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# the Montrose Mirror

© Issue No. 592 July 1, 2024

## FISHERING RELENTLESSLY SCOLDS NEW RE-1J DIRECTORS

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-Montrose County RE-1J Board of Education President Sarah Fishing appeared to lose her temper during the school board meeting of Tuesday, June 25, as she harshly scolded two new board members for asking questions and for requesting more time to consider important policy changes.

Fishing repeatedly shamed District A Director Neisha Balleck and District B Director Ted Valerio for asking for more time to consider a packed slate of newly-revised policies suggested by the Colorado Association of

School Boards (CASB), and for asking that certain terms used in those updated policies be clearly defined.

All directors were present for the meeting, including Fishing; Board Vice President Steve Bush; District A Director Neisha Balleck; District B Director Ted Valerio;



*Montrose County School District Re-1J Board President appeared to lose patience with two board members who asked for more time to consider extensive policy updates and for definitions of terms used.*

*Continued pg 19*

## TAD ROWAN RESIGNS FROM MURA BOARD



*The Montrose Urban Renewal Authority (MURA) Board met on June 26. Fire Protection District Representative Tad Rowan resigned from the MURA board (date of resignation was not given) and Executive Director Bill Bell appointed Jim Haugsness (above) as an At-Large Representative. Haugsness said, "I'm honored to be with you doing important stuff, looking at long-range plans." Photo by Gail Marvel.*

By Gail Marvel

The June 26, 2024 Montrose Urban Renewal Authority (MURA) meeting was called to order by Board President David Reed. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, roll call was taken. Steve Bush was absent; all other board members were present in person.

**Change in Board Position/Designation:** Fire Protection District Representative Tad Rowan has resigned from the MURA board (resignation date was not given). According to the MURA Bylaws, Executive Director Bill Bell has the authority to fill the vacancy by appointment and he appointed Jim Haugsness as an At-Large Representative. The Fire Protection District, a taxing entity with a vested interest in the MURA, is no longer represented on the MURA board.

Haugsness was introduced to the board. He said, "I'm honored to be with you doing important stuff, looking at long-range plans."

*Continued pg 24*

Historian Bob Cox:  
[Calling for Nurses!](#)

Photos by Harry Switzer: High  
[Water on the Uncompahgre!](#)

DMEA Honors Jock  
[Fleming for his service!](#)

Gunnison Clomp:  
[2024 Primary Election recap!](#)



# UPDATED GUIDELINES FOR LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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## 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

# 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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## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

### WE ARE A COUNTRY THAT IS GREAT

Editor:

The Montrose Community Band presented a rousing, patriotic concert Sunday, June 30. Morton Gould's *American Salute* paid tribute to the great country we live in—not perfect but great. *America, The Beautiful* by Samuel Augustus Ward drew our imaginations across this vast land—flawed but honorable. *Armed Forces – The Pride of America!* played the anthems of each branch of the military, as men and women proud to serve and who have served this great nation stood as their anthem was played. We applauded their service; not the service of losers of a failing country, but of winners of a democracy that serves the world. This republic stands for democracy, decency, honor, and compassion. It is not as Trump has declared a “failing nation” and or a “hellscape”. We need a president who believes in this country which stands and leads; not crawls and grovels as Trump portrays. We need a president who is a statesman and takes pride in the country he serves. We don't need a president who denigrates our country.

We are a country that is great. It does not need to be made great again. The United States of America needs to flourish under strong, honest leadership.

Thank you Montrose Community Band for once again reminding us musically that we are a blessed democracy shining a beacon of light unto the world.

Lael Van Riper, Montrose



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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## USGS LOW-LEVEL HELICOPTER SURVEY FLIGHTS SLATED TO RESUME



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### *Special to the Mirror*

REGIONAL-Low-level helicopter flights are slated to begin over a broad region of southwestern Colorado to image geology using airborne geophysical technology. Flying will commence in mid to late June 2024 and will take up to 2 months to complete, weather and wildfire restrictions permitting. Flights will cover areas within Chaffee, Gunnison, and Saguache counties.

The flights will be based out of assorted regional airports, primarily in Salida and Gunnison, Colorado. The flights could shift with little warning to other parts of the survey area as necessitated by adverse flying conditions.

The purpose of the survey is to provide images that expand the fundamental knowledge of geology underpinning a broad series of historic mining districts known as the Colorado Mineral Belt. The belt hosts multiple types of mineral commodities, including critical minerals that are vital to the Nation's security and economy.

The new geophysical data, along with geologic mapping by the Colorado Geological Survey and USGS, will be combined to develop high-resolution three-dimensional representations of bedrock composition and structure to depths more than 3,280 feet (1 kilometer) below the surface.

The 3D models and maps are important for improving our understanding of critical mineral resource potential, water resources, groundwater pathways near legacy mining areas, parameters for infrastructure and land use planning, and potential risks of naturally occurring radon. They also address scientific questions about Colorado's 2-billion-year-old geologic history and why multiple mineralizing events concentrated in one region over millions of years.

The helicopter will fly along pre-planned flight paths relatively low to the ground at about 300 feet (100 meters) above the surface. The ground clearance will be increased to 1,000 feet (300+ meters) over populated areas and will comply with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations. Flights will follow north-south lines spaced about 650 feet (200 meters) apart and east-west lines about 3,280 feet (1 km) apart. The USGS is contracting with NV5 Geospatial, Edcon-PRJ, and Precision GeoSurveys to collect the data.

The survey will use a helicopter equipped with an elongated "stinger" mounted to the underside of the cabin extending forward of the helicopter. Instruments in the stinger and inside the cabin will measure variations in the Earth's magnetic field and natural low-level radiation created by different rock types.

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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### CITIZENS' CLIMATE LOBBY MEETS JULY 1AT PUBLIC SAFETY MEETING ROOM

*Special to the Mirror*

**MONTROSE**-On 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



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# COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

## JULY IS CO'S PEAK MONTH FOR ALCOHOL AND DRUGGED DRIVING CRASHES

*Special to the Mirror*

COLORADO— Over a four-year period, from 2020 through 2023, Colorado State Patrol troopers have investigated over 2,500 fatal and injury crashes determined to be caused by impaired drivers.

Year after year, numbers expand during warmer months, with the top month for impaired crashes being July.

"Last year, troopers investigated 11 fatal car crashes and an additional 59 with serious injuries during the month of July that were caused by impaired drivers. We are imploring drivers who have taken the risk of driving intoxicated in the past to change

their behavior," stated Matthew C. Packard, chief of the Colorado State Patrol.

"Driving impaired is rolling the dice with your license, your freedom and your life."

By looking at crash data statistics over the last four years, the Colorado State Patrol has discovered that the majority of at-fault impaired drivers involved in a crash they investigated were wearing their seat belts (61%). "Buckling up becomes a habit, and so should planning for a sober driver," remarked Chief Packard. "When you pause to consider that the majority of impaired drivers involved in a serious injury or fatal crash make the choice to wear a

seatbelt for their own personal protection but don't make a choice to plan a sober ride for the protection of others, you begin to appreciate the selfishness of this behavior." While impaired driving is a serious concern in every community, alcohol and drugged driving fatal and injury crashes investigated by Colorado State Patrol were the highest in the following five counties in 2023:

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**Wed., August 7 - Sat., August 10**

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*Registration required: No walk-ins on Wednesday, August 7 and Thursday, August 8*

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# COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

## COLORADO STATE PATROL EXPANDS STEERING WHEEL LOCK PROGRAM

### Special to the Mirror

COLORADO - The Colorado State Patrol (CSP) is excited to announce the expansion of the popular steering wheel lock program.

This program provides these auto theft prevention devices free to members of communities across Colorado. The program has now expanded to nine locations across the State, primarily at Colorado State Patrol Troop Offices. Check the nearest location for [distribution information and hours](#).

As part of efforts by the Colorado Auto Theft Prevention Authority (CATPA), a CSP business unit, and the Colorado State Patrol to reduce motor vehicle theft, these steering wheel locks are available to residents of Colorado to help deter and prevent theft. A steering wheel lock is a great device to help increase physical vehicle security. Community members will need to provide a VIN for each vehicle for which they request a lock. There is a two-steering wheel lock limit per person.

Reducing auto theft in Colorado has a ripple effect in communities; when auto theft is reduced, other crime types and incidents also show notable reductions. From the earliest of years, [combatting auto theft](#) has been a key aspect of the mission of the Colorado State Patrol—to keep Colorado's roadways safe for residents, commerce, and visitors alike. Preventing and combatting motor vehicle theft is a key part of keeping our roads safe.

A quality theft prevention routine considers many possible factors to help deter and prevent vehicle theft. This should always include locking your car every time—no matter where or how long you will be away from it. Locked vehicles are the most secure when all keys are removed from them. Always take extra, spare, or valet keys out of a vehicle.

Then, once fully locked and secured – think about a great vehicle clean-out.

Thieves hate clean cars. What may seem like trash or unimportant items (like change, gym bags, or shopping bags from retailers) may not pique your interest, but small things left visible in a vehicle can incentivize a thief to target your vehicle over a vehicle without anything left in it. Take all items out of your vehicle and place any necessary items out of sight in the glove box or trunk. While parking inside a

garage is always a preferred option, be as secure as possible when parking on the street.

Use devices like the steering wheel lock and physical devices like parking boots or shift/pedal immobilizers.

Pick up your steering wheel lock today, and you can help prevent motor vehicle theft and keep Colorado's roads and communities safe from crime.

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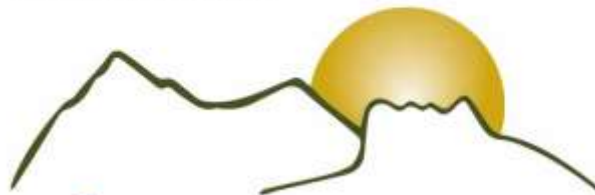
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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## COUNTY MANAGER RESIGNS AFTER 19 YEARS IN PUBLIC SERVICE

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE— Montrose County Manager Jon Waschbusch submitted his resignation to the Board of County Commissioners on June 20th.

Waschbusch has served Montrose County since 2005 in various roles. Jon began his career in the Planning and Development Department and transitioned into Natural Resources Director, Deputy County Manager, and County Manager.

"It has been an honor to serve the residents of Montrose County over the last 19 years," said Waschbusch.

"My family and I are a part of this community, and we have no plans to leave. At this point, I've worked at Montrose County for 44% of my life. I'm ready for a change. The timing is good as our major projects are on track and in a good place to hand-off. I know the board and our dedicated staff will continue to serve the community well."

"This is a tremendous loss for Montrose County," said Commissioner Sue Hansen. "I'm happy for Jon and his family, but know he will be missed. He is a dynamic leader who has propelled forward the county's level of professionalism in every department. I wish him continued success on his professional journey."

"Jon is one of the best and I'm sad to see him leave," said Board Chair Roger Rash.

"The county is in a better position because of Jon's leadership, initiative, and ability to get things done. I'm grateful to him for his hard work and commitment for nearly

two decades of public service. I know Jon will do well wherever he lands."

"One of the things I appreciate the most about Jon is the relationships he built over time at the county," said Commissioner Keith Caddy.

"Jon is well-liked and worked hard to create strong partnerships with local and regional agencies. His knowledge of government process was a huge benefit to our community and county. Jon identified opportunities for improvement and made them happen. He has left a lasting positive impact on the county and will be missed."

During his time at the county, Jon's list of accomplishments ranges from large capital projects to operational efficiencies, strategic initiatives and more.

The following is a list of his career highlights during his time at the county:

- Oversaw planning, execution and financing of major capital projects including the Clerk and Recorder's Remodel, jail renovation and current renovation of the Historic County Courthouse as well as the design of the planned North Campus building
- Assisted in the transfer of hospital property and assets to Montrose Regional Health resolving long-standing issues and affording flexibility and control to the hospital
- Led the 2010 master plan update
- Served as the project lead for the creation of the Rimrocker Trail®
- Established the Natural Resources and Government Affairs division to advocate for local interests in public lands and federal processes

eral processes

- Created the Citizens Advisory Committee
  - Administered and coordinated the county's Community Partnership program providing annual support to local non-profits and the Towns of Nucla, Naturita and Olathe
  - Initiated major countywide technology upgrades
  - Implemented compensation studies and updates to employee salary schedules
  - Served as Deputy Incident Commander for Montrose County throughout the COVID response
  - Secured a long-term lease through the Department of Interior for the Rimrocker Trailhead and Electric Hills Trail System
  - Wrote and received numerous grants for projects including the Event Center, Rimrocker Trail, Oak Grove Elementary School Playground and Historic Courthouse Renovation
  - Represented Montrose County on various Boards of Directors including Region 10, Montrose Economic Development Corporation, Public Lands Partnership
- During his tenure, Jon was recognized in 2021 with a Citizen of Distinction Award by the Montrose Daily Press and the 2022 Colorado County Manager of the Year Award from the Association of Colorado County Administrators.
- Montrose County is grateful to Jon for his many years of service.
- The county is planning a public farewell celebration to be announced at a later date.



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# KATHLEEN CURRY FOR HD58



## VOTE FOR EXPERIENCE



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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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## SUPPORT INCREASED FEDERAL FUNDING FOR CULTIVATED-MEAT RESEARCH

To the editor,

Any politician who claims to be concerned with animal welfare should support increased federal funding for cultivated-meat research. For those who aren't familiar with the concept, cultivated meat is grown from livestock cells, without slaughter. Nothing else has the potential to reduce more animal suffering and premature death.

The private sector has made significant progress in developing the technology, but government money for cellular-agriculture development will help cultivated meat reach price parity with slaughtered options. This is crucial for widespread adoption amongst the public. Compassionate politicians should back the effort.

Jon Hochschartner, Granby Ct.

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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## SANITY PREVAILS IN MOST OF THE PRIMARIES

*Editor:*

It was refreshing to see the results of the primary election here in Colorado. Most of the extreme republican candidates and even some of the extreme democrat candidates went down in flames election night. Proof that centrist candidates are much more palatable to the voting demographics of the state of Colorado. And it was impressive to see two republican so called party leaders who have corrupted the party lose handedly to their primary opponents (Scott Riba, Dave Williams).

It is possible for a centrist republican to be successful here in Colorado without surrendering our constitutional rights. There are so many legislative issues that have nothing to do with the 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment or abortion that democrats and republicans can agree on. Marc Catlin has been successful in the democrat-controlled legislature for the past 8 years. And he did that without surrendering his or our conservative values. It is time to stop the name calling (R I N O) and get down to the challenging work of putting this state and country back on the path to prosperity. Where good legislation that benefits all citizens can be passed and the special interest can go pound sand.

Now that the primary is over, let us put past animosities to rest and let us get our republican candidates across the finish line in November.

A big thank you to all that took the time to participate in voting in the primary. I would really like to see more than 34% participate in the primary here in Montrose County. But that is still better than the 25% average statewide.

RAY LANGSTON, Montrose



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## ***FISHERING RELENTLESSLY SCOLDS NEW RE-1J DIRECTORS From pg 1***

District C Director Alice Murphy; District D Director Tom West, and District F Director Jody Hovde.

Fishering called the meeting to order at 6:30pm and led in saying the Pledge of Allegiance. The board voted to approve the meeting agenda.

### **BOARD ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATES**

Fishering asked for an update on the newly-formed Disciplinary Policy Committee, which was requested by Balleck and Valerio at the previous meeting and which was approved despite Fishering's fierce opposition.

The first meeting of the Disciplinary Policy Committee meeting would be Friday, June 28, Balleck said. Members include Balleck, Nurse Practitioner Alice Marie Slaven-Emond, Dr. Mariah Emond, Donna Elkins; District B Director Ted Valerio and possibly a local attorney.

Fishering said, "So do you have anybody on the committee who has any experience in an actual classroom? Or with actual school discipline?"

"No, I don't," Balleck said.

"Because my initial understanding was that this was a board committee made up of board members," Fishering said. "So, I'm a little bit concerned that you have built a committee of a wider group of people, but you haven't included anyone with actual classroom experience or school discipline experience on the ground. So that's a little bit concerning to me."

Balleck who is also on the District Accountability Committee (DAC), asked about the DAC's involvement with the Montrose Classical Academy, "I know we had talked at the last meeting about possibly having to meet because of the application on that," she said.

Superintendent Carrie Stephenson said the application for the Montrose Classical Academy is not due until Aug.15.

### **COMMUNITY INPUT**

There was no input heard from the community.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

The Board considered revised board policies, suggested by CASB, on second reading. "Quite a few here. These changes are to do with new Federal law," Fishering said. "The changes don't affect a whole lot

what's actually going on in the district because Colorado law has been such for several years."

RE-1J Superintendent Carrie Stephenson said, "The Colorado Antidiscrimination Act was passed many years ago, I think probably at least ten years ago. And so the Federal policies, the Title IX, is catching up really with where Colorado has already passed, so really this doesn't mean a whole lot other than formality to us because we already have to follow the Colorado law."

Valerio that he would like to talk about some of the policies, including the terminology used and the definitions of those terms. "...I'd like to look into that a little deeper and find out where those come from," he said, "And what's the basis for some of those specific terms. Especially if they turn into disciplinary issues...it'd be good to have good definitions."

Superintendent Stephenson said that because the policies are so steeped in legality, "We get those policies verbatim from CASB. So, we haven't changed anything. These are directly from CASB, with the CASB attorneys and their legal advice based on the law."

Fishering said, "So the CASB attorneys take a look at the federal and state laws...and provide the districts with recommended policy changes, sometimes entirely new policies if that is required...and these particular policies we are required by law to have passed by July 1. So, these policies are required by law."

Valerio said, "I understand that...one of the specific things that I was asking about would be the (term) 'visual conduct.' And if that came from CASB or that's coming from State law...it's actually very important. I would actually like some more clarification on necessarily where that came from. In criminal law, visual conduct is not a thing. So we're now introducing that, and it's a new thing for this whole area."

"What does it mean? What does it entail? And how does somebody violate that?"

Stephenson said that all board members with questions have direct access to the CASB attorneys. "I think we went over how to access that information and get

those questions answered directly by them...this would be a great example of when to use that."

Said Fishering, "...This is also a good example of where, we had a first reading...the time to make sure you had clarification would be between now and then...if you had specific questions about things like definitions...I don't have a question about that. If you had a question about that, that's something that would have been good to ask before we got in this room this evening...You would have needed to come with that information so we could pass these policies as required by law this evening."

Valerio said there is no rush. "We could continue, so those are questions that are going to be answered...there's no specific consequence that our vote has to happen tonight as far as federal law or anything like that, so we could address it at another time."

Fishering said, "No. My interpretation is we have to pass these policies this evening, by July 1."

Balleck said, "These came out four days before we could read them, two weeks ago, and so I've been doing research and studying this. There's about 15,000 words in all these policies for change, and we've had two weeks...does the board feel like they really truly understand the ramifications of these changes..."

Douglas County has postponed voting on the policy updates, she said.

"I'm not personally comfortable with the verbiage and understanding this after two weeks and that many words," Balleck said, "to completely jump in and be okay with voting on the policy...maybe it would be better to wait...other boards use lawyers to review how it would apply to their district specifically...or at least answer some of our questions around this..."

Fishering said, "I think if I had had legal questions about these policies, I would've made sure to reach out to the CASB policy team before I showed up this evening, and I don't have any questions about the changes that they've made. I also understand that we've been operating under the Colorado law for several years, and the material changes here, there aren't



# FISHERING RELENTLESSLY SCOLDS NEW RE-1J DIRECTORS

## From previous pg

really any massive changes that would be occurring in our district. I trust that the CASB lawyers have done what they need to do to interpret, as you said, millions of words of statute. I think these policies are as good as they're going to be, in terms of keeping us within the letter of the law." Valerio said, "I appreciate your faith in CASB, but I don't think anywhere in federal law that I can find...says visual conduct...so this is a very new thing, and I think it's important. When you have kids or have other people that are going to reap the consequences of something like this, basically what is visual conduct? Did you look at somebody wrong...how do you measure that...how do you deal with that, how do you create different types of metrics to decide what's going to happen to the kids or other people or employees...I understand that you have complete faith in CASB but they came up with this...I think at minimum I'd like to know what those definitions are from them. I understand they you say we should have already done it, but we didn't, and it's important, and no one can answer that question for me tonight... ..so even though you don't have a question on it doesn't mean that it shouldn't be answered. I think it's an important question..."

Fishing said, "I appreciate your feedback on that. It's a little bit frustrating...that you didn't avail yourself of the opportunities to get those answers before being here this evening. I understand everybody is busy, but these are the things that we have to do as board members, this is the work that we've signed up for. I understand that this is an uncomfortable timeline...sometimes the timelines are uncomfortable, because that's the business that we're in, we have to get things done, and we have to be compliant with the law."

"I totally understand. It's on me, my fault," Valerio said. "But it doesn't change the fact that it's still an important thing..."

District C Director Alice Murphy said that she had read the policies and agreed with them. "...How do you want to do this? Do you want to take each one separately?"

Fishing said, "It's up to the board. I will

take a motion; I will make a motion." She immediately moved to approve the policies and listed them all. "Do I have a second?"

Murphy seconded the motion.

"Do I have discussion?" Fishing said.

Balleck asked that each policy be voted on separately, as she had concerns with some but not others.

"So, we have a motion on the table and a second," Fishing said. So, if you wanted to make that motion, before when I mentioned making a motion would have been a time to do that. So now we will proceed with voting on this motion, and if this motion fails you'll have the opportunity to make a different motion.

A member of the audience tried to speak, "You still have to have discussion on all these policies..."

Fishing said that she had called for discussion, "And we don't take input from the floor."

The audience member tried to respond; Fishing said that she would have the person removed if she continued to speak.

Balleck said, "What about public comment on these policies, because there is supposed to be an opportunity for that...when you do something this major with policies and we have our first and second reading and there's public comment, is that the only time...?"

Fishing said yes and noted that the public has already had time to comment, "Not when the board is conducting its business." The policies have been published twice, she said.

Balleck said that she is not comfortable with the policies that identify Title IX. "I'm just not comfortable voting yes on those." She listed each of the policies in question by number.

There is verbiage in the policies she needs to understand, Balleck said, "To ensure that students and parents' rights are upheld."

Fishing said that she herself has no concerns, "...We haven't had a safety issue...we have to comply with anti-discrimination laws, federal and state. That is the law."

Valerio listed the policies that concern

him, particularly one listing forms of harassment that includes term Visual Conduct: *"Harassment" is any unwelcome, physical or verbal conduct or any written, graphic, or visual communication directed at a student, employee, applicant, or member of the public based on their protected class that is objectively offensive to a reasonable individual who is a member of the same protected class...."*

Valerio also called attention to a policy that concerned him entitled Standards Based Education, which contained the line, *"The district will work with educators, parents, youth representatives, students, businesspersons, members of the community and the district accountability committee to review and revise the district's academic standards as necessary to ensure maximum effectiveness and develop assessments that will adequately measure each student's progress..."*

Valerio said, "I'm looking for mostly clarification for a definition for that visual conduct...I think it's important for us to be aware of those things and what it's going to mean to us in the future...what's the difference between youth representatives and students?"

Superintendent Carrie Stephenson said the definition opens the door for the participation of outside groups that may be concerned about discrimination.

Fishing said the district receives a special policy update from CASB regularly. "...I am 100 percent sure that we have had this discussion...one of the ways that board policy gets changed is by law...that directly affects our policies..." She said, "...I don't think there should be any confusion on how this is done...it's all there for you, and it gets provided to you on a platter..."

District F Director Jody Hovde said that she has done her own research and said she has noticed that often policy changes are made because of statute. She said, "Because the Federal law has made some big changes, in terms of procedures in regard to these policies, do you guys have a plan for the department heads that this impacts..."

Superintendent Stephenson said that the district already operates under these

*Continued next pg*

## FISHERING RELENTLESSLY SCOLDS NEW RE-1J DIRECTORS *From previous pg*

guidelines, "We do not discriminate...the only thing that these Title IX policies change for us is the training that we provide our staff...we just need to make sure that our training is compliant too."

Hovde asked Valerio whether he had concerns over definitions other than the term, "Visual Conduct."

"Not at the moment, no," he said.

Fishing said that "at the end of the day" the policies will be interpreted on the ground and reiterated her motion to approve them all without further discussion. The motion was approved with Balleck and Valerio voting to deny.

### CONSENT AGENDA

Hovde asked that the personnel report be pulled for a separate vote as she had a potential conflict of interest.

Directors voted to adopt the Consent Agenda with Item 9, Personnel Report, pulled for separate discussion and vote.

### NEW BUSINESS

Item 9, Personnel Report, was approved with Hovde abstaining due to a potential conflict of interest.

In the absence of Finance Director Emily Imus, RE-1J Controller Marjie Wickham presented for adoption the 2024-25 Budget and related resolutions (13-2024 Appropriation Resolution 2024-25; 14-2024 Use of Fund Balance Resolution 2024-25; 15-2024 Budget Reserve Increase Resolution 2024-25) and 12-2024 Amended Budget Adoption Resolution 2023-24.

The board voted unanimously to adopt the 2024-2025 budget and related resolutions.

The final item was approval of the Superintendent's Contract with a pay raise in line with that received by the rest of staff, Fishing said. The board voted unanimously to approve.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

### LISTED BELOW ARE THE REVISED BOARD POLICY UPDATES APPROVED IN THE 5-2 VOTE:

AC, Nondiscrimination/Equal Opportunity -Revises policy substantially and re-structures policy for clarity. Adds roadmap to direct readers to the appropriate regulation based on the alleged conduct.

AC-R-1, Harassment and Discrimination Investigation Procedures for Students - Repealed AC-R-1; rewritten to include information as to the steps taken in an investigation into harassment and discrimination against a student.

AC-R-2, Harassment and Discrimination Investigation Procedures for Employees, Applicants for Employment and Members of the Public - Repealed AC-R-1; rewritten to include information as to the steps taken in an investigation into harassment and discrimination against employees, applicants and members of the public.

AC-R-3, Sex-based Harassment Investigation Procedures (Title IX) - Changes terminology and adds and modifies existing definitions. Removes investigator and includes a two-person investigation model with Title IX; Coordinator and Decision Maker. Aligns process with AC-R-1 and AC-R-2 to the extent possible, adds optional informal resolution and appeal process, and other changes to align with Title IX regulations. Technical edits.

AC-E1, Nondiscrimination/Equal Opportunity - Aligns terminology with Title IX, adds protected class. Adds information note, edits for clarity and technical edits.

AC-E2, Nondiscrimination/Equal Opportunity (Complaint Form) - Aligns terminology with Title IX. Edits for clarity and technical edits.

AEA, Standards Based Education - SB23-008, Youth Involvement Education Standards Review passed to state that youths are to be involved in the review committee of district's education standards

GBA, Open Hiring/Equal Employment Opportunity - updated for compliance; added legal citations.

GBAA, Sex-based Harassment - Changes terminology of sexual harassment based on Title IX changes. Aligns definitions of sexual harassment to state law and Title IX;

Technical edits.

GBI, Criminal History Record Information - Added a specific period for retention of Criminal History Record Information (CHRI)

GCE/GCF, Licensed Staff Recruiting/Hiring - Added legal citation and technical edits.

GCE/GCF-R, Licensed Staff Recruiting/Hiring - minor description change of record checks

GDE/GDF, Support Staff Recruiting/Hiring - Added legal citation and technical edits.

GDE/GDF-R, Support Staff Recruiting/Hiring - minor description change of record checks

JBB, Sex-based Harassment - Changes terminology of sexual harassment based on Title IX changes. Aligns definitions of sexual harassment to state law and Title IX; Technical edits.

JLDAC, Screening/Testing of Students - Added legal citation and technical edits.

JLDAC-E, Notification of Rights Under the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA) - Updated the address of the Student Privacy Office.



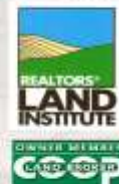
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# TAD ROWAN RESIGNS FROM MURA BOARD From pg 1

## **MURA Board Appointments – President, Vice-President, Secretary**

Bell said, “The Secretary/Treasurer position is filled by staff [Deputy Clerk Briceida Ortega] because she does the minutes, roll call, and she is well qualified.”

Dave Frank nominated Allison Howe to serve as President. No other nominations were given, and Howe was elected unanimously.

**Background:** Howe is the Special District Representative; a Montrose Recreation District Board Member. A former Fort Morgan city councilor, Howe has lived in Montrose for three and a half years.

Howe took nominations for Vice-President. Dave Frank was nominated and approved unanimously.

Deputy Clerk Briceida Ortega was approved unanimously to serve as Secretary/Treasurer.

The minutes of the April 10, 2024 regular meeting were approved unanimously.

## **Call for Public Comment**

Instructions for Public Comment include, “Please be aware that neither the MURA Board nor staff are expected to respond or engage in discussion or debate.” Call for Public comment is limited to non-agenda items and speakers have a three minute time limit.

There was no public comment.

## **TIF Expenditure Update and Financial Review - City Engineer Scott Murphy.**

Murphy gave the board an expanded version of the financial spread sheet that is used during the meetings. Referencing available funds Murphy said, “In the bank you have \$1.3 M.”

Bell reminded the board that they are looking at future financing, but he did not feel D.A. Davidson (investment banking) would recommend bonding at this time.

In approving future horizontal incentives, City Business Development Anthony Russo reminded the board that TIF revenues are coming in and those funds can be added to the amount that the board has “in the bank”.

Bell gave a brief MURA synopsis to new board members Haugsness and Councilwoman Judy Ann Files, who replaced term-limited Barbara Bynum. Bell said, “The city fronted the money [promissory notes]

to get it [MURA] started. We don’t want to go for repayment until we build more things. If we repay, it just goes back into city reserves. We want to build more projects.”

Murphy asked the board if they want to see more projections on the spread sheet. Brad Hughes said, “We don’t want to add projections. We want hard numbers.”

## **Incentives Funding Formula Discussion:**

Bell, Hughes, and (former board member) Bynum met previously to work on a formula so the board would not be making arbitrary decisions on incentive requests. Bell said, “Coming up with a way to say to potential businesses we can’t guarantee you a certain amount from the city or from the [MURA] board.”

There are two different types of mechanisms to TIF — sales tax TIF and property tax TIF. Two different formulas based on the type of project, i.e. residential, mixed-use, retail, manufacture.

Bell said, “The Bylaws say, “may approve”, not shall approve. They allow for horizontal [sewer, sidewalk, lights, parking lot], but not vertical improvements [building structure]. We’ve approved up to 25 percent for primary or retail; up to 40 percent for mixed use [hotels, warehouses].”

Hughes said, “This is a refresher for the board. Completed projects, what we’ve given [incentives to] — Mayfly we provided \$805,000 [incentives] and the Fairfield [hotel] was \$600,000. Basecamp [apartments] was so way over-funded that we can’t consider it a standard type of project. It [apartment project] was driven by city council.”

Bell said, “Basecamp was not driven by city council. That philosophy [the need for affordable housing] was driven by the community through city council.”

**Extended Stay Hotel Review and Approval of Incentives** — Jeff Lamont, Lamont Companies, Inc. and John Stueber, Summit Capital.

Lamont and Stueber attended via Zoom. The project is for a second hotel, which will be built directly south, and across the road from the new Fairmont. Both hotels are comparable — the same size, built by the same developer, and on a similar size

lot.

Hughes questioned the request for incentives. The first hotel received \$600,000; however, the incentive request for the second hotel is \$1.6M. Hughes said, “The cost went up 250 percent between the first hotel and the second hotel.” Hughes prefers to use the same formula for all projects.

Russo said, “What is it we want the URA to look like? This is an economic development conversation. We don’t want to draw the line too tightly.”

Hughes said, “I don’t agree with Anthony. I don’t consider this board to be economic development. We want to be successful, but if we go into debt and it can’t be paid back, it’s a failed project. I’m looking at it from a different angle than city council.”

The city council would like to see more housing in Montrose; however, housing built in the MURA, when compared to retail builds, is not revenue generating. If developers built housing outside the MURA it would not qualify for horizontal site improvement incentives.

Ed Ulibarri said, “The whole purpose of the URA is to pay back the funds. Make sure we have the funds available, but we don’t want to go into more debt. That’s my personal opinion.”

Dave Frank said, “I like the idea of structure and formula. While we are not strictly economic development, we need a little bit of flexibility. A formula gives us a good starting point.”

Files said, “I like the formula and the standards.”

Doug Glaspell asked if the two options could be combined. Hughes said, “Based on history, 40 percent on an individual building is too much.”

Bell said, “Greenline [next agenda item] won’t be viable if we switch to the formula.” Speaking to Hughes, Bell said, “If we go with your formula, we’re killing all future residential. I’m afraid we will be killing it.”

Hughes said, “I don’t see that \$300,000 keeps them from building that project.”

Russo said, “There is a big gap between what they need.”

David Reed said, “I disagree with Brad that this is not economic development.

## TAD ROWAN RESIGNS FROM MURA BOARD *From previous pg*

What we're all about is economic development. Let's don't hamstring ourselves."

Howe said, "Can we create some flexibility for projects that will meet both goals?"

A formula applied to all projects gets away from subjectivity and the board favoring one project over another; however, a formula is more rigid and lacks flexibility. Hughes and Bell will meet and come up with more scenarios to present to the board.

Jeff Lamont and John Stueber, participating via Zoom, gave a brief overview of the proposed second hotel project, which is slated to break ground in 2025.

The developers were asking for \$1.6 M in horizontal site improvements. Hughes said, "I think it should be capped out at \$1.395M. I want to know, when it is the same developer, why the site improvement went up 250 percent."

The developers apologized for not having the figures available at this meeting which would explain the difference. The board unanimously approved \$1.4 M for horizontal site improvements.

**Greenline Mixed Use Project Review and Approval of Incentives** – Rob Mackenzie, Greenline Ventures.

Russo said, "We started working on this project two and a half years ago. They agreed commercial space had to be added to make it mixed use. The project, one and two bedroom and studio apartments, is slated for 2025 and the incentive ask is \$1.3 M."

Referencing the previous formula discussion by the board Mackenzie said, "I understand the formula. Costs are coming down. We can wait an extra month for you to finalize your decision. We were hoping not to need any help [incentives] at all, but that changed. A different world and costs went up. We have good data. We have one [apartment complex] in Grand Junction and one in Eagle. Horizontal costs are about 10 percent."

Hughes said, "It's a reasonable number.

Compared to Basecamp, it does not appear to be an inflated number." The \$1.3 M horizontal improvements request was approved unanimously.

**Parkhouse Project Introduction** – Sean Killeen and Jared McCullough

This is the first time this project has been before the board in a regular meeting and Russo emphasized that this was just discussion on the project.

Audience member Ray (last name not captured), a car event promoter from Telluride, supported the project. He said, "When we have a car festival, owners are asking where they can store their cars. We're [Telluride] about [capped] out. This would be great for car rallies."

Killeen explained the Parkhouse Project concept, "The Western Slope has a shortage of storage. Large scale storage for RV's. Our plan is making storage solutions."

McCullough said, "Montrose is one of the best hubs in the world for outdoor [recreation].

Garage condominiums are affordable. Storage will be on the bottom floor [25-foot high ceilings], second floor [living space] overlooks the river. Event space is lacking in Montrose. There will be a bar and a clubhouse."

Frank said, "The clubhouse is in phase four? The clubhouse is key, but it's the last thing you are building."

McCullough said, "We need profits from the sale of units to build the clubhouse. It's dependent on unit sales."

The developers explained that the project is taxed as commercial, not residential. The owners will not be fulltime residents but will be limited to living in the condominiums for a maximum of 25 nights a month. They can rent out their condominium to others. The project will be short term rentals and governed by an owner's association. No price for the units has yet been set.

**Future Meetings:**



*The second hotel in the MURA will be built directly south and across the road from the new Fairmont. The hotel is comparable to the Fairmont — the same size, built by the same developer, and on a similar size lot. The project is slated to break ground in 2025.*

The next meeting is scheduled for July 31 at 2 p.m. However, if a scheduling conflict arises, the meeting will be rescheduled to Aug. 7.

**Background:** The [Montrose Urban Renewal Authority \(MURA\)](#) was formed in late 2016 by a resolution of the Montrose City Council. Generally speaking, the MURA Board oversees the Colorado Outdoors Urban Renewal Area and administers the Tax Increment Financing (TIF), the funding mechanism to finance public infrastructure in the MURA. [The property, which covers 158 acres along the river corridor between the Justice Center on the north and West Main on the South, is being developed by the Dragoo's Mayfly Outdoors.](#) The Dragoo Developers are son David Dragoo and father Doug Dragoo.

The 10-member MURA board is made up of Montrose City Council (five members), City Manager Bill Bell (Executive Director), Brad Hughes (Montrose County), Jim Haugsness (At-Large Representative), Steve Bush (Montrose School District) and Allison Howe (Special Districts Representative).

The six-member city constituency hold the controlling interest and actions of the MURA Board.





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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## "AGING" OR "OLD" DOES NOT NECESSARILY MEAN NO LONGER USEABLE OR SAFE

*Editor:*

I found the MDP article (6/15) announcing plans for a new Montrose High School rather interesting. MCSD Superintendent Stephenson correctly noted that the community will need to be sold on the need for a new facility: "There would be a lot of educating our of community that would need to happen ...."

Perhaps that education should start by helping our tax-paying citizens better understand the 6/11 agreement with the teachers' union (UVEA) for a whopping increase (more than 34%) in staff salary and benefits? The only explanation given thus far (MCSD Finance Director Imus) is that "It puts the district in a better position to recruit and retain the most qualified staff and it's making good progress towards the goal of having the most competitive compensation package on the Western Slope.."

No one questions the desire to have the most qualified teachers for our children, but many will question the end result of increasing salaries by over a third in Montrose. It would seem that neighboring school districts would either follow suit and increase salaries, or be less able to attract the most qualified teachers. Both options are not beneficial to the children overall. The real losers are the Montrose taxpayers, already suffering from almost four years of the destruction of the economy by the current POTUS. One might also question the goal of having the highest paid teachers on the Western Slope. There

are reasons teachers in wealthy communities like Aspen, Vail, and Telluride are able to pay there teachers better.

Even if you accept the wisdom of a 34+% increase (I don't), taxpayers will logically want to know how the Montrose teacher compensation prior to the increase actually compares to Delta, Grand Junction, and surrounding areas. MCSD should not hesitate in providing those details since it is purportedly the justification for the increase.

Another bit of information MCSD should immediately make available is the number of administration/support staff versus the number of students compared to neighboring school districts. One of the people vying for the District 3 State Representative is quoted as saying that Montrose County Schools have twice the administrative staff as Mesa County and half the number of students. That either needs to be verified or refuted. If true, not too many county taxpayers are going to be able to stomach the 34+% increase much less over \$200 million for a new high school.

MCSD should also reiterate its position on the Colorado Education Association's April resolution condemning capitalism. It is my understanding that the UVEA president has stated that the local union opposes, and hopes to counter, that April CEA delegate resolution. An update on how UVEA plans to counter that absurd resolution would be helpful.

For taxpayers to understand the need for

a new high school, MCSD must go beyond simply saying it needs to "address the existing high school's aging infrastructure and growth constraints." "Aging" or "old" does not necessarily mean no longer useable or safe. If it is no longer useable or safe, the public has to be shown how that is so. Some are probably not enamored with talk of "a commons area beneath a large skylight, which the design team is envisioning as the "heart" of the school," or "an arching, windowed entrance." They are certainly not enamored with a \$200+ million price tag. If there are currently "growth restraints." tell the public how that is so. Show the growth projections. Show why the current buildings will be unworkable.

Help us understand why simply adding additional classroom wings as that growth occurs is not "Option One".

Unlike the tremendous salary increases, the taxpayers will have more of a voice in the mill levy. Although the school board is elected, the teachers' union turns out in force to elect board members favorable to their cause. Thus, most school boards are mostly retired educators and others less concerned about taxpayers. The school board, superintendent, administrators, and union representatives will hopefully step up and provide real justification for their proposals. Convince the public there is a real need, and that you are not just gaslighting while you build a gold-plated showplace.

*Ed Henrie, Montrose*

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## DMEA'S JOCK FLEMING HONORED FOR LEADERSHIP

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE—On June 25, the Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) Board of Directors regular meeting was called to order at 3 p.m.

The call to order was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, determination of a quorum, and approval of the consent agenda (Membership & Meter Report, Minutes from the May 2024 Regular Meeting, Minutes from the Annual Meeting of Members, and the June 2024 Organizational Meeting Minutes). Following minor spelling corrections the minutes were approved. Director Emily Sanchez was absent; newly-elected Director Ryan Sedgely arrived 17 minutes after the meeting started; all other board members were present in person.

During meetings the board hears verbal summary reports of their monthly meetings and activities. Co-op membership has access to some of the written staff reports submitted for board approval, i.e., minutes of the previous meeting, CEO report, and action items (resolutions).

Following the meeting members can access packet information through SmartHub, the online service which allows members to manage their DMEA accounts.

### Member Attendance/Introductions

DMEA co-op members are afforded an opportunity to speak during Member Comments, which for this meeting were scheduled for 5 p.m. There were no member comments.

### Director Recognition

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Jack Johnston presented Director Jock Fleming with his Board Leadership Certificate from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

### Committee Chair Reports:

#### Finance-Audit-Rate Committee (FAR) –

Damon Lockhart, Chair

Lockhart said, "We did not have a meeting."

#### Engineering – Construction – Energy Services Committee – Enno Heuscher, Chair.

Heuscher said, "There was no meeting."

#### Member Relations Committee – Kevin Williams, Chair.

Williams said, "We have not met in the 10 days since I've been chair."



(L to R) Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Jack Johnston presented a Board Leadership Certificate to Director Jock Fleming during the regular June board meeting. The certificate is awarded through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). Photo by Gail Marvel.

### Executive Committee – Stacia Cannon, Chair

Cannon said, "We have not met."

### Informational Item (Non-Privileged CEO Report) – CEO Jack Johnston.

Johnston began his report by passing around thank you notes received by DMEA from kids (scholarships) and membership (annual meeting events). It was noted there were two opportunities for directors to become candidates in upcoming board elections; however, in each race the incumbent is running.

Reporting on the SAIDI (System Average Interruption Duration Index), Johnston said, "It's trending better than the last two years. We haven't had any major event days this year." Staff is working on the application for the PACE grant (Powering Affordable Clean Energy), which is a part of the Inflation Reduction Act. Johnston said, "Our internal name for it is K20X. We have had some fantastic accomplishments with grants." The current projection for implementation of the PACE grant is 2030.

Johnston said, "EV charging is trending up, net metering is trending up, and hydro is ahead of May last year. The North Fork

River Repair was a really cool project. It was a large river crossing for DMEA and it's going to be there for a long time." Repairs done are designed for a 100-year-plus flood.

Johnston touched briefly on vegetation management, phishing avoidance, and employee interviews. Emphasizing member education that is available on the website, he said, "This time of year we have door-to-door salespeople who want to put solar on homes...but, they need to do it right [be honest]."

In the area of financials Johnston said, "Operations have positive variances. Operating expenses are under budget, which are solid. There is \$72 M which we will eventually borrow. There's a big discussion around this."

Senior Financial Advisor Gayle Gouker said, "Our lenders are very understanding." Johnston said, "We are pouring a lot of money into the plant here, a lot of construction is going on." The 2025 budget process for DMEA will take three meetings; the Elevate budget process will take two meetings.

The DMEA board will host a meet & greet

## **DMEA'S JOCK FLEMING HONORED FOR LEADERSHIP** *From previous pg*

with the Operation Round-Up Board. Sanchez will attend the Montrose County Fair and Lockhart will attend the Delta County Fair to purchase 4-H animals.

### **Informational Item (Non-Privileged Legal Report) – Attorney Sarah Abbott.**

Abbott said, "Last month we worked mainly on policy. It is a good exercise to go through and clean up; making sure the words make sense. We had two property purchases with Garnet Mesa and there were other agreements. There is nothing new on the regulatory front and no litigation."

### **Informational Item Director Reports Western United Electrical Supply (WUES) Report – Jock Fleming.**

Fleming said, "I know I'm always saying what a great job Western is doing, but he [CEO Greg Mordini] is here and he can talk for himself." Mordini would speak later in the meeting.

### **Colorado Rural Electric Association (CREA) Report – Damon Lockhart.**

Lockhart said, "We've not had a meeting since the last one. We have two meetings this week. There is a special meeting for a board position and it's a contested race. We have a board meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup>."

### **Conferences, Webinars & Meetings**

Williams gave highlights from a web conference he attended. He also received a thank you note for the scholarship basket he delivered.

### **Western United Electrical Supply Corporation – Greg Mordini, CEO**

In a PowerPoint presentation Mordini noted the corporation has a new and improved mission statement — "To serve as the trusted cooperative partner providing exceptional value through best-in-class products, services, and innovative solutions."

Mordini said, "You [DMEA] are one of the bright spots. You are our seventh largest customer. We are completely transparent with our customers. What we take very seriously is patronage and that we are paying it back to you. Our board policy says we pay back in seven to 10 years, but

we try to pay back in six years. We've invested heavily in our inventory over the last three years. During the supply crisis we focused on serving our membership. Most products have come down to a reasonable price. [Some] transformers still have a backorder backlog, some two years out."

Mordini identified the three main reasons for the supply crisis — pandemic, work force leaving, and stalled legislation.

Johnston was pleasantly surprised when Mordini gave him a check for \$135,608.48 for DMEA's patronage payback. Mordini said, "DMEA is an alliance member. We will stock [inventory] for you. When we have transformers in stock, they go [first] to people who have been with us for years."

### **Future Meetings**

The July 23, 2024 board meeting will be held at the Delta Read Service Center at 3 p.m.

### **Executive Session**

- Confidential Corporate, Litigation and Regulatory Matters
- Unclaimed Capitol Credit Fund Donation Request – Montrose County
- Bylaws Review
- Board Policy Review:
  - Policy 105: Director Districts & Election of Directors
  - Policy 109: Outside Engagement of Services

### **Executive Session Summary –Amy Taylor, Chief of Staff**

In an email, Taylor summarized the action taken by the board after exiting the executive session:

"The Board declined to act on the Montrose County Unclaimed Capital Credit Donation Request.



**Western United Electrical Supply Corporation (WUES) CEO Greg Mordini was a guest speaker during the regular June 25, 2024 Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) board meeting. Mordini said, "You [DMEA] are one of our bright spots. You are our seventh largest customer."**

BP 105 Director Fleming approved subject to changes discussed in executive session, seconded by Director Metheny. Passed unanimously.

BP 109 Director Williams approved subject to changes discussed in executive session, seconded by Director Heuscher. Passed unanimously.

### **DMEA Board of Directors**

*Dist. 1 – Ryan Sedgeley, 370-220-6086*

*[ryan.sedgeley@dmea.com](mailto:ryan.sedgeley@dmea.com)*

*Dist. 2 - Steve Metheny, 970-209-6172,*

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*Dist. 3 – Jacob Gray, 970-778-9512, [jacob.gray@dmea.com](mailto:jacob.gray@dmea.com)*

*Dist. 4 – Emily Sanchez, 970-209-4582,*

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*Dist. 5 – Kevin Williams, 406-839-1603,*

*[kevin.williams@dmea.com](mailto:kevin.williams@dmea.com)*

*Dist. 6 - Damon Lockhart, 970-314-1071,*

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*Dist. 7 – Enno Heuscher, 970-270-*

*6523, [enno.heuscher@dmea.com](mailto:enno.heuscher@dmea.com)*

*Dist. 8 - (North Region) Stacia Cannon, 920-*

*207-8831, [stacia.cannon@dmea.com](mailto:stacia.cannon@dmea.com)*

*Dist. 9 - (South Region) Jock Fleming, 970-*

*275-1808, [jock.fleming@dmea.com](mailto:jock.fleming@dmea.com)*





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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## WHO IS IN CHARGE OF OUR COUNTRY?

*Editor:*

Surely there isn't anyone left in America that honestly believes that Biden is in charge of our country. So then you have to ask who is in charge? I don't know, and I challenge anyone to tell me.

Well whoever it is did not utter the following oath with their hand on a Bible and are therefore not beholden to us or God. And we see that every day now ;

"I do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States so help me God.

We can assume some things but the truth is we citizens do not know.

Here are my questions.

Is Jill Biden running our country?

Is Kamala asleep at the wheel?

Has the deep state assumed possession?

Is Barack Husein behind the scenes in his stealth 3rd term?

Is the Democrat party pulling the strings?

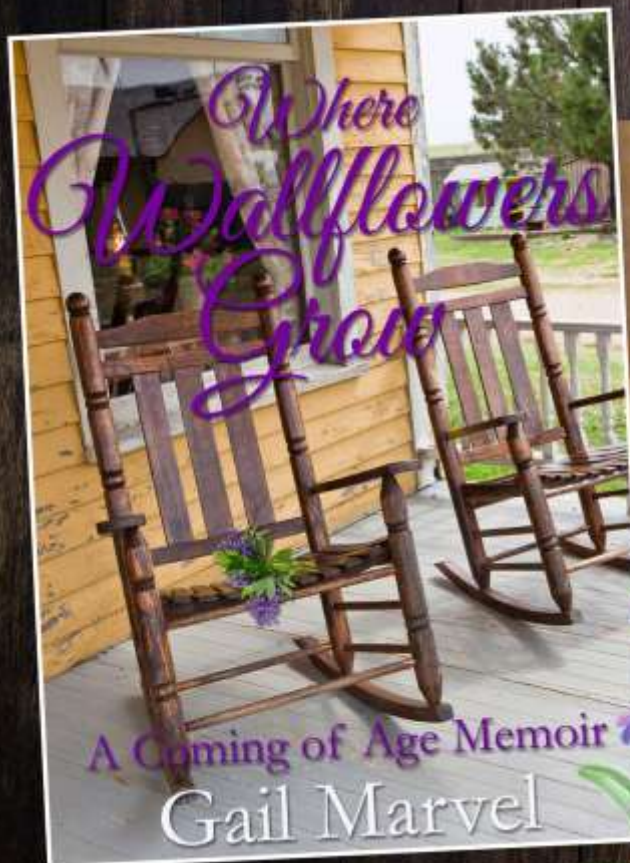
What we do know is that WE are not in charge and neither are the Republicans or the Independents or faction other than Democrats.

So I remind the American citizens.

This is an election year.

What are you going to do about it?

*Bob Stollsteimer, Montrose*



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

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

**GAIL MARVEL**

*Montrose Author & Reporter*

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

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# READER PHOTO SPOTLIGHT: DEB REIMANN



*Photographer Deb Reimann captured this image of a hayfield with snowcapped mountains.*



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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

## MONTROSE CITY MANAGER BILL BELL *13 Years and Counting as the Man Behind the Curtain*

By David White

Power is an interesting thing. As the old saying goes, "Power corrupts; absolute power corrupts absolutely." Such is the state of affairs within the office of the City Manager in Montrose City Hall these days. This month, specifically July 25<sup>th</sup>, will mark the 13th anniversary of the arrival of Montrose City Manager William Ernest (Bill) Bell from Rhinelander, Wisconsin where he had been the town administrator. Bell's credentials and demeanor got him the job over several contenders in 2011. His undergraduate degree was earned at the University of Wyoming where he double majored in Psychology and Criminal Justice. He followed this by attending Pepperdine University for a time where he studied contract law and conflict resolution. He wrapped things up by returning to the University of Wyoming where he obtained a master's degree in public administration.

Prior to working in City government, he worked as a graduate teaching assistant in the Criminal Justice Program at the University of Wyoming; as a forensic psychiatric technician for the State of Wyoming psychiatric facility; as an assistant county planner, and as a graduate policy assistant for the Colorado Governor's Office of Policy and Initiatives under Governor Bill Owens. His entire graduate and post-graduate working career has been in government. No private sector experience is found anywhere.

His 2011 employment agreement with the City of Montrose states the following: "City hereby appoints Employee as City Manager of the City of Montrose to perform the acts and duties specified in the City Charter, and to perform those other duties as the City Council may from time-to-time delegate to Employee." In return, we pay him \$210,000 a year (his salary is divided up and back charged to different departments like water, sewer, wastewater, tourism, etc.) plus bonuses,

an \$80,000 luxury SUV for business and personal use and much more.

Over these last 13 years, we have seen Mr. Bell obtain from the various members of the City Council who have held office in that time, power and authority that, while incrementally given and endowed, has created within the office of the City Manager and specifically Mr. Bell, a force that is akin to the "man behind the curtain" for all things within City of Montrose government. As an employee or citizen, you either fear him and work to curry his favor or you don't and suffer the consequences as virtually nothing gets done without his blessing and approval according to those current and former employees that I've spoken to over time. This can be both a good and a bad thing depending on what you expect in a City Manager.

As is often the case though, such authority begets what some might term as a sense of invulnerability in a person or organization. The latest example of such behavior was mentioned in *The Mirror* last week wherein it was disclosed in the City Council Work Session on June 17<sup>th</sup> that Mr. Bell's son, Conner, had been hired as a summer 2024 intern by the City. This prompted me to ask the City Clerk for the details of the job he was hired to do.

It turns out that Mr. Bell created, within the City Manager's Office, the "City of Montrose Business Analyst Internship Program" whose first hire was his 19-year-old college student son. Young Mr. Bell's duties include: "Provide research and analytical support to various departments to help foster best business practices."; "Observe various organizational workflows and/or systems and make recommendations for improvement to city leadership team."; "Assist in the preparation of city meetings and/or events to support operations, etc." He is paid \$16.00 per hour and has the use of a city laptop computer.

While young Mr. Bell is accomplished in academics and sports and I'm sure has a

great future ahead of himself, I feel bad for the position that he has been placed in as his father should have known better than to use what appears to be nepotism to benefit him over and above others. Perhaps he believes that by having his son report to the Assistant City Manager, he escapes the nepotism label. If so, I would say this is flawed thinking. My research led me to find, through City supplied documents, that Mr. Bell's wife is also working a seasonal summer job for the city in the Visitor Center. As she is not a direct report of Mr. Bell's, this is seemingly allowed under the City's nepotism policy. There are several other family members of City Department heads working in similar, non-family supervised positions as was Mr. Bell's son last year when he worked at the city owned golf course.

The consolidation of authority and power into the City Manager's office extends well beyond the above though. Examples are plentiful and largely begin with the changes that he convinced the City Council and voters to make through a 2014 ballot question where changes to the City Charter were made. Namely, the appointment of the Police Chief and City Clerk would not be ones that are a joint appointment by the City Council and City Manager, but solely the choosing of the City Manager. Jointly approving the hiring of individuals in these positions worked well for decades as the elected officials had a say in who would be our chief law enforcement officer as well as who would be the clerk charged with keeping records of all city documents, meetings, etc.

Outside of changes to the Charter, Mr. Bell was also given, by City Council, the authority to waive fees for a variety of things that the general public largely has to pay for such as water and sewer taps, building permit fees, plan check fees and many others. His waiver authority is up to \$50,000. Of course, if a request exceeds that amount, Mr. Bell simply divides his

*Continued next pg*

# MONTROSE CITY MANAGER BILL BELL From previous pg

waiver into multiple waivers to stay under the \$50K cap or if the amount is too high, the City Council gives its approval and bingo, he gets what he wants.

An example of these fee waivers is found on the agenda for this week's City Council Work Session today, July 1st wherein the Volunteers of America are making the following request of the City. Pay specific attention to the last sentence of this City Staff prepared statement:

***"Please see attached request from Volunteers of America. The City of Montrose recommends that Council consider abating the water and sewer connection fees for this project. This requires City Council action to abate because the fees will be paid out of the City's general fund to the water and sewer funds. Based on the project plan, we expect water related fees of \$31,814.80 which includes a 1 ½" water meter with water capacity fees and unit charges, as well as a fire line fee. We expect sewer related charges of \$89,923.00 which include a tap fee, capacity fee and unit charge fees. Total water and sewer fees proposed to be waived are estimated at \$121,737.80. In addition, the City intends to offer additional support for the project which does not require City Council approval, including waiving an estimated \$160,900.69 of building permit fees, which include the Permit fee, Plan Check fee, and City Construction Use Tax."*** The total amount of requested abatements (aka waivers) is \$282,638.49!!

With the numerous waivers that the City Manager has granted many, many parties, (ostensibly for economic development purposes) and mostly to private developers and non-profits, I was prompted to file an open records request with the City Clerk to ask for the number and types of waivers the City Manager has granted as well as the total dollar amount of such requests over the last few years. As an FYI and sidenote, a City official has told me that these waivers total in the millions of dollars and the ultimate cost of these waivers is borne by we, the taxpayers.

The response I received from the Deputy City Clerk Briceida Ortega on Wednesday, June 26<sup>th</sup> was:

***"Hi Mr. White,***

***The specific records you are requesting do not exist. We do not maintain a list of waivers granted by the City Manager, nor do we have records detailing the reasons for these waivers."***

***Briceida Ortega, Deputy City Clerk***

In another, email request regarding these waivers of fees, Ms. Ortega replied, in part, as follows:

***"We do not keep a list of waivers granted by the City. However, any waivers approved by City Council are documented in the meeting minutes. Below are links to the minutes in the Public Portal and the Archive Center on the City website."***

All I can say is that someone is lying. You give millions of dollars away in what should be revenue to the City of Montrose, and you have **NO RECORD** of the giveaways? Why not? Apparently, Mr. Bell has a reason, but as previously stated, when you hold the keys to the kingdom, you make the rules, don't you? At a minimum though, the City's Finance Department has to know the dollar amount of all of these giveaways. No auditor worth his salt would let this kind of financial nonsense slip through the cracks and the City knows it.

On top of these and other consolidations of power in the City Manager, we find his role in the creation of the Montrose Urban Renewal Authority (MURA)/Colorado Outdoors to be the most troubling. He is the Executive Director of this City financed and controlled entity that has been "loaned" millions of your taxpayer dollars to bankroll private developers who are building, virtually tax free, hotels, restaurants, executive housing and much more on the backs of every day Montroseans. And Mr. Bell, through private meetings and luncheons (he's admitted to these) with developers and prospective buyers of real estate in Colorado Outdoors, is and has made "deals" and commitments that involve using your tax dollars to pay for

them and include waivers of all sorts.

Control of the MURA board and the appointment of citizens to it is in his wheelhouse. He recently appointed a new board member that will do his bidding. Gotta have the votes and when you can stack the deck, why turn down the opportunity as they say.

There's much more to say, but you, the reader, get the point. We have invested millions of dollars in salary and benefits in a 13-year relationship with a man who was a psychology major in college. He was a forensic psychiatric technician providing care to individuals with mental health disorders who are incarcerated. He knows the science and art of manipulating people and has been quite successful in establishing control mechanisms that ensure his survival.

Many City Council retreats with the City Manager have seen participants taking personality or psychological style profile tests to establish how everyone can work together. The City Manager has consistently scheduled meetings with the Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem prior to City Council Work Sessions and regular meetings which exclude the rest of Council. It goes on and on. Rasputin would be proud of the success Mr. Bell has had these many years in masterfully guiding the elected officials down his chosen path without them seemingly being any the wiser.

While Mr. Bell has had his share of successes, I just hope that what he thinks will be a big payoff to the City of Montrose in the form of what seems to be his speculative weekly giveaways of your money in the hopes of generating future tax revenue will in fact come to fruition. However, from my perspective, I wouldn't bet on it.

***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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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

## ELECTION INTERFERENCE BY MONTROSE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS...THE HYPOCRISY OF IT ALL! *How soon they Forget their Promises to the Public*

By David White

This past Tuesday, June 25<sup>th</sup>, was Primary Election Day in Colorado as most of you reading this article know. Both political parties were running candidates for a variety of public offices ranging from Federal to State (including positions on state boards and university regents) down to the local County level.

In Montrose County, outside of the contested race for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District where there were six (6) candidates for this House of Representative's seat, the most contested races of the day were those for the open County Commissioner seats for District 1 (encompassing the City of Montrose) & District 3 which includes western Montrose County from roughly Hwy. 550 west to the Utah state line. District 1's seat is currently held by Keith Caddy and District 3's seat by Roger Rash.

"Big Lou" Stark and Scott Mijares were running on the GOP ticket for District 1's seat. Mijares won. Rick Dunlap and Scott Riba were running on the GOP ticket for District 3's seat. Dunlap won.

"Big Lou" announced his candidacy all the way back in September of 2023 and Rick Dunlap in November of 2023. Mijares was a last hour entrant into the District 1 race announcing his intent to run in early February 2024. Riba filed for the position in April of 2023. For the most part, we've had these candidates on our radar for quite a while and interestingly enough, so have our current Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) ...Sue Hansen, Keith Caddy and Roger Rash.

For whatever the reason, our sitting BOCC members decided quite a while back that they would openly endorse and campaign for "Big Lou" Stark and Rick Dunlap to be the successors to the almost 8-year reign of Rash and Caddy.

Things really heated up at the Republican County Assembly on March 23, 2024, where we saw Commissioner Rash second the nomination of "Big Lou" Stark and then all three Commissioners stand on stage with Rick Dunlap during his nomination and acceptance speech. By all appearances, the ethics of such actions, at a minimum, should have been a warning sign that something was amiss.

Over these last few months, I've often heard

the question asked, "What are you thinking?" when it comes to all of this election interference by the sitting Commissioners. Of course, they've never publicly answered the question. The intensity of the open campaigning by Rash, Caddy and Hansen accelerated once their chosen replacements (Stark and Dunlap) had competition, which they now had to prepare for as the clock began ticking toward the primary election. Ethically speaking, their first inclination should have been to stay the heck out of these contested races, but they wouldn't.

Today, it's over. Mijares and Dunlap are the duly elected GOP candidates for Districts 1 & 3. Trisha Murray is the unaffiliated candidate for the District 3 seat and will face off against Rick Dunlap come November 5<sup>th</sup> as this is the only contested Commissioner race. Let's hope that Rash, Caddy & Hansen accept this outcome and get back to the work they were elected to do.

Having said the above, all of this brings me to something that happened late in the day on Wednesday, June 26<sup>th</sup>.

A citizen, who pays attention to and watches our commissioners with an eagle eye, discovered a document that Rash, Caddy and Hansen are going to wish that they had never ordered the County Attorney to draft on their behalf, namely **Resolution No. 67-2018** which was voted on and passed by the three of them on Wednesday, November 7, 2018 – the day after the 2018 "off year" elections. (See [https://www.montrosecounty.net/DocumentCenter/View/12555/Resolution-67-2018\\_1](https://www.montrosecounty.net/DocumentCenter/View/12555/Resolution-67-2018_1))

This 2018 resolution was their way of permanently shutting down various groups and campaigns seeking their support for ballot issues or campaigns of any kind. To be clear, language included in Resolution 67-2018 stated that the BOCC pledged that **"in order to preserve public trust and confidence, and promote principles of fairness and impartiality, the Board wishes to remain politically neutral and refrain from supporting ballot measures and CAMPAIGNS of any sort."**

The resolution further states that **"the Board feels strongly that each and every voter in Montrose County should vote according to their own conscience and positions, and without influence from the Board as the governing body for Montrose Coun-**

**ty..."**

Of course, in spite of their platitudes and politically correct words, they left themselves a small out in the closing paragraph of the resolution wherein they state that **"the Board of County Commissioners of Montrose County Colorado will refrain from supporting, by resolution, any ballot measure or campaign in order to maintain political neutrality."** Those words directly contradict the statements in the resolution that led up to it and which are cited above.

All I can say is that, in my opinion, these "elected officials" have exhibited behavior that is hypocritical at best. Intervening in an election and attempting to sway public opinion to vote for their hand-picked replacements is not what they were elected to do. They should all be ashamed of themselves for what they've done and most likely will continue to do as long as they remain in their respective Commissioner district offices, or the public tells them to back off and butt out.

Maybe it's time for all of them to go back to work in the real world and stop trying to play kingmaker and/or running a protection racket (Montrose style) or coverup operation for whomever or whatever reason(s) have driven them to try and maintain some course direction once Rash and Caddy are gone.

Regardless, the unheard-of political interference by the BOCC along with the violation of their own pledge to the Citizens of Montrose County to not involve themselves in political campaigns, is a definite sign that it's time for them to call it a day and leave. Rash and Caddy are lame ducks and Hansen hasn't got that much longer to go. Perhaps they can save us all of the trouble and resign now so that we can get to the bottom of what's going on within the corridors of Montrose County Administration.

*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.*

**ELECTION INTERFERENCE BY MONTROSE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS From previous pg**

RECEPTION#: 902803, Date: 11/7/2018 4:26 PM,  
 Pages: 1 of 1 , RES  
 Montrose County, CO. Tressa Guynes, Clerk and Recorder

**RESOLUTION NO. 67-2018****MONTROSE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS****Concerning****THE MONTROSE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
 MAINTAINING POLITICAL NEUTRALITY WITH BALLOT MEASURES AND  
 CAMPAIGNS**

**WHEREAS**, C.R.S. § 1-45-117(b)(III)(A) specifically grants a Board of County Commissioners authority to pass resolutions supporting campaigns or ballot measures; and,

**WHEREAS**, a number of entities have approached the Montrose County Board of County Commissioners ("Board") to support, by resolution, ballot measures and campaigns; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Board feels strongly that each and every voter in Montrose County should vote according to their own conscience and positions, and without influence from the Board as the governing body for Montrose County; and,

**WHEREAS**, by supporting ballot measures and campaigns, a local government may lose public trust and confidence while also creating unnecessary conflict within a community; and,

**WHEREAS**, in order to preserve public trust and confidence, and promote principles of fairness and impartiality, the Board wishes to remain politically neutral and refrain from supporting ballot measures and campaigns of any sort.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Board of County Commissioners of Montrose County Colorado will refrain from supporting, by resolution, any ballot measure or campaign in order to maintain political neutrality.

This Resolution may be extended, revised, amended or revoked by subsequent resolution by majority vote of the Montrose County Board of County Commissioners.

**ADOPTED AND EFFECTIVE** this 7<sup>th</sup> day of November 2018.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS,

Keith Caddy  
 Keith Caddy, Chairman

Roger Rash  
 Roger Rash, Vice-Chairman

Sue Hansen  
 Sue Hansen, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Tressa Guynes  
 Clerk/Deputy Clerk to the Board

Date 11-7-18





# MONTROSE COUNTY DEMOCRATS AWARD SCHOLARSHIPS



*The Montrose County Democratic Party, in Collaboration with the Gayle Clarke Scholarship, is thrilled to announce our two 2024 second place winners, each received \$1000. Mildred Portillo who will be attending CSU Pueblo in the fall majoring in Criminology and Carter Hughes who will be attending UC Denver in the fall, majoring in Film and Television.*

*Pictured Kevin Kuns Chair Montrose County Democratic Party, Cathy Williams daughter of Gayle Clarke, Mildred Portillo, Carter Hughes, and his parents Stephanie and Brent Hughes. Courtesy photos*







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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## US 550 PACO - BILLY WILDLIFE & SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

### Special to the Mirror

REGIONAL-For the week of July 1, there will be various daytime single lane and shoulder closures on US 550 July 1-3. Crews will not be working July 4-5 for the Independence Day holiday.

Travelers can continue to see 24/7 alternating one way lanes monitored by temporary light signals. Motorists can continue to expect 15 minute delays south of CR 2 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. during working hours.

Trucks carrying aggregate will be frequently entering/exiting the highway and utilizing the single lane closure, travelers are urged to use caution and watch for workers and heavy equipment.

Motorists are urged to plan ahead as additional delays may also occur north of

this project zone at an additional safety improvements project located on US 550 between Otter Road and the Montrose-Ouray county line. Crews will not be working July 4-5 for the Independence Day holiday. Work in this area will continue into early winter.

### Travel Impacts

Motorists and area residents can expect these general impacts for the duration of the project:

Crews will not be working July 4-5 for the Independence Day holiday.

24/7 alternating single lane closure at MP 114 to 115

11 ft lane restrictions

30 mph work zone

Working daytime hours Monday to Friday



CDOT Courtesy photo.

Single lane closures and shoulder closures will take place within the work zone  
Reduced speeds in the work zone  
Plan ahead and expect 15-minute delays  
Construction schedules are weather dependent

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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## WEST NILE VIRUS DISEASE FACTS AND PREVENTION MEASURES

### Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— Montrose County Public Health is encouraging the public to take precautions to prevent West Nile virus during active mosquito months. In 2023, there were two reported human cases of West Nile virus in Montrose County and 634 in the state. Currently, there are no confirmed cases of West Nile virus in Montrose County.

West Nile is a virus transmitted to humans by the bite of a female mosquito seeking a meal to nourish her eggs. It has been common in Africa, west Asia and the Middle East for decades. It first appeared in New York in 1999 and traveled westward across the U.S. It has been in Colorado since 2002 where mosquito season starts in the late spring and ends in mid-September.

"I appreciate the public's diligence in prevention efforts last year. Two cases in 2023 was an improvement from 38 cases in 2022, but one case is one too many," said Montrose County Community and Public Health Manager Jim Austin. "West Nile virus has potential to become Neuroinvasive West Nile virus, which can cause hospitalization or even death. Proper prevention is quick and easy, and can limit and possibly prevent exposure to mosquito-transmitted viruses such as West Nile."

You are most at risk for West Nile virus from June through early September when mosquitoes are most active. However, Colorado often continues to see West Nile virus reports through the month of October, until cooler temperatures cause mosquitoes to go dormant until spring. Anyone living in an area where West Nile virus is present in mosquitoes can get infected. The risk of infection is highest for people who spend time outdoors, because of greater exposure to mosquitoes.

The time between when a person is bitten by an infected mosquito to when they experience symptoms is usually two to six days, but can be up to 14 days. Most people

who are infected with West Nile virus will not have any symptoms. About one in every five people infected with West Nile virus will develop an illness that may include headache, muscle aches, joint pain, rash, or gastrointestinal symptoms. Older adults and those who are immunocompromised are at increased risk of severe illness.

Talk with a health care provider if you experience new or worsening symptoms of illness, including severe headaches or confusion.

There is no treatment for West Nile virus, but mild illness usually improves on its own. Prevention is key, especially for people at higher risk. Rest, fluids, and over-the-counter pain medications may relieve some symptoms. Learn more about West Nile Virus on [CDPHE's webpage](#).

Montrose County Public Health would like to remind residents to follow these personal protection measures:

- Avoid mosquitoes by staying indoors at dawn and dusk when bugs are most active.
- Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants while outdoors.
- Apply insect repellent that contains DEET. Follow directions carefully.
- Install or repair window and door screens to keep mosquitoes out.
- Have your horses vaccinated against West Nile Virus.

Mosquitoes lay up to 250 eggs at a time in still water, which hatch in seven to 10 days. The following tips help reduce the

### Protect yourself from West Nile virus!



- number of breeding mosquitoes and reduce the need to use chemical pesticides:
- Remove standing water in ponds, ditches, clogged rain gutters, flowerpots, plant saucers, puddles, buckets and cans.
  - Check for items that might hold water including wheelbarrows, tires, hubcaps, toys, garden equipment, pool covers, tarps, plastic sheeting, pipes, drains, flat roofs, boats, canoes and trash. Drill drainage holes in tire swings.
  - Completely change water in birdbaths and wading pools weekly.
  - Stock ponds and fountains with fish that eat mosquito larvae.
  - Use mosquito "dunks" in small ponds. Dunks are natural bacteria that kill mosquito larvae but are harmless to other animals, and are available at local hardware or home and garden stores.
- Montrose County Public Health has a limited supply of mosquito dunks available free of charge for residents.
- If you have questions about West Nile Virus or mosquito dunks please contact us at [970-252-5011](tel:970-252-5011).



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## REGIONALNEWS BRIEFS

# RESTORE THE BALANCE ANNOUNCES ANNUAL MEETING, HONORS DELTA CLERK AND RECORDER

*Special to the Mirror*

DELTA—A Delta nonprofit combating political extremism will host its annual meeting next month to share its vision of civil discourse and election integrity.

Restore the Balance – Delta County, a non-partisan organization building “an alternative to political extremism,” will host its annual meeting on **Tuesday, July 16, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., at the Orchard City Town Hall.**

“Protecting American democracy begins in our local community,” said Aaron Clay, chairman of RTB-Delta County. “Our annual meeting is an excellent opportunity to connect with neighbors and friends concerned about protecting our fragile republic.”

RTB-Delta County board members will discuss their efforts to promote civil debate and good-faith dialogue in local government. The event will also provide refreshments, door prizes, and the group’s

famous “Country Before Party” yard signs. During the event, the organization will honor Teri Stephenson, Delta County’s clerk and recorder, and her team at the Delta County Elections Office. RTB-Delta will present Stephenson with the inaugural “Champion of Democracy Award,” recognizing her and her team’s efforts to secure Delta County’s elections.

“Teri and her team have done a wonderful job making sure every vote counts in Delta County,” said Clay. “And we want to thank them for their hard work and dedication.”

Stephenson and her team will also briefly present information about the upcoming general election in November and how the elections office maintains election integrity.

“Our primary objective is to educate,” said Clay. Every election, the RTB-Delta County surveys candidates seeking office in school board, municipal, and county

elections. The questionnaire encourages candidates to share their qualifications for office, knowledge of local issues, and ability to deliberate in a nonpartisan manner.

“We are unaffiliated, Republicans, Democrats, libertarians, independents—Delta County has them all,” said Clay. “Our questionnaires challenge candidates to express how they plan to find consensus amongst competing and diverse viewpoints.”

A committee then tallies and scores the candidate questionnaires based on the organization’s seven guiding principles, which promote bipartisan decision-making and good-faith discourse and reject political violence and extremism.

More information about the event and organization is available on the RTB-Delta County website ([www.rtbdelta.org](http://www.rtbdelta.org)) or the organization’s Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61555682405478>).

## CELEBRATE THE FIRST OFFICIAL “7 BREW DAY” ON JULY 7

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-7 Brew Coffee is excited to celebrate the first official “7 Brew Day” on July 7. As part of the celebration, 7 Brew will be donating \$25,000 to Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals (CMNH) to officially announce an ongoing partnership between the two organizations.

7 Brew, the drive-thru coffee company with over 20,000 drink combinations known for cultivating kindness, has more than 200 stands nationwide and was recently named the fastest-growing fast-casual restaurant chain in the country in 2023.

For 7 Brew Day, all 7 Brew stands nationwide will offer a buy one, get one free drink promotion from 7 to 8 p.m. on July 7. Striving to be a good community partner, 7 Brew teams around the country dropped off drinks at their local Children’s Miracle Network hospitals to thank the teams for all the work they do.





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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### REPUBLICAN WOMEN AWARD \$3000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS



**Ashlee Petranovich, one of two Montrose Republican Women (MRW) scholarship winners, poses with Colorado District 58 Representative Marc Catlin; MRW 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President (VP) Cherie Whiteford; 1<sup>st</sup> VP Marti Barnes; Ashlee; MRW Chaplin Roena Frank; and MRW President Kerri Hays-Catlin. Courtesy photo.**



**Republican Women's scholarship recipient, Ashlee Petranovich, celebrates with her parents, Chad and Terri. Courtesy photo**

Congratulations Ashlee," Hays-Catlin said.

Ashlee, daughter of Terri and Chad Petranovich, is 2024 graduate of Montrose

High School where she carried a 4.18 grade average for her entire tenure. Her class load was no pushover and included subjects like world history, chemistry, college algebra, and psychology. Out of all her studies, psychology interested her the most and she will major in the subject at Colorado Mesa University. Her future plans include working as a Clinical Psychologist.

be an exceptional adult leading the way," Manuel added. During her busy four-year high school life, Ashlee also managed to hold part-time jobs in childcare, house sitting, and was employed by Crumbl Cookies. And she is registered to vote as a Republican.

To qualify for a Republican women's scholarship, candidates must pick an essay topic based on a section of the Constitution. Ashlee's choice is Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18. It is titled The Necessary and Proper Clause.

In her brief discussion, she explained that the Clause allows government to provide support for people through its laws and policies. The clause allows citizens to have a voice in policy and law.

"The current event that supports my position is the Colorado Opioid Abatement Council Conference," Ms. Petranovich said. "It focused on distributing opioid settlement funds for substance use disorder, treatment and education."

She explained further, "The Necessary and Proper Clause lays the foundation for the government to support its people. The presence of government officials and recovering addicts at the conference solidified (for me) the relationship between the government and the people."

(Next month Keiran Bray.)

By Michael A. Cox

MONTROSE-The salty economy notwithstanding, The Montrose Republican Women continue their 13-year long tradition of rewarding two Montrose area high school grads with scholarship funds for their college plans. On June 21 Ashlee Petranovich received a check for \$1500 during a luncheon ceremony, while Keiran Bray will receive her stipend in a like event on July 26. (Photos and a news story will follow that presentation).

The meeting room at the Hampton Inn was packed to witness Ms. Petranovich receive her check and deliver her brief discourse on a section of the U.S. Constitution that is important to her. Kerri Hays-Catlin, President of the Montrose Republican Women, told the gathering that educating our young Republican women is a main focus of the chapter. "The future is important to us and they are our future.

Apart from her impressive scholar's record in high school, Ashlee proved herself to be an effective student leader. Renae Manuel, who is in charge of Careers & Technology as well as Student Leadership at Montrose High School, said, "Over the past four years I have had the privilege of witnessing Ashlee's growth as a young leader"

"I saw students wanting to work with her. She interacts with all of her peers. She is right there all the time and she is going to



## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

# REGISTRATION OPENING JULY 1 FOR DELTA HEALTH BLOOD DRAWS AND HEALTH FAIR

*Special to the Mirror*

DELTA- Registration will open July 1st at 9:00 am for the Delta Health Blood Draws and Health Fair happening on August 20 - August 23 by going online to [deltahealth-co.org/health-fair/](https://deltahealth-co.org/health-fair/). Appointments are required, but walk-ins are welcome during the Health Fair on Friday, August 23. This year the blood draws are being held in three locations at Cedaredge, Hotchkiss, and Delta.

- **August 20th from 6:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at the Cedaredge Community Center**  
140 NW 2nd Street, Cedaredge, CO 81413  
- **August 21st from 6:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at Heritage Hall in Hotchkiss**  
403 S. 4th Street, Hotchkiss, CO 81419  
- **August 22nd and 23rd from 6:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at the Bill Heddles Recreation Center in Delta** 531 Palmer Street, Delta, Colorado 81416

The Health Fair with local vendors and blood draws is happening on Friday, August 23 from 6:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at the Bill Heddles Recreation Center located at 531 Palmer Street in Delta, Colorado.

Cash, checks and credit cards are accepted; Delta Health will not be able to bill insurance companies. Fasting for 12 hours is required for all health screens requiring blood draws. Participants are encouraged to drink plenty of water, one cup of black coffee is permitted, and medications can be taken as usual.

Many participants will opt-in for their



*Delta Health courtesy photo.*

results to be sent to the Quality Health Network (QHN) where their Primary Care Provider will have access to the results and be able to review them with their providers at their next appointment.

Delta Health is excited to host this annual health event in multiple locations for the community. It is a chance for community members to receive comprehensive lab work at a potentially lower cost.

"We are excited to again invite the community to our annual blood draws and health fair," said Jacqueline Davis, Direc-

tor of Marketing and Communications for Delta Health.

"Getting an annual blood draw is important because it helps catch any health problems early at a discounted price. It's also a simple way to check in on how your body is doing each year."

For more information on this year's blood draws and health fair, visit [deltahealth-co.org/health-fair/](https://deltahealth-co.org/health-fair/).

"This event is about helping our community stay healthy and learning how to be proactive with our health," said Davis.



# 8500

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# 2024 PRIMARY ELECTION RECAP

By Gunnison Clamp

MONTROSE-Tuesday night saw the final primary elections before the general election in November. Four key contests were on Montrose County ballots, all of them on the Republican party ballot.

The GOP primary involved a large playing field to decide who will represent Colorado District 3 in the 119th United States Congress, and two-man races for who will take Marc Catlin's seat in the Colorado State House's 58th district and two of the three Montrose County Commissioner seats.

In the House of Representatives race, Grand Junction-based attorney and first-time political candidate Jeff Hurd defeated five other opponents to gain the Republican nomination. The race was tied with the 4th District for the largest US House race in the state. Second place to Hurd was Ron Hanks, former State Representative. Hanks' last contest was a Senate primary in 2022, losing to Joe O'Dea. He served in the State House District 60 seat from 2021 to 2023.

Mr. Hurd won 36,288 to 25,016 votes over Hanks. All four of the other opponents in the race racked up at least 5,264 votes each.

Hurd will face off with Adam Frisch in the general election. Frisch is running a second time as the Democratic nominee for CD3, narrowly losing to Lauren Boebert in 2022, who won her District 4 primary on Tuesday. She moved to the district after barely winning re-election in 2022's closest congressional matchup, by 546 of the 327,285 votes cast in CD3.

Another key race was the contest to replace Marc Catlin's District 58 House seat as he tries for Colorado's 5th Senate District seat in November. Catlin ran unopposed in his Senate primary and will face Cole Buerger.

Ranchers J. Mark Roeber and Larry Don Suckla faced an intensely close race for GOP stronghold District 58, with Roeber unofficially beating Suckla narrowly by 41 votes. The results are not final, as a number of ballots must still go through Colorado's ballot curing process, which gives voters an opportunity to correct errors

such as forgetting to sign the ballot envelope.

The other caveat is that if those cured ballots narrow the race to less than 0.5% between them, a mandatory recount kicks in. Following the curing and possible recount process, the winning Republican candidate will go on to face Democrat Kathleen Curry.

The two County Commissioner seats up for election in District 1 and District 3

went to Scott Mijares and Rick Dunlap, respectively.

Mijares, a Montrose businessman, beat Lou Stark by 573 votes. In a more uneven race, former Sheriff Dunlap defeated Scott Riba 4,707 votes to 3,046.

Mr. Mijares responded to a *Montrose Mirror* request for comment about his win with the following statement.

"I would like to congratulate all of the candidates for their efforts in their pursuit of public service, especially my opponent Lou Stark. He and his team ran a formidable campaign. Unfortunately there could only be one winner. The voters have spoken and I am humbled to have emerged as their choice to represent them on our Board of Commissioners. I am looking forward to developing important relationships with constituents and community leaders, county department heads, and Commissioner Hansen over the next five months while we await the results of the November election. I want to thank the citizens of Montrose County for their vote of confidence in me and I am eager to serve this county

with honor and integrity."

The state had a substantially low voter turnout of 25.72 percent, with Montrose County turning out at 34.69 percent, with 10,400 ballots cast.

*\*All election data is current as of 6/30/2024, per the Colorado Secretary of State website.*

Full results for this election can be found at <https://results.enr.clarityelections.com/CO/121727/web.317647/#/summary>

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## WEEKLY CARTOON

### SOUR GRAPES

by Tim Jones



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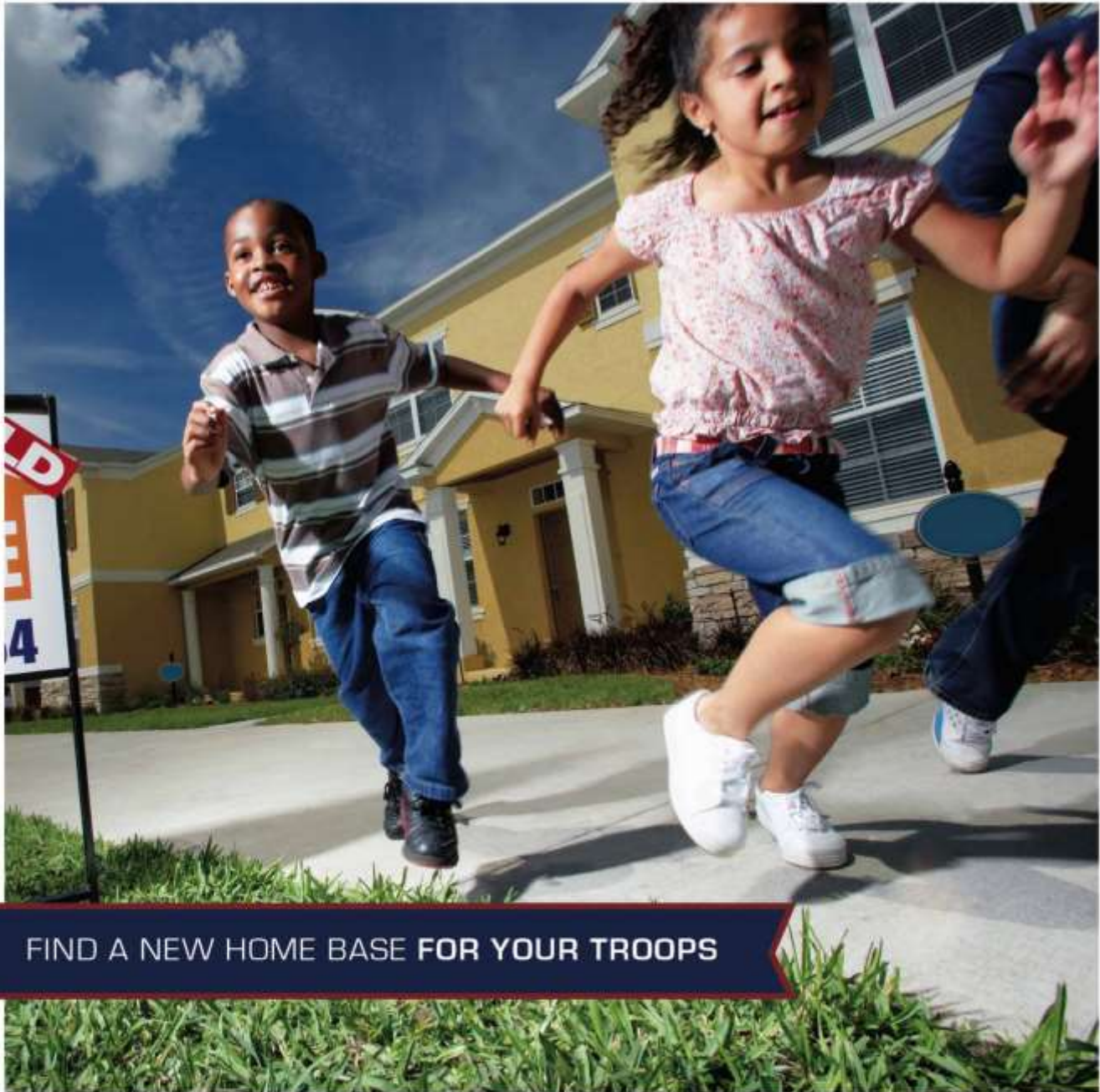


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# MONTROSE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM NOW OPEN



The non-profit Montrose Children's Museum (221 Colorado Ave. Suite A) celebrated its grand opening on Saturday, June 29. Photos by Harry Switzer.







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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### ALPINE BANK CELEBRATES THE LIFE OF LONGTIME BOARD MEMBER ROD SLIFER

*Special to the Mirror*

GLENWOOD SPRINGS— It's hard to fully capture the impact Rod Slifer had on the Vail Valley during his lifetime.

Some may call him a legend, others a visionary, but here at Alpine Bank we were lucky enough to call him our friend.

As a founding board member, Slifer's guiding leadership and his drive to put community first will forever be part of Alpine Bank's culture.

"Rod was one of those rare natural leaders," said Alpine Bank Chairman & Founder J. Robert "Bob" Young. "He never wavered because he had a clear vision that wasn't based off what he thought was best, but what would serve his community. His guidance was very formative and inspiring in those early years of the bank."

Slifer served on the Alpine Bank Board of Directors for 51 years before his passing in February of 2024.

A memorial service was held in his honor on Thursday, June 27 at the Gerald R. Ford Amphitheater. Hundreds gathered to pay tribute to a man who had a heart for service.

"To be a great leader you have to care about people," said Alpine Bank President Glen Jammarron. "Rod really excelled at making you the best version of yourself. He always wanted to lift people up, and

that perspective to empower others is what made Rod unique."

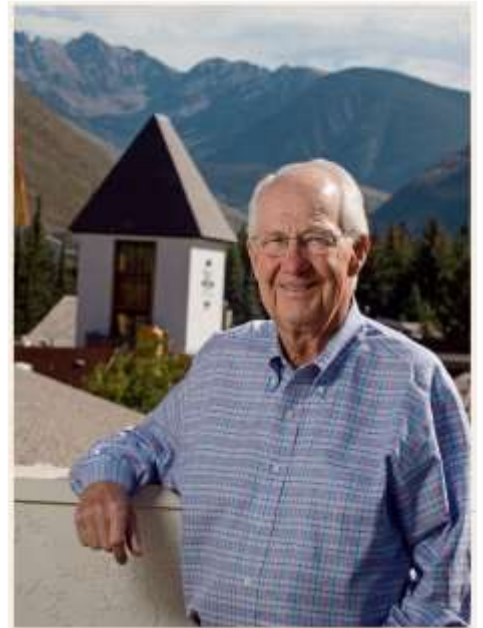
Slifer is best known as the principal owner of Slifer, Smith & Frampton Real Estate and for his 11 years as mayor of Vail. But his real legacy is one of determination and persistence.

He was born and raised in Brighton, an agricultural stronghold on Colorado's eastern plains. His journey took him to CU Boulder where he studied business. And where years later, he would be a founder of the University of Colorado Real Estate Center and Real Estate Foundation.

After a stint in the Navy, Slifer moved to Aspen where he taught skiing, waited tables at fellow Alpine Bank board member Peter Guy's Steak Pit and painted houses in the summer. In 1962, he headed to up-and-coming Vail to do more of the same, except that in addition to ski bumming, he also got his real estate license. That fortuitous credential would set his legacy in motion.

When Alpine Bank founders Bill Vollbracht and Young were starting the bank, they immediately set about recruiting Slifer to serve on the board. Slifer went on to serve as a director of Alpine Bank since 1973 and as a director of Alpine Banks of Colorado since 1980.

He was a member of the Executive Com-



mittee and the Compensation Committee. During Alpine Bank's 50th anniversary in 2023, Slifer was asked which of the bank's core values most resonated with him, naturally he remarked "community."

"I think the number one factor in Alpine Bank's success is that we're a community bank," explained Slifer. "Even going into larger cities, we're retaining the spirit of local community banking, and that we're here to serve people."

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## MONTROSE REGIONAL CRIME STOPPERS



## COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

### FRANCES "FRAN" (WILLIAMS) FRIGETTO

***June 6, 1935 – June 24, 2024***

Born June 6, 1935 in Montrose, Co, and passed away peacefully in her home surrounded by her loved ones on June 24, 2024. She is preceded in death by parents Frank Williams and Angelina DeJulio Williams, sister Marie Warner, and brother Frank Jr. along with her loving husband of 51 years, Pete Frigetto and recent husband of 6 years, Paul Redig. Fran is survived by her daughter Pam (Rick) Rampi of Lakewood, son Frank (Tracy) Frigetto of Grand Junction, and daughter Reenie (Bruce) Veatch of Fruita. She is also survived by her ten grandchildren; Ava (Jorge) Aquirre, Pete (Kim) Frigetto, Rachel Zlomke, Rebecca (Troy) Thye, Patrick (Kendra) Rampi, Trae Frigetto, Michael Rampi, Jenna Rampi (Brad Parsons), Kylan (Halee) Frigetto, and Kason Frigetto; along with 12 precious great-grandchildren: Joseph, Jason, Katelyn, Jordan, Victoria, Colton, Mila, Ryan, Rylee, Sophia, Harper, and Raegan. Survivors also include Dawn Girard, Ed and Richard Warner of Grand Junction and several family members in Montrose. Fran was a planner, so much so, that she wrote her own obituary, with a few modifications.

"Growing up in Montrose, my dad was a sheepman and I loved being with my dad. I would go along with him often to bring supplies to the sheep-camps where his sheepherders were. He passed away in 1977, my hero and I miss him so much. He had a deep faith in God. In 1964, my mother, Angelina, died. I still miss her and her warm hugs so much. I always heard about what a caring and nice person she was. She was a perfectionist, an awesome housekeeper. Very religious.

"I attended elementary, middle, and high school in Montrose, CO. I was an academic student in high school, a member of The NHS, a participant in many school activities, and graduated in 1953. I met the love of my life, Pete, in 1949 and married in April of 1955 after Pete, who was stationed overseas, was honorably discharged from the US Army. After graduating from high school, I went to work as a legal secretary for the firm of Strang, Loesch & Kreidler. Pete and I got married in Montrose and moved to Grand Junction. I then worked at the Atomic Energy Compound in the legal department as a secretary. In 1956, Pam, our first daughter, was born. Then in 1957, Frank was born. In 1957, my father

Frank, Pete and I opened a restaurant and bar 'Frank's Lounge', became 'Lori-Li Lounge'. We were in this business for seven years. In 1962, Reenie was born. In 1964, we opened another restaurant and bar business in Montrose, which we owned and operated until 1971, at which time we sold the business. I always wanted to be a nurse, and during this time, I was accepted into the R.N. nursing program at Mesa College. I was on the Dean's Scholastic Honor list every quarter, received several scholarships, and graduated in 1970. In 1970, I started working at St. Mary's Hospital and worked there 40 years. During my years there, I worked in many different areas, ICU, CCU, ER, Medical-surgical unit, orthopedic unit and PACU. I also set up the original IV Team in the late 1970's.

"My beloved husband, Pete, who I will forever love passed away in 2006. We had been married for 51 years. He was my pillar of strength, and at times, I still cry over his loss. I never had to worry about anything that needed to be fixed- he could do it all. My children couldn't have been blessed with a more wonderful father; he was so good to his children.

"I grew up loving and caring about family and friends, and still do. As a young person, I enjoyed roller skating, dancing, bowling, going to rodeos and driving stock cars. As I got older, I still enjoyed bowling and got really interested in sewing and crafts. I enjoyed watching my children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren playing sports and traveling to their tournaments. Now, I enjoy going for walks, going out to eat, going to the movies, coffee time with friends, time with my family and GAMBLING! I was a member of Beta Sigma Phi Sorority for many years. I was a member of ASPAN in the past. My husband and I were members of a social group, The Committee, for many years. I was also a member and a participant of The Health Ministry at St. Joseph's Church. I then became a member of Ladies Knights of Columbus at Immaculate Heart of Mary.

"I love my family, especially my children, my grandchildren, and my great-grandchildren. I loved my wonderful sister and her family, and the wonderful friends I made over the years. I cherish the love and respect I have for my wonderful, deceased family and friends. I am so grateful and thank God so much for the

wonderful life he has blessed me with. I don't know of anyone who could have as much love and support as I do. Pam and Reenie call me every morning and every night, and Frank also called me

often, all checking to see if I'm okay or need anything. I appreciate it when my grandchildren call me- Rachel and Rebecca always give me a call. Pete and I were so blessed with raising such a wonderful family. I often think about how much I will miss all my loved ones when I leave. I know when I do have to leave, I will get to be with my beloved husband, my wonderful parents, my sister, and brother, and all my relatives and friends that have already left this world. When I am gone, I want all my loved ones who are left behind to know that I will be in a wonderful place, and they need to go on with their lives and be happy. They couldn't have done more for me; they're the best. We will all see each other again someday in heaven. I love my family- thank you all for being so good to me."

Frances had a second chance with love, she remarried Paul in 2016 who passed away in 2022. She was able to explore new adventures such as road trips, camping, fishing, and even hiking. Her granddaughter Rachel moved in with her after his passing to care for her. She still enjoyed going out to eat and playing Ska-Vitch almost every day and eating one of those things (drumsticks). She really enjoyed watching Family Feud, especially Steve Harvey waving at her. She grew extremely close to her kids in the last few years with them all coming by and calling daily. She is going to be greatly missed but she has a great family to carry out her legacy.

A special thank you to Susan and the rest of the Hope West team! In lieu of flowers, in Fran's honor, donations may be made to Hope West; 3090 North 12th Street, Grand Junction, CO 81506.



## COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

### WALTER FRANKLIN KALAR

***Nov. 8, 1935 – June 24, 2024***

WALTER KALAR of Olathe passed away in Delta, Colorado at 88 years old on the 23rd of June 2024. Walter was born on November 8th, 1935, in Lake City, Colorado to Walter Howard Kalar and Edith Ester Vaughn. He attended high school in Olathe where he played football, eventually joining the Army where he achieved sharpshooter status. He was stationed in Germany with Elvis and loved to share stories about all the jokes that they played on each other. In his younger days he was a cowboy, a roughneck, worked construction and had various jobs throughout the West. He enjoyed his time working with

Michael Hert, his best friend for over 35 years. Walter was an avid hunter, fisherman, a lover of the great outdoors, golf and a big fan of the Broncos, Rockies and Avalanche. He was a man with a great sense of humor, a wonderful storyteller and a handyman who could fix anything. His first marriage to Bonnie June Luke brought two children, Luke Kalar and Belinda Kalar-Minerich. He was preceded in death by his Father, Mother, his brother Lawrence Kalar, sisters Barbara Nichols and Martha Nash, his son Luke Kalar and his granddaughter Jessica Henry. He is survived by his 95-year-old sister Flora

Sturgeon, his daughter Belinda Kalar Minerich, his granddaughters Elizabeth Kurlykova and Sarah Kalar, his great grandchildren Alyona Kurlykova and Tikhon Kurlykova, as well as many nieces and nephews and his special family, Michael and Mary Hert, grandson Brandon Hert and his wife Kimmy Hert and grandchildren Benjamin Hert, Travis Hert and Grayce Hert. He was loved by many and will remain in their hearts for years to come.



### THOMAS EVAN HINKLE

**April 19, 1960- June 21, 2024**



THOMAS EVAN HINKLE was born April 19,

1960, and died June 21, 2024.

He is survived by his wife Kris Ann Hinkle, son Derek and wife Jennifer Hinkle along with their children, Jayden, Evan and Dean Hinkle, daughters Ashley (Hinkle) and husband Joe Vukusich along with their children Sadie, Shaylee and Kinley Vukusich, and Abbey (Ingalls) and husband Curtis Robertson and their kids Kayleigh, Kooper, Kourtney, and Kennedy Robertson. Tom was preceded in death by his son Andrew.

Tom was a firefighter while serving in the United States Air Force and with the Phoenix, AZ Fire Department.

He and Kris Ann were married in 1991. After retirement from the department, they moved to Montrose, CO. where he helped Kris start Classy Closet, and Tom worked as a driver for All Points Transit for several years. He was always proud of the

fact that his career revolved around his passion for helping people. He was also so proud of his kids, grandkids – and Kris Ann.

Tom's smile, infectious laugh, his wonderful sense of humor, and the connections he made with lifelong friends and co-workers, will be missed.

Tom met the Lord in a hotel room in Texas during basic training for the Air Force and continued that walk with Him until his passing last week.

There will be a Come and Go Celebration of Life on Wednesday, June 26<sup>th</sup> from 4-6 pm at the Hinkle home located at 1113 Centennial Dr., Montrose, CO 81401.

If you are interested in making a donation or memorial – he would have appreciated it go to any children's burn unit of your choice.



ISSUE 475 July 1, 2024

## ART &amp; SOL

## CALLING FOR NURSES

By Bob Cox

MONTROSE-The lure of riches in the form of gold and silver started a flood of prospectors into the Rocky Mountains. By 1860 there were more than 34,000 documented citizens. Less than 1,600 of them were women and, at that time, Article 1, Section 2 of the Constitution exempted "non taxed Indians." Women continued to be significantly outnumbered during the early days of Colorado. Colorado gained status as a territory in 1861.

Although hindered by the Civil War, Colorado enumerated 194,000 people by the time it attained statehood in 1876, men still outnumbered women by about two to one, but by all accounts, women in general made life a little easier for everyone. One of the most significant groups of those women were those trained as nurses. Many of the mining communities were on the receiving end of the good provided by nurses.

One group of nurses stands out in Colorado's medical care history. The Sisters of Mercy not only served as nurses, they often actually implemented and help fund the building of several hospitals. In 1882 they were responsible for the building and operation of Durango's first hospital. The resulting Mercy Hospital building was considered to be one of the most modern and functional pieces of architecture in Durango. The hospital literally laid the groundwork for a long-lasting commitment on the part of the citizens of the Durango area. To this day the ultra-modern hospi-

tal still holds the Mercy name.

The American Catholic Historical Society, in its archival records, gives the following account of the Sisters in Ouray:

*In 1887, the Sisters were invited to open a hospital at Ouray, Colorado.*

*Ground was purchased and a two-story white stone building*

*was erected at a cost of \$3,500. To raise enough money to liquidate the debt, the Sisters collected at the mines, held fairs, and gave entertainments. In 1889, Mr. Thomas Walsh, owner of the Camp Bird Mine at Ouray, agreed to pay \$4,000.00 for the mortgage on the hospital, on condition that the sisters would remain permanently in Ouray. During the World War the mines closed and the hospital was left without financial support. The Sisters with the consent of Mr. Walsh sold the hospital to Dr. C. V. Bates for the sum of \$5,666.67, a financial loss of over \$8,000. The Sisters returned to the Mother House in Denver.*

The Sisters announced in mid-September of 1918 that the St. Joseph's Hospital would be closing on October 1st. Dr. Bates



**The Sisters of Mercy Hospital in Durango is the forerunner of the present Mercy Medical Center. The building was described as being among the most modern and functional pieces of architecture in Durango. Photo from the Sisters of Mercy Archives.**

almost immediately took charge of the hospital and, as the records reflect, eventually purchased it. Bates arranged for some increased fees from the local mines and the hospital continued to operate for many years as the Bates Hospital. The building stands today and houses the Ouray History Museum.

According to the same archives, the Sisters were invited to open a hospital in Cripple Creek. Cripple Creek had become known as the "Great Gold Camp." The Sisters answered the call and Mother Baptist and two other Sisters opened a hospital on Main Street, which is now called Bennett Avenue. When the big Cripple Creek fire destroyed the building, efforts to rebuild were started immediately. The

Continued next pg

## CALLING FOR NURSES From previous pg

The result being the building of a huge three and one-half story brick building, which was completed and blessed on November 29, 1898. St. Nicholas Hospital was responsible for the treatment of untold numbers of miners and their families for many years. One little guy named Robert Cox was born there in 1949. (Had to throw that in.) The building is now a hotel.

The support of mining and the burgeoning agricultural endeavors were a challenge to the health of those who ventured into the state. Commenting on the need for health care in 1882, Bishop Joseph Machebeuf described the problem in an often-quoted letter. He wrote, "Frequently, those who came in quest of gold found disease and death."

While the Sisters of Mercy were doing their work throughout Colorado, another nurse, not associated with the Sisters, was

busy making a huge commitment to the populace in and around Montrose.

Anna Fender was, by all accounts, an amazing person. She first came to Colorado from Kansas and started helping in the treatment of victims of the typhoid epidemic and many other endeavors. Her story is best told in a column written by Marylyn Cox in the *Montrose Daily Press* on February 1, 2017. The column was dedicated to the many health givers in Montrose history. This is a short quip as it related to Anna Fender:

*Nurse Anna Fender will always be remembered as the greatest humanitarian of her time. In 1907, Anna Hodges of Kansas was engaged to Allen Fender who was assisting Doc Lockwood with the typhoid epidemic in Olathe. She agreed to board the train to journey to Olathe in order to help Lockwood.*

The column goes on to explain a unique on-the-train wedding and how she helped Lockwood get through the epidemic and went on to help treat patients at the construction site of the Gunnison Tunnel. The ending paragraphs epitomize the real story of Fender's dedication:

*...Around 1914 Anna and Allen Fender bought the former Gilbert mansion at South Cascade Avenue and South Second Street and converted it to a hospital. During the flue epidemic of 1918, they both worked endlessly to save the many who were stricken, opening the houses on either side as annexes. Sadly, Anna could not save her own husband who died of the dreaded disease.*

Anna Fender's St. Lukes hospital operated until 1948, when the current Montrose Memorial Hospital was coming to fruition.



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

**Office Hours:** By appointment

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

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

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

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

**Senior Pastor:**

Pastor Brandon Mathis

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

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

**Demographics:** Multi-generational

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

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

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

## CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

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

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

**Pastor:** Tim Onnen

**Worship:** Sundays at 9 AM

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

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

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

## FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

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

**Pastor:** Buddy Cook

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

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

*disciples in Montrose Colorado and around  
 the world.*

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

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MONTROSE

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

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

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jesse G. Mabanglo

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

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

# MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY From previous pg

## HILLCREST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**Denomination affiliation:** United Church of Christ

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

**Office hours:** By appointment

**Contact information:**

Phone number: (970) 249-9047

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

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

**Current Pastor:** Rev. Wendy Kidd

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

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

on life's journey.

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

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

## MONTROSE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**Denomination Affiliation:** United Methodist

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

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

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

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

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

**Worship service times:**

8:30 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual

9:45 a.m. Christian Education & Fellowship

11 a.m. Sanctuary

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

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

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

## ROSEMONT BAPTIST CHURCH

**Affiliation:** Southern Baptist

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

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

**Contact information:**

Phone: 970.249.4887

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

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

**Senior Pastor:** Rolland Kenneson

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

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

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

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

matter what stage of life they are in.

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

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

## SPIRITUAL AWARENESS CENTER

**Denomination affiliation:** Independent Interfaith

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

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

**Office** – 970-252-0908

**Contact information:**

Rev. Dr. Arlyn Macdonald,

970-252-0908,

[arlyn@spiritaware.org](mailto:arlyn@spiritaware.org),

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

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

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

## ST. STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

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

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

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

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

**Rev. Dec.** Garrett Agajanian

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

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

**Sunday:** Holy Communion 10 am.

Fellowship following service.

Children's nursery available (unstaffed).



# MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY From previous pg

## SUMMIT CHURCH OF MONTROSE:

### Denomination affiliation:

Southern Baptist

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

**Office hours:** Varies

### Contact information:

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

website:

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

**Senior Pastor:** Interim Pastor.

**Worship service times:** Sunday Worship is

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH OF MONTROSE

**Denomination Affiliation:** Independent Baptist

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

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

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

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

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

**Current Pastor:** Roland Kassales

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

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

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

### Church Directory

#### Mirror Editorial Staff

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

### information to the Montrose Mirror:

Name of church

Denomination affiliation

Address Office hours

Contact information (phone number, email address, website)

Name of current Senior Pastor

Worship service times

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

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

Do your church services include Sunday School and childcare?

## Local Immunization Providers



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

# 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

## FORTUNA TIERRA CLUB BIRTHS EXCEPTIONAL WOMEN OF OURAY COUNTY

### Special to the Mirror

RIDGWAY-The Exceptional Women of Ouray County, a new volunteer awards program, is being introduced this year by Fortuna Tierra Club. The program allows nonprofit organizations to recognize and thank their top volunteer.

"We want to recognize and celebrate the outstanding women volunteers who demonstrate leadership, commitment and service to nonprofit organizations operating in Ouray County," said program founder Eve Becker-Doyle. "It is our objective to celebrate their accomplishments and dedication and the hard work they do on our behalf."

The 2024 class of Exceptional Women of Ouray County will be announced in August

and celebrated at a reception October 5.

Nonprofits operating in Ouray County are eligible to participate. They can choose to do so annually or occasionally, and at no cost.

The only requirement is that the nonprofit agrees to email a reception invitation provided by Fortuna Tierra to its members and constituents and to a personal list provided by its honoree.

Sponsorship is affordable at only \$250. This relatively low investment provides access to various networking opportunities. Among them are two complementary tickets to the reception, where sponsor badges will be prominently identified. A sponsor table allows sponsors to leave business cards and brochures. Printed

materials will reference the sponsor's name, phone number, company and town.

For nine years now, Fortuna Tierra Club has produced the Log Hill Hustle. The 5k/10k race, which is expected to continue, is held the day before school starts. Race sponsors are typically corporate entities.

For Exceptional Women sponsorship Fortuna Tierra Club is targeting a different group -- individual consultants -- realtors, financial planners, accountants, insurance agents, attorneys -- so as not to conflict with race sponsors.

Although Log Hill Hustle sponsors may choose to become Exceptional Women of Ouray County sponsors, Fortuna Tierra is not soliciting them to do so.

## 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!



**Michelle Klippert | SRES**  
Broker/Owner

C: 970-275-3016 O: 970-249-7653  
michelleklippertrealtor@gmail.com



**The Real Estate Store**



**500 E. Main St. Montrose, CO 81401**



# COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

## TINA DESCHENIE READS FOR JULY BARDIC TRAILS



**Tina Deschenie. Courtesy photo.**

### *Special to the Mirror*

TELLURIDE- The Bardic Trails virtual poetry series July 2 at 7 pm will feature Tina Deschenie, a Diné poet, writer, administrator, and educator.

Tina, along with her husband Michael Thompson, appeared in a visual art/poetry Ah Haa show in Telluride earlier this year and in several recent collections out of Cortez edited by the late Sonja Horoshko --

*Wet: An Anthology of Water Poems and Prose From the High Desert and Mountains of the Four Corners Region* and *Fertile: An Anthology of Earth Poems and Prose From the High Desert and Mountains of the Four Corners Region*.

Tina earned a B.A. at Ft. Lewis College, a M.A. at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, and a Doctorate in Education at New Mexico State University focusing on Educational Leadership. She has served as Head Administrator at the Diné Charter School, Provost and Associate Dean at the Navajo Technical University, Editor of the *Tribal College Journal*, and freelance writer.

Her work has appeared in *Poetry* magazine and *The Diné Reader: An Anthology of Navajo Literature* edited by Esther Belin, et. al. (Univ. of Arizona Press, 2021) -- winner of the 2022 Before Columbus Foundation American Book Award. Her important essay, "Why We Are Sticking to Our Stories" appears in the online Tribal College Journal <https://tribalcollegejournal.org/sticking-stories/>

Her Diné clans are Ta'neeshahnii, Tó'a-

heedlíini, and Bit'ahnii.

She grew up in the Navajo Nation, and still resides there.

Bardic Trails has undergone some recent changes. Talking Gourds will be hosting the virtual zoom series on the first Tuesday of each month instead of Telluride Arts, although the Wilkinson Public Library will continue as collaboration partner. San Miguel County Poet Laureate Joanna Yonder will remain as co-host with Art Goodtimes. Joanna suggests "Wanting" as a prompt this one for anyone who desires one.

Instead of having to register with the library, participants are encouraged to email Goodtimes at [art@tellurideinstitute.org](mailto:art@tellurideinstitute.org) to get the zoom link each month, if they aren't already on our mailing list.

Bardic Trails is a project of the Telluride Institute's Talking Gourds Poetry Program in collaboration with the Wilkinson Public Library.

For more information, visit our website: <https://www.tellurideinstitute.org/western-slope-calendar>.



# 8500

*ANONYMOUS*

Download The APP. **P3TIPS** 

# / MONTROSE REGIONAL CRIME STOPPERS

see something, say something



**ITS TIME FOR EVERY MONTROSE COUNTY CITIZEN  
TO HAVE A SEAT AT THE TABLE**

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THE STATUS QUO OR  
SOMETHING NEW?

[murray4montrose.com](http://murray4montrose.com)



Your Independent choice

**Trisha Murray**

COUNTY COMMISSIONER

DISTRICT #3

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INCLUSIVITY- ACCOUNTABILITY- COLLABORATION

# SAVE THE DATE! LOCAL EVENTS CALENDAR

## ONGOING-

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## MONTHLY

**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 2**-The Bardic Trails virtual poetry series July 2 at 7 pm will feature Tina Deschenie, a Diné poet, writer, administrator, and educator. Bardic Trails is a project of the Telluride Institute's Talking Gourds Poetry Program in collaboration with the Wilkinson Public Library. For more information, visit our website: <https://www.tellurideinstitute.org/western-slope-calendar>.

**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](http://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](http://palisadepeachfest.com).



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John Fowle (970) 417-1666  
[www.SHAFFER.land](http://www.SHAFFER.land)

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## HIGH WATER



With water levels still quite high, the Uncompahgre is running fast and the Valley is lush and green. River photos by Harry Switzer,

Click on this ad to  
Download your **FREE** copy  
of **Beyond Rock** today!

This Xeriscape Guide is made  
just for Montrose, put together  
by Ginny Price, Retired  
Colorado Master Gardener/  
Small Acreage Assistant.

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