renewed emphasis on learning programs. The resort plans to expand its highly successful Bob Beverly Free Learn to Ski or Snowboard program which has provided free lessons to over 3,000 participants since its inception.

Lift pass products will also benefit such as college student season passes which have

been reduced by \$100 to \$299 through October 14. Active-duty and retired military personnel, including the National Guard, and registered dependents season pass pricing will be frozen at \$299 after its inaugural launch last season. Bike Park season pass add-ons and daily lift ticket prices are also holding steady for Summer 2024. Additional price freezes and reductions are set to be announced throughout the summer.

Ryan Schramm, General Manager of Powderhorn Mountain Resort, emphasized the resort's commitment to affordability, "Inflation has made the last few seasons challenging for everyone. For the 2024-25 season, we are dedicated to freezing or reducing prices on most of our lift access products, food and beverage offerings, and various other services at the resort. Our hope is that by holding the line or reducing prices where we can, we provide

some relief to our guests while we all navigate these economic conditions. Our goal is to make the Powderhorn experience as accessible as possible to all." The commitment to affordability is encouraged by Pacific Group Resorts, Inc. (PGRI), Powderhorn's parent company based in Park City, Utah. A core tenet of the company's long-term strategic position has been offering affordable mountain escapes starting with the introduction of the Mission Affordable suite of lift products and extending to the most comprehensive Free Learn to Ski and Ride programs in the industry. By prioritizing value-driven initiatives, through this new Mission Affordability program, PGRI's resorts aim to make mountain recreation accessible to a broader audience ensuring more people can enjoy the scenic beauty and activities more often, without compromising on the quality of the guest experience.



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**Saturday, June 29th
Community Room**

**10:00-11:00 a.m.
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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 for more information.

Open Community Meeting - Childcare Provided - All Are Welcome!

OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

GET READY FOR NEW STATE LAWS GOING INTO EFFECT ON JULY 1, 2024 *Fixing Problems or Creating New Ones?*

By David White

One week from today, July 1st, 16 new laws that were passed by the legislature and signed by the Governor go into effect in Colorado. All of them will have an impact on our lives and most will have an impact on our freedoms – both positive and (mostly) negative given the financial cost to enforce them all.

Our elected lawmakers introduced 705 bills this last Legislative session. That's the most since 2019 when 721 bills were introduced, but far short of the record set in 2003, at 735.

Here's what happened to them...the General Assembly approved 525 bills, or 74% of the 705 bills introduced, with 358 bills from the House and 167 from the Senate. That's an incredible number of bills and only means that more of our freedoms are being taken away as each year sees more and more craziness as the State government tries to legislate morality along with every aspect of our lives. Elections truly have consequences.

Colorado governors have 30 days to sign bills after the legislative session adjourns each year. Gov. Polis signed a total of 519 bills into law during that period, which ended on Friday, June 7th out of the 525 passed by the legislature, the most annual bill-signings in more than a decade. Laws will begin going into effect on July 1st with more going into effect in the new year and beyond.

Polis said: "We are saving Coloradans money on property taxes, cutting the income and sales tax, moving closer to the reality of passenger rail in Colorado, making historic investments in educational opportunity including fully funding our schools — and so much more," Polis said in a statement. "Over the last 30 days I've signed bills across our great state to formalize these accomplishments that protect and improve the Colorado way of life." <https://www.kunc.org/news/2024-06-11/gov-polis-signed-519-bills-into-law-this-year-the-most-in-over-a-decade>). I guess that's his opinion, but at the end of the day, he failed to report what the true cost to us will be. Figures.

As former Colorado State Representative (House District 51) Don Marostica (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Don_Marostica) once said several years ago at an economic development seminar I attended here in Montrose, if he were ever elected Governor, the first thing he would do would be to tell the Legislature not to introduce any new legislation for at least one legislative session but instead sit down and go over every bill ever passed and signed into law and clean house.

The regulatory mess that is created with every bill signed into law is enormous. The bureaucrats write the regulations that are necessary to implement what they believe is the "legislative intent" of each bill. You can have a bill that is only three (3) pages long and double spaced and the bureaucrats will create a 28-page regulatory document in 8-point font based upon what they've determined the legislature "intended" when drafting the bill as well as in taking public testimony (written and oral), etc. It's a nightmare for the citizens and those that have to enforce them.

So, here's what's coming to you next week (more will be enacted over time as the Governor signed bills that have different effective dates):

- Prohibit Residential Occupancy Limits - House Bill 24-1007 prohibits local government entities from limiting the number of people permitted to occupy a residence.
- Gender-Related Bias-Motivated Crimes - Senate Bill 24-189 adds parameters for bias-motivated crimes to include gender.
- Prohibiting Carrying Firearms in Sensitive Spaces - Senate Bill 24-131 prohibits carrying firearms in most local government buildings and parking lots.
- Candidate Election Deepfake Disclosures - House Bill 24-1147 addresses AI-generated images and requires disclosure if used in election materials.
- False Slates of Electors - House Bill 24-1150 prohibits the creation or use of a false slate of electors in an election and carries significant penalties if the law is found to be broken.
- Protection of Victims of Sexual Offenses - House Bill 24-1072 further limits the types of information permitted to be released regarding victims of sexual offenses to include gender traits.
- Public Trustee Fees - House Bill 24-1443 increases fees awarded to public trustees.
- Environmental Sustainability Circular Economy - House Bill 24-1449 is an update to the Pollution Prevention Act of 1992, replacing corresponding committees with new entities.
- Fee Changes Health-Care Cash Funds - House Bill 24-1417 establishes the amounts of fees that the state board of health may increase regarding several entities.
- Community Food Assistance Provider Grant Program - House Bill 24-1407 combines two previously separate food assistance programs into one new program known as the Community Food Assistance Provider Grant Program.
- Increase in Property Tax Exemption Filing Fees - House Bill 24-1411 increases fees regarding tax exemption filing to be adjusted for inflation.

Continued next pg

NEW STATE LAWS GOING INTO EFFECT ON JULY 1, 2024 From previous pg

-Colorado Disability Opportunity Office - House Bill 24-1360 establishes the Colorado Disability Opportunity Office, an entity designed to assist individuals with disabilities to enter into the workforce or other aspects of their communities.

-Regulate Sale Transfer Sodium Nitrite - House Bill 24-1081 limits the sale of products containing sodium nitrate to contain 10% or less of the chemical.

-Issuance of Treasurer's Deeds - House Bill 24-1056 adjusts regulations regarding property tax liens based on a related Supreme Court decision.

-Additional PERA Service Retirees for Schools - House Bill 24-1044 permits employers to hire individuals receiving PERA if needed without affecting the employee's benefits.

-Railroad Safety Requirements - House Bill 24-1030 addresses situations in which public safety may be impeded by train activity in hopes of increasing safety measures during emergency situations.

-16 New Laws Go Into Effect in Colorado in July | https://95rockfm.com/colorado-new-laws-july-2024/?utm_source=tsmclip&utm_medium=referral

One BIG new law that is coming is the ban on the use of cell phones while driving (unless you're using a hands-free system to talk while on the phone). That law goes into effect on January 1, 2025, and comes with fines starting at \$75 if you're found violating the law. First-time offenders can get the penalty waived if they buy a hands-free device. Exceptions to the law allow drivers to use their cell phones while controlling a vehicle if they're parked or they're reporting an emergency. First responders and utility contractors responding to emergencies are also exempted. The law also says that a police officer must actually see the driver using a cell phone before they can be ticketed AND that drivers must first be pulled over for something else before they can be cited for using a cell phone. They'll receive a ticket for distracted driving if that's the case.

With each new law comes a significant cost to we the taxpayers. The lobbyists love getting bills passed as that's how they measure their success. The Legislators too measure their success by the number of bills they introduce and get passed. It's their badge of honor.

One group that monitors each member of the Colorado State Legislature is Liberty Scorecard. **"The Colorado Liberty Republicans produce the annual Liberty Scorecard. This is a measure of how our state lawmakers vote according to Constitutional Principles: Individual Rights, Free Markets and Limited Government."** <https://libertyscorecardco.us/#/>

Unfortunately, Montrose County is represented in the State House by Marc Catlin who has consistently received an "F" rating (receiving a 58.8% rating based upon his support or lack thereof of Constitutional support of our freedoms – see <https://libertyscorecardco.us/methodology/> for more information on how they score representatives as well as <https://libertyscorecardco.us/#/legislator/22567> for a look at Catlin's voting record) from the Liberty Scorecard.

As of last year, due to redistricting, we have been represented by State Senator Cleve Simpson who replaced Don Coram as our State Senator. Mr. Simpson's rating by Liberty Scorecard is an abysmal 48.4% (<https://libertyscorecardco.us/#/legislator/25858>). So much for the "Conservative" moniker being attached to either of these men.

Montrose and Montrose County are far from the bastion of conservatism that some would like you to believe exists here, at least when it comes to how our representatives vote while in Denver. Too far away for most people to notice I suspect, so they do what they want and then come home and tell us only about the "conservative" votes they cast for bills they sponsored or co-sponsored. Ugh. And Delta County isn't fairing much better than Montrose County. That's a story for another day.

Tuesday, June 25th is Primary Election Day. Please VOTE! We can do better at all levels of government, but we need more people to step up and run for office before we lose it all to the entrenched establishment that exists in Denver and Washington, D.C.

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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CITY CONSIDERS SUPPORT FOR PROJECTS, HEARS POLICE STATISTICS, AND WELCOMES INTERN CONNOR BELL *From pg 1*

The projected opening date for the project at 39 West Main Street will be in late Fall, Russo said. Applicants Greg and David Fishing were present, and David discussed the project.

"We're in the last stage of finally getting this building back into use," he said, "and this last stage is the most costly...to put it into use we have had to connect it to basically every utility that you can think of."

There was no sewer, water, electricity, or gas to the historic structure, Fishing said, noting that the applicants have now connected to all of those utilities. Other than fire suppression, all improvements have also benefitted the four surrounding properties, although the Fisherings have borne the cost, he said.

The current plan is to run an indoor marketplace inside the building, with a communal seating area and space for other vendors. Two food vendors, Sushi on the Roll and Meat and Gather, have already signed leases.

A summary sheet included in the work session packet notes the amount requested by Applicants David and Greg Fishing is \$418,817. "This represents the horizontal site improvements needing to be made on the property. Half of the expenses are due to the condition and lack of utilities to the property. This is 12% of the total project cost," the Summary Sheet states.

Mayor Pro Tem David Frank asked about the request for parking lot paving, and said that the city does not traditionally pay to pave private parking lots. "...What would be different about this?"

City Manager Bill Bell said that paved lots and connectivity are needed in the neighborhood. The project has been in the works for several years and is slightly behind schedule, Bell said. "...it is a little unique, it doesn't really set a precedent for future projects...we're really proud of the fact that the Fisherings as a private entity have been able to cash load this without a lot of private debt."

Fishing said that a change of use was required when they built the Distillery next door, which is also part of the project. Changing the use required more

funds to meet new City and CDOT standards. The City of Montrose helped with \$4,500 through a façade grant.

Councilor Judy Ann Files asked about City assistance with utilities. City Manager Bell said the percentage of assistance provided by the city is consistent with other projects. The City has waived \$21,787 in fees, Bell said. Files also asked about the historic vault that is located in the building; Fishing said he is considering turning it into a private whiskey vault. The lower portion of the building will be used for event space.

Councilor Ed Ulibarri asked about the kitchens planned for the space; Fishing said there won't be hoods used. Greg Fishing said that there is space outside for food trucks, and the city is helping to design a communal waste system for use by the applicants' business as well as by vendors.

The second work session discussion item was a tap fee waiver request for the historic Montrose County Courthouse project. A summary sheet with project details is included in the work session packet; the summary sheet states, "If approved by City Council, the City of Montrose will contribute \$24,661.40 towards Utility Connection Fees on behalf of Montrose County."

The summary sheet includes a project description and reason for the request: *"The Montrose County Historic Courthouse was built nearly 102 years ago and has only undergone minor alterations over its history. It is currently listed on the National Register of Historic Places (5MN1813). Successful completion of this project will provide Montrose County with an operational and efficient facility for staff and public; integrate new and existing parking; have a clear and simple signage plan; reduce operational and maintenance expense, and preserve the significant historic features of the building... Cost of restoration of a historical site is quite expensive and it has taken nearly six years to get to this point. The costs have steadily increased and we need assistance to make the project viable."*

Montrose County Manager Jon

Waschbusch was present for the work session; he said that the County Courthouse is a 101-year-old building in which nothing has ever been fixed. "So the project is to fix everything."

The historic front hall will be preserved as is, and the remainder of the structure has been gutted, Waschbusch said. All utilities have been undergrounded as part of the project; DMEA worked with Montrose County. Utility connections to the neighboring IT building have been updated to be independent of one another.

"It's a great project," Mayor Pro Tem David Frank said. "I think that revitalizing our Downtown is of enormous benefit to the city as well as the county, and draws people into Montrose which helps generate revenue...I think it's a reasonable ask compared to a lot of the other projects we see coming down the pike..."

Frank said he loves the coordination and cooperation between city and county right now, "...It's taken us a lot of years to get here. I'm just really thankful and supportive of the relationship we have developed between the two."

Mayor J. David Reed said that he appreciates the county taking on the courthouse project, "Hat's off to you guys," and asked about a completion date. "By contract it is September of '25," Waschbusch said. Right now, demolition is essentially wrapping up.

The upper two floors have been empty for around 25 years, Waschbusch said. "We're getting the whole building back into use, and that hasn't occurred since the courts moved to the justice center in 1998, 1999." There will be a modern, code-compliant elevator to all four floors.

STAFF REPORTS-MONTROSE POLICE STATISTICS

Police Chief Hall presented Montrose Police Department Statistics for the first quarter of 2023 vs. 2024 and year end statistics comparing 2022 to 2023. Also included are statistics for animal control and for Code Enforcement. No Code Enforcement statistics are available for 2024 due to the lack of a code enforcement officer.

Continued next pg

CITY CONSIDERS SUPPORT FOR PROJECTS *From previous pg*

officer. Hall discussed the important benefits and but also downsides to body-worn cameras. "There seems to be this push towards making law enforcement less about the criminal defendant's actions and more about the police officer's actions," Hall said. "Our criminal defense bar...are doing massive requests for our internal records, our body cam footage...they're trying to make these trials more about the police officer and their conduct than they are actually about the person they're really there for, the defendant." Hall commended City Public Safety Attorney Matthew Magliaro, "He

has been working diligently and daily responding to these defense bar requests. Without that public safety attorney position, I don't know how other police departments do it, with the massive number of requests we get, especially from the public defender's office..." Hall also discussed the Montrose Police Department's new mounted patrol, which brings officers on horseback to local parks and encourages the participation and partnership of local equestrians with horses of their own. "We have a community survey that says that our citizens want more patrol in our parks," Hall said, "We've got 20 miles of

patrols, we've got individuals who are conducting illegal activity in our parks. What a great way to get around and use a specific type of citizen volunteers to help us patrol our parks," he said. Montrose used to have a mounted unit in the 1970's. "We're bringing it back," Hall said. Councilor Dave Frank gave a shout out to a "Youth City Councilor" watching from the back of the room, but was told that it was new City Intern Connor Bell.

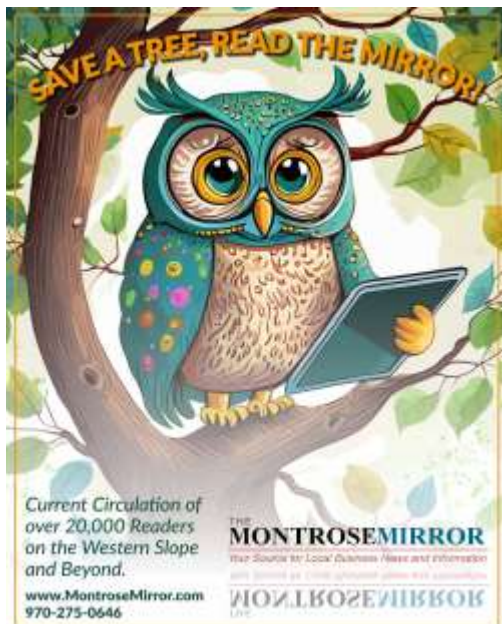
Councilor Judy Ann Files said, "Welcome Connor, good job."

With no further business the work session was adjourned.

FREE LOCAL VOLUNTEER ATTORNEY CONSULTS AND MEDIATION SESSIONS OCT. 21 – 25

Special to the Mirror

REGIONAL The 7th Judicial District is pleased to announce, that as part of the Colorado Judicial Branch's Pro Bono Week, it will be hosting **free** local volunteer attorney consults and mediation sessions during the week of October 21 – 25, 2024 at the Montrose County Combined Court. **Free** parenting education workshops will also be offered Thursday October 24th, and Friday October 25th. Spanish interpreters will be available as well. Space for mediators and attorneys is limited so participants are encouraged to register early. To register or for additional information please call 970.252.4312.



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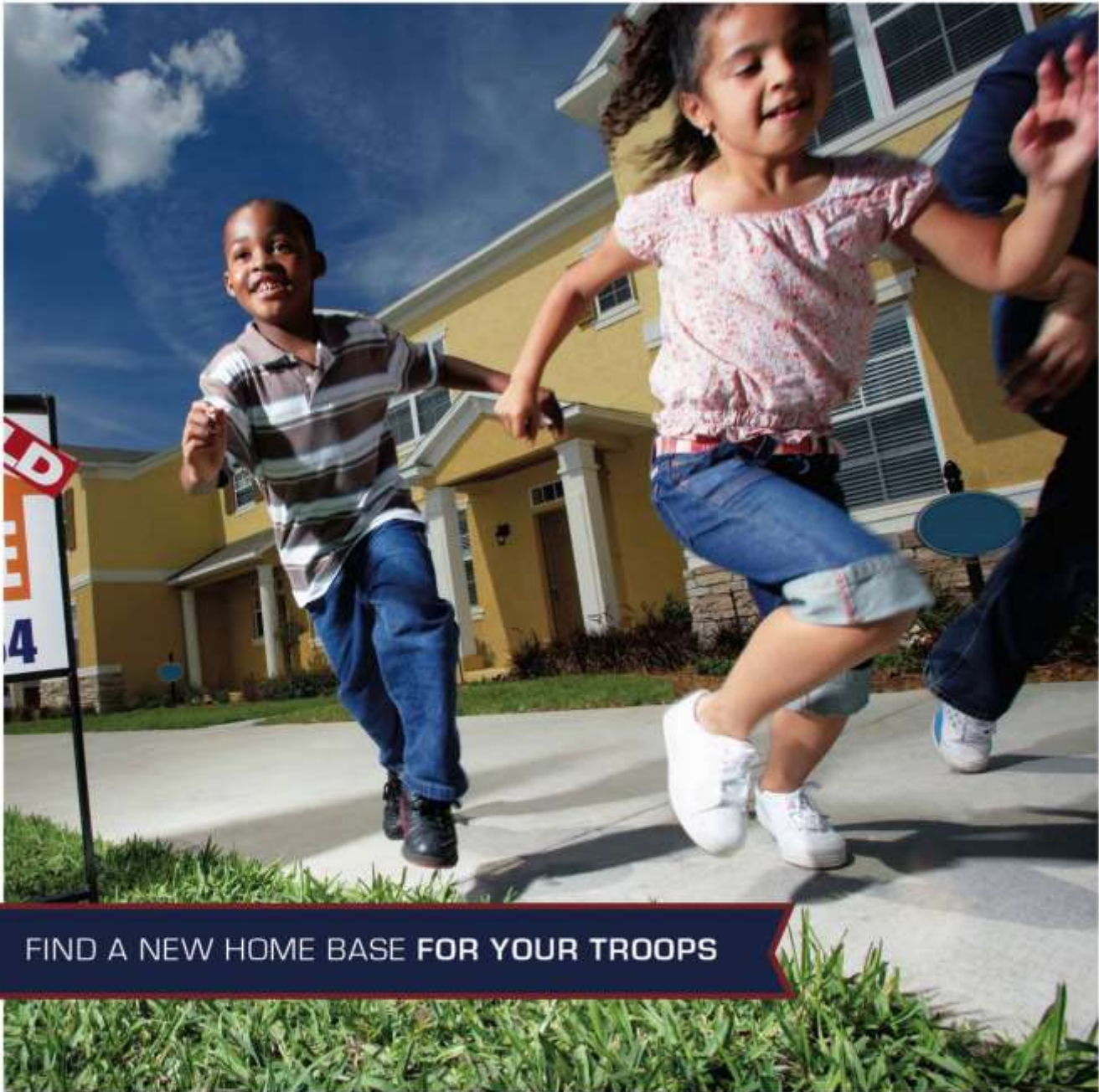
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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

VOTE ALL DEMOCRATS OUT OF OFFICE STARTING AT THE BOTTOM WITH CITY COUNCIL

Editor;

Oregon Senator Dennis Linthicum recently shared his insight that the Founding Fathers clearly understood that morality and liberty were bound together. They put great stock in the necessity of personal virtues for freedom and virtues like peace, patience, understanding, forbearance, and self-control were viewed as not-negotiable for remaining free from the chains of tyranny.

But Edmund Burke also said, "Men are qualified for civil liberty in exact proportion to their disposition to put moral chains upon their own appetites and each generation must relearn the lessons of the past. We must build on the example set by the Founders in order to keep fertile the soil of public virtue in which the seeds of freedom are sown anew in every age."

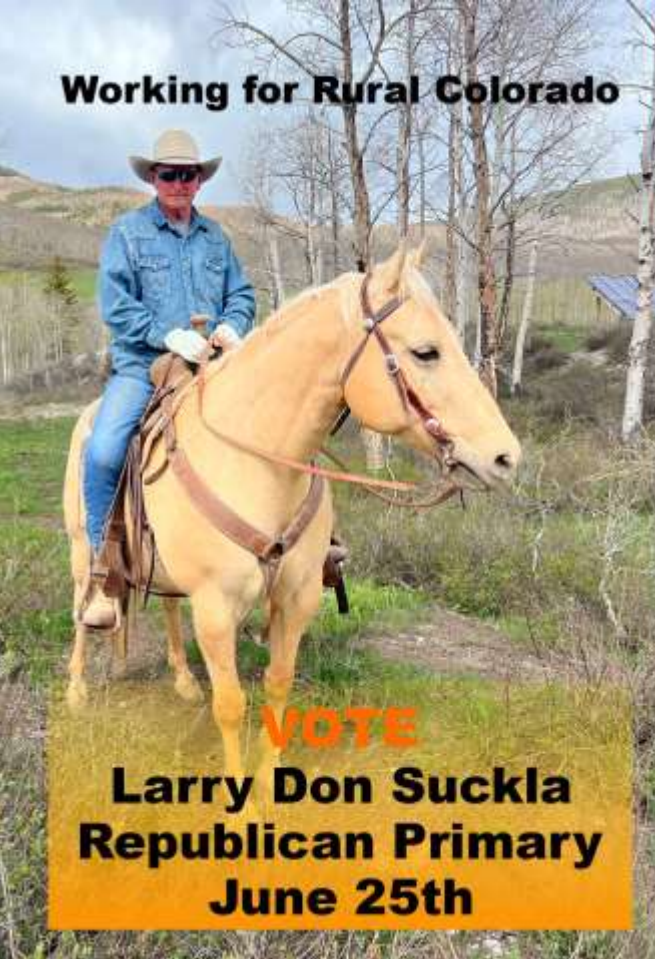
Thomas Jefferson also forewarned us, "that the efforts of mankind to recover the freedom of which they have been so long deprived will be accompanied with vio-

lence, with errors, and even with crimes...." Good patriots have stood and fought and fell because they wanted to make a difference. But our generation was not there to fight, to go into battle or to engage in the arguments of that time. But OUR time is now! This is what Make America Great Again means. It's time to take our country back. It's time for all of us to take up the charge of freedom and liberty bound to personal responsibility. We have been faced with living in an age where morally subversive, economically destructive, socially degrading, and devious pathways are set out in front of us by the Democrat stranglehold over our lives. They need to quit all their racial bias and division. Everything is now racist to them. Even our highways are racist!!

In Thomas Paine's words, "These are the times that try men's souls." He was right--- we face a leftist agenda that seems bent on destroying our great nation. We have a leftist thug in the White House denying

needed military aid except for a trickle to our best ally in the world, Israel. But yet, he is showering non-ally Ukraine with \$bilions upon \$billions of military equipment plus more \$billions in cash that is secretly unaccounted for. A clue might be that Israel won't stoop to filling the Biden families' bank accounts with \$millions from the American taxpayer in return for America's help. This same thug is filling America up with people who have no right to be here. And you, the taxpayers are financing every penny for all their living needs. The Obid-boma machine is replacing Americans with illegals just as planned. Be careful who you vote for this time because remember the thug is going to welcome you to all future April 15s with 87,000 NEW IRS agents on top of the thousands they already have. And some or most are armed with weapons and police training! Vote all Democrats out of office starting at the bottom with city councils.

Jerry Bartholome, Montrose



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Republican Primary
June 25th

Larry Don Suckla for House District #58

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- Public Land must be kept multi-use.
- Keeping our water on the West Slope is key to maintaining our rural values.
- You make conservative decisions about your own money, so should the government.
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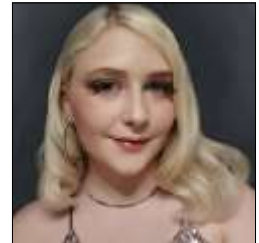
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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE TEEN TO COMPETE IN MISS COLORADO USA-MISS COLORADO TEEN USA CONTEST IN GREELEY JUNE 30

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO-The Miss Colorado USA and Miss Colorado Teen USA competitions will take place June 30 at the Union Colony Civic Center in Greeley at 5:30pm. Among those competing for the title will be Lillian Kittell of Montrose, who is sponsored by Lambert & Associates. The state pageant producer for the Miss USA organization is Future Productions, 651-222-9650, www.misscoloradousa.com or info@futureproductions.net.



Lillian Kittell. Courtesy photo.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

SALES TAX IN MONTROSE: INFLATION IS THE CITY'S BEST FRIEND BUT NOT YOURS!

By David White

I've written several letters and opinion pieces about the millions of dollars that the City of Montrose, through its City Manager and City Council, have given away to private businesses for commercial kitchens, landscaping, building parking lots, building permit fees, facades on public buildings, financing of private real estate deals and much, much more. As a reader and taxpayer, you may not know what the sales tax rates are in Montrose or even how much they impact your life, so it's worth bringing those numbers to your attention.

What got me thinking and writing about this subject came from a conversation that I had with one of my teenage grandsons who works at a local eatery two nights a week. He had a brief conversation with a patron he was helping this last Saturday evening about the sales tax rates in Montrose. The customer my grandson spoke with was a man visiting Montrose from California. When it came time to pay his bill, he remarked that he felt like he was in California and not Montrose as the sales tax rate here just about matched that of his city in California. He couldn't believe it. He couldn't, but I can.

So why is it that visitors to our community are experiencing sales tax shock? Taken from the City's website is the following sales tax information:

- 3.88% - City of Montrose and Montrose Recreation District (MRD) (3.58% City and .3% MRD)

-1.75% - Montrose County

-2.9% - State

-8.53% - Total Base Sales Tax

But it doesn't end there! Conveniently swept under the rug in most conversations with City Officials when asked about our sales tax rates, they don't bring up the following:

The total sales tax rate for restaurants is 9.33% (8/10th of a cent additional sales tax is added to your ticket)

The total sales tax rate for hotels/lodging establishments is 9.43% (9/10th of a cent in additional sales tax is added to your hotel bill)

Shopping or eating in the Oxbow or River Landing shopping centers (Rent-A-Center, Dollar Tree, Natural Grocers, Ross Dress for Less, Marshall's, PETCO, etc.)? You get to pay an additional .5% (Development's Phase 1 Retailer) or 2.15% (Development's Phase 2 Retailer) for a Public Improvement Fee (PIF) bringing your tax rate to a total of 9.03% - 10.68% for everything purchased in those shopping centers. While not officially a tax, PIFs are sort of like private taxes for a property. The fees typically are collected by a business and paid to developers, who either borrowed money or paid upfront for the sewers, streets, lighting and more needed to develop a commercial property that municipalities don't fund. This fee came along a few years after the shopping centers were developed.

Renting a car? Using electricity? Using natural gas? Using a cell phone? Have a land line phone? Use a cable TV service? Buy groceries? Guess what? You get to pay a City (and 1.75% County Sales Tax) on all of these and more! Averaging all of these out, our sales tax rate is more like 9.4%.

I could go on and on about the City's largesse and the giveaways to private businesses that can well afford to pay for their own developments, which I have in past writings, but it hasn't changed the course the City is on. At least the County has used their sales tax to fund their public works department and the Sheriff's Office as the public intended. The City is a different story and the public is and should be disgusted at how their money is being used.

Remember, you're paying for all of the above with AFTER TAX DOLLARS. You've already seen your paycheck taxed by the State of Colorado and the Federal government. Now along comes the City with sales and excise taxes on everything you need to live. Of course, we need and expect to have services such as police, utilities (water and wastewater), streets and the other government services not provided by the private sector by law or otherwise not economically viable for private enterprise to provide which I fully recognize requires that there be some level of taxation to pay for these things. However, to see the progressive socialists in City Hall giving our tax money away on a weekly basis while neglecting their core responsibilities is where we need to draw the line.

Four years ago (during COVID), I and others approached the City Council about taking a one year "tax holiday" from the sales tax on food. Their response to us was to hold a dog and pony show in City Council chambers wherein they presented a PowerPoint presentation on why such a tax moratorium on food would be so detrimental to the City government and why they would not voluntarily provide their citizens with tax relief. A citizen's initiative to do what Council wouldn't was cut short by COVID shutdowns.

Fast forward to 2024. Inflation is driving prices for everything higher. Food costs are up anywhere from 25% - 40% over these last two years. The packaged goods you buy have seen their volume decrease (16 ounces of cereal are now 12 ounces); ice cream went from a ½ gallon to 1.75 quarts to now 1.5 quarts; a 12 ounce can of beer is now 11.8 ounces and on and on it goes. Get less and pay more. The same thing holds true for fast food or sit-down restaurants. The cheapest burger meal you can buy at Denny's is now \$12.00. You're lucky to get out of most fast-food restaurants for less than \$11.00 a meal. Kinikin Processing's food trailer was at the recent Black Canyon Classics car show. Their hamburgers were \$15.00.

Continued next pg

INFLATION IS THE CITY'S BEST FRIEND BUT NOT YOURS! From previous pg

In spite of these realities, you're still paying the same sales tax rate. Getting less but paying more which means the City's take is on the increase. And what do they do with it? Not all that they're supposed to do. Streets, in spite of what they claim is their biggest investment to date in infrastructure repairs, are still woefully behind in being repaired due to misplaced priorities.

They tout million-dollar roundabouts as showing the wise use of your tax dollars, yet they've given the developers of the private Rathbone Hotel (next to the Fox Theater downtown) over \$1.5 million dollars for a new façade, structural repairs, new windows and much, much more. They (the City Manager & Council) bought the former downtown Wells Fargo Building for \$1.5 million. Spent \$1.5 million on an interior remodel and are now spending \$2.8 million on a new façade for a building that provides no direct public benefit for the roughly \$6,000,000 they've spent on an old building to house City employees when the Historic City Hall could have been renovated for half of the cost per the City Manager when he sold the Council and public a "bill of goods" in order to get into new digs with a covered parking spot so he could park his taxpayer paid for \$80,000 GMC Yukon Denali SUV in. Really?

I'll keep informing you, the reader, of these "lipstick on a pig" projects as well as the misuse of your tax dollars with the hope that some of you do something to let your elected officials know that you've had enough of their needless wasteful spending. Someday, this will all come to an end, and you'll be asked to pick up the pieces after all of them are gone.

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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'MRS CLAUS' LEAH COLE HONORED WITH MAYOR'S FIRST CITIZENSHIP AWARD



Leah Cole of Mrs. Claus for a Cause was honored by Mayor Reed.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-All councilors were present for the regular Montrose City Council meeting of Monday, June 17, as Mayor J. David Reed presented his first, "You Make a Difference" award and Council voted to approve a number of items, including a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the Montrose Veterans Memorial Plaza. Reed called the meeting to order at 6pm and led in saying the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Pro Tem David Frank had no changes to the meeting agenda.

YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE AWARD

Mayor Reed recognized Leah Cole, Founder of the non-profit Mrs. Claus for a Cause, with the very first You Make a Difference Award. Cole started the non-profit in 2019, and each year a free event is held for families to enjoy a day of fun, with one day each year dedicated to families with special needs.

Reed said, "...Leah contributes her time to organize the event, secure donations, and recruit volunteers to ensure all children and families in our community experience joy during the holidays. The event has grown significantly over four years. The organization helped over 2,000 people in 2023 and is hoping to assist 3,000 this year."

Cole thanked Mayor Reed for the recognition, and encouraged those present to consider volunteering. The 2024 Mrs. Claus for a Cause event will be held on Dec. 13, 14 and 15, she said.

CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-

AGENDA ITEMS

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda items were approved unanimously.

LODGING AND ENTERTAINMENT LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATION- RATHBONE HOTEL AND PARLOR BAR

Council voted unanimously to approve a new Lodging and En-

tertainment liquor license at 33 S. Cascade Avenue for TCB Hospitality 33, LLC, doing business as Rathbone Hotel and Parlor Bar, for consumption on the licensed premises.

ORDINANCE 2665 - FIRST READING

As discussed previously in work session, Council voted to approve Ordinance 2665 on First Reading, assessing the costs of the Otter Pond Circle Utility Relocation Special Improvement District to the property included within the district.

MONTROSE VETERANS MEMORIAL PLAZA MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

Public Works Director Jim Scheid introduced for Council consideration the Montrose Veterans Memorial Plaza Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). He discussed the project and said that the MOA lists all steps to be taken on behalf of the Montrose Veterans Memorial Plaza. "Once this is authorized, we would begin immediately..." Procurement of a design team will be the first step.

Mayor Pro Tem David Frank said, "...We've been working hard on this, and I'm really excited to see this come to us." Montrose Veterans Coalition President Les Williams spoke. "I'm here to thank you for what you've done here...I also want to thank the people that are standing behind me and those throughout the community who we have visited with more than one time about the need for this memorial."

Williams said that he recently returned from the 80th Anniversary of the landing at Normandy. "I was amazed at the number

of people that were there—hundreds of thousands of people came for the 80th. Memorials mean something to people...Montrose has not seen a veterans' memorial since 106 years ago, and that was the end of World War I... this is time for all us to get together, get it done as soon as we possibly can, in the very best manner. A memorial that everybody visiting it will be proud of...we are really ready to go...it's not for us, it's for these guys.

"Thank you all."

Also speaking about the Veterans Memorial Plaza MOA was Brenda Bafus Williams, who serves on the board of directors for the Montrose Botanical Society. The Montrose Veterans Memorial Plaza will be immediately to the west of the botanic gardens. "...We would respectfully request that we be...kept in the loop during the design phase of the project...as we continue to develop the southern half of the Botanic Gardens...thank you for your consideration, we really think is an important project as well, we just want to make sure that it benefits everyone."

Council voted unanimously to approve the Montrose Veterans Memorial Plaza Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). Those in attendance gave a round of applause.

LEASE EXTENSION AMENDMENT

Also approved was a Lease Extension Amendment for 514 S. First Street, the Straw Hat Farm Market & Kitchen Store.

SOLE SOURCE PURCHASE AUTHORIZATION

Council voted to authorize a sole source purchase of one Amwell clarifier gearbox unit for the Wastewater Treatment Plant at a total cost of \$58,400.

STAFF REPORTS

Sales Tax Accountant Leeanne Whittaker presented the April Sales, Use & Excise Tax Report.

Police Chief Blaine Hall announced the implementation of the new police officer and citizens mounted patrol unit. "This is a really exciting program for the police department and the city, I think it's going to be great...it's just going to increase the eyes and ears and our presence..."

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

EITHER VOTE OR LOSE OUR REPUBLIC

Editor:

Here in Colorado, we republicans have been losing ground for the past several election cycles. And part of the reason for this is fewer people are participating in the primary elections. And this allows mediocre or sometimes bad candidates to win the primary and then lose the general election. Voter turnout is key to every election. And we can no longer count on the republican party to be unbiased and to promote the best candidates. When we

have the state party chair (Dave Williams) running for office in violation of the party bylaws. And the local party chair (Scott Riba) is running for office in violation of the bylaws. And the party is endorsing candidates in the primary, in violation of the bylaws. This creates divided loyalties and fractures party unity. Rather than look out for the party's best interest they put their political aspirations ahead of the party. That is why the neutrality clause was written in the bylaws. This is political

suicide for our party.

Just look at the ads Adam Frisch is running against Jeff Hurd, why? Because he hopes to influence the republican primary. So, he is attacking the CD3 republican candidate that stands the best chance of beating him. He hopes to help a weaker republican candidate win the primary. And that is why everyone should be voting for Jeff Hurd. These other candidates do not stand a chance against Adam Frisch.

The first thing I look for in a candidate is honesty and integrity. Any candidate that will lie to you should never be considered. Any candidate that will put themselves above our country, state or county should never be considered. All candidates will tell you that they are doing this for the greater good of the community. But when you look at their past decisions do they put themselves first or do they put the community first? When I look at the candidates that our local party is endorsing. It disturbs me. Ron Hanks and Larry Don Suckla have always been "me first" types. Scott Riba is corrupt and has corrupted the local GOP. Scott Mijares is a proven pathological liar.

Jeff Hurd is our best chance to keep CD3 in Republican hands. Mark Roeber is our best chance to have an effective legislator in HD58. And Rick Dunlap is a man of impeccable honesty and integrity. Big Lou Stark is a man of integrity who has been honest from day one about his tax issues. He has paid his taxes with interest.

Please Vote otherwise someone else will decide for you.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DID YOU KNOW NATIONAL TIRE SAFETY WEEK IS JUNE 24 – JULY 3?

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO-Discount Tire wants to spread awareness of this important week ahead of one of the most traveled holidays of the year as summer temps are heating up.

Local store managers are available and can offer helpful tips & tricks. Available in-person (at the store, in-studio) or virtually (phone, Teams/Zoom) are:

- A tire safety demonstration (in person) to educate you about the importance of proper tire care and maintenance. Drivers can check their air pressure at home and gauge tread depth simply by using a penny.

- Talk through road trip safety tips like how

summer heat can impact tire performance and what you can do to form good tire-safety habits.

Fast Facts

- Discount Tire makes it easy and inviting for customers to shop for tires and wheels when and where they want.

- Our tire experts encourage drivers to follow their tips relating to tread, pressure, rotations, tire replacement, and checking their trunks.

- Customers can use [Treadwell](#), Discount Tire's proprietary online tire recommendation tool that uses years of data to find the best tires for their driving needs.

- Discount Tire offers a range of products

and services from routine maintenance, to new tires and free air checks, to vehicle windshield wipers.

Statistics:

- The U.S. Department of Energy reports that keeping car tires at recommended pressure levels can improve gas mileage by up to 3%.

- Today's tires are made safer than ever before, yet improperly maintained tires pose a safety risk to drivers.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), worn-out tires are three times more likely to be involved in a crash than tires with sufficient tread.



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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

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

PALISADE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ANNOUNCES THE RETURN OF A CENTURY OLD TRADITION—PALISADE PEACH DAYS!



Special to the Mirror

PALISADE - Mark your calendars

for the return of Palisade Peach Days, a more than century-old tradition of celebrating the finest peaches in the Palisade area, August 8th - August 18th, 2024!

Palisade Peach Days will have many of the traditional events you're used to seeing throughout the Town of Palisade during the Palisade Peach Festival, now spread out over ten days, to make the impact on the small community a little lighter.

Palisade Chamber President & CEO, Jessica Burford, said, "This has been a very well-loved event that continues to grow year after year. We have been working closely with the Town of Palisade to make the event better fit the needs of our community while creating even more opportunity for our guests to join in the celebration!"

With the festivity changes, some of the much-loved events will take place on different days. The Just Peachy 5k, Peach Days Parade, and Palisade High School Band Car Show, for example, will take place on Saturday, August 10, 2024. The Palisade Peach Festival, on the other hand, will be happening the traditional 3rd weekend on August 16th & 17th. You will also be able to find an agricultural experience that best fits your needs through wine dinners and agricultural tours that will be happening throughout the ten days.

"Events being spread out will give people the opportunity to join in festivities that best fit their interests and schedules without completely overwhelming our residents and town infrastructure. We are very excited to extend the celebration of the peach harvest in this way!" says Jessica Burford. Make sure to mark your calendars for these fun-filled days of celebrating Palisade's amazing heritage!

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Need legal advice in a civil, probate, or domestic matter? Free attorney consultations will be offered, in-person and by telephone or virtually, during the week of October 21 2024.

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Have you been ordered to complete mediation? Mediators with the Office of Dispute Resolution will be volunteering their time to conduct free mediation sessions. The mediators will be available during the week of October 21, 2024, and other days during the month of October. Please email us for more details regarding mediation sessions.

Pre-Registration is Required for All Events

Call 970-252-4312 or email 7thJDLRD@gmail.com by
October 14, 2024 to register

Available to residents of Delta, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montrose, Ouray and San Miguel Counties



Call 970.252.4312 to register. Space is limited so register early!

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**21 al 25
de
octubre,
2024**



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¿Necesita asesoramiento legal en un asunto civil, testamentario o de lo familiar? Durante la semana del 21 de octubre de 2024 se ofrecerán consultas gratuitas en persona, por teléfono o en formato virtual.

¿Tiene un caso de relaciones domésticas relacionado con la custodia de los hijos en el 7.º Distrito Judicial? Acompañenos en una clase gratuita de crianza compartida. Las clases se ofrecerán el jueves 24 de octubre y el viernes 25 de octubre. Se contará con servicio de interpretación en español. Este curso será impartido por CASA y cumplirá con el requisito del Taller de Educación para Padres ordenado por el tribunal de relaciones domésticas.

¿Le han ordenado completar una mediación? Los mediadores de la Oficina de Resolución de Disputas ofrecerán voluntariamente su tiempo para llevar a cabo sesiones de mediación gratuitas. Los mediadores estarán disponibles durante la semana del 21 de octubre, y otros días durante el mes de octubre. Envíe un correo electrónico para obtener más detalles sobre las sesiones de mediación.

Inscripción previa obligatoria para todos los eventos

Llame al 970-252-4312 o envíe un correo electrónico a 7thJDLRD@gmail.com antes del 14 de octubre, 2024 para inscribirse.
Disponible para los residentes de los condados de Delta, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montrose, Ouray y San Miguel



Llame al 970.252.4312 para inscribirse. Cupo limitado, ¡inscríbese pronto!

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

WHY ARE SCOTT MIJARES AND SCOTT RIBA ENDORSED BY SHERIFF LILLARD

Editor:

According to the County Clerk 12,262 ballots were mailed out for the primary election that concludes tomorrow. Historically depending on the type of election and the issues involved, between 1600 to 3400 voters will wait to the last day to vote. This letter is directed to those last minute voters.

At each election I get quite a few requests from friends and neighbors, who have for various reasons, not kept up with candidates or issues of concern. With four candidates for two commissioner seats I have gotten an unusual number of such request. By far the most questions are, "why are all three commissioners supporting Stark and Dunlap?" and "why is Sheriff Lillard strongly supporting Riba and Mijares?". The answers are quite simple and involves county misuse of the PSST and the failure of commissioners to approve the FPPA retirement program for our Sheriff Department.

Over the last year it has been publicly documented that the BOCC has been using the PSST as a slush fund contrary to the original intention of the PSST, all to the detriment of the MCSO. Last fall, facing recruitment and retention problems, Sheriff Lillard requested an additional 4% salary increase and a

move to the FPPA retirement plan but the BOCC, in a short sighted decision, denied both requests. Now our MCSO is hemorrhaging employees and inaction by the BOCC puts our public safety in jeopardy.

In a move to prevent an intensive review of the PSST and any potential restrictions against the county continuing to freely access the PSST with inappropriate charges all commissioners have recruited Big Lou Stark and Rick Dunlap as their chosen successors to maintain the highly questionable county status quo. In my opinion unethical at best, and at worst a feeble and obvious attempt at election engineering.

Stark has been documented as having a highly questionable financial background by accumulating over \$ 83,000 in federal tax liens. With a long history of not being able to handle his own money wisely do we really want to entrust him with decisions on our county budget of over \$130 million???? His past financial performance is a sure indicator of what could be expected in the future and his election would not bode well for Montrose taxpayers!

Did you know that Dunlap's daughter-in-law Cindy Dunlap is The Chief Financial Officer for Montrose County? If elected he would immediately be faced with a

clear CONFLICT OF INTEREST in all county financial matters requiring his recusal and rendering him ineffective as a commissioner. Absent recusal citizens would always question his every financial decision. Dunlap's mismanagement of MCSO funds as Sheriff has also been noted by Sheriff Lillard. It has become crystal clear that our commissioners have been exceedingly lax in fostering these tow men as being qualified to be future commissioners.

In contrast candidates Scott Mijares and Scott Riba have been strongly endorsed by Sheriff Lillard.

Both are successful businessmen here in Montrose who are open to a full investigation regarding use of PSST funds and rectifying all misuses of that fund. Additionally they will thoroughly investigate the FPPA retirement program and make the best decision for our Sheriff Department, a move our current commissioners have declined to do.

Voters are seldom faced with what I consider such a clear choice decision but this is definitely one of those. If you truly support our Sheriff Department and its obligation to provide the strongest degree of public safety possible in Montrose County, please vote for Scott Riba and Scott Mijares as our new commissioners.

Dee Laird, Montrose

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Peg Evanoika, MRP

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

HISTORIC ALPINE TUNNEL CONSTRUCTION CONTINUES—CLOSURE ISSUED

Special to the Mirror

GUNNISON— The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests' Gunnison Ranger District, in partnership with the National Forest Foundation (NFF), announces the temporary closure of the region surrounding the Historic Alpine Tunnel road and Palisade Wall to allow for ongoing construction. Construction will begin June 18 and continue through the summer and fall seasons as weather allows. Approximately 506 acres will be closed in the Alpine Tunnel region. Visitors who take alternative routes should be prepared for significantly longer travel times and no available services. The purpose of the closure is to protect public safety during the Alpine Tunnel Road and Palisade Wall Repair reconstruction activities. The closure region includes:

-National Forest System Road (NFSR) #839

– Alpine Tunnel road

-National Forest System Trail (NFST) #298

– Williams Pass Jeep trail

-Lands above and below NFSR #839, progressing south along the closed corridor surrounding NFSR #839 and continuing south to NFST #888

-NFSR #767.1B (also known as NFS road 7767.1B)

-NFST #888

-NFST #539

St. Elmo to Pitkin—Alternate routes include traveling via Hancock Pass to Tomichi Pass to Black Sage Pass to Wuanita Pass or via Tin Cup Pass to Cumberland Pass. Both alternate routes will add additional hours of drive time, so please plan accordingly.

Rock masonry crews will reconstruct the approximate 100-foot section of the Palisade Wall and Alpine Tunnel road that

received extensive damage due to an avalanche in 2016. This project is made possible by funding prioritized for deferred maintenance projects through the Great American Outdoors Act.

"The Alpine Tunnel Historic District holds great significance in Colorado's history," stated Dayle Funka, Gunnison District Ranger. "It is vital that we acknowledge its importance and preserve it for the coming generations. We are thankful for the funding provided by the Great American Outdoors Act, which will allow us to address the critical restoration needs of the district."

For more information on current fire restrictions, conditions and recreation opportunities, visit the forest website or www.westslopefireinformation.com. Connect with us or follow us on social media ([Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)).

Steven Louis Stark

Registered as a Republican
but not Conservative

Never mentions conservatism.

Has never stated he is a Republican or
Conservative on his website or Social Media.

He has never said he supports
President Trump & America First agenda.

Big Lou is supported by the
Montrose Political Establishment that has
been moving to the left for some time now.

Big Lou has failed to articulate a vision
for the future of Montrose or how he will
make our lives better. He speaks in general
terms to appeal to the left. He wants no
conflict. He wants to go along to get along.

Scott Mijares

Conservative Republican

Scott is Defender of Conservative
Principles.

Dedicated to keeping
Montrose Red.

Supports President Trump

Donates to Conservative causes.

Wants to serve our Community
by limiting Government Spending,
Increasing transparency, and
giving our citizens a stronger
voice in how we are governed.

Scott is supported by our Sheriff.
He insists that our Sheriff's Department is
properly funded for the safety and security
of all citizens.

PRIDE IN MONTROSE



THE JUSTICE EQUITY DIVERSITY AND INCLUSIVITY (JEDI) SUBCOMMITTEE of the Montrose County Democratic Party (MCDP) is proud to have been a sponsor and participant in the First Annual Montrose Pride Festival at the Rotary Amphitheater at Cerise Park in Montrose Colorado on June 8 2024. Forty-four vendors and 750 attendees celebrated diversity and inclusivity and the ability to be and love on a hot, windy summer day.

Montrose Pride Sponsors included Hilltop Community Resources, the Montrose Regional Library District, American Family Insurance, Montrose Regional Health, Community Spirit Church, Montrose United Methodist Church, Loving Beyond Understanding, HotWorx Fitness Studio, The Mountain Group, Axis Health, ThinkSharp Consulting, the Montrose Recreation District, ChowDown Pet Supply, DED Records, Britt and Cindi Parks, and Kelly and Barbara Bynum.

JEDI members provided festival goers with information about the JEDI mission and the MCDP efforts to organize and energize voters for the upcoming elections. JEDI's mission is to embrace and empower underrepresented individuals to be an active part of the political and community landscape, and to promote an environment where everyone can thrive.

When asked what they love about Montrose Pride, festival attendees said: "It makes me feel welcomed."

"You have made History." "Natural beauty and happy people." "I get to be me with no worry." "A long time coming." "All the beautiful people smiling." "Positivity and love." "Opening minds." "Making this a safer place to live and thrive." "Bringing our community together." "None of us are free until we all are." "My beautiful daughter feels accepted." "Making changes so we are all included." "I feel like I belong." "Inclusivity Rocks!" A week later, on June 15th, the team staffed the JEDI booth at Ouray County Pride in Ridgway. About three hundred folks enjoyed a beautiful day of MUSIC, FRIENDSHIP, AND FREEDOM.



CARTOON BY TIM JONES

WEEKLY CARTOON

SOUR GRAPES

by Tim Jones



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So let me get this straight

You want my Mom and Dad to vote for a guy that has over \$83,000 in federal tax liens to manage our \$113,000,000 County budget?

I'll have to give you a big "Heck No" on that one.



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He knows how to manage his money.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE COUNTY PROJECTS NET \$107K IN GRANT FUNDING FOR REGIONAL STEWARDSHIP AND RANCH CONSERVATION

Special to the Mirror

DENVER—The Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) board awarded a \$54,983 grant to Colorado Canyons Association in partnership with Colorado West Land Trust (CWLT) for the West Slope Outdoor Volunteers (WSOV) to promote stewardship of spaces in Mesa, Delta, and Montrose counties and \$53,000 through Keep It Colorado to CWLT for a conservation easement that protects North Bend Ranch along the Dolores River.

The first grant is part of GOCO's Stewardship Impact program, which supports collaborative stewardship work that demonstrates meaningful improvements to ecological and recreational amenities.

In response to the growing need for restoration and stewardship, Colorado Canyons Association is leading a coalition of conservation organizations known as the West Slope Outdoor Volunteers (WSOV). WSOV is helping address the growing need for restoration and stewardship in the region. Initially supported by a grant from the Western Colorado Community Foundation, the collaborative aims to streamline and enhance volunteer efforts.

With GOCO's investment, WSOV will work across Mesa, Delta, and Montrose Counties, leveraging relationships with local governments, federal agencies, and communities to promote stewardship and reduce mobilization costs with collaborative efforts. By pooling resources and expertise, WSOV will build a skilled volunteer base, promote collaborative restoration projects, and increase stewardship of natural resources.

With increasing numbers of recreationists enjoying trails, backcountry areas, and rivers in Western Colorado, there is a corresponding rise in conflicts exacerbated by factors like drought and climate change. Since its initial convening of partners in 2022, WSOV launched a website in 2023 and posted 34 events for 850 volunteers, equating to 3,665 volunteer hours.

WSOV will lead stewardship projects, training sessions to further volunteer knowledge, and collaborative initiatives planned by founding members, demonstrating a comprehensive approach to addressing the complex ecological challenges facing Western Colorado. Through these efforts, they seek to address habitat degradation and invasive species, while fostering a deeper sense of community engagement and stewardship among volunteers.

"This Stewardship Impact Grant is a huge win for all three counties and we are excited to see how this will allow us to further our collaboration amongst conservation focused non-profit partners through West Slope Outdoor Volunteers," said Morgan Rossway, volunteer and outreach coordinator at Colorado Canyons Association. "We are all so thankful!"

The second grant is part of Keep It Colorado's Transaction Cost Assistance Program (TCAP), which re-grants GOCO funds to nonprofit land trusts to help cover the costs associated with conservation easement transactions. It enables landowners who have urgent opportunities to conserve their properties, but who face financial barriers to facilitating the transaction,

to conserve land more quickly.

With its \$53,000 grant, CWLT will protect the 115-acre North Bend Ranch along the Dolores River in the Paradox Valley, including about one-third of the valley's last remaining riparian cottonwood gallery, expanses of native grassland, and emergent wetlands. Hundreds of elk call the property and surrounding area home year-round, along with migrating sandhill cranes, spotted bats, mule deer, and other fauna. The property includes nearly half of a mile of the Dolores River, inhabited by the "Native Three" warmwater fish species: the flannelmouth sucker, bluehead sucker and roundtail chub.

To date, GOCO has invested more than \$8.1 million in Montrose County and partnered to conserve 5,367 acres of land there. GOCO funding has supported the Cerise Regional Park Enhancement, Naturita Town Park, and Montrose County Severe Special Needs Adaptive Playground, among other projects.

Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) invests a portion of Colorado Lottery proceeds to help preserve and enhance the state's parks, trails, wildlife, rivers, and open spaces. GOCO's independent board awards competitive grants to local governments and land trusts and makes investments through Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

Created when voters approved a constitutional amendment in 1992, GOCO has since funded more than 5,700 projects in all 64 counties of Colorado without any tax dollar support. Visit [GOCO.org](https://goco.org) for more information.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

VOTE FOR SCOTT RIBA AND SCOTT MIJARES FOR BOCC

Editor:

FROM WHERE I SIT: AN OPINION ARTICLE. But as a matter of FACT the voters of MONTROSE directed in the PSST initiative that 70% of the Public Safety Sales Tax go to the sheriff with the BOCC only having the responsibility to review the sheriff's expenditures (AFTER THE FACT). The funds collected were NEVER INTENDED to substitute for the General Fund budget item which was supposed to be the amount in the 2008 budget increased each year by the 'cost of living' increase. The only way the BOCC was to get their hands on ANY of the sheriff's 70% was if the sheriff GAVE it to them because he could not spend it all.

The first sheriff to receive PSST, Sheriff Dunlap, gave a lot of the PSST back to the BOCC. He did not even buy body armor for his deputies before doing so!

In this year's proposed (?) budget the sheriff's department is almost totally funded by the PSST and the sheriff's department General Fund funding is almost nothing. In this coming year your present

Commissioners are funding the 100 person personnel cost with money that YOU, THE VOTERS OF MONTROSE COUNTY INTENDED TO BE USED TO IMPROVE THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT, NOT TO SUBSTITUTE FOR GENERAL FUND MONEY.

This is not an issue between the BOCC and the Sheriff. It is an issue between we, the people who voted for the PSST (as help for a grossly underfunded, and now undermanned sheriff's department) to go directly to the SHERIFF.

We, the taxpayers and voters of Montrose County, want, and should loudly demand, that which we voted to take out of our pockets every time we bought anything in the county, to go directly as we voted for it-----TO THE SHERIFF! Just take note my fellow citizens that the amount WRONGLY TAKEN by the BOCC rip-off has topped 60,000,000 that you have taxed yourselves so that you may have a stronger, better manned, better trained, better paid and better equipped sheriff's department.

ASK YOURSELVES, "Where did it ALL go?"

It should be obvious to everyone that Hansen wants two incoming commissioners that will 'go along to get along' with her. To me that means that she will be able to continue to rip-off the PSST funds for at least two more years of her term and never have to account for either her actions OR what the funds were used for. This is why, ladies and gentlemen, the BOCC is, against all decent practices of elected officials in Colorado, trying to have you elect Stark and Dunlap to the BOCC. Neither of these candidates have indicated that they will put the PSST money back where it belongs.

So it is up to us to clean up our county governing body by electing two fine, capable, knowledgeable men who will clean up this mess and for one thing put the PSST back under whose authority it belongs. Those men are Scott Reba and Scott Mijares. They will bring honor and trust back to the county government. Vote Mijares and Riba, the two 'Scotts'. We will like the results.

Bill Bennett, Montrose

NOW IS THE TIME FOR OUR POLITICAL LEADERS TO SUPPORT INCREASED PUBLIC FUNDING FOR CULTIVATED-MEAT RESEARCH

To the editor,

As avian flu runs rampant through American cattle, now is the time for our political leaders to support increased public funding for cultivated-meat research. For those who don't know, cultivated-meat is grown from animal cells, without slaughter. Since livestock are removed from the process, the risk of zoonotic viruses making the jump to humans is reduced.

Despite admirable progress by the private sector, technological hurdles remain in order for the new protein to be mass-produced at an affordable price. These can be overcome with government money for cellular-agriculture development. Politicians who care about public health, not to mention the environment and animal welfare, should back the effort.

Jon Hochschartner, Granby, CT



There is a reason for this support...

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

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

MENACE OF MONTROSE HARMS CONSERVATIVES

Editor:

Since announcing my candidacy as a Republican candidate for Montrose County Commissioner in February, Ray Langston has lost his mind. He immediately began his attack by accusing me of being a Democrat and began his crusade to tarnish me as a candidate. He did this without knowing me, talking to me, or asking others who know me. But Why? The only thing I can figure is that his friend and favorite candidate Steven Louis Stark was just days from becoming the only republican candidate on the Montrose County Republican ballot. This made Rino Ray very angry... again.

He came at me with everything he had. He accused me of terrible things to take your attention away from his friend and flawed candidate, Big Lou. He libeled me in the local paper, on social media, slandered me at private campaign events, and falsified documents.

In a rare move the editor of the Montrose Mirror published an "Editors Note" in the June 3rd issue (page 16) calling all of his claims "VERIFIABLY UNTRUE".

His crassness and ignorance knows no limits. In a desperate attempt to gain

attention he attacked Scott Riba, Chairman of the Montrose Republican Party, Sheriff Gene Lillard, Montrose County Sheriff, Larry Don Suckla, a 2 term Montezuma County Commissioner who was named Colorado Commissioner of the year in 2017. Suckla is leading candidate for our local House District 58. He has also gone after the Chairman of the Colorado Republican Party, Dave Williams, calling him dishonest and corrupt.

This distasteful behavior is not unusual for the Menace of Montrose. He has verbally attacked people at Central Committee meetings. He has insulted women with vulgar language in public. Without authorization, on the eve of an election, he took valuable campaign literature belonging to Republican Candidate Lauren Boebert from the Montrose Republican Party Headquarters. The materials were eventually recovered and returned to Lauren Boebert after Republican Party officials retrieved them. Most recently, RINO Ray attended the Montrose Republican Caucus and bullied fellow Republicans with threats of lawsuits while they were electing delegates to vote in the county assembly. One potential delegate walked

out of the caucus because he felt threatened by Ray.

Behavior like this is unacceptable in the Montrose Republican Party. It is written in the By-Laws and is not tolerated. For that reason Ray Langston was prohibited from being a voting member of the Montrose County Republican Central Committee for 5 years. The apparent disdain Ray has for the Republican Party and its leadership begs the question: Is Ray Langston in the wrong party?

As a candidate to be your conservative representative on the Montrose County Board of Commissioners I ask you to consider the source when reading anything the Menace of Montrose has to say. He has employed a scorched earth strategy to harm the conservative movement here in Montrose County.

Please stay strong and remain hopeful. Help is on the way.

I humbly ask for your vote and support in my efforts to protect our values and lifestyle here in Montrose County.

Yours very truly,

Scott Mijares

Candidate for Montrose County Commission, <https://scottm4montrose.com>

SEE SOMETHING - SAY SOMETHING



970-249-8500

ANONYMOUS CALL

MONTROSE REGIONAL CRIME STOPPERS

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

SUCCESSFUL ADOBE BEAUTIFICATION DAY CLEARS UP MAJOR DUMP SITES

Special to the Mirror

DELTA COUNTY—Delta County, The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and Delta Compost are proud to announce the successful completion of the Adobe Beautification Day held on Friday, June 14th. Volunteers cleaned up over three major dump sites, significantly impacting our community's environment in the Adobe Badlands.

Over 50 tires and 24 large landscaping trash bags were filled with debris. Volunteers also hauled away four small trailers, three yard-long trailers, and several dump trailers full of waste, all taken to the dump for proper disposal.

The BLM marked multiple sites with red flags indicating the presence of hazardous materials. These sites require specialized cleaning by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or other safety groups. We urge community members to avoid these flagged areas to ensure their safety.

Adobe Beautification Day is part of an initiative the Delta County Commissioners started over five years ago to bring awareness to illegal dumping in Delta County. We are watching, and if you are caught, we will ticket and fine you. If you see something, say something.

Call the Delta County Dispatch number at 970-874-2015.

"We are incredibly grateful for the dedication and hard work of all the community organizations and volunteers who participated in this event," said Lindsay Mitchell, Public Information Officer of Delta County. "Their efforts have made a tangible differ-



Thank you to everyone who came out to help during Adobe Beautification Day. We deeply appreciate your commitment to keeping our community clean and safe. Courtesy photo.

ence in our community by raising awareness about illegal dumping. We are seeing less dumping, which suggests that the visibility of these clean-up efforts is making people reconsider their actions. When they see their neighbors, family, friends, and coworkers out here cleaning up trash, it encourages them to take their waste to the landfill for proper disposal instead of dumping it illegally."

Looking ahead, we are excited to announce our next clean-up event, which is planned for the Fall. We invite everyone to

join us, as the more people we have, the more sites we can conquer together. Please keep an eye out on our social media page, in the newspapers, and for radio ads announcing the next date.

Thank you to everyone who came out to help during Adobe Beautification Day. We deeply appreciate your commitment to keeping our community clean and safe.

For more information about upcoming events or to volunteer, please contact Contact Lindsay Mitchell at lmitchell@deltacountyco.gov or 970-874-3583.



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manager@montroserivermeadows.com www.therivrmeadows.com

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

SMPA 2024 MEMBER DIVIDENDS RETIREMENT UPDATE

Special to the Mirror

RIDGWAY-San Miguel Power Association, Inc. is seeking current and former members who have not yet claimed their member dividends, also known as 'capital credits.' In January, 2024, the co-op sent out nearly \$1 million in unclaimed Member Dividend checks to members who re-

ceived electric service during the years, 1994 and 1995.

Many of those checks have not been cashed. Members are encouraged to check the list at the bottom of www.smpa.com/member-dividends.

Members whose names appear on the list may request another check to be is-

sued. Credits that remain unclaimed or uncashed as of June 30, 2024 will be forfeited by the member and extinguished and forever barred.

Member Dividends are a benefit of being a member of your local electric cooperative. Please call 1-877-864-7311 with questions.

Caring for you like family means THE MOST ADVANCED SPINE CARE IN THE REGION

Montrose Regional Health now features the ExcelsiusGPS and Excelsius3D robotic systems for spine surgery. The revolutionary technology uses advanced imaging, navigation and robotic guidance for the highest quality spine and pain care available.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

WHO SHOULD OR SHOULDN'T BE ABOVE THE LAW?

Editor:

What color are you? Blue? Red? How about red, white and blue!

How do you stand on lawlessness? What is your definition of illegal?

Who should or shouldn't be above the law? What laws should we obey and what laws should we ignore?

Who should our authorities listen to? The constitution? The president? Our governor? Our local elected officials? Our local non-elected officials like our city manager or some of these other unelected groups who set policy and spend our tax dollars? Organizations like H.A.P. Who are openly assisting illegals in how to navigate our economic system, helping illegals gain lodging, healthcare, education, stipends without any consideration of reimbursement. Without any interest or intention of becoming an asset to our community by becoming a naturalized citizen. Asking our community to join the ranks of Denver and the State of Colorado and allowing our limited budget to be used up taking care of the illegals. There is a law on the federal register as well as most states and communities that say if you are harboring, aiding or abetting a person who is charged with a crime YOU are equally guilty and subject to prosecution. Shouldn't we be looking at all the illegals who have entered our country illegally and those officials who have sworn to protect us and have allowed them sanctuary in our country, state, counties, cities? Have they not fulfilled their oath to serve and protect? Have they not fulfilled their oath's to keep us safe? This obviously is not just a rant that will go away, it is a call to open our eyes and see for ourselves. This is not a race-based problem but a matter of legal versus illegal actions. Don't listen to all the gossip from the candidates who sling mud at their opponents. Vote law and order, vote the constitution, vote for America, Colorado and out counties and cities. Isn't it time we take control of our lives and our livelihood?

John Brown, Montrose

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Read the Mirror!*

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970-615-9412

Julie@TheHiddenLakeCommunity.com
www.TheHiddenLakeCommunity.com



CIMARRON CREEK

901 6530 RD., #1000
MONTROSE, CO 81401
970-249-0493

Christy@CimarronCreekCommunity.com
www.CimarronCreekCommunity.com

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

Scott Mijares and Scott Riba are both dishonest men.

**Mijares on numerous occasions has publicly stated
that he was a lifelong republican. Mijares became a republican
for the first time in his life on February 12th, 2024. Scott
Riba assisted with this lie by providing a letter dated Feb 5th
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

MEET STEVEN LOUIS STARK aka BIG LOU



The kid in me has waited his whole adult life for an acceptable reason to wear a bandana like this.

He wants to be your next County Commissioner
He currently has 4 Federal Tax Liens totaling
\$83,487.01
and has been flipping off taxpayers since 2002.

Paid for by Greg Young

photos sourced from Steven Louis Stark facebook profile



Meet Scott-

I have never drawn a government paycheck. I am a businessman. My wife Linda and I have owned and operated our own business for 25 years. I have been a part of a management team that ran a \$700,000,000 international company and small, start-up biotech companies. We are farmers and ranchers, growing crops west of Montrose In Shavano Valley. We produce some of the finest Certified Weed Free grass hay on the Western Slope.

I own water rights and understand the importance of water rights.

My business philosophy is simple: spend money for the operation and growth of the business and spend someone else's money like it is my money- Cautiously and responsibly.

Montrose County is a business. It should be managed like a business.

Ask questions to understand and make fact based decisions.

As your County Commissioner, I will work to provide the needed resources and support to County staff to provide the best possible service to ALL the citizens of Montrose County.

We moved to Montrose in 2001 to escape the burdensome political and social environment of California. We did not bring California here, we escaped! We all live here because it is Colorado, but California policies and politics are coming to Colorado.

We must work as a County to preserve the Western Way of Life and our heritage on the Western Slope.

**I will serve you and work tirelessly for you as your
Montrose County Commissioner.**

**Paid for by The Committee to Elect Scott Riba Montrose County Commissioner
970-596-9998**

scott@scottformontrose.com

SCOTT RIBA

FOR

MONTROSE COUNTY COMMISSIONER

- ***Represent ALL the Citizens of Montrose County***
 - Work for the West End and the Uncompahgre Valley
 - Stand for the working families, retirees, industry and agriculture
- ***Smart and Managed Growth***
 - Look at the County from 30,000 feet, not from across the street
 - What will Montrose County look like in 20 or 30 years?
 - Develop, update and follow the Master Plan
- ***Fiscal Responsibility***
 - Spend your tax dollars like they were coming out of my pockets
 - Fund the County to do the best possible job for you
- ***Accountability***
 - Government works for you! I work for you!
 - I WILL return your calls and emails and treat you with RESPECT

COLORADO NEW BRIEFS

JOHNNY'S AMBASSADORS PUBLISHES BOOK ON DANGERS OF THC USE IN TEENAGERS

Special to Art & Sol

COLORADO-Research shows THC use among youth increases the risk of suicide seven times and the risk of developing a psychotic disorder five times. Johnny's Ambassadors Youth THC Prevention is working to combat the dangerous harms of high-potency THC on young adults.

Johnny's Ambassadors Publishing released their second book titled, *The Impact of THC on Our Children: A Parent's Worst Nightmare*. Compiled of 25 stories from parents who have experienced hardship and pain from their children's THC use firsthand, the book can help people who are concerned with their own child's use of THC products.

"By reliving their heartbreaking stories through the pages, the writers want to ensure other parents don't end up in the same situation. This book showcases the

bravery, resilience and strength of these parents who have lost or come close to losing children from outcomes related to high-potency THC use," said Laura Stack, founder and CEO of Johnny's Ambassadors.

Alongside the 25 stories, the book includes an introduction from Stack, a fellow parent who lost her son, Johnny, whose name lives on in the nonprofit, Johnny's Ambassadors.

The stories shared in the book bring forward the hidden dangers of THC addiction on a young adult, such as mental illness, psychosis and suicide.

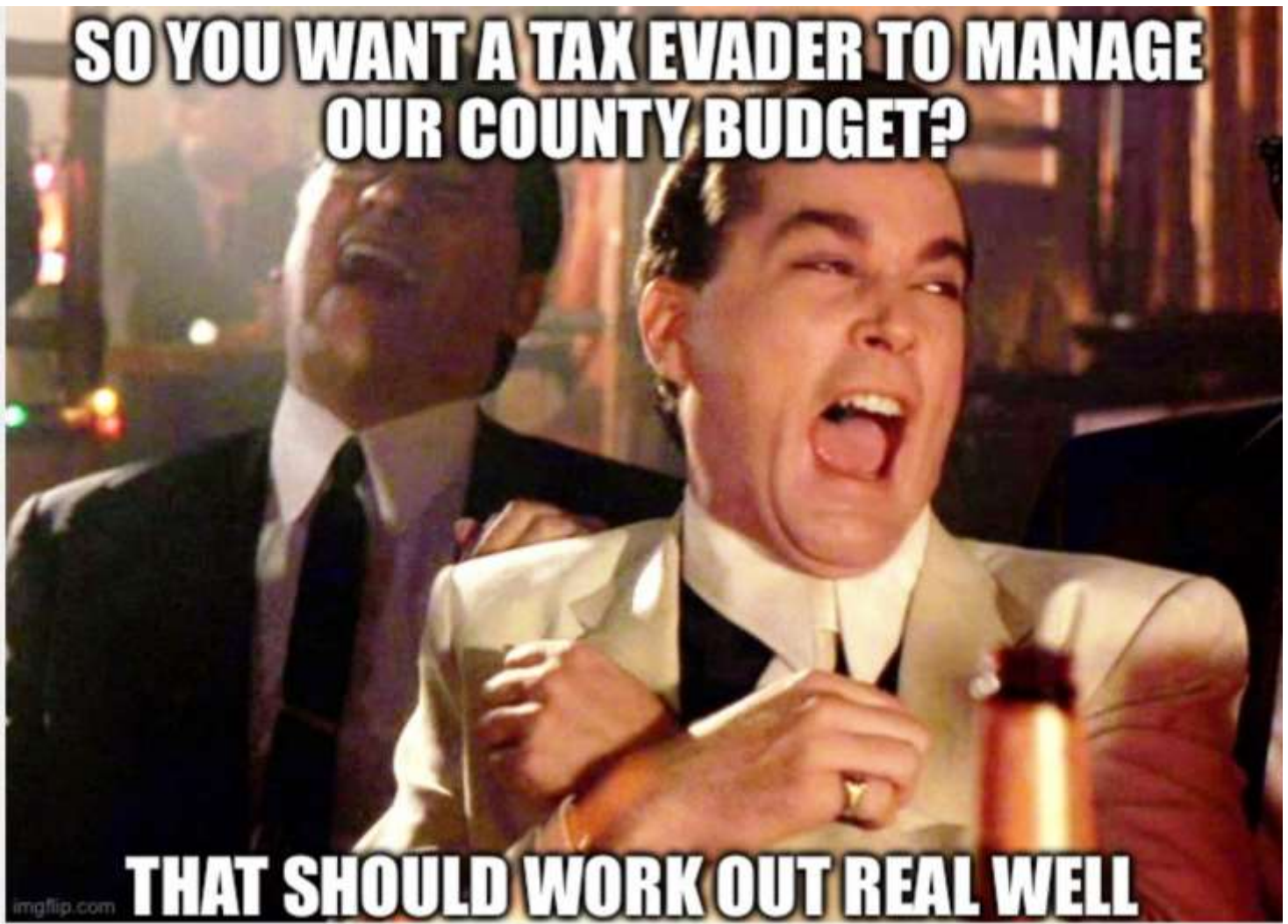
"We tell our stories so no other young adult falls victim to these effects," said Stack. "I hope readers find this book helpful in their efforts to guide their children to prevent or stop THC use before it's too late. I wish there had been a book like this

for me."

Today's marijuana is much stronger than in the past, and the THC concentrates can have 90%+ THC content in dabs, oils and edibles compared to the 1% in cannabis in the 1960s. With the legalization of marijuana and high-potency THC in states across the nation, there are still misperceptions on the safety of the drug. When teens smoke, vape, dab, or use edibles to get high, the effects have a strong impact on brain development in young adults.

The book is now available through [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) in paperback, hard cover, Kindle and audible formats.

Johnny's Ambassadors has been on a mission to educate parents, teens and communities about the dangers of THC products. To learn more about their youth THC prevention education, visit www.johnnysambassadors.org.



Paid for by Tamara Stucky

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

JANITA "JAN" SUE VERT *July 8, 1953 — June 12, 2024*

Jan passed away from complications related to her battle with cancer June 12, 2024. Jan was born July 8, 1953 in Bakersfield, CA to Jack and Bonnie Webster, she spent her childhood in Bakersfield and graduated from Bakersfield High School in 1971. She married the love of her life, Doug Vert in 1973. They had two girls, Jacee and Melissa. Doug and Jan spent the early years of their marriage in Bakersfield. In 1982 they moved to Doug's hometown of Coalinga, CA to raise their girls. In 1996, Doug and Jan moved to Montrose, CO where they had always dreamed of retiring. Shortly after, the girls followed them out to Colorado to be nearby.

Jan spent many years working as a dental assistant, in both Coalinga and Montrose. Most recently she worked for AllPoints Transit as an accountant. Where in 2020 she was employee of the year. June 30th would be Doug and Jan's 51st

wedding anniversary. Jan loved to spend time in the mountains, camping and riding 4wheelers. Many summer vacations were spent at Huntington Lake and Miramonte Reservoir. She also loved to travel, she and Doug made many trips over the years, and she would always bring home a coffee mug or shot glass as a souvenir for their collection. Jan will always be remembered by her friends and family as a very kind and loving person. She gave all of herself to her family and cherished watching her grandkids in sports.

Jan was preceded in death by both of her parents and her father-in-law, Robert Vert. She is survived by her beloved husband Doug, her mother-in-law Wanda Lee Vert of Visalia CA, stepmother Carol Kirkendall Webster of Hemet CA, her daughter Jacee and husband Bill Luis of Montrose CO, daughter Melissa and husband John Rogers of Montrose CO, five

grandchildren: Natalee Luis, Leyton Luis, Kaylee Proctor, Cody Proctor and Kayleb Rogers all of Montrose CO and many more family and friends.

The family will have a time of remembrance and reception celebration of Jan's life on September 7, 2024 in Montrose. For details, please contact Jacee or Melissa via text or Facebook. In lieu of flowers a memorial gift may be made to Community Hospital Foundation at <https://mtyc.co/s9nh5f>. Crippin Funeral Home is assisting Jan's family.

Be Strong. Be Brave. Be Fearless. You are never alone. Joshua 1:9



LOUELLA "LOU" L. DOWELL *February 22, 1950 — June 16, 2024*



LOUELLA (LOU) L. DOWELL (PUTNEY) was born on February 22, 1950 to Mr. and Mrs. Harold Putney Sr. She graduated from Nucla High School in 1970. Lou married William (Bill) A. Dowell on August 22, 1970 in Montrose. They have two children: Keith and wife Kellie of Montrose, CO and Denise of Windsor, CO.

She is survived by her children, one sister, six brothers, and many other relatives and close friends. In 2008 Lou retired from work at various skilled nursing facilities as a Certified Nursing Aid (CNA). Her Hobbies included needle point, embroidery, reading books, she loved western movies and western TV shows, and loved Listening to Elvis sing. She enjoyed gospel and classic country music. The Family would like to thank HopeWest Hospice, VOA Valley Manor for her excellent care for the last years of her life.

A Celebration of Life will be planned at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, please send any contributions to HopeWest Hospice.

ISSUE 474 June 24, 2024

ART & SOL

MAGIC CIRCLE PLAYERS PRESENTS: BEAUTY AND THE BEAST, JR. JUNE 21-30
"Once upon a time in a faraway land, a young prince lived in a shining castle."



Courtesy image Magic Circle Theatre.

By Jonathan Heath

MAGIC CIRCLE THEATRE-From June 21 through June 30, Magic Circle Players presents the timeless story of a prince turned into a hideous beast, and a young lady who transforms him through the power of love: Beauty and the Beast, Jr. What's so special about this production is seeing the youth of Montrose bring this touching story, full of emotional ups and downs, to life on stage.

The story follows Belle (Kaitlyn Moss), a bookish girl living in a small town who

dreams of adventure in the "great wide somewhere." Gaston (John Adragna), the town bully intent on marrying her, constantly chases her along with his sidekick, LeFou (Max Terry).

But then adventure comes to her, courtesy of her father Maurice (Rowan Ullevig) and it's nothing like the fun of turning the page of a book. She finds herself the prisoner of a monstrous Beast (Graysen Vidmar), locked away in his castle. The servants of this castle, Lumiere (Matteo Curtis), Mrs Potts (Jaylee Good), Madame de la Grande Bouche (Eliana Masters), Cogsworth (Bryce Thompson), Babette (Sydney Bell) and Chip (Lukas Kurtz) quickly see the light of hope Belle brings to the scene.

"This show features incredibly talented youth from our community living out their dream of being able to bring this lovely musical to our stage!" Magic Circle board member Allyson Crosby said. "Each role is perfectly cast for the characters they play! The youthful exuberance is joyful and contagious! Don't miss this magical celebration of hard work and talent!"

This show is filled with showstopping numbers full of song and dance, performed by a talented ensemble. From the revelry of the townsfolk in "Gaston," the castle servants welcoming Belle in "Be Our Guest," and the moment when Belle and the Beast finally break the ice and share a

table and a dance together in "Beauty and the Beast," audiences will get swept away in the magic.

"What a whirlwind it has been, and worth every moment," Director Michelle Terry said. "What an incredible group of talented kids we have for this show. From auditions through three months of rehearsal to our opening night in just a few days, I know how blessed I am for this amazing opportunity to work with these young thespians. A Director could not ask for a more talented crew. We have worked so hard as a team to create a magical, fairytale experience for your whole family to enjoy. Please come be our guest, and create a memory you'll never forget!"

Tickets are a steal at just \$15 for adults and \$10 for youth under 18. If you've never seen a live show before, this is one you won't want to miss. There truly is something magical about seeing it all play out in front of you on stage.

Directed by Michelle Terry, Assistant Director Jonathan Heath, Music Director Bethany Ward, and Costumer Samantha Beer, Beauty and the Beast, Jr opens Friday, June 21 at 7 p.m. at Magic Circle Theatre, 420 S 12th St. Matinee shows will run on Saturdays at 2 p.m., June 22 and 29, and Sunday, June 23. Full show times and tickets are available online at magiccircleplayers.com or by calling the box office at 970-249-7828.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF THE SAN JUANS: ROCK THE BLOCK 2024



From top left, local musicians perform for the crowd, four-legged Montrosians shops for leashes; fun for kids and families at the Habitat for Humanity Rock the Block event on June 22. Photos by Harry Switzer.



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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-

 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

Pastor Gabe Skillo

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Sunday 6 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Study/Prayer 7 p.m.

CELEBRATION CHURCH

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

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

Office Hours: By appointment

Phone: (970) 497-4925

Email: celebrationmontrose@gmail.com

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

Worship Service Times: 9am and 10:45am

Senior Pastor:

Pastor Brandon Mathis

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

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

Demographics: Multi-generational

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

Student (middle & high school) at 9am.

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

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

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

Contact: 970-633-0226

Website: www.montroselutheran.org

Email: montroselutheran@gmail.com

Pastor: Tim Onnen

Worship: Sundays at 9 AM

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

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

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

FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

Denomination: Church of the Nazarene

Address: 705 South 12th Street

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

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

Pastor: Buddy Cook

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

Wednesday: Prayer Boot Camp - 7 PM

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

*disciples in Montrose Colorado and around
 the world.*

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MONTROSE

Affiliation: Presbyterian

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

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

www.fpcmontrose.com

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jesse G. Mabanglo

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

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

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY From previous pg

HILLCREST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Denomination affiliation: United Church of Christ

Address: 611 South Hillcrest Drive, Montrose, CO 81401

Office hours: By appointment

Contact information:

Phone number: (970) 249-9047

Email address: office@montroseucc.org

Website: montroseucc.org

Current Pastor: Rev. Wendy Kidd

Worship service times: Sunday, 10 a.m.

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

on life's journey.

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

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

MONTROSE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Denomination Affiliation: United Methodist

Address: 19 S. Park Avenue Montrose CO. 81401

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

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

montroseumc.org

Current Senior Pastor: Rev. Kevin Young

Worship service times:

8:30 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual

9:45 a.m. Christian Education & Fellowship

11 a.m. Sanctuary

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

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

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

ROSEMONT BAPTIST CHURCH

Affiliation: Southern Baptist

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

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

Contact information:

Phone: 970.249.4887

website: www.RosemontBaptist.org

email: office@rosemontbaptist.org

Senior Pastor: Rolland Kenneson

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

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

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

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

matter what stage of life they are in.

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

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

SPIRITUAL AWARENESS CENTER

Denomination affiliation: Independent Interfaith

Address: Meeting at Lions Park Community Building, 602 N. Nevada, Montrose

Office hours: Tues-Fri, 9 am to 4 pm, **Home**

Office – 970-252-0908

Contact information:

Rev. Dr. Arlyn Macdonald,

970-252-0908,

arlyn@spiritaware.org,

www.spiritaware.org

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

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

ST. STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

Denomination: Anglican-Reformed Episcopal Church (REC)

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

Contact: ststephensmont-

rose@yahoo.com

www.ststephensmontrose.com

Rev. Dec. Garrett Agajanian

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

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

Sunday: Holy Communion 10 am.

Fellowship following service.

Children's nursery available (unstaffed).

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY From previous pg

SUMMIT CHURCH OF MONTROSE:

Denomination affiliation:

Southern Baptist

Address: 10977 60.75 Rd. Montrose, CO 81403

Office hours: Varies

Contact information:

email: summitchurchmontrose@gmail.com

website:

www.summitchurchmontrose.org

Senior Pastor: Interim Pastor.

Worship service times: Sunday Worship is

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH OF MONTROSE

Denomination Affiliation: Independent Baptist

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

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8am-12pm

Contact Information: Phone (970) 249-

6874; email at info@vbcmontrose.org;

website: vbcmontrose.org

Current Pastor: Roland Kassales

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

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

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

Church Directory

Mirror Editorial Staff

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

information to the Montrose Mirror:

Name of church

Denomination affiliation

Address Office hours

Contact information (phone number, email address, website)

Name of current Senior Pastor

Worship service times

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

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

Do your church services include Sunday School and childcare?

Local Immunization Providers



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

LET MY PEOPLE GO

A MUST-SEE DOCUMENTARY BY DAVID CLEMENTS

July 12, 2024
6-9 p.m.

Orchard Mesa
Baptist Church
2748 B 1/2 Rd.
Grand Junction, CO

*This event is free
to the public.*

*Concessions will
not be available.*

No matter your political party:
Democrat, Republican, Libertarian or
Independent, this movie is for you!

Let my People Go is a modern-day deliverance story that presents two overlapping narratives of America's enslavement. The first form of slavery is invisible and achieved by the deep state's use of proprietary "black box machines" and rigged election software, where perception is altered and swamp candidates are selected rather than elected.

The second form of slavery focuses on the real-life consequences of the hundreds of thousands of Americans who gathered and protested the stolen Nov 2020 election, many of whom are imprisoned today.



SPECIAL GUEST:

Joe Oltmann

Joining us for discussion after the movie is the host of the Conservative Daily podcast. As a Systems Architect and Tech CEO, Joe uses his skills to uncover the truth of the fraud that took place during and after the 2020 election.



LetMyPeopleGo.Movie

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS: EDUCATION

ELYANA POLLARD NAMED TO SPRING DEANS' LIST AT NEBRASKA

Special to the Mirror

LINCOLN, NE -- Elyana Pollard of Montrose has been named to the Deans' List at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln for the spring semester of the 2023-24 academic year.

Pollard, a sophomore majoring in fisheries and wildlife, was named to the Dean's List for the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources.

More than 6,600 students at Nebraska were named to the Deans' List for the spring semester.

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.

Call or text me today to learn more. I am here to help; I am your local Senior Real Estate Specialist!



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Amenities

Our Abundant Amenities Include:

- Catch & Release Fishing Lake for Residents
- Basketball Court
- 2 Pickleball Courts
- 2 Dog Parks
- Large Enclosed Children's Playground
- Large Enclosed Zipline

Our Bright and Open Community Center is also the Home Office and Includes:

- Meeting/Party Room
- 2 Half Kitchens
- Outdoor Rock Seating & Green Space for Activities

Our Homes May Include:

- Refrigerator
- Range & Microwave
- Dishwasher
- Washer/Dryer Connections

Each Site Comes with:

- 2-Car Parking Pad
- 8'x16' Deck Under a 20' Awning

Our maintenance team takes care of all the beautiful landscaping in the community, including the home lots, which are equipped with in-ground sprinkler systems.

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Homes!**

62650 LaSalle Road • Montrose, CO 81401 • www.TheHiddenLakeCommunity.com



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WWW.HEALTHYRHYTHM.NET

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MONTHLY

June 23-30-*Disney's Beauty and the Beast JR* Disney's modern classic, tells the beloved tale of Belle, a dreamer longing for adventure, a prince who has been transformed into a hideous beast, and an enchanted castle. Can the beast learn to love and be loved before it's too late? A Youth Theatre production, Directed by Michelle Terry. Tickets at magiccircleplayers.com! Just \$15 for adults, \$10 for youth under 18. Magic Circle Players, 420 S 12th St, Montrose, Sunday, June 23-- 2 PM, Wednesday, June 26 -- 7 PM, Thursday, June 27 -- 7 PM, Friday, June 28 -- 7 PM, Saturday, June 29 -- 2 PM & 7 PM, Sunday, June 30 -- 2 PM.

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.

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>

July 1-Monday July 1st at 5 Citizens' Climate Lobby meets at Public Safety Bldg mtg.rm. 434 1st(Police) This environmental group is making progress on mitigating pollution effects, Non-partisan, National, Environmental. All Welcome. Info 970-765-9095

July 12-14- Black Canyon quilt Show at the Montrose Pavilion, 1800 Pavilion Dr., Montrose. Friday and Saturday 9-5, Sunday 10-3:30. Admission: \$5.00 for adults, children free. Visit blackcanyonquiltshow.com for more information.

Aug. 8-18-Mark your calendars for the return of Palisade Peach Days, a more than century-old tradition of celebrating the finest peaches in the Palisade area, Aug. 8-18! The Just Peachy 5k, Peach Days Parade, and Palisade High School Band Car Show will take place on Saturday, Aug. 10. The Palisade Peach Festival will be held the traditional 3rd weekend on Aug. 16 & 17. For a full schedule of events, please visit palisadepeachfest.com.



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Above, photo of an Osprey is by Deb Reimann. "She was issuing a warning to a pair of ravens out of camera range that was getting a bit too close for her comfort," Reimann said. "Ospreys are also called River Hawks and are unique to raptors for a diet of live fish and their ability to dive for them."

At right, A typical Mulranny (Ireland) morning with holy goats. Photo by Lauren Hall Ruddell.

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