

Carson City author publishes memoir

Submitted

Thanks a Lot, Murphy!, a new book by Chuck Morris, has been released by RoseDog Books.

I am. You are. He is. And so is she. We are all Murphys. We should all change our middle name to Murphy because, although we don't want to admit it, we are our own worst enemies. Murphy is our alter-ego. No one wants to admit that we suffer minor or severe pain due to our own stupidity. It is foresight versus hindsight that always has the inside post-position. But this is natural. As human beings we are not programmed to do everything step-by-step and in the exact right order.

Both parts of this collection narrate the autobiography of Chuck Morris through his adventures which include a fascinating trip to Hong Kong, stewed chicken heads, anecdotes, and tasty recipes from Louisiana.

Born in 1938 and raised in Bradford, Pennsylvania, Chuck Morris eventually moved to New Orleans in 1960 where he worked for 15 years as a professional artist in the

French Quarter. Later, he worked for another 15 years in the civil service of Jefferson Parish Recreational Department.

In 1994, Morris journeyed to Northern California to enjoy gold prospecting and rock hounding. He has four sons, 12 grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

His other works include The Other Side of My Shadow, My M*A*S*H Trivia: Nine Steps Kick a Stone, and a poetry collection entitled You... and the Beautiful Moments.

Thanks a Lot, Murphy! is a 178-page paperback with a retail price of \$23. The ISBN is 978-1-6453-0436-4. It was published by RoseDog Books of Pittsburgh.

Morris was born in 1938 and raised in Bradford, Pennsylvania. After graduation and military service, he relocated to New Orleans, where he resided for 36 years and worked as a professional artist in the French Quarter.

Later, he was employed for 15 years in civil service. After retiring in 1995, he and his wife, Sue, moved to Carson City. Morris has four sons and 11 grandchildren.

Carson High teacher's new effort a risk in itself

By Jessica Garcia
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In his college years, Carson High School teacher Kyle Anderson quit playing football after four years even though he was eligible for one more year. Following an injury to his shoulder, his last season was 2003. Seventeen years later, he still plays that "what if...?" game, wondering what might have been.

It was one risk he refrained from taking but he still took something away from it.

"Taking risks is hard, and people aren't willing to take risks," he said.

Anderson has taught for 15 years, including 13 in Las Vegas and the past two in Carson City. He has specialized in social studies, economics, technology and physical education, and he says each of those subjects are his passions.

Now he's adding "published author" to his credentials with a new book that comes out Saturday, "To the Edge: Successes & Failures Through Risk-Taking," a new risk he's taking himself to demonstrate to others that a little bravery into the unknown is OK, even healthy, to be a sharper learner and a better person.

Anderson's book, released by Edumatch Publishing, examines his own life experiences, his decisions, ideas and ultimately how well they paid off, he said.

He recognizes his own failures from his educational experiences, incorporating pedagogical and technological skills he learned from life. He shared there will be one

chapter in the book about certain struggles not even his family will have been aware of prior to reading "To the Edge."

"You're going to take risks and you're going to fail, and it's OK," he said. "I know that's cliché, but it's your first attempt at learning."

He grew up in Alpena, Mich., and said one of his own biggest personal risks was moving to Las Vegas before coming to Carson City.

"It could have blown up in my face, but it worked out," he said. "And I have no intentions of going back to Michigan. But it will always be my home."

Anderson, indeed, found his challenges in Northern Nevada, especially when it came to getting any kind of teaching position. Nearly the only way he could find a position as an educator was to get into special education, but he needed the endorsements. But rather than going for the minimum requirements, he earned his master's degree at Western Governor's University.

"I like to joke that I'm one of the most educated people I know without a doctorate," he said. "People ask if I'm going to get a doctorate, and I say not right now, but maybe down the road."

Doctorate or not, though, teaching has been fulfilling for him working with the school's staff and students, he said.

"Carson High has some of the most caring, compassionate, amazing people," he said. "It's one of the best places I've ever worked."

He enjoys the challenge of

working with his students, especially the ones who might be harder to reach or are harder to motivate than most.

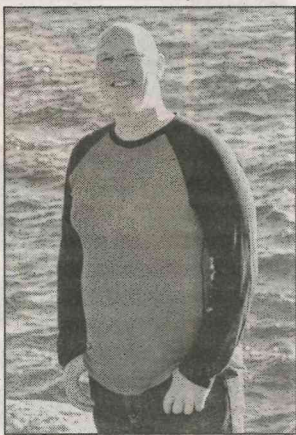
"I almost enjoy working with the tougher ones more just because I feel like working with them, the more impact I can have on a student that has struggles," he said.

Principal Gavin Ward described Anderson's multiple contributions to students and teachers at Carson, always pushing everyone to become better however he can. He currently leads Carson High's economics Professional Learning Community group, Whiz Quiz games and sends formative lessons and materials using Google Docs to his colleagues, Ward added.

"He'll bring to our staff a bunch of different ways to use technology in the classroom," Ward said. "He also helps kids after school, kids that need extra support. He's just a hard worker."

Anderson said he's already getting the word out about his book to his staff, and it will be available online at Amazon.com and through Barnes and Noble, where copies can be ordered in bulk for a 20 percent discount.

He rejected the original title, "Going All In," which he thought might be too cliché with Nevada's gaming reputation, and ultimately deciding on "To the Edge" to align with his message about successes and failures. The state's winter sports, which the outdoor enthusiast quickly fell in love with as a skiing and snowboarding hobbyist, also provided better inspiration as he realized



COURTESY

Carson High School teacher Kyle Anderson's book, "To the Edge: Successes & Failures Through Risk-Taking," is being released today through Edumatch Publishing.

he'd still get "the butterflies" in his stomach standing on some of Homewood Mountain Resort's hilltops nearby at Lake Tahoe.

He also is passionate about hockey and baseball and has a goal to visit every Major League team in the nation, especially the Detroit Tigers, the Oakland A's and the Los Angeles Dodgers.

When he's not actively taking risks outdoors, he said, he enjoys living in Reno with his wife, 8-year-old daughter and 4-year-old son.

Anderson says Nevada's been good to him and has no regrets about taking one of the biggest risks he's ever made moving to the Silver State.

"Too many people think of Nevada as bright lights and glamour," he said. "It's probably one of the best moves I ever made. If I can inspire even one person, I've done my job."



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