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the Montrose Mirror

RED HAWKS FOOTBALL DEFEATS CYCLONES 33-7, CLAIMS LEAGUE TITLE, 1ST ROUND PLAYOFF BYE

By Cliff Dodge
MONTROSE-The Montrose Red Hawks football team hit the road Friday for their last regular season game of the year defeating the Pueblo West Cyclones in a workman-like effort 33-7. The Red Hawks posted an undefeated 4-0 league record and after a two-game losing streak ran off eight straight wins and claimed a spot in the CHSAA playoffs. The seedings will be announced on Monday, Oct. 30.



MHS Red Hawks logo. Courtesy image.

Junior Zack Motley opened the festivities with an on-side kick that was almost recovered by the Red Hawks. The Cyclones took advantage of a short field and drove to the Red Hawks 18-yard line where the Red Hawks defense rose up and took over the football on downs. The Red Hawks Senior Blake Griffin bolted 63 yards on the first play from scrimmage putting the football in the Red Zone. Senior Jaxon Killen quickly scored from three yards out to give the Red Hawks a 6-0 lead.

The Red Hawks forced a Cyclones punt and embarked on a 65-yard scoring drive with Blake Griffin running three yards for the touchdown increasing the score to 12-0. The defense for both teams stiffened and the Red Hawks preserved their 12 point lead heading into half time.

Senior Austin Zimmer got the Red Hawks off on the right foot as he took the opening second half kickoff 50 yards to set the tone for the second for the Red Hawks. The 10-play scoring

[Continued pg 4](#)

RE-1J BOARD HEARS SPECIAL EDUCATION UPDATE



All directors were present for the RE-1J Board of Education Work Session on Tuesday, Oct. 24, as Special Education Director Millie Clem and Special Education Coordinator Shannon Yanosky presented an update on special education in the school district.

By Caitlin Switzer
MONTROSE-With all directors in attendance, Montrose County School District RE-1J Board of Education President Sarah Fishing called the regular work session to order on Tuesday, Oct. 24. Also present were Board Vice President Eric Kelley, District A Director Erik Westesen, District B Director Jacob Suppes, District C Director Alice Murphy, District D Director Tom West, and District G Director Stephen Bush.

Fishing led in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. SPECIAL EDUCATION UPDATE

The Board heard a detailed update on the state of special education in the district, led by Special Education Director Millie Clem and Special Education Coordinator Shannon Yanosky.

A Comprehensive Analysis of special education was prepared in the spring by Catapult Learning, and directors viewed a

[Continued pg 6](#)

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Kate Burke on Silverton Railroad and Red Mountain Mining District!	Montrose Red Hawks Sports Roundup by Cliff Dodge!	Despite Year Over Year Declines, local Real Estate Market Remains Strong!	Halloween is More than Fun: by Rev. Dr. Arlyn Macdonald!
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VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA TO HOST MEDICARE MONDAY SESSION NOV. 13

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Join the Colorado Gerontological Society for a Medicare Monday session, hosted by Volunteers of America, to learn about Medicare Parts A, B, and D changes, and to learn what Medicare Advantage, Medicare Supplement, and Medicare Prescription Drug Plans are available in 2024.

Nov. 13, 2023 9:30am at the Ute Indian Museum, 17253 Chipeta Road Montrose.

Medicare Monday will feature Medicare experts answering your questions about changes, updates, and things you need to know!

Medicare's Open Enrollment Period runs October 15 to December 7, 2023 for changes effective January 1. Make sure you have all of the information you need to choose your health care options for next year. Bring your questions!

Virtual sessions also available. Register at www.senioranswers.org

Oct. 30, 2023

9:30 AM 2024 Medicare Changes

6:30 PM New to Medicare

Questions - call 303-333-3482

THE MONTROSE MIRROR

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CITIZEN'S CLIMATE LOBBY TO MEET ON NOV. 13

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE- On Monday Nov. 13 at 5pm Citizens' Climate Lobby meets in person at Montrose library meeting rm, National, Nonpartisan, environmental people supporting methods to mitigate climate change, All Welcome Info on Facebook and 970-765-9095.

DIA DE LOS MUERTOS CELEBRATION

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE- On Thursday, Nov. 2, 4 - 8 p.m. - Dia de los Muertos, Hispanic Affairs Project, 504 N 1st Street. The community is invited to honor their loved ones who have passed on at the Dia de los Muertos celebration. The event will include children's activities, a Catrina costume contest, an altar display, and dinner. FREE - All are Welcome. Presented by the Hispanic Affairs Project, MADA, and Montrose Regional Library.



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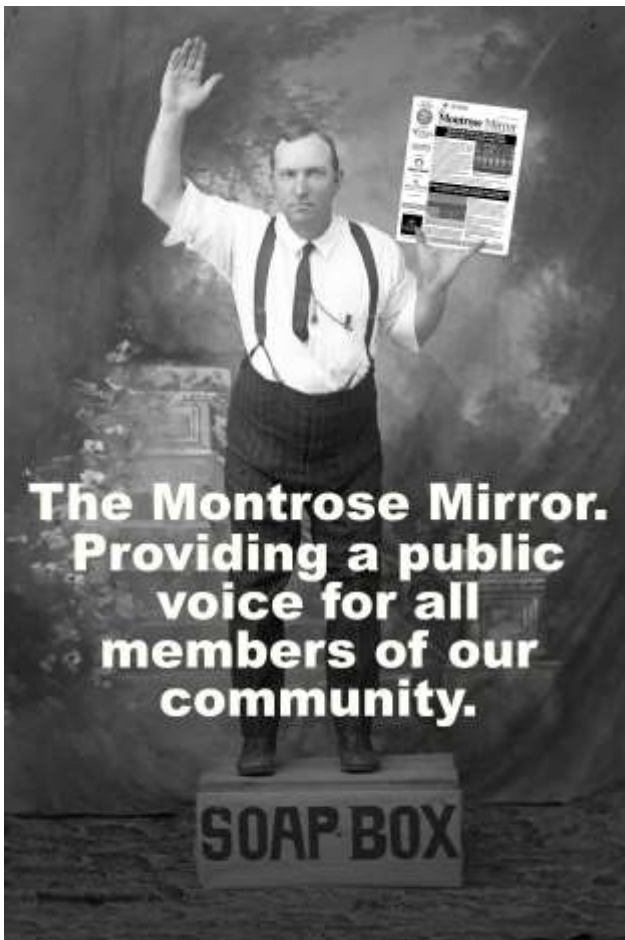
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RED HAWKS FOOTBALL DEFEATS CYCLONES From pg 1

drive saw Blake Griffin score his second touchdown from three yards out, making the score 19-0. The defense, stout from the opening kickoff, asserted itself throughout the second half of play. Sophomore Elijah Womack, Senior Jackson Barnett, Senior Jaxon Killen and Griffin along with the defensive line and the back line pass defenders stymied the Cyclones making tackles behind the line of scrimmage and upsetting the Cyclones offensive efforts. The Red Hawks scored twice in the fourth quarter as Austin Zimmer scored from 7 yards out and then electrified the crowd with a 65-yard gallop to make the final score 33-7. The Cyclones scored a meaningless touchdown late in the game when the outcome was never in doubt.

The playoffs loom. The CHSAA will post the seedings on Monday. It is expected that the Red Hawks, ranked 3 in 4A, will be one of the eight teams to receive a bye in the first round. This will give the team an additional week to heal up, to prepare and to scout the opposition, whomever it may be. Stay tuned. More championship football on the way.



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RE-1J BOARD HEARS SPECIAL EDUCATION UPDATE

From pg 1

slide presentation that included department goals, legal requirements, the present state of special education in the district, as well as the audit results and special education programming. Prior to the presentation, the Board viewed a short film about a young man with Down's Syndrome who faced physical challenges as he worked to achieve his goal of completing an Ironman triathlon. All students are now considered general education students first, and can achieve general education standards, Clem said. Special education accommodations are included as a wraparound service for students identified by the district as needing the sup-

port. In the past, RE-1J has overidentified the number of students needing special education, the Analysis found. Executive Director of Academic Services Jessica Kalb was present by phone and spoke to the board to discuss recommendations and next steps. Recommendations include:

- Build staff capacity to support Special Education Professional Development and Coaching;
- Develop a shared transparent process, an identified body of evidence necessary for special education placement, and a special education referral process for staff and for the school community;
- Provide access to Instructional and As-

essment Resources and Training;

- Clarify expectations and training for Special Education IEP Goal Progress Monitoring Practices.

CRISIS TEAM UPDATE

RE-1J Superintendent Carrie Stephenson gave an update on the district's Crisis Team, following the sudden death of the team's social worker.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board moved to enter Executive Session for Personnel per C.R.S. 24-6-402 (4) (f) to discuss employee termination. The next meeting of the RE-1J Board of Education will take place Tuesday, Nov. 14 at 6:30pm.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS VIDEO ON DAVE WOOD BY KEVIN CHISMIRE

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The Montrose County Historical Society presents a Kevin Chismire video on Dave Wood, early businessman, freighter, and road builder in the Uncompahgre valley and surrounding area. This one-hour video details Dave's life, his character, and his many enterprises. Kevin produced this program for the Ouray Historical Society during the many months of COVID shutdown. The program starts at 7 pm. Wednesday, Nov. 1, in rooms 1 and 2 in Montrose County Events Center. Admission is free, the public is invited. Light refreshments may be available.



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DESPITE YEAR OVER YEAR DECLINES, REAL ESTATE MARKET REMAINS STRONG IN MONTROSE

Mirror staff Report

MONTROSE-The real estate market in Montrose has been simmering along despite rising home prices, and could heat up as interest rates come down, experts say.

[Statistics](#) from the Colorado Association of Realtors show that available real estate listings have dropped in Montrose County since last year, with 61 new single family home listings in September of 2023 compared to 71 new listings in September of 2022. Single family homes have stayed on the market longer in 2023, jumping from 77 days on the market in 2022 to 88 days on the market in 2023, an increase of 14.3 percent.

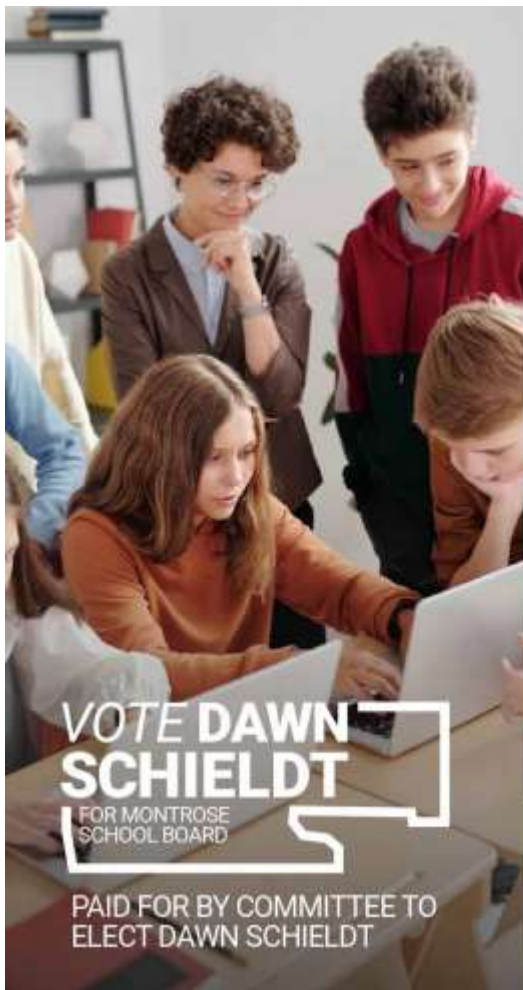
Sales have dropped from year to year, with 55 single family home listings sold in September 2022 compared to 52 sold in September 2023. September home inventory has increased, from 185 units in 2022 to 190 in 2023.

Still, "The amount sold is down year over year, but prices are going up," Montrose Realtor Betsy Spitzer said. While fewer homes are being sold, those that do sell are bringing higher prices, she said.

"Montrose is a great market, very strong," Spitzer said, "And it's going to get much stronger—when the interest rate goes down it's really going to thrive.

"What's not to like about Montrose?" Spitzer said. "It's wonderful here."

The average price for a home (single family) in Montrose County in September of 2022 was \$445,204, and in September of 2023 it was \$464,677.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

MY VOTE WILL BE FOR JODY HOVDE, TOM WEST, ERIC WESTESEN

Dear Editor,

It's been a while but I've felt that with this year's local school board election it's appropriate to say something. I worked for our local school district a few years ago. During that period local school board elections were generally nonpartisan, nonpolitical affairs, board candidates were people in the community that people knew and respected.

This year appears to be different. Money to finance this election seems to not be coming from our community but from the

urban parts of the state and is characterized by partisan attachments. Several of the candidates this year seem to be intent on using the school board to start their own political careers and espouse hard line partisan political positions that are only connected to Montrose/Olathe school and community issues by the thinnest of threads. I have seen the damage that politics and politicians have done to school districts in Colorado and several states both public and private. Often the damage done takes years to try and fix.

Because of the potential for these negative results, I'm suggesting for the students and our community that your vote be more traditional.

As such my vote will be for Jody Hovde, Tom West, Eric Westesen. These are people who know our community and have track records of unselfish service and will best serve the parents and students in our schools.

George Voorhis, Ed.D.

Former Superintendent

Montrose & Olathe Schools, 2000-2011

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COLORADO DEMOCRATIC PARTY STATEMENT ON HOUSE REPUBLICANS' NEW MAGA SPEAKER

After the House GOP voted to elect Rep. Mike Johnson as Speaker of the House, Colorado Democratic Party Chair Shad Murib released the following statement:

“Mike Johnson will be the most extreme Speaker of the House in history, and his deeply unpopular MAGA agenda will be an absolute disaster for Colorado families. It’s even more shameful that Johnson received such enthusiastic support from local embarrassments Lauren Boebert, Ken Buck, and Doug Lamborn. Johnson won his party’s vote by passing every MAGA litmus test — leading efforts to overturn the 2020 election, passing a national abortion ban, and slashing Social Security and Medicare for Colorado seniors. Johnson also believes climate change is a hoax, which is why it’s even more insulting that Lauren Boebert, who represents a district that is 55 percent public lands and suffers from worse and worse wildfires and drought each year, supports him so enthusiastically.

“We’re going to make sure every Colorado voter knows about how Boebert, Buck, and Lamborn turned their backs on Colorado by supporting a MAGA extremist for speaker.”

HERE’S WHAT COLORADANS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT MAGA MIKE JOHNSON:

- *Johnson was a leader in the fight to overturn the election and subvert our democracy — and pushed his Republican colleagues to get on board.*
- *Johnson is an anti-abortion extremist who backs a national abortion ban.*
- *Johnson is an anti-LGBT+ extremist, who has co-sponsored a federal “Don’t Say Gay” bill.*
- *Johnson supports many of the most extreme, unpopular parts of the MAGA agenda — including slashing Social Security and Medicare.*
- *Johnson has called climate change a hoax.*

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

YOUTH WHO GRADUATE LACKING PROFICIENCY IN BASIC SUBJECTS HAVE LITTLE CHANCE TO BECOME SUCCESSFUL

Editor:

For years now we have heard about nationwide problems within school districts across the country with wasted millions poured into educating our youth who graduate lacking proficiency in basic subjects and little chance to become successful.

Here in Montrose our school district operates on a budget of over \$70 million with an average annual cost per child hovering at \$10,000. K-12 cost to educate our children averages around \$130,000 per child, yet test scores show proficiency levels in basic courses leave much to be desired. It certainly seems that taxpayer investment in our youth is not providing the optimum return on that investment. That deficiency seems to be a direct reflection on our school board.

We have the opportunity in this election to put our school district on the path to a higher level of proficiency in all subjects and better prepare our graduates for the challenges they will face in today's world.

There are seven candidates on the ballot. One has held a board seat for ten years, far too long. One was appointed, handpicked to maintain the status quo. A third was handpicked to run for an open seat to go along to get along. The remaining four candidates like many parents have realized the pressing need for an altered course in our school district to achieve that higher degree of proficiency in all subjects, a better return on our education investment, and greater parental participation.

Ted Valerio, Charli Oswald, Dawn Schieldt, and Neisha Balleck offer the best choice to achieve those goals that will benefit our future graduates. Nothing is *achieved without your vote!*

Dee Laird, Montrose

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PUBLIC HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN

West Central Public Health Partnership surveyed your community to learn what the big issues are, and each of the public health department's ability to address those issues. We've chosen Behavioral and Mental Health as our top priority to address over the next 5 years (2024-2029). Below you'll see our goal and strategies to address Behavioral and Mental Health issues.

Please give us your feedback: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/wcphpphip>

Community Health Assessment

- In the Fall of 2022, we gathered data from big data sets, collected 1,929 surveys, and interviewed 83 agency members across the region.
- We asked about home life, access to healthcare, health insurance, childcare, citizenship housing, behavioral and mental health, food security, aging in place, and demographics
- Behavioral and Mental Health was the top concern and our chosen priority for the region. To learn more about the data visit <https://www.wcphp.org/20222023-data>

Behavioral and Mental Health Goal & Strategies

Our **goal** is to improve behavioral and mental health by **promoting holistic individual and community well-being** by **building confidence** and **trust** in the **public health system** to improve behavioral health outcomes.

Strategy #1 Internal education: Educate all local public health staff in the six counties on behavioral and mental health conditions and on available behavioral and mental health resources.

Strategy #2 External education: Educate and engage the public about behavioral and mental health topics.





EL PLAN DE MEJORA DE SALUD PÚBLICA

La Asociación de Salud Pública del Centro Oeste estudio a la comunidad para aprender sobre los grandes problemas que existen, y sobre la capacidad de cada departamento de salud pública para enfrentar a esos problemas. Decidimos enfocarnos en la salud mental y en la conducta como nuestra primera prioridad para resolver en los siguientes cinco años (2024-2029). Abajo veras nuestras metas y estrategias para solucionar los problemas de la salud mental y de conducta.

Por favor envíenos sus comentarios y sugerencias:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MTKN9SH>

La Evaluación de la Salud Comunitaria

- En el otoño del 2022, obtuvimos datos de un gran conjunto de datos, recopilamos 1,929 encuestas, y entrevistamos a 83 miembros de agencias de la región.
- Les preguntamos sobre la vida casera, la accesibilidad de salud médica, el seguro médico, el cuidado de niños, asuntos de ciudadanía, la salud mental y de conducta, la insuficiencia alimenticia, el envejecimiento en el lugar, y la demografía.
- La salud mental y de conducta fue la máxima preocupación y las escogimos como prioridad para la región. Para aprender más sobre los datos visite al: <https://www.wcphp.org/20222023-data>

Metas y Estrategias para la salud mental y de conducta

Nuestra **meta** es mejorar la salud mental y de conducta al **promover el bienestar holístico (cuerpo y mente) del individuo y de la comunidad creando confianza en el sistema de salud pública** para mejorar las consecuencias de la salud de conducta.

Estrategia #1 Educación interna: Educar todo el personal de salud pública local en los seis condados sobre las condiciones de la salud mental y de conducta y sobre recursos disponibles.

Estrategia #2 Educación externa: Educar e involucrar al público sobre temas de la salud mental y de conducta.



OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

SPEAK OUT AGAINST ISRAELI APARTHEID

Editor:

Even as the far-right Israeli administration and the Hamas (not representative of all Palestinians) extremists are at each others throats, there needs to be a calming influence. This is not seen in the influence of our media and our own U.S. administration. Both are heavily biased in support of Israeli apartheid activities, even though not always overtly.

It is now time to attach strings to our provision of arms to the far-right Israeli administration. It is not ethical to support apartheid in any form, even among friends or allies.

Let's speak out in this regard.

Wayne Quade, Montrose

NEISHA BALLECK, TED VALERIO, CHARLI OSWALD, AND DAWN SCHIELDT SHARE MY VALUES AND WILL BE A PART OF THE SOLUTION

Editor:

I am a frequent critic of the Montrose Daily Press and its publisher Dennis Anderson, but I have to give credit where credit is due. Anderson's 10/14 "From the Publisher" article about the school board elections was excellent. He provided unbiased opinions on each candidate and was spot-on when he indicated "This vote comes down to whether the voter is okay with the status quo or is looking for a change." Also, "The School Board could have a completely different look if Schieldt, Oswald and Balleck are elected along with Valerio," and "they could bring a disruption to the school board as it sits now."

So, what is the status quo? An earlier writer to the Mirror (Chanda Ouimet, MM 9/25) described it pretty well: "In America's public schools, children are often taught to despise themselves and their country. Our history is distorted. Our heritage is ignored or painted ugly. Students are taught whites are inherently evil and racist and blacks are victims. And, most concerning, teachers are discussing sexual matters with minor children and even en-

couraging gender transition." "In most schools, parental consent is needed for students to take a field trip – or ingest a Tylenol. In some of those same schools, 8- and 9-year-olds are allowed to "change" their names and genders without the schools informing the parents. Also remember, our great state of Colorado is where the state teachers union adopted a bizarre anti-capitalist resolution committing their organization to fight capitalism as a fundamentally exploitative economic system."

The reaction on college campuses to the October 7th massacre of unarmed Israeli citizens by Hamas should be a gigantic wake-up call about the status quo of our education system.

The anti-Israel / pro-Hamas demonstrations across university campuses are more than just anti-Semitism, although they are certainly that. The rallies expose the fact that, in today's academia, students are being indoctrinated into a totally false, cartoonish understanding of the world and are oblivious to true evil. A Cornell University professor called the slaughter of over

40 babies in their cribs "exhilarating" and "energizing".

So, I am definitely one who is not okay with the status quo. Am I saying that the Montrose County School District and its employees are guilty of all the bad things going on in our school systems nationwide? Of course not. I am sure we have a lot of competent teachers doing their best to educate rather than indoctrinate. However, given all the evidence of these problems nationwide, it would be foolish to assume that our school district is a little haven and exempt from all these challenges. I know Neisha Balleck, Ted Valerio, Charli Oswald, and Dawn Schieldt share my values and will be a part of the solution and not a part of the problem. They are also totally committed to supporting our many great teachers and ensuring the safety of our students.

I appreciate parents like Balleck, Valerio, Oswald, and Schieldt stepping up because they too cannot accept the status quo. Parents across this great nation are doing the same.

Ed Henrie, Montrose



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Friday & Saturday

After Thanksgiving

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The 48th Annual

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YOU ARE INVITED TO THE FRIENDS OF THE MONTROSE LIBRARY ANNUAL MEETING THIS THURSDAY NIGHT

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-You may have noticed the huge Used Book Sales that happen twice a year at the Montrose Regional Library, but do you know where those books come from or where the raised funds go? This Thursday night is your opportunity to learn more about the Friends of the Montrose Library and how this non-profit benefits much of the community.

Friends of the Library are common non-profits established to help raise funds for library programs that the normal library budget cannot achieve. In Montrose the funds are raised through the twice annual Used Book Sales (April and October), donations, and yearly memberships. The books at the sales have been donated by community members and then sold at a bargain price (hardcover books for \$2 and softcover for \$1). Friends of the Library accept all book donations but especially appreciate newer books that others would purchase. The Friends of the Montrose Library board consists of 12 volunteers that meet roughly 9 months of the year and facilitate the Used Book Sales. Citizens of the public can sign up to be a member of the Friends of the Library for \$15/year for their entire household. This membership allows the individual to the VIP Thursday evening sale to purchase books before the general public is invited on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

Many volunteers also give their time throughout the year as sorters and help during the sale. This past sale in October raised over \$7,500 that goes entirely back into the community with library programs.

What are some examples of programs that are funded?

Brandon Mull Author Visit (\$2,250 sponsorship) – Brandon Mull is a very popular author for Middle School and High School readers. This past fall the Friends helped



to sponsor his visit where he meet with over 1,000 folks from 5 different schools.

Teen Literary Magazine (\$1,400 sponsorship) – This year was the 3rd edition of the Teen Literary Magazine which provides unbelievable experience to young writers to see what goes onto creating a published work (writing, editing, photography, layout, purchasing, delivery, etc.).

Book Bike (\$2,500 sponsorship) - The Book Bike has become a very popular extension for outreach to help share the love of books at special events such as the Farmers Market.

Chevy Bolt (\$25,000 sponsorship) – Did you know that you can choose to have your books delivered to your front door from the library? Many citizens for various reasons select this option and the purchase of an incredibly fuel efficient

vehicle helps to make it happen.

Scott Weidensaul author visit (\$2,000 sponsorship) – This past summer the Friends partnered with the Black Canyon Audubon Society to bring this famed author to the Montrose Pavilion for a talk about birding and his books. This event was very well attended.

These examples are just a few from this calendar year. Friends of the Montrose Library has been around since 1986 and gratefully accepting the public's donations to help continue to bring as much programming to our community as possible. We hope to see you on Thursday November 2nd from 5:30p to 7p in the Montrose Library Meeting Room.

Facebook Event Link: <https://fb.me/e/4THDbdkGr>

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

UNIFY AMERICA: MONTROSE, HOLD ON TO YOUR WALLET

Dear Editor:

I am a delegate to Unify Montrose. I have 2 degrees in Marketing and some experience in the field.

Unify came to Montrose to solve a problem, child care. It is interesting to me that the School Board doesn't think it enough of a problem for them, to the best of my knowledge, to be tackling it. The West Central Public Health Partnership Survey in their evaluation done in the Fall of 2022, also didn't find this to be a priority (Montrose Mirror, October 16, page 10). On the other hand, who can complain about someone who is trying to better child care in our community?

Unify assembled what they called the Select Committee to identify the problems and suggest solutions. And they did: 62 of them. Then Unified distilled them into 8.

They wrote a "Shared Goal" which they put before the delegates: The Unify Montrose shared goal is this: "Every parent and guardian in Montrose shall have access to dependable, safe, affordable, and enrich-

ing childcare options so they can work, attend school, or otherwise contribute to our community." Note that we had no input to this. In a perfect world, wouldn't this be wonderful?

Then they had us discuss the 8 solutions. They use very professionally put together presentations designed to SELL us on the ideas. They know very well how to present the ideas to us in such ways that we are most likely to agree to their solutions. Note that being a delegate was sold to us that we would be creating a solution to a problem. But they did not give us the 62 suggestions until well into the project and well after we were herded to approve their solutions. And along the way, they would not give costs against which to compare the value of each of the solutions. Last week, they allowed us to suggest improvements and vote on them. Until last week we were segregated into eight person groups with a moderator (the moderators I have seen have been good and unbiased). But last week, they

mixed us up. I wonder whether that was to bias the groups to vote as they wished. This week they gave us some numbers to ponder. They showed a cost for 4 items of \$5,038,346 with a revenue of \$498,274, with an amount of \$4,540,072 to come from where? The taxpayers, I suppose.

Then they did an economic impact study which showed much less impact than I expected. They show REGIONAL impact of \$5,019,881. But I did not see anywhere a deduction of the amount that the taxpayers(?) would have to fund. One of the impacts would have DECREASED local taxes by \$11,478, but INCREASED State taxes by \$79,622 and Federal taxes by \$743,630. The regional impact is much less than the additional costs of the program plus State and Federal taxes. A loss for the community. Is that good for us? Add the \$4,540,072 that I expect they will ask us to add to our already very high tax burden, and ask yourself: CAN WE AFFORD THIS?

Rick Bleier, Montrose

PLEASE REMEMBER TO TURN IN YOUR BALLOTS THIS WEEK, SO WE CAN BEGIN AT THE LOCAL LEVEL TO GET OUR COUNTY BACK

Editor:

You know how the United States got a miracle and blessing of Mike Johnson as our new Speaker of the House? Montrose has the same opportunity for 4 excellent school board Candidates- an absolute gift from God.

Please remember to turn in your ballots this week, so we can begin at the local level to get our County back and GATEKEEPERS that will stand in the gap to protect our children. Vote for Neisha Balleck, Ted Valerio, Charli Oswald, and Dawn Shieldt. And NO!!! on both Propositions that seek to provide no accountability to government spending and destroy our Tabor refunds.

As of last week, only 11% of our ballots had been returned in Montrose. Let's break a record and let our voices be heard. Your vote is valuable. Thank you!!

Jodi Woodden, Montrose





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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

SUPPORT A MASSIVE INCREASE IN FEDERAL FUNDING FOR CULTIVATED-MEAT RESEARCH

To the editor,

Members of the bipartisan Congressional Animal Protection Caucus should support a massive increase in federal funding for cultivated-meat research. For readers who aren't familiar with the term, cultivated meat is grown from livestock cells, without slaughter. No other policy, with a reasonable shot of becoming law, has the potential to reduce more animal suffering and death.

While cultivated meat is currently sold in a few high-end restaurants, it faces a number of technological hurdles in order to compete with slaughtered options. Perhaps the most important of these is lowering its cost. This can be achieved with public money for research. I hope the compassionate legislators who make up the Congressional Animal Protection Caucus will prioritize the goal.

Jon Hochschartner, Granby, CT.

?

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MONTROSE COUNTY COLORADO

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

FROM WHERE I SIT, OR HAVE BEEN SITTING FOR THE LAST 23 YEARS

Editor:

As Americans we generally have serious respect for our elected public servants, paid or not. Such persons are not our leaders but our servants elected to watch out for our needs and in some instances protect our safety. I must say that most of those persons do a good job but too often that job is just that and many do just enough to get by, draw their pay and get re-elected. Our Sheriff, Sheriff Gene Lillard is not one of them. This man genuinely cares, is not governed by the clock and is a truly dedicated leader of his deputies and his staff. I've known him for 20 years and his professional approach, total dedication to the badge and his integrity cannot be challenged.

Residents of Montrose, old and new, who have come to know Gene both professionally and personally during his long tenure as one of our policemen and now as our sheriff know that he is a true professional who in the performance of his duties is never satisfied with just getting by, but who is dedicated to getting the job accomplished and improving whatever shortfalls he finds.

Gene assumed office in 2019 to a sheriff's department which had suffered severe neglect both in physical appearance and an appalling lack of the needs of the whole department but mostly the safety needs of his deputies. Such safety equipment included 'porcelain breast plates' for insertion into their protective vests to keep them from being penetrated by large caliber weapons and a lack of an inventory of repair parts for Taser guns. And the list of shortages goes on, and on, and on. None of these items should ever be ne-

glected.

The condition of the facilities had been neglected and the funds from the Public Safety Sales Tax that could have rectified these shortfalls had been turned back into the county.

Once the atmosphere at the Sheriff's Office was such that the staff and deputies were able to approach Sheriff Lillard with their unsatisfied discrepancies and concerns, many of which required immediate attention, the list ballooned. Note here that there had been no reason for this situation as there had been huge amounts returned (UNSPENT) to our Board of County Commissioners.

With such a superlative approachable professional Sheriff in office in our County we are certainly privileged, but no matter how great he is if he is not provided with adequate funding to gather, equip, train and retain staff and deputies we will be sorely embarrassed when evil doers with evil intent visit our town/county.

I have no idea what the desired manning level for deputies is in Montrose County but I am sure it is a significant percentage above the number presently on board. I do know that recruiting and retention of deputies over the past five years has been a continuing problem that has occupied much of the Sheriff's time and energy. I know from comparisons with other police organizations that our department pay package is in the lower half of the pay range in Western Colorado. This is inexcusable for a county with such a HUGE amount of taxes collected as a result of the PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX (PSST), seventy percent (70%) of which YOU voters were told was to be exclusively the Sher-

iff's EXTRA funding.

Vince Lombardi, one of America's greatest football coaches said, "EAGLES DON'T FLOCK, YOU MUST GATHER THEM ONE BY ONE". That certainly applies to deputies. Insofar as a better retirement plan CAN'T be instituted because of TABOR (according to Mr. Caddy) I say balderdash.

Americans have always found a way to get done what should be done which is why America is so great. REMEMBER THAT THE LAST FOUR LETTERS IN AMERICAN IS 'I CAN'. So I say, so Americans say, let's get on with it! And as another great American says, "GET 'ER DONE!

Denying this funding to the MCSO is inexcusable. With it he could raise the pay and retirement to a competitive level with other communities, he could GATHER THE EAGLES he needs for a superlative department and BE PREPARED FOR THE UNEXPECTED.

With a decent retirement program which he proposes he can keep more of those deputies he manages to gather. Yes, at the county budget hearing on 19 October I heard that stuff about Tabor preventing what he proposes.

Well in my book, only losers find reasons for not fixing difficult matters; real leaders FIND A WAY.

And finally, why is there is no record of that October 19th meeting available to the public on the County website?

I know the majority of our Montrose County citizens know and respect Sheriff Lillard and his department.

Gene, as you have our back, we have yours.

You have our confidence.

Bill Bennett, Montrose

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and smell the ~~coffee~~ **NEWS!**

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

THE TEST SCORES ARE PROOF THAT OUR SYSTEM IS BROKEN AND NEEDS FIXING

Editor:

I am responding to Ms. Morgenstern's opinion editorial last week about supporting the incumbent school board members, Tom West and Erik Westesen along with Jody Hovde. She wrote:

"If you choose to enroll your child in a private school, that is your decision as is paying the accompanying tuition. Transferring public taxation funds to private or religious institutions—to follow the child—is not an option and must never occur."

The monies for public students are NOT following a child who attends private or religious school, and never have. Why is the school district and others in our com-

munity so resistant to school choice and charter schools?

Charter schools are not private, but are public schools. They have specific requirements as public schools. Even though charter schools take the monies from the regular school district, they encourage competition (which is always good), and could possibly improve the education in our school district. Margaret Mead's quote was appropriate for the main complaint of our current school district: Children should NOT be taught what to think but how to think. That, however, is the problem we have in our schools today. Instead of helping our kids become proficient in math,

reading and English, they are taught ideologies and how to think. The current school board has not brought our Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS) up since before covid, thus they have failed. The mean 2023 scores for Colorado were as follows: English/Language Arts 43.7%, and Math 32.9%; our school district was 38.3% and 23% respectively (average for all schools in Montrose County). The test scores are proof that our system is broken and needs fixing. If you have not voted yet, please vote for Neisha Balleck, Charli Oswald, Ted Valerio and Dawn Schieldt. Save our students!
Leah Vandersluis, Montrose

I'M SUPPORTING ERIK WESTESEN, TOM WEST, AND JODY HOVDE FOR THE SCHOOL BOARD

Dear Editor:

Along with many of your readers, I received a very snazzy four color, high-quality flyer in the mail urging my support of four candidates running for the public-school board here in Montrose and Olathe. I remember the days when it was difficult to find citizens to run for the volunteer school board. So, hats off to the seven community members running to fill this year's board vacancies.

It took just a few computer clicks to find out that the organization behind the four candidates (Ready Colorado Action Fund, IEC) is from Greenwood Village on the front range and Kansas City, Missouri, and they have spent – so far – over \$12,000! What is that about? The flyer says vote "to expand education options for our students." It appears these four candidates, and the deep, dark pockets supporting them, don't understand all the options already available to every student in our district. Their children can:

1. Attend the neighborhood public school,
2. Ask for a transfer to another public school in our district,
3. Be homeschooled,
4. Attend a private school, and/or
5. Attend a religious school.

I may be missing something, but what other options do they want? I support the rights of parents to choose where to send their children, with the understanding that if they choose a homeschool, private, or religious school that is on them, not the taxpayer. It should be noted that our district works collaboratively with these alternative options allowing any student who wants to attend MCSD's AP courses, foreign language, science lab courses, band and many other offerings that just aren't available in the alternative schools.

So, what gives? Are these candidates trying to make our public schools the best they can be, with high standards, fiscal accountability, and community support—which should be the priority of each of them or are they trying to weaken our public schools by taking funding away and giving it to the alternative schools (not sure that is even legal).

I've attended forums and read up on all the candidates running this year. I'm supporting Erik Westesen, Tom West, and Jody Hovde for the school board. They are true advocates for public education and will work hard for our students, staff, and community.

Thank you,

Linda Gann, Montrose

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

WEST, WESTESEN, AND HOVDE SUPPORT ALL CHILDREN AND PUBLIC EDUCATION

Editor,

After reading the latest issue of The Mirror with all the advertisements for Balleck, Schieldt and Oswald, I feel it is important to inform the readers these candidates have accepted over \$12,000 from Ready Colorado Action Fund and Axiom Strategies. Monies from Denver and Missouri don't reflect the values of our local community. Recently, I congratulated a woman whose only son got married and on gaining a new daughter in law. It was presumptuous. She corrected me saying her son married his male partner of nine years. Many Republicans and Democrats want their children to be loved and accepted at 14 years old or 34 years old regardless of their sexual orientation. This made me think of a friend's son who was at church when the youth minister said that God hates the gays. Should children be subject to this narrow minded and mean spiritedness? We have to realize ALL kids need to be treated with respect and dignity.

Education is foundational. The mind is not a vessel to be filled, but a fire to be kindled. Kindling a love of learning matters. May we never return to 1933, when 25,000 books were burned across Germany. I go so far to say banning books is un-American. Balleck was quite vocal about her concern over inappropriate books at our Public Library. Banning books is never a good thing. Reading books allow us to get a better idea of the world even when the setting, the characters, and plots are different than our own stories. If we want kids to think for themselves, we have to give them the opportunity to encounter tough situations. Only then they can apply analytical thinking and use what they read to have valuable conversations around the dinner table. Teachers and books' impact is a drop in the bucket compared to the time parents have to shape their children's' lives.

Finally, Balleck is using Colorado West Christian School, Victory Baptist Church, Life Choices, and other organizations to garnish votes to serve on a board advocating Public Education. Dawn Schieldt is working to start an elementary charter school. As a kindergarten teacher at Colorado West Christian School we have to question what is her motive to be on the school board. I hear it is to "Save the Children". What are we exactly saving them from? These ladies need to realize that if they want monies to follow the student into private schools it is not done through a local school board.

Our Founding Fathers created Public Education for democratic citizenship to protect our American values. Students deserve democratic equality, social efficiency, and social mobility. Thomas Jefferson believed educated citizens could make the American experiment in self-government succeed. Oswald has only replied when she gets on the board she will change things. She has not taken the time to educate herself of the position and our school district. Oswald seems oblivious to the job description and parameters, never researching resources like Colorado Association of School Boards, Colorado Department Education, and learning about local issues in our community.

My vote whole heartedly goes to West, Westesen, and Hovde who support ALL children and Public Education.

Sincerely,

Ellen Angeles, Montrose



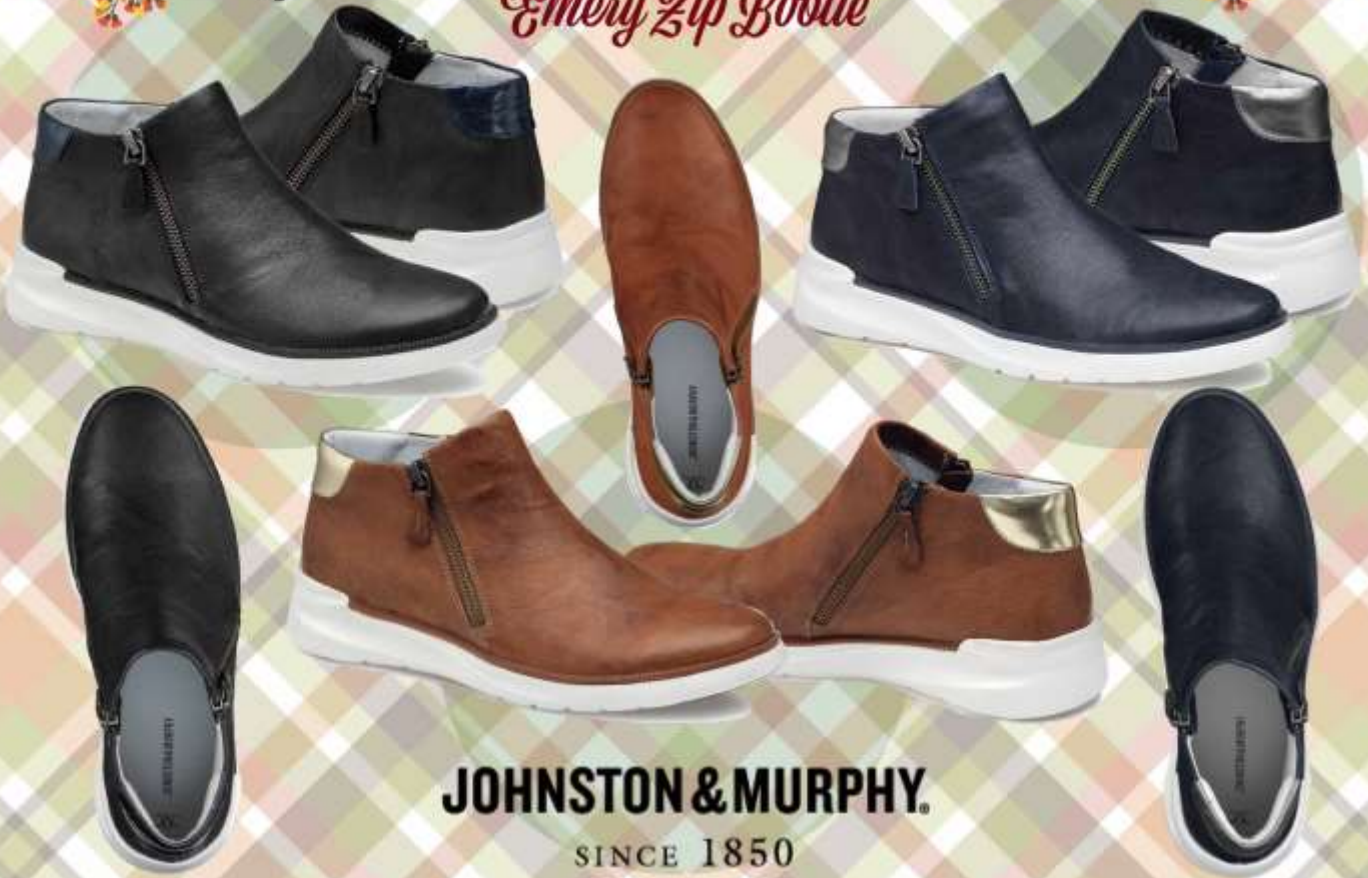
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CHRISTMAS TREE PERMITS AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE SOON

Special to the Mirror

DELTA-Christmas tree permits for the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests will be available to purchase over the counter and online through [Recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov) beginning Nov. 9, 2023. Details about designated cutting areas, cutting dates and types of trees that may be cut can be found [here](#).

The Forest Service will continue offering online permit sales through [Recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov) for the 2023 season. In person transactions may be available depending upon the ranger district. For more information on office hours and vendor options, visit our [website](#).

To purchase a Christmas tree permit, visit [Recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov) and search for Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests Christmas Tree Permits. It is important to carefully read the overview and need-to-know information before purchasing the permit. Visitors will also need to set up or log in to a [Recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov) account to complete the transaction.

“For generations, Coloradans have been cutting their own Christmas trees on the GMUG National Forests, creating lifelong memories and family traditions during these special times,” said Chad Stewart, GMUG Forest Supervisor. “This enjoyable holiday tradition not only contributes to the resiliency of our national forests but also helps individuals establish a deeper connection with their national forests, resulting in treasured memories that last for years to come.”

Cutting a Christmas tree improves forest health. The permit system helps to thin densely populated strands of small-diameter trees. Local forest health experts identify areas that benefit from thinning trees that are the perfect size for Christmas trees. Removing these trees in designated areas helps other trees grow larger

and can open areas that provide forage for wildlife.

For information on current fire restrictions, conditions and recreation op-

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MONTROSE RED HAWKS SPORTS ROUNDUP

RED HAWKS SOCCER MAKES STATE PLAYOFFS, DROPS OPENER TO GLENWOOD SPRINGS 5-2

By Cliff Dodge

MONTROSE-The Montrose varsity soccer coach, Cassandra Snyder, focused all season on seeing her team qualify for the playoffs. Despite a difficult 2-0 regular season-ending loss to the Durango Demons, the Red Hawks earned a berth in the CHSAA playoffs.

The Red Hawks' initial opponent in the soccer championship draw turned out to be The Glenwood Springs Demons, who

defeated the Red Hawks 6-1 on August 29th. The Red Hawks season started slowly with one win and four losses. One of those losses was at the hands of the Demons 6-1. The Red Hawks then turned their season around, winning 4 while tying 2 games and losing 1. The Red Hawks finished their regular season 6 wins, 6 losses and 3 ties.

The playoff game, played on Oct. 26 at the Demons pitch saw the Demons sprint

to a 3-0 lead at the half. The Red Hawks and the Demons played even soccer in the second half, each team scoring two goals making the final score 5-2 in favor of the Demons. The Demons move on in the playoffs while the Red Hawks go back to the drawing board and set their goals again to make the state playoffs, but next year to move further into the post season and play meaningful games late in the season.

RED HAWKS VOLLEYBALL DROPS TWO ON EAST SLOPE ROAD TRIP

By Cliff Dodge

MONTROSE-The Montrose Red Hawks volleyball team took their road show to the Eastern Slope last Saturday and took on two different Tiger volleyball teams, Erie and Holy Family. The Erie Tigers were the initial opponent and the match went to five games with Erie winning the fifth and final game 15-10. The two teams traded points and games as they slugged their way to the fifth and final game. Erie won games one and three, the Red Hawks took games two and four. The Tigers saw their season record improve to 15-4 and

will in all likelihood be a factor in the upcoming state championships.

The nightcap saw the Red Hawks trade body blows with the Holy Family Tigers. Montrose went into extra time and finally won the first game 27-25. The Tigers returned the favor 25-18 to even the match 1-1. The Tigers turned on their power and won the third game 25-18. The Red Hawks crawled off the deck and went overtime for the second time in the match, winning game four 26-24. The fifth and final game saw the Tigers dominate down the stretch and win the final game

15-10. The Tigers improved their overall mark to 14-7.

The Red Hawks saw their season mark slip to 12-7 in addition to winning the league championship with an 8-0 league mark. The Red Hawks take on the South High School Ravens at the Discovery Canyon tournament. The team will play three additional games at Discovery Canyon depending on the outcome of the games. The State Championships are fast approaching. The CHSAA Volleyball Committee will release the seedings for all classifications on Monday. Stay tuned.

SEE SOMETHING - SAY SOMETHING



970-249-8500

ANONYMOUS CALL

MONTROSE REGIONAL CRIME STOPPERS

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

IS IT PURPOSEFUL DECEIT, OR BLATANT IGNORANCE BY SOME REGARDING THE PHRASE, "SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE"??

Editor:

My opinion piece is in response to my former English teacher, Marge Morgenstern, and others who are either purposefully being deceitful regarding the phrase "separation of church and state," or they are showing their blatant ignorance regarding it. This particular expression is not in our constitution or any other founding legislation. However, in the first amendment to the United States Constitution there is an **establishment clause**, and a **free exercise clause** regarding religion that every spiritual person should know in order to hold our government accountable. It clearly states. "Congress shall make no law respecting a **establishment** of religion or prohibiting its **free exercise**." When you know the history behind these clauses plus, the history of the expression "separation of church and state" it's really not hard to distinguish that Democrats are indeed trying to convolute the meaning in order to deceive the public. Pretty much everyone has access to a vast amount of information to debunk their misuse of the phrase. Most research found on the internet, in libraries, and elsewhere state that the phrase was actually coined by Baptists and Thomas Jefferson around 1760. It's really not that difficult to find this out. And it's why our history must be preserved.

I call the Democrat's wrongful use of the phrase, purposeful deceit because of the vast amount of documented American history. A look back at the 1700's shows us that the United States won The Revolutionary war against the British which separated us from English, monarchy rule, yah!! States, at the time, were working hard to bolster their independence from England. In the 1760's Baptist's were striving for religious tolerance in Virginia. Yes, they were striving for religious tolerance, which many Democrats still obviously don't possess. So much for the party of so-called tolerance, right!

Recently Miss Morgenstern seemed to insinuate that a certain candidate for school board should be disqualified for

their religious beliefs because there wouldn't be enough of a separation of church and state. Here's some history that everyone needs to be reminded of; In 1760 states had official adopted religions. (Think about that for a minute, they actually had an official state religion.) In Virginia, where the battle to change the one - state religion began, the religion was Anglican (Episcopalian). The Anglican church originated in England so they added the Episcopalian name to create a new branch in America. In 1702 all thirteen American colonies had some form of state supported religion called an "Official Religion" because they were officially endorsed by the individual sovereign state. Having a state religion was not out of the ordinary at all during this time period. The Baptists regarded the government limited choice of one religion as illegitimate. And James Madison and Thomas Jefferson agreed and championed the Baptist's cause to limit government involvement, i.e., "congress will make NO law respecting a establishment of religion." In other words, neither a state or Federal government can set up a state sponsored church or religion. Nor can they pass laws which aide one preferred religion over another. This is the true meaning of "separation of church and state." The rest of the First Amendment clearly states. "Or is government to prohibit free exercise of religion." And that's exactly what the current Democrat run government did during Covid, illegally I might add. And we should never forget their total disregard for our constitutional rights. If you are a Christian you need to remember that you have free exercise of religion and you have every right to express and live out the freedom that Baptists, Thomas Jefferson, and James Madison fought for and won. It is officially your constitutional legal right. The first section of the Preamble to Jefferson's bill in the 1700's establishing religious freedom declared that "Almighty God hath created the mind free and that to compel a man to furnish contributions of money for the propagation of opinions

which he disbelieves and abhors is sinful and tyrannical." He also stated. "The author of our religion gave us free will, and that He chose not to propagate it by coercions."

The legislation still applies today. We have freedom from government deciding a religion for us. In the 1700's the informal adoption of the phrase "separation of church and state" and the first amendment certainly did not diminish religious influence on government. It actually provided stiff penalties for conducting business on the sabbath. And at the ratification of the constitution a majority of the thirteen and sovereign states maintained official religions until it became illegal. Our Republic continued to welcome public worship and church services continued to be held in the U.S. Capitol and Treasury buildings every Sunday. The imagery in many Federal buildings remained unmistakably biblical. The day after the first amendment passage, congress proclaimed a National Day of Prayer and Thanksgiving. The inaugural congress at this time was largely comprised of those who drafted the constitution and our forefathers NEVER sought to evict the church from society. Instead, they recognized people live and worship differently. There was more unanimity from our framers on this one issue alone than any other in history, even though they were a diverse bunch of individuals with wildly different ideas. This one issue completely united them to the point that the revisionists deemed it "**their greatest achievement.**" Christians need to be incredibly thankful for "separation of church and state" and live strongly in the fact that we have religious freedom from government and, never again should government be allowed to close churches deeming them nonessential while subverting our religious freedom. And this Democrat party should never be given a pass for their blatant disregard for our constitutional rights. **May God bless America and those who believe in it!!**

Kelly Ray, Montrose



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Situated on a spacious 3.665-acre lot, this custom home offers a serene setting with plenty of wildlife. and features a brick and stone facade with wood-trimmed windows, and a thoughtfully designed layout with 3 bedrooms, 2.5 bathrooms, and an office. The living room boasts a cozy fireplace, and there is also a fireplace in the owner's suite, which is a true retreat with double sinks, a soaking tub, and a walk-in shower (all elegantly tied), and a large walk-in closet to accommodate your storage needs. The bathrooms and kitchen have granite countertops, and the kitchen is equipped with gas stove top, double ovens, a large pantry, beverage cooler, custom cabinetry, and a beautiful island. Adjacent to the kitchen, you'll find a cozy breakfast nook. The formal dining room provides an elegant space for hosting special occasions. The home is filled with natural light, thanks to the large windows and high ceilings. Lovely hardwood flooring throughout most of the home, with carpeting in select areas and tile. There is a covered back patio surrounded by the beauty of nature. An irrigation and sprinkler system is included, keeping your landscaping lush and vibrant. An attached three-car garage and a 24x30 ft detached shop with a 12 ft door and 220V power and insulation covers all your needs. Check out this beautiful home with its spacious lot and convenient location. Schedule a showing today and make this tranquil oasis your own.



MLS #805921



PRICE ADJUSTMENT



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For everyone looking for a view lot and still close to downtown Montrose, the newly expanded airport, medical, and more, this 3.16-acre property is worth the look. There is irrigation with Ouray Ditch Company with enough to water the lot and grow a fantastic crop of hay or grass. The lot fronts the seasonal canal and is on a small cul-de-sac. Beautiful views are to be had here offering a beautiful building site. Tri-County water taps are available. Gas and electric are near the lot. Montrose is growing and beautiful lots are few and far between.



MLS #807953



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CITY OF MONTROSE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

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Now Accepting New Patients



Photo Courtesy Montrose County Historical Society—A parade moves along Main Street in downtown Montrose as seen in this undated historic photograph. The City of Montrose is accepting applications for vacancies on the Historic Preservation Commission. Applications are due by 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 1.

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— The City of Montrose is accepting applications for vacancies on the Historic Preservation Commission. The city encourages community members with prior experience or an interest in historic preservation to apply. Appointees will serve three-year terms expiring on Oct. 16, 2026. Applications are due by 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 1, 2023.

The Historic Preservation Commission serves as the evaluative body for historic properties in the City of Montrose, providing recommendations to the City Council on historic property designations, assisting with public education regarding municipal history and historic preservation, and reviewing best practices for designation standards and preservation efforts throughout the community.

Historic Preservation Commissioners are appointed by the City Council. At least 60 percent of the commission's members are residents of the city, and at least 40 percent of them are professionals or individuals with extensive expertise in a preservation-related discipline including, but not limited to, history, architecture, landscape architecture, American studies, American civilization, cultural geography, cultural anthropology, planning or archaeology.

To learn more about the Historic Preservation Commission visit www.CityOfMontrose.org/History.

Applications are available at City Hall, 400 E. Main Street, at www.CityofMontrose.org/History, or by calling the City Clerk's Office at 970.240.1430.

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RE-1J BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATE INTRODUCTIONS

PUBLIC EDUCATION IS THE FUTURE AND A VOTE FOR JODY HOVDE IS A VOTE FOR A SUCCESSFUL FUTURE. A VOTE FOR STUDENTS, PARENTS, AND STAFF!

By Jody Hovde

My name is Jody Hovde and I am running for the District Board F of Montrose County School District. I have lived in Montrose for over 45 years. My husband and I have raised our family here. Both of our children, including my husband, have all graduated from Montrose High School. My bonus grandkids have attended and graduated from Olathe High School. For over 34 years I have dedicated my career to teaching the students of the Montrose/Olathe communities. That career and passion for the children of Montrose/Olathe School district began back at Morgan Elementary where I was a volunteer in the cafeteria. That passion for students led me to becoming a para and then obtaining my degree in teaching. The teaching of standards and reading in the primary and special education classrooms was something I dedicated my career to with pride. I was

humbled in 2015 when I received the Teacher of the Year Award for Elementary for my dedication to students, families and staff. I am invested in the Montrose and Olathe communities, families and public schools. I VALUE public education and the opportunities it can bring to our children in Montrose and Olathe communities. Yes, we can do better but that is why I am running for the school board. I am not part of the status quo. I am an active listener and problem solver.

The school board race is NONPARTISAN but has become very political with money being infused in my opponents campaign from the Glenwood Springs area and outside of Colorado. The amount is well over \$16,000. Is that what you want for Montrose outside money dictating agendas that are not part of the Montrose and Olathe communities. I will support ALL students and advocate that they have the best pub-

lic education and resources they need. I say this because it is CRITICAL for their success. I will advocate and listen to the teachers and ensure that they have what they

need to focus on teaching. My past experience and knowledge will allow me to advocate for them. Teachers are our best resource for student success. As a parent and grandparent I have the passion to listen to other parents and families and work toward solutions to their issues and work on improving communication.



Jody Hovde. Courtesy photo.

MY NAME IS TOM WEST, AND I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR VOTE FOR THE RE-1J DISTRICT D SCHOOL BOARD POSITION

By Tom West

My name is Tom West. I am running for the RE-1J District D school board position. I moved to Montrose in 1983 with my wife and young son. Over the last 40 years I have always been involved in the Montrose-Olathe school district and the Montrose/Olathe communities. I was a teacher and coach at Montrose High School. My wife was also a teacher in the district and our three sons graduated from Montrose High School. Serving on the school board has been a privilege that I enjoy, and I hope to continue to provide support to the students, teachers, staff and community in this capacity. In addition to the bio above I will say that I have always been a very honest person. Honest with my family, my students, my players and with this community. I have not stat-

ed anything in any debate or forum or any conversation that is not 100% true. I recently became aware that the slate of candidates, Oswald, Balleck, Valerio and Schieldt has had 42 thousand dollars spent on flyers mailed to the residents of Montrose County. This dark money was spent by an outside source from the Western Slope of Colorado in an effort to buy your vote. They will come out and state that it was not their collected campaign money and "had nothing to do with it" but I guarantee if my name and face is published, I had something to do with it.

In my career I have only taught in public funded education. I want the money allotted by the state our district receives to stay in our district. I would never advocate for "money to follow students" i.e. given

to parents who now home school, given to a religious based school, etc.

Let me be very clear. I want every child in this community to have the opportunity to have a good education in a decision made by their involved parents. I know that our school system offers that opportunity. 42 thousand dollars. I can't help but think of how that amount of money could impact a program in our school system. 42 thousand dollars spent here on behalf this group for a positive purpose would garner more votes for them versus what is now filling up the landfill with their mailed flyers. I am committed to being responsive to the priorities and values of our community and to being a team player who will contribute to quality education for all of our students. I would appreciate your vote.

RE-1J BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATE INTRODUCTIONS

I AM HERE TO SERVE; I AM HERE TO LISTEN; I ASK FOR YOUR VOTE

By Neisha Balleck

My name is Neisha Balleck and I am running for the District A seat on the Montrose school board. Having grown up on the Western Slope, I value high quality, integrity, and hard work.

Montrose and Olathe, do you want students who are thriving academically? For the last 4 years, our CMAS scores for the district reveal that 75% of our students are not meeting grade level expectations in reading and math. There is growing concern in our district about addressing anxiety in kids so they can learn better. I agree children's anxiety should be addressed, but I also wonder how great their anxiety will be in life if they are unable to read or do math. I plan to focus on what our educators require in the classroom to help our children achieve mastery in these

subjects.

Teachers should be provided with necessary training, consistent curriculum, and support staff.

Parents have told me that they are not receiving information from the schools about what their children should work on to progress. Families are the number one influencer in a child's academic success and we should ensure that there is clear, concise communication between parents and teachers. I have found that teachers, parents, and citizens feel comfortable sharing their concerns with me and this is the type of culture I would like to foster in our district.

As a nurse and mom of three children, I know how valuable education is for a successful life. What happens to our kids in Montrose and Olathe happens to all of us.



Neisha Balleck. Courtesy photo.

Please join me in supporting students, parents, and teachers in establishing a solid educational foundation for our children so they can perform well in any area of life. I am here to serve; I am here to listen; I ask for your vote.

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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

NATIONAL VISITOR USE MONITORING PROGRAM SURVEY TO BE CONDUCTED ON THE GMUG

Special to the Mirror

DELTA— The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests announce the National Visitor Use Monitoring (NVUM) program to be conducted on the GMUG. The NVUM program survey is a program specifically designed to estimate the amount of outdoor recreation that occurs on National Forests. Each forest is surveyed every five years. The survey began at the beginning of October and will run through Sept. 30, 2024.

NVUM program has two main objectives: providing accurate estimates of recreational visits to National Forests and Grasslands and producing descriptive information related to such visits, including activities, demographics, duration, satisfaction levels and trip expenses. The information gathered is useful for forest planning and management at the local, regional and national scales. The survey gathers basic visitor use information and provides National Forest managers with an esti-

mate of how many people actually recreate on the National Forest and what activities they engage in during their visit.

Contract employees will be conducting surveys of recreation visitors on the GMUG at both developed and dispersed recreation sites and traveling along roads. These employees will be working in all types of weather and will be easily identifiable by their bright orange vests. Signs will also be posted in the area to indicate the presence of a traffic survey. It is important to note that all surveys are voluntary and the responses will be confidential. Names will not be included. The interviews last around 10 minutes and will cover topics such as where the visitor recreated on the forest, how many people were with them, how long they stayed, what other recreation sites they visited during their stay and how satisfied they were with the facilities and services provided. Approximately one third of the visitors surveyed will also be asked to complete a

confidential survey on their recreational spending during their trip. This will help assess the economic impact of recreational activities on the local economy.

“Although the survey is entirely voluntary, participation is extremely important so we can assess visitor use of the Forest and strive to make it a better place to visit,” said Ken Straley, Forest Recreation Program Manager for the GMUG. “We would appreciate it if visitors would pull over and answer a few questions. It’s important for interviewers to talk with local people using the forest, as well as visitors from other areas, so all types of visitors are represented in the study.”

National Visitor Use Monitoring program information can be found [here](#). Connect with us or follow us on social media ([Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)). For information on current fire restrictions, conditions and recreation opportunities, visit the [forest website](#) or www.westslopefireinformation.com.

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Welcome Home Alliance for Veterans, 4 Hillcrest Plaza Way, Montrose CO

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CONGRESSWOMAN LAUREN BOEBERT'S OFFICE RELEASES NOVEMBER STAFF MOBILE OFFICE HOURS

Special to the Mirror

REGIONAL-Congresswoman Lauren Boebert's Office announced mobile office hours in the coming weeks. Congresswoman Boebert stated: "Serving the people of Colorado's Third Congressional District is the greatest honor of my life.

If you are having issues with a federal agency, or want your voice to be heard, please come to one of our mobile office hours, and a member of my team will be happy to assist you."

Staff from Congresswoman Boebert's office will be available to help constituents who aren't getting answers from federal agencies, like veterans seeking the care they earned from the VA, travelers that need expedited assistance to receive a passport, taxpayers being harassed by the IRS, and senior citizens having issues with the Social Security Administration or Medicare. Additionally, constituents are invited to come to the office hours to express their viewpoints on legislative issues or request special Congressional Commendations from the Congresswoman recognizing outstanding public achievements.

Congresswoman Boebert's office has hosted over 233 mobile office hours in every county in the District, helped over 2,575 people, and returned over \$5,400,361.03 to constituents. Mobile office hours will be available at the following times and locations:

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2023

Rio Blanco County Mobile Office Hours
Meeker Chamber of Commerce. Business Center
345 Market Street
Meeker, CO
11am-Noon

Town of Rangely, Conference Room
209 East Main Street
Meeker, CO
1:30-2:30 pm

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2023

Montrose County Mobile Office Hours
Olathe Community Center
115 Main Street
Olathe, CO
3-4 pm

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2023

La Plata County Mobile Office Hours
Pine River Library
Study Room 113
395 Bayfield Center Drive
Bayfield, CO
2:30-3:30 pm

Pueblo County Mobile Office Hours
Colorado City Metropolitan District Office
4497 Bent Brothers Blvd.
Colorado City, CO
4 – 5 pm

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2023

San Miguel County Mobile Office Hours
Lone Cone Library
Conference Room
1455 South Pinion Street
Norwood, CO
12:30-1:30 pm

San Miguel County Mobile Office Hours
Wilkinson Public Library
Meeting Room #1
100 West Pacific Avenue
Telluride, CO
2:30-3:30 pm

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MONTROSE REGIONAL CRIME STOPPERS

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UNITED STATES NEWS BRIEFS

USPS, INSPECTION SERVICE CONTINUE TO CRACK DOWN ON POSTAL CRIME

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO — The U.S. Postal Service (USPS) and U.S. Postal Inspection Service (Inspection Service) today provided an update on their Project Safe Delivery campaign to crack down on postal crimes, including attacks against postal employees. Announced in May 2023, Project Safe Delivery is a USPS initiative to combat the recent rise in threats and attacks on letter carriers and mail theft incidents by protecting Postal employees and the security of the nation's mail and packages. Multiple departments within USPS, including the Inspection Service, the Office of the Chief Information Officer, and the Office of the Chief Retail and Delivery Officer are working together to support the ongoing campaign. To help strengthen this effort, the Inspection Service has also significantly increased monetary rewards for information leading to the arrest or conviction of a perpetrator of postal crimes.

"As our nation continues to address a sustained crime wave, our targeted focus to crack down on postal crime is progressing," said Postmaster General and Chief Executive Officer Louis DeJoy. "The safety of our letter carriers — and all postal employees — is our top priority. We will continue to work steadfastly with our law enforcement partners to increase the safety of our employees and protect the sanctity of the nation's mail."

"We have effectively focused our efforts with USPS on hardening both physical and digital targets to combat threats to postal employees and secure the mail. We continue to turn up the pressure and put potential perpetrators on notice; if you attack Postal employees, steal the mail, or commit other postal crimes, Postal Inspectors will bring you to justice," said Chief Postal Inspector Gary Barksdale. "We ask that the public assist us with our mission. Our rewards for information have increased substantially, highlighting the importance of the safety and security of our employees and the mail. If you see something, say something, and help us bring to justice those that cause harm to postal employees, steal mail, or commit other postal crimes."

Project Safe Delivery Progress To Date
 Since the launch of Project Safe Delivery in May 2023, the Postal Service and Inspection Service have taken the following actions to address postal crime nationwide:
Law Enforcement Surges Completed In Chicago, San Francisco, Ohio; More than 600 Individuals Arrested for Postal Crimes. Postal inspectors completed a series of targeted law enforcement surges in Chicago, San Francisco, and cities across Ohio, major metropolitan regions facing significant threats from organized postal crime. Each operation used wide-

ranging law enforcement partnerships including with the Department of Justice, Postal Service Office of the Inspector General, other federal agencies, and local law enforcement. Postal Inspectors conducted more than 700 investigative actions, including the execution of arrests and other court authorized law enforcement activities and more than 375 prevention activities, including presentations

to postal employees on employee safety and mail theft prevention.

Since May, the Inspection Service has made 109 arrests for robberies and more than 530 arrests for mail theft. The Inspection Service will continue to collaborate with local, state, and federal law enforcement and conduct targeted surge operations focusing on those high postal crime areas.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

REP. MARC CATLIN RETURNS FROM TRADE MISSION TRIP TO UNITED KINGDOM

Special to the Mirror

DENVER-State Representative Marc Catlin, recently returned from England. The trip follows Governor Jared Polis’ trip to the United Kingdom in late May, which initiated pursuits to establish a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

The United Kingdom and Colorado are looking to strengthen trade and economic development ties. Rep. Marc Catlin (R-HD58) and Rep. Karen McCormick (D-HD11) were the two state elected officials selected to participate in the trip to the United Kingdom. The State Representatives accompanied Colorado’s Department of Agriculture and Commissioner of Agriculture, Kate Greenberg.

The mission focused on exploring trade relations surrounding agriculture and natural resource related industries. The delegation spent a week speaking with both members of the House of Lords and House of Commons while also spending time with the departments of Business and Trade; Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO); and Department of Environment, Farming & Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

The members of the delegation spent time touring the surrounding agriculture producing land outside of London, meeting with farmers and ranchers. The United Kingdom and Colorado share priority focuses on soil health and other agriculture productivity research. The deepening relationship with the United Kingdom and Colorado will enhance the research being conducted by both govern-



FCDO Deputy Director of US/Canada Office Iain Griffiths, Deputy Commissioner of External Affairs for Colorado Dept of Agriculture Jordan Beezley, HD58 Rep Marc Catlin, HD11 Rep Karen McCormick, Colorado Farm Bureau Board VP James Henderson, Commissioner of Colorado Department of Agriculture Kate Greenberg. Courtesy photo.

ments.

Representative Catlin said, “It is an honor to be invited to represent Colorado in the United Kingdom. Meeting with their elected officials was a high point of the trip. The most memorable, exploring the land that has been farmed for 2,500 years, since the Romans and clear up to today. I am excited to see a relationship develop between Colorado ag. and the United Kingdom. We will be good trade partners

with each other.”

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

CELEBRATING LOCAL BEAUTY.



#montrosemirror

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

LEARN MORE ABOUT THERAPY DOGS AND HOW TO BECOME INVOLVED



Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Leslie Kemp and her Australian shepherd Yancie (left), and Isaiah Knott and his Bernedoodle Marley (right) receive congratulations from Sue Schmidt (center) after they passed the “handling” portion of a test with Alliance of Therapy Dogs (ATD), qualifying them to be nationally certified as therapy dog teams. When their final paperwork is approved, the teams will be able to make visits throughout the community to facilities wanting therapy dogs, including nursing homes, Hospice, the hospital, local schools, Montrose Public Library, and more. Sue Schmidt, a former dog trainer, has stepped in to help with testing as ATD’s former tester had to step back from testing for a while. If you are interested in learning more about therapy dogs and how you can become involved with this rewarding volunteer opportunity, a local Montrose group, Morningstar Therapy Dogs is here to help you get started. Call Paula 970-201-6369, Ann 970-252-1258, or Vanessa 970-729-2528.

FRUITA AND PALISADE CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE TO HOST A ROUND TABLE SESSION WITH ELECTED OFFICIALS

Special to the Mirror

FRUITA-Fruita Area Chamber of Commerce and Palisade Chamber of Commerce are excited to invite community members to Your Community Over Coffee on Wednesday, Nov. 1st, from 8 AM – 10 AM, hosted at Deroco Cellars in Palisade.

This joint event is an opportunity for friends and neighbors to come together with the shared goal of bettering the place we all live, work, and play.

Your Community Over Coffee will feature round table discussions with elected officials on topics ranging from economic de-

velopment to legislative updates and anything pertinent to the business community.

The speakers joining us are State Senate District 7 Senator Janice Rich, State House District 54 Representative Matt Soper, Northwest Regional Representative Hilary Henry for U.S. Senator Michael Bennett, Field Representative for U.S. Congresswoman Lauren Boebert, and County Commissioner Janet Rowland.

They will be participating in the round table discussions and engaging with com-

munity members to discuss important topics.

Your Community Over Coffee is an excellent opportunity to connect with elected officials and fellow community members to discuss ways to make our community a better place to live, work, and play. Join us for a morning of engaging conversations and networking at Deroco Cellars in Palisade.

Fruita and Palisade Chambers are grateful to James and Laura Sanders, owners of Deroco Cellars and the Palisade Peach Shack for sponsoring this valuable event.



**Journalism of a
different stripe.**

montrosemirror.com

CARTOON BY TIM JONES

WEEKLY CARTOON

SOUR GRAPES

by Tim Jones



Alpen Confections
970-648-0609

Remington's at the Bridges
970-252-1119

Crash Burger
970-249-0825

Coffee Trader
970-249-6295
970-787-9021

Tacos & Beer
970-964-4448

Pahgre's
970-249-6442



DineOutMontrose.com

Lighthouse Eatery
970-964-7570

Double Barrel Taco Co.
970-417-4340

Trattoria de Sofia
970-249-0433

Rib City
970-249-7427

Stone House
970-240-8899

Mimo's
970-249-0616

Sidelines Sports Bar
970-765-0129

Amelias Hacienda Restaurante
970-249-1881

Delta: Pour Ernie's
970-546-0074



Premier Sponsor:
Montrose Farmers Market
970-249-0705

Horsefly Brewing
970-249-6889

Rio Bravo
970-964-4477

Jimmer's Steak & BBQ
970-252-1227

Fiesta Guadalajara
970-249-2460

El Jimador
970-249-8990

Busy Corner White Kitchen
970-323-6215

Delta: CB's Tavern
970-399-3570



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Hidden Lake

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



COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

THOMAS EDWARD TAYLOR

July 17, 1955- June 23, 2023



Thomas Taylor, computer software engineer, secular Franciscan, and paddling enthusiast, died on June 23, 2023, while canoeing on the Colorado River. He was three weeks away from turning 68.

The cause was accidental drowning, the Eagle County Coroner's Office in Eagle, CO, said, despite efforts by friend Marc W. McCord and emergency medical personnel to save him.

A career public servant, Mr. Taylor joined the US Department of the Treasury, Internal Revenue Service in 1993 as a computer specialist. He served the IRS in this capacity for nearly 30 years, troubleshooting and testing equipment from the Wang Word Processing System and the IBM-compatible Compaq Personal Computer of the mid-1980s to today's sophisticated, cyber-hardened databases and networks. In recent years, he specialized in ensuring that people with disabilities could access IRS online resources. Before joining the

IRS, Mr. Taylor had his own business, Computer Software Consultants, with clients including The MITRE Corp.

Brought up in the church, Mr. Taylor was a devout Catholic. For a time, he considered becoming a Franciscan monk but ultimately joined the Secular Franciscan Order, Saint Thomas More Fraternity, within the Saint Margaret of Cortona Region, on June 11, 1994. He served as treasurer of the fraternity in 1996. From that point forward, Mr. Taylor wore sandals for all but the most formal occasions or rugged work. He was a faithful member of St James Catholic Church in Falls Church, VA; St Gabriel Catholic Church in McKinney, TX; and St Mary's Catholic Church in Montrose, CO.

Mr. Taylor lived his faith, convincing the IRS to allow him to work remotely to assist members of his family long before the COVID-19 pandemic made such an arrangement acceptable. He first moved from the Washington, DC area to McKinney beginning in 2000 to help his sister care for their mother in the final years of her life, and then to Montrose in 2016 to serve as guardian for his younger brother. Mr. Taylor also volunteered to go to New York to help rebuild the IRS Northeast Region computer system, email, and network hub after the September 11, 2001, destruction of the World Trade Center, including Building #7 where the system was housed. In addition to his willingness to help anyone in need, Mr. Taylor had a deep regard and caring for animals, from a cat named "Squeaker" to a horse, a Missouri Fox Trotter, called "Alice." He was a dedicated member of the board for the non-profit organizations End of the Trail Horse Rescue and Dream Catcher Therapy of Olathe, CO. He sponsored individual horses annually, providing the funds needed for food, vaccinations, farrier, and veterinary care, and participated in the organizations' fundraising efforts.

Mr. Taylor grew up camping with his family and loved the outdoors as an adult. In 1999, he followed the 1803-1804 trail of Merriweather Lewis and William Clark across the country, writing postcards to a friend as though he were Clark. Mr. Taylor especially enjoyed canoeing and rafting and the natural beauty of the rivers and landscape in Texas and Colorado. He embraced the west, adding Stetsons—working and formal—to his attire.

Thomas Edward Taylor was born on July 17, 1955, in Dayton, Ohio to Frank Harold Taylor and Ruth Elaine Anderson, the couple's second child and son of four children. He grew up in Falls Church, VA, graduating from George Mason High School in 1973. He earned his associate degree from the Northern Virginia Community College in 1976 and completed his Bachelor of Science degree in fire administration from George Mason University in 1980. At points in his life, he was a certified firefighter and Emergency Medical Technician. Mr. Taylor was also knowledgeable about the American Civil War and World Wars I and II, frequently visiting battlefields in the United States and making a trip to Europe in 2004 to commemorate the 1914 Battle of the Ardennes. He is survived by a daughter, Kate, from a marriage that ended in divorce in 1990. Also surviving are two brothers, retired US Army Lt Col Peter Taylor (Mary Jo) of Clarksburg, WV, and Anthony M. Taylor of Montrose, and a sister, Frances Evers (Patrick) of McKinney, TX, several nephews and nieces, and many friends and found family, including Bill, Kathy, and Ali Hamm of Olathe, and the Snyder family and particularly his "honorary kids," as he called them, Richard and Sarah Snyder, of Falls Church. Services for Mr. Taylor were held in Ouray, Colorado, at St Daniels Catholic Church on Friday, October 20, 2023. Inurnment followed at Grand View Cemetery in Montrose.

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

MARIETTA BRIGHT HAMMER ***February 29, 1936-October 21, 2023***

MARIETTA BRIGHT HAMMER was peacefully CALLED HOME TO HEAVEN on October 21, 2023. William Maurice Hammer, Jr., her husband of 61 years and Pastor Ozzie of Christ's Church of the Valley where she attended were by her side upon her passing. Marietta was the only child born to George Floyd Bright and Esther (Wright) Bright on February 29, 1936, in Philadelphia, PA. She spent her childhood in Clementon, NJ surrounded by her grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins. She graduated from Regional High School in 1954.

After she married, Marietta and Bill built their first house in Medford, NJ where they raised their four children: Michael Howard Hammer (66), Staci Ragan Moore (60), Mark William Hammer (59) and William Scott Hammer (57). During their marriage, Marietta and Bill designed and built houses in the Evergreen, CO area. Marietta worked as an LPN. Marietta and Bill also lived in Golden, CO, Fort Garland, CO, and Fairplay, CO. After retiring, Marietta and Bill took a couple of trips to Alaska, which remained treasured memories for both. She enjoyed quilting, making stain glass, and coloring during her retirement.

Marietta has eight grandchildren, although Cody Ragan of Great Bend, KS predeceased her. She is survived by 11 great-grandchildren.

There was a viewing and memorial service for immediate family. Her church family will also be having a memorial service in the near future. Marietta requested that memorial contributions be made to North Central Kansas Down Syndrome Society, 616 E. 13th, Concordia, KS 66901 in the name of her great-grandson, Joseph Eugene Ragan. Crippin Funeral Home of Montrose is assisting Marietta's family.



KENNETH RAY WALKER ***November 1, 1948- October 8, 2023***

KENNETH RAY WALKER, affectionately known as Kenny, passed away peacefully on October 8, 2023. Ken, who was born on November 1, 1948, in Wichita, Kansas lived life to the fullest. He was raised in Montrose, CO where he had extended family and many friends. Ken graduated from Montrose High school in 1966. He was co-editor of the school newspaper and played in the band called "The Group." His love of music continued throughout his life when he wrote songs and played his guitar. Ken hitchhiked to New York twice. He then traveled extensively throughout Europe and lived in France, Italy, Greece, and Saudi Arabia.

Ken moved back to Montrose where he worked at Old Home Highlights in Ridgeway and was eventually able to buy the business and moved it to Montrose. Ken purchased a house outside of Montrose which became his "refuge." He delighted in its continual evolution. Ken was preceded in death by his parents David and Lola Walker and his sister Bonnie Crockett.

He is survived by his brother Steve, nieces Grace and Jillian Walker, and nephews Jeremiah Walker, Josh, Matthew, Micah, and Jaden Crockett. He also leaves behind a step daughter Wendy Willdon, step grandsons Eli and Caleb Archer, stepson in law Jason Archer and numerous friends.

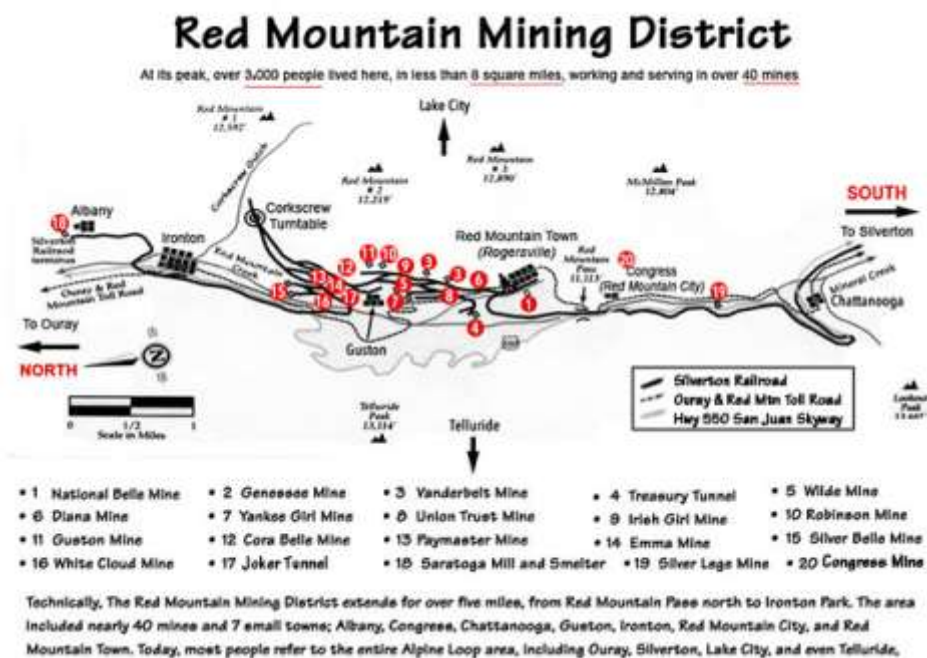
A memorial service will be held at 11am on Saturday, November 4 at Grand View Cemetery in Montrose. Services are in care of Crippin Funeral Home, Montrose. (970) 249-2121



ISSUE 442 Oct. 30, 2023

ART & SOL

THE SILVERTON RAILROAD AND RED MOUNTAIN MINING DISTRICT



road, connected Silverton (in San Juan County) to Albany (six miles south of Ouray) via the 11,111 ft Red Mountain Pass. Three little locomotives (two 2-8-0 Baldwins and one Lima Shay) pulled their trains on 3' wide "narrow gauge" rails. Limited to just two cars in the most difficult terrain, the trains, sometimes making multiple stops per day, supplied the more than 40 mines in the Red Mountain Mining District and over 3,000 people who lived and worked there.

On a map, the proposed 21.5-mile route seemed simple. But a map is flat. The mountainous terrain it depicted, with steep grades, and nearly inaccessible in some places, was not. Meanwhile, the mines were booming. Demand for their output was voracious. The need for speed was absolute.

Figuring out how to build a railroad through the mining districts called for clever engineering feats. Securing the necessary real estate and finding solutions to circumnavigate the geological conundrums within it fell to Charles Wingate Gibbs, the railroads' chief locating engineer. Gibbs devised three innovative solutions to what at first seemed insurmountable odds. What goes up has to come down, and how do you do that where there is no place to turn a train around?

With no need for pesky permits, lengthy, contentious government meetings, and

By Kate Burke

REGIONAL-Four narrow gauge railroads steamed into and out of Silverton in the 1800s: The Silverton Railroad to Mining districts near Red Mountain Pass, 1887; The Silverton Northerly to Animas Forks, 1888; The Silverton Gladstone and Northerly Railroad (SN's Gladstone branch), 1889.

All were built by Otto Mears to serve the booming mining districts that surrounded

the town. Having earlier established regional freighting services, Mears, an entrepreneurial Russian immigrant with business dealings in the area, constructed more than 450 miles of toll roads, then built four railway lines to serve the San Juan Mountains mining districts. He became known as the Pathfinder of the San Juans.

The Silverton Railroad

Mears' first railroad, The Silverton Rail-

SILVERTON RAILROAD AND RED MOUNTAIN MINING DISTRICT **From previous pg**

politically motivated approvals, The Silverton Railroad was quickly incorporated, began construction in 1887, and was completed in just a little over one year! Can you imagine trying to accomplish that today?

Gibbs' engineering ingenuity conquered three major obstacles: a five-percent grade horseshoe loop at Chattanooga, seven miles north of Silverton; limited level space and hard rock at Red Mountain Town midpoint on the line; and a switchback at the Corkscrew Gulch near Guston in Ouray County, where there was no place to accommodate either.

The Chattanooga Loop

Gibbs' 1st engineering feat was The Chattanooga Loop. He designed a 550-foot rise in the line over a quarter-mile straight-line distance by a detour from Mineral Creek up Mill Creek gulch, within a 30-degree (194-foot radius) curve looping 200 degrees at the end, and returning to Mineral Creek, all on a 5-percent grade.

Highway 550 (sans guardrails) follows that route today. Locals and freight-hauling truckers know it and treat it with respect. Tourists marvel at it and call it breathtakingly amazing.

Red Mountain Wye

Gibbs' second engineering feat was the Red Mountain Wye. Midpoint on the line, Red Mountain Town served the high-producing National Belle on the "knob" above town and other nearby mines. Now a ghost town, it was situated between two steep sloping hillsides, and the rocky ground was too hard for excavation.

Gibbs' solution was a wye to turn the trains. Wyes are common on railroads, but this one was unique. The arms of the wye were only 150 feet long. Thus, they could accommodate only a locomotive and two cars.

He placed the station house on the only remaining flat area, in the center of the wye. It was constructed on pilings above two converging streams. A wooden walkway to the outhouse was on one tail of the wye. Imagine a woman in long skirts and petticoats, feet encased in little leather



Red Mountain. Courtesy photo.

ankle boots, hurriedly answering a nature call, traipsing that narrow walkway in deep snow and ice without falling into the creek below.

Corkscrew Turntable

Gibbs' third engineering feat was the Corkscrew Turntable. His solution there was a covered turntable on the main track at the head of Corkscrew Gulch (where there was no room for either a balloon loop or a wye). Gibbs placed the turntable at the junction of the lower and upper arms of the switchback.

This allowed the locomotive to work downgrade of ore cars for safety and efficiency. The 50-foot turntable was big enough only for the locomotive, and the cars were fed through by gravity in both directions. The turntable was covered with a snowshed to allow operations as deep into winter as possible.

The Corkscrew Gulch Turntable is presumed to be the only turntable ever constructed on the main line of a U.S. railroad. Almost nothing is left today, but the location is popular with hikers and railfans hoping to see and photograph remnants of the district's rich mining heritage.

Rainbow Route

The Silverton Railroad was also known as the Red Mountain Train and the "Rainbow Route." The latter term was coined by Mears' friend, David F. Day, publisher of the *Solid Muldoon* in Ouray. The first locomotive to run on the line was designated #101, the Ouray.

Today, the Rainbow Route is also part of the Million Dollar Highway between Silverton and Ouray, which now includes the steepest, and most difficult, part of the road between Ironton and Ouray, which Mears' railroad never conquered. It's a white-knuckle ride with steep drop-offs and prone to rockslides and avalanche. Some locals still refuse to drive it, and tourists and truckers have been known to turn around at Bear Creek and look for another route south.

For more than 25 years, Kate Burke has published books, magazines, and articles about the San Juan Mountains mining districts and the narrow-gauge railroads that served them. Her live "History Series" presentations are given in multiple locations. Read more of this story, with historic photographs and list of sources, and find links to related stories on her website, at <https://kathrynburke.com/silverton-railroad>.

Annual Holiday Crafts & Bazaar

**FRIDAY, NOV. 3RD
9:30AM TO 6PM**

**SATURDAY, NOV. 4TH
9AM TO 4PM**



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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

FOR THESE TEACHERS, BACK TO SCHOOL MEANS BACK OUTSIDE

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE COUNTY – Two Montrose teachers are bringing nature’s benefits to school this year as Good Natured Learning fellows. During the year-long fellowship, educators learn about nature’s benefits for learners, develop skills to integrate nature connections into their teaching practices, collaborate in a professional learning community, implement nature-based learning with their students, and train their colleagues.

As students filed into their classrooms this fall, teachers Maleka Heide and Renee Atencio told them to get out. Outside, that is.

Heide, preschool teacher at Outer Range and Atencio, 4th grade teacher at Johnson Elementary School, are part of the Good Natured Learning Fellowship, a year-long professional development experience with one goal: unlock nature’s benefits for their students, colleagues, and themselves through the way they teach.

This year’s cohort is supported by district contributions and grants from the Nathan Yip Foundation, Clear Creek Schools Foundation, and the Lake County Community Fund. Good Natured Learning’s Fellowship grows educators’ capacity to integrate nature-based learning (NBL) into their work. That

can mean teaching outdoors in nature or bringing natural elements and objects into the classroom. NBL teaching practices can be simple: a birdsong while students are working, a “calm corner” filled with plants, a spelling test in a forest, vocabulary games in a park.

The fellowship kicked off in late July with a five-day, four-night nature retreat at Cal-Wood Education Center in Jamestown, Colo. The retreat routine featured community time in nature and formal learning sessions. Sitting in Crazy Creek Chairs under Ponderosa pines or strolling through a “forest gallery” of data, fellows learned leading theories about why nature connections drive better academic performance, improve mental and physical wellbeing, and enhance social-emotional skills. They gained skills to be effective teachers outdoors, developed action plans, and were trained to facilitate a “Teaching Students Outdoors” workshop with their colleagues.

“This was the best professional development I have experienced in my 22 years of teaching. I have never felt so connected in such a brief time with adult learners in a workshop. Laughter, tears, encouragement, and generosity of teaching expertise all worked together,” Jodi Simpson, another

fellow and kindergarten teacher from Delta County, said of the nature retreat.

“At the end of five days immersed in nature, doing nature-based learning, and planning how to bring it back to their students and colleagues, educators have a shared nature-text. They understand why nature connections matter for learners, they know how to embed nature-based learning practices into their teaching, and they are motivated to make it happen,” explains Becca Katz, Good Natured Learning’s co-founder and instigator of awesomeness.

“I am so excited to bring back the magic and positivity that I experienced,” Simpson said. In the first weeks of school, students in fellows’ classes found nature objects to show factors of 24, delivered physics presentations in a park, played atom-eaters tagging elements and compounds, nature journaled, and observed a full caterpillar-to-butterfly metamorphosis, releasing the full-grown monarchs into the wild.

As students undergo their own metamorphoses, the research about nature’s benefits is coming alive.

Atencio says her students love being outside and, just like the research tells us, “They’re more on task outdoors than indoors.”

Alcohol Ink Ornament Class

Sat., Nov. 11, 1:30-3:30 pm



LA NOUE
DUBOIS

67289 Trout Rd.
Montrose CO

Ornaments, inks,
and tools provided.

With Kate Burke.

Detailed instructions
& demos. Includes
a glass of wine.



\$50/pp. \$45/pp DD



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Double gift-fun class plus take-home ornaments



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The
Real Estate



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MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY

ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

Office Hours: By appointment.

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

 don@allsaintsmontrose.org)

Worship Service Times: Sundays 9AM,

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

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

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

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

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Olathe, Co 81425
 Tuesday-Friday Phone: 970-808-1021
www.biblebaptistchurcholathe.com
 Pastor Gabe Skillo

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
 Sunday 10:30 a.m.
 Sunday 6 p.m.
 Wednesday Bible Study/Prayer 7 p.m.

CELEBRATION CHURCH

Denomination: Southern Baptist Church
 (SBC – Southern Baptist Convention)
Address: 2900 Sunnyside Road, Montrose,
 CO 81401

Office Hours: By appointment

Phone: (970) 497-4925

Email: celebrationmontrose@gmail.com

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

Senior Pastor:

Pastor Brandon Mathis

Church Description/Mission: Celebration
 Church makes disciples that make disci-
 ples. Our core values include the Scripture,
 discipleship, community, service, prayer,
 love, and unity.

Demographics: Multi-generational
Celebration Kids: Nursery (Birth-4 years
 old) 8am, 9:30am & 11am
 Celebration Kids (Ages 5 – 10) 9:30am &
 11am

Discipleship: Students (Ages 11-
 18) 9:30am Sundays

Adult D2 Classes: 9:30am & 11am Sun-
 days

Other Discipleship Opportunities:

Youth Night: First & Third Wednesdays of
 month 6pm
 Celebration Groups (all ages): Sundays –
 Fridays various times & locations
 Seasons Young Adult (Ages 18-26) Celebra-
 tion Group: Thursdays @ 5:30pm off cam-
 pus location
 Celebrate Recovery: Friday nights @
 6:30pm

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

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

Contact: 970-633-0226

Website: www.montroselutheran.org

Email: montroselutheran@gmail.com

Pastor: Tim Onnen

Worship: Sundays at 9 AM

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

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

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

FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

Denomination: Church of the Nazarene

Address: 705 South 12th Street

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

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

Pastor: Buddy Cook

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

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

*disciples in Montrose Colorado and around
 the world.*

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MONTROSE

Affiliation: Presbyterian

Address: 1840 E Niagara Rd. Montrose CO.

81401 **Office Hours:** M-Thu 9AM -
 12PM **Contact:** 970-249-4732, [in-](mailto:in-

 form@fpcmontrose.com)

form@fpcmontrose.com,

www.fpcmontrose.com

Pastor: Jesse Mabanglo

Worship Service times: 9:30AM,
 Student Worship at 6PM. *We strive to en-
 courage, challenge and support one anoth-*

*er through spiritual growth, worship, and
 service in our community, country, and
 world. We also encourage children and
 youth to grow their relationship with Christ
 through our children and student minis-
 tries.*

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY *From previous pg*

HILLCREST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Denomination affiliation: United Church of Christ
Address: 611 South Hillcrest Drive, Montrose, CO 81401
Office hours: By appointment
Contact information:

Phone number: (970) 249-9047
 Email address: office@montroseucc.org
 Website: montroseucc.org
Current Pastor: Rev. Wendy Kidd
Worship service times: Sunday, 10 a.m.
 Hillcrest Congregational UCC is a welcoming, open and affirming church, open to all no matter who you are or where you are

on life's journey.
 Church demographics: HCUCC welcomes all ages to worship with us. (predominately family, youth, seniors, singles)
 We offer inter-generational worship with a children's "prayer-ground" and activity packets. A cry room is also available.

MONTROSE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Denomination Affiliation: United Methodist
Address: 19 S. Park Avenue Montrose CO. 81401
Office Hours: M-Thu, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Contact Information: 970-249-3716, office@montroseumc.org, [mont-](http://montroseumc.org)

roseumc.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
 email: office@rosemontbaptist.org
Senior Pastor: Rolland Kenneson
Worship Service Times: Our engaging and relevant Sunday Worship Service is at

10:45 AM. We also have Bible Study for All Ages Sunday mornings at 9:15 AM. We provide a professionally-staffed nursery throughout both.
Rosemont Baptist's desire is to passionately bring people face-to-face with the life-changing power of Jesus Christ.
We are a multigenerational church from different walks of life who love Jesus, love each other, and love our community. Everyone comes dressed in whatever is comfortable. We love meeting new people no

matter what stage of life they are in.
Children's services: *We have a fun Sunday School for children from four years old through youth. We provide Children's Church during the Sunday Worship Services where children four years old through 9 years can learn to be worshippers of Jesus.*
We provide a nursery for children under four years old with paid staff providing excellent care during Sunday Morning Bible Study and Worship Service.

SPIRITUAL AWARENESS CENTER

Denomination affiliation: Independent Interfaith
Address: Meeting at Lions Park Community Building, 602 N. Nevada, Montrose
 Office hours: Tues-Fri, 9 am to 4 pm, **Home Office** – 970-252-0908
Contact information:
 Rev. Dr. Arlyn Macdonald,
 970-252-0908,
arlyn@spiritaware.org,
www.spiritaware.org

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

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

ST. STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

Denomination: Anglican-Reformed Episcopal Church (REC)
Address: 2405 Sunnyside Road, Montrose 970-249-4868
Contact: [ststephensmont-](http://ststephensmontrose.com)

rose@yahoo.com
www.ststephensmontrose.com
Rev. Dec. Garrett Agajanian
 St. Stephen's is a community of caring Christians rooted in the godly traditions of the past, focused on the challenges of the

present, hopeful for the future, continuing in the Faith once delivered to the saints, using the 1928 Book of Common Prayer.
Sunday: Holy Communion 10 am.
 Fellowship following service.
 Children's nursery available (unstaffed).

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY From previous pg

SUMMIT CHURCH OF MONTROSE:

Denomination affiliation:

Southern Baptist

Address: 10977 60.75 Rd. Montrose, CO 81403

Office hours: Varies

Contact information:

phone number: 970-275-7026

email: summitchurchmontrose@gmail.com

website: www.summitchurchmontrose.org

Senior Pastor: John DeSario

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 ages!

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 for prayer at the church every Wed. at 6:30.

VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH OF MONTROSE

Denomination Affiliation: Independent Baptist

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

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8am-12pm

Contact Information: Phone (970) 249-

6874; email at info@vbcmontrose.org;

website: vbcmontrose.org

Current Pastor: Roland Kassales

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

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

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

Church Directory

Mirror Editorial Staff

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

information to the Montrose Mirror:

Name of church

Denomination affiliation

Address Office hours

Contact information (phone number, email address, website)

Name of current Senior Pastor

Worship service times

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

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

Do your church services include Sunday School and childcare?

Local Immunization Providers

Visit www.montrosecounty.net/immunizations for updated information on immunization providers.

Questions? Call (970) 252-5011





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Hidden Lake

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www.TheHiddenLakeCommunity.com



COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS: HEALTH & WELLNESS

WHAT SHOULD WOMEN KNOW ABOUT THE MENOPAUSAL TRANSITION?

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO-The menopausal transition is a phase in woman’s life marking the end of the ability to reproduce. This means no more periods, which might seem amazing to some women, however, the transition can come with some symptoms. Knowing when to seek help and how to cope is key to navigating this life phase for women. Here are eight common menopause symptoms:

- Hot flashes
- Vaginal dryness
- Hair changes
- Fatigue
- Skin dryness
- Insomnia
- Night Sweats
- Mood changes

Each day 6,000 U.S. women reach menopause at an average age of 51-years-old. Menopause is caused when a woman’s ovaries run out of functioning eggs. This naturally declining hormone process, which means your estrogen and progesterone levels are fluctuating and leading to

menopause symptoms.

Changes in your hormones during menopause can impact your mental health and your physical health. Symptoms such as anxiety, stress or even depression can be common among women during menopause. However, there are treatments available to help women through this phase in life. Hormone Replacement Therapy is known to be the most effective treatment, however eating a healthy, bal-

anced diet and exercising regularly can improve some menopausal symptoms.

Dr. Terry Dunn, of Foothills Urogynecology, notes many women are able to adapt and work through the changes with minimal care. According to Dr. Dunn, what’s most important is talking to your physician to ensure your health needs are being met.

To learn more about menopause, visit www.urogyns.com.

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HALLOWEEN IS MORE THAN FUN

By Rev. Dr. Arlyn Macdonald

When most of us think about Halloween, we picture costumes, candy, fun, and children going trick-or-treating, but there is so much more to Halloween than just fun. Halloween is an ancient spiritual celebration originating in both Europe and the Americas.

The word Halloween has a spiritual meaning: "Hallow" is "Holy" and "een" is an abbreviation for evening. Halloween means "Holy Evening." It is celebrated at a holy time – between harvest and winter.

In ancient Ireland 3000 years ago, the Celts celebrated Samhain, the end of one year and the beginning of the new year. They believed it was a time when the veils or boundaries between the physical world and the spiritual world dissolved. The ghosts or spirits of family members who had passed on were able to return to the world and visit their loved ones.

Household fires were extinguished and sacred bonfires were ignited on the hillsides. The night was filled with singing and dancing and feasting. This was also a time to tell fortunes for the new year. Some people wore costumes to hide from ancestors they had treated badly, so they wouldn't be recognized. In the early morning, revelers returned home with embers of the sacred bonfire to relight their own

hearth and begin the new year.

About the same time in pre-Columbian Mesoamerica, the Aztecs and Nahua people who lived in central Mexico celebrated the dissolving of the boundaries between the worlds and welcomed their deceased family members home for a visit. They offered favorite foods at gravesites or on altars called *ofrendas* in their homes. Tradition says that at midnight on October 31, the gates of heaven are opened, and the spirits of children can visit with their families for 24 hours. On November 2, the spirits of adults can come to visit.

The Roman Catholic Church in A.D. 1000 adopted many customs from the Celts and the Mexican peoples when they declared November 1 to be All Saints Day and November 2 to be All Souls Day. These were new church holidays to help people remember religious figures and their spiritual teachings.

During the Medieval age in Spain, All Souls Day was celebrated by covering family graves with flowers and lighted candles so the deceased spirits could find their way back home to earth. Wine and *pan de animas* or spirit bread were offered to welcome the spirits. In the 1600's the Spanish conquistadores brought these traditions to the Americas. From these traditions the modern Day of the Dead

celebrations evolved.

Today people who celebrate the Day of the Dead display skeletons, wear skull masks, and eat sugar candy shaped into skulls. Spirit bread is still served together with spicy dark chocolate and a corn-based drink called "atole." Visiting and cleaning up family graves is a big part of the day's celebration. It is a way of remembering ancestors and celebrating the spiritual importance of family.

The tradition of *trick-or-treating* developed in the British Isles where children would go door-to-door asking for "soul cakes" in exchange for praying for the family and their deceased family members. Soul cakes are a type of biscuit made with nutmeg, cinnamon, and ginger. (You can find recipes online.)

The basis of all these celebrations was prayer. Prayers for the deceased, the saints, and all the souls to help them on their way to heaven. Attending church as a family and participating in religious rituals was and still is a part of this celebration.

So, this Halloween, this Holy Night, when the veils between the worlds dissolve, take a few moments to remember your beloved family members who have passed on. Say a prayer for them, and say a prayer for your family for health, happiness, and prosperity for the new year.

Save the Date: Mon. Nov. 27



FREE Program

Western History with Kate Burke Otto Mears' 2 northerly NG Railroads to the San Juan Mines



Questions or reservations. contact Cindy Marino at MRD. 970-252-4884.

1 pm. Mon., Nov. 27, 2023 | Montrose Senior Center, Montrose Pavilion



MEDC's Business Showcase



Manufacturing * Business * STEM

You Are Invited!

We are excited to invite you to our 6th Annual MEDC's Business Showcase.

MEDC's Business Showcase is a community event allows you to:

- ⇒ Meet our manufacturers and learn what they do.
- ⇒ Connect with supporting businesses and entities.
- ⇒ Observe STEM student demonstrations and exhibits.
- ⇒ Explore career opportunities now available.



Open to Public

November 2, 2023 (Thursday): 12:00 pm – 6:00 pm
Montrose County Event Center: 1036 N 7th St, Montrose, CO 81401

12:00 pm - 6:00 pm **Exhibits & Demonstrations**

4:00 pm - 6:00 pm: **Happy Hour Networking & Appetizers/Cash Bar**

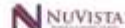
Montrose High School Lulac Club will be selling lunch/snacks.

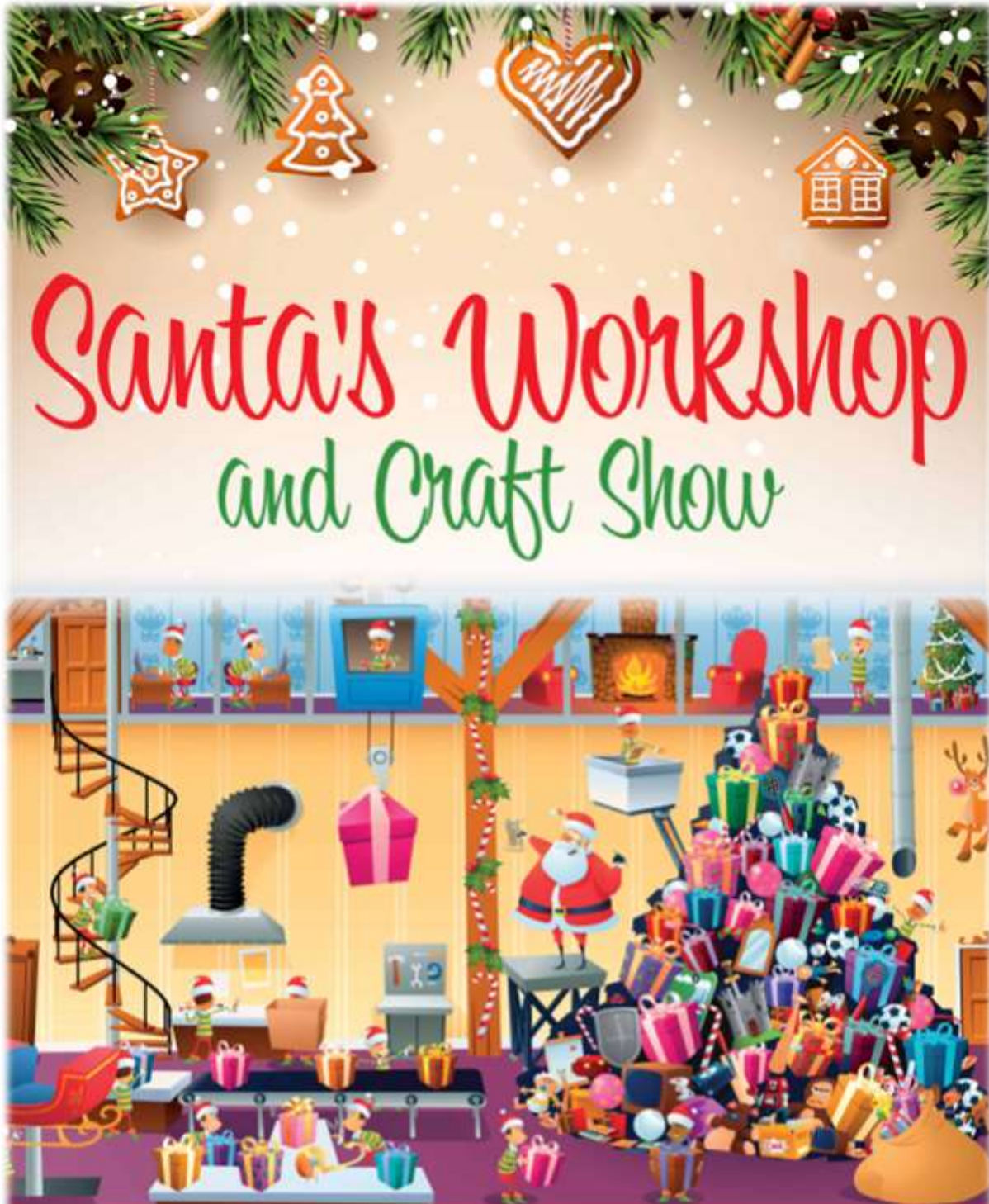


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Friday, Dec. 1st • 9:30am to 6pm
Saturday, Dec. 2nd • 9am to 4pm
Sunday, Dec. 3rd • 11am to 4pm

Montrose County Fairgrounds Friendship Hall

**For Vendor Information call
Debbie 970.531.2438 or email montrosefootwear@aol.com**

SAVE THE DATE! LOCAL EVENTS CALENDAR

ONGOING-

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.

GRIEFSHARE SUPPORT GROUP For anyone who has lost a loved one. Join at any time. Meets every Tuesday from 6:30-8:30pm for 13 weeks beginning Aug. 1st. (Aug. 1 thru Oct. 24) at Rosemont Baptist Church 1598 E. Niagara Rd. Montrose, CO 81401

Register at: RosemontBaptist.org/events/griefshare or call at (970)249-4887

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE HEALING COLLECTIVE OF WESTERN COLORADO welcomes local practitioners, who focus on healing the whole being. Meetings are on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month and both are from Noon-1 pm, upstairs at the Mother Earth store on Main Street . We support one another with our practices, business, and personal needs. For more information please contact Erin Easton at ErinKEaston@gmail.com

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

Oct. 6-Dec. 1-Starting at First Friday on October 6, Montrose Center for Arts is selling corks for \$10 each. Each cork purchased between October 6 and First Friday on December 1 will receive a bottle of wine plus a chance to win an original Bob DeJulio painting. First Friday @ MCA from 4:30pm Montrose Center for Arts @ 11 S Park Avenue.

Oct. 31-Fall Festival Tuesday, October 31, 2023, 5:30-7pm at Rosemont Baptist Church 1598 E Niagara Rd Montrose, CO We will have Games, Candy, Treats, Amazon Gift Card Drawings, Lot's of fun, and much more. (970)249-4887.

Nov. 1-The Montrose County Historical Society presents a Kevin Chismire video on Dave Wood, early businessman, freighter, and road builder in the Uncompahgre valley and surrounding area. This one-hour video details Dave's life, his character, and his many enterprises. Kevin produced this program for the Ouray Historical Society during the many months of COVID shutdown. The program starts at 7 pm. Wednesday, Nov. 1, 2023, in rooms 1 and 2 in Montrose County Events Center. Admission is free, the public is invited. Light refreshments may be available.

Nov. 2-On Thursday, Nov. 2, 4 - 8 p.m. - Dia de los Muertos, Hispanic Affairs Project, 504 N 1st Street. The community is invited to honor their loved ones who have passed on at the Dia de los Muertos celebration. The event will include children's activities, a Catrina costume contest, an altar display, and dinner. FREE - All are Welcome. Presented by the Hispanic Affairs Project, MADA, and Montrose Regional Library.

Nov. 6-The Giving Club meets Nov. 6, 5:30pm at the Bridges. Open to all women who are interested in supporting local charities, learning about our community, and who are willing to spend \$100. Our last recipient from our August meeting was the Academic Booster Club, which won \$13,800.

Nov. 13-Join the Colorado Gerontological Society for a Medicare Monday session, hosted by Volunteers of America, to learn about Medicare Parts A, B, and D changes, and to learn what Medicare Advantage, Medicare Supplement, and Medicare Prescription Drug Plans are available in 2024. Nov. 13, 2023 9:30am at the Ute Indian Museum, 17253 Chipeta Road Montrose. Medicare Monday will feature Medicare experts answering your questions about changes, updates, and things you need to know! Questions - call 303-333-3482

Nov. 13-On Monday Nov. 13 at 5pm Citizens' Climate Lobby meets in person at Montrose library meeting rm, National, Nonpartisan, environmental people supporting methods to mitigate climate change, All Welcome Info on Facebook and 970-765-9095.

READER PHOTO SPOTLIGHT: DEB REIMANN...



Left, Deb snapped this photo last week, of Hurricane Pass near Silverton.

...AND B. SWITZER



Bright leaves in snow this past weekend, by B. Switzer.

Memorials honor those who served.

VETERANS

DAY

Buy a brick or a bench honoring your veteran this Veterans Day and help us build a memorial in Montrose, Colo.

montrosevmc.us or call (970)765-2210