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# the Montrose Mirror

**'TITLE IX IS 37 WORDS; THE MOST IMPORTANT ONE IS SEX'**  
*Citizens speak out on new high school, consolidated bus routes, and more*



Jenny Horn spoke at the RE-1J School Board meeting Sept. 10. Meeting Screenshot.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE- The Montrose County School District RE-1J Board of Education heard presentations on academic performance frameworks and special education expenses at their regular meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 10. The Board also heard from constituents on a variety of issues.

Along with members of the public, those present for the meeting included key staff and all but one director. Board President Sarah Fishing; Board Vice President Steve Bush; District A Director Neisha Balleck; District C Director Alice Murphy; District D Director Tom West and District F Director Jody Hovde were in attendance. District B Director Ted Valerio was absent.

Fishing led with the Pledge of Allegiance, and the board voted to accept the meeting agenda as presented.

#### STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

RE-1J Public Information Officer Matthew Jenkins introduced Teacher Kathy Gaber and members of the Montrose High School (MHS) Black Canyon Rotary [Interact Club](#). The students shared a [presentation](#)

[Continued pg 41](#)

## PARENTS PROTEST CORRUPTION OF COLORADO'S FAMILY COURT SYSTEM, 7<sup>TH</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT

By Steve Middendorp

MONTROSE-An organized [protest](#) of the Colorado family court system took place in Denver on Sept. 5, in which protestors claimed that Colorado courts are responsible for the harm and deaths of children that are placed with abusive parents in the family court system. This is an issue that has garnered national attention after mother Rachel Pickrel-Hawkins was [jailed](#) for refusing to allow her children to go to court-ordered reunification therapy with their father, Michael Hawkins.

Hawkins is a retired Aurora police officer facing charges of sexually abusing his daughters, and Larimer County Department of Human Services confirmed in 2022 that one of the daughters was sexually abused. Despite that, District Court Judge Daniel McDonald ordered reunification therapy between Hawkins and his two sons. Pickrel-Hawkins was jailed for refusing to comply with the court order.

A letter of concern and call to action was written to Governor Jared Polis, Attorney General Phil Weiser, Colorado Supreme Court Chief Justice Monica Marquez, Speaker of the House Julie McCluskie and President of the Senate Steve Fenberg. The letter states, "At least thirty-one children who were in the system have been killed by a divorcing or separating parent, even as the protective parent implored the court to

[Continued pg 17](#)



Family Court Protesters gathered in Denver Sept. 5. Courtesy photo.

[Giovanna Designs](#)  
[By Kate Burke!](#)

[Citizens Group Holds Second Meeting with City to Focus on Crime-By Gail Marvel!](#)

[Red Hawks Sports Coverage](#)  
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# UPDATED GUIDELINES FOR LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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**Dear Readers:**

We appreciate your letters! We like reading and hearing opinions from all perspectives. We are sharing herewith our updated guidelines: In the past we have had one rule, to be implemented at the editor's discretion. We are now including two more suggested "Rules" for letter writers.

**RULE 1.** The Dead Horse Rule has been in place from the start of the *Mirror*. This is somewhat self-explanatory, but there are times when something has been said so many times it can run afoul of the "Dead Horse Rule," in which case we will inform the writer.

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

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

Finally, opinions expressed in letters and commentary are those of the authors themselves, and do not reflect the views of the *Montrose Mirror* or editorial staff.

Thank you,  
 Caitlin Switzer,  
 Montrose Mirror Editor

## THE MONTROSE MIRROR

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

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

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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### ARREST MADE IN CONNECTION WITH THE BUCKTAIL FIRE

*Special to the Mirror*

NUCLA—The Montrose County Sheriff's Office arrested Brent Garber, 63, on Thursday, Sept. 5, at approximately 1758 hours. Garber was taken into custody on a Montrose County Sheriff's Office Arrest Warrant issued earlier in the day. Garber is charged with Second Degree Arson, Fourth Degree Arson, and Second Degree Criminal Trespass in connection with the Bucktail Fire.

The Bucktail Fire started on Aug. 1, 2024, and burned approximately 7,202 acres. Approximately 193 fire personnel worked to contain the fire, utilizing air resources, engine crews, heavy equipment, and hand crews.



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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### MONTROSE COUNTY MASTER PLAN NEARS FINAL APPROVAL

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE—The Montrose County Master Plan is on the cusp of final approval following an extensive update process. The Planning Commission is set to consider the final version of the plan at a special meeting on September 19 at 6:00 pm at the Public Works board room (63160 Lasalle Road). Upon their approval, the plan will be used by the county as a guiding document for growth and development.

The updated Master Plan incorporates a wide range of changes that reflect the valuable input from community members, stakeholders, and written feedback. These key updates address important issues such as wildfire mitigation, transportation, renewable energy, cultural preservation, and water storage.

"This has been a monumental effort that has required countless hours of work, dedication, and public input," said Tallmadge Richmond, Planning and Development Director for Montrose County. "I want to express my sincere gratitude to the Planning Commission, staff, and community members who have contributed to this important project."

The final Master Plan will serve as a guiding document for the county's future growth and development, ensuring that decisions are made in alignment with the community's vision and priorities.

To view the final version of the Montrose County Master Plan, please visit [here](#).

### MONTROSE COUNTY NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH TO MEET SEPT. 18

*Special to Art & Sol*

MONTROSE—On Wednesday, Sept 18 at 3pm **Montrose County Neighborhood Watch** will meet in the Centennial Room at the Centennial Plaza, 433 S First Street. This program is under the direction of the Montrose County Sheriff's Office to help reduce crime. Stay connected, stay informed. For more information, call 970-252-4499.

### REPUBLICAN WOMEN LUNCHEON & PROGRAM

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE—On Friday, Sept. 20 at Noon- Montrose Republican Women Luncheon & Program at Hampton Inn Montrose, Brown bag lunch. Montrose County School District will present information about the New Montrose High School Proposal and Bond Measure on the November ballot. Bring a friend! Call Kerri - 970-209-5170.



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Candidate for

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DISTRICT 3

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### SEPTEMBER

- Thursday 9/19- Naturita Library  
Open Meet & Greet 5:00–7:00p
- Tuesday 9/24 – Montrose Library  
Open Meet & Greet 4:00-6:30p

### OCTOBER

- Saturday 10/5 Coffee Trader (Main)  
Open Meet & Greet 9:00-11:00
- Wednesday 10/9 – Cascade Hall  
Montrose Forum – 8:00am

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## SD5 CANDIDATE COLE BUEGER HOPES TO BRING A WESTERN SLOPE VOICE TO MAJORITY PARTY

By Caitlin Switzer

REGIONAL-Yes, he is a fresh face in Colorado politics. But Colorado Senate District 5 Candidate Cole Buerger has deep roots in Western Colorado. Growing up on the family ranch in Garfield County, Buerger took part in 4H, raising steers, pigs, and sheep. "I liked the steers and the pigs best," he said.

If elected, Cole said that he wants to focus on what he calls, "kitchen table issues," the everyday topics that are of major importance to rural communities, such as water, infrastructure--roads, and bridges--and the financial challenges faced by entrepreneurs. Buerger and his partner Mitchell own and operate a food truck near the Colorado River in Silt, and he said that he understands the overwhelming challenges and regulations that face small business owners.

"Most people now need a second or third job," he said. "We've got to make it easier to live; we need better jobs so people who grew up here can stay here."

Also, sky-high health care costs and insurance are not sustainable, he said.

Cole Buerger is running as a Democrat, but he hopes to serve everyone. "It's not about demonizing or complaining about anyone else," he said. "It's about buckling up and putting our nose to the grindstone. We need to make sure we have someone who is really effective—we need people in the majority who can stand up for our interests, and who can say no."

To learn more about Colorado SD5 Candidate Cole Buerger, visit his website at [www.coleforcolorado.org](http://www.coleforcolorado.org).



Cole Buerger. Courtesy photo

## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### TEEING UP TO HELP: COBBLE CREEK BOSOM BUDDIES GOLF TOURNAMENT A BIG SUCCESS!

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The Cobble Creek Ladies Golf Association golf tournament to benefit your local Bosom Buddies was a great success netting close to \$22,000 this year.

"Thanks to all the hard work of the CCWGA, we will be able to help so many people dealing with effects of breast cancer," said Kim Jones, tournament coordinator and member of the Bosom Buddies Board Of Directors. "It's a fun event which has become a tradition and continues to be a cornerstone of our fundraising efforts."

"We had 100 golfers this year," added Jones. "We also had quite a few amazing volunteers and are so grateful to everything everyone did to organize the tournament."

In addition to golf, the fundraising event included donations for tournament sponsors, hole sponsorships, specially made pink bows, golf markers, and a silly chaos putting competition.

"The chaos putting happens during happy hour at the clubhouse the Friday before and the morning of the tournament," said Jones. "It's hilarious to watch everyone putt at the same time."

Bosom Buddies President Phyllis Wiesner added, "The CCWGA tournament has raised more than \$100,000 for Bosom



Above, Cobble Creek Ladies Golf Association golf tournament was a great success netting close to \$22,000 this year for Bosom Buddies. Courtesy photo.

Buddies in the past six years. The generosity of the community and the participants is amazing."

"The CCWGA tournament gives Bosom Buddies a great fundraising start leading up to our annual October Walk/Run," said Jones. "There is so much need for financial and emotional assistance in our service area these days."

Wiesner added, "It is important for everyone to know that all funds raised by Bosom Buddies are spent locally to help locals

affected by breast cancer – that's your family, friends, and neighbors. We offer medical financial assistance to those who qualify along with free wigs, scarves, hats, and prosthetics. We also award educational scholarships to survivors and to the children of a parent or guardian who has ever been diagnosed with breast cancer."

To register for the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Walk/Run and for more information on the services offered by Bosom Buddies, visit their website at [www.bosombuddieswc.org](http://www.bosombuddieswc.org).



# GALA FOR DEMOCRACY

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2024  
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## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

### UNAFFILIATED VOTERS ARE THE MAJORITY IN MONTROSE COUNTY & STATE OF COLORADO

*Greetings Montrose County –*

I would like to take this time to formally introduce myself. I am Trisha Murray and I am currently running for the seat of County Commissioner - District 3, in Montrose County. I am running as your UNAFFILIATED candidate.

For many years, it was believed that Unaffiliated or Independent voters did not have any chance of being heard by elected politicians, much less being elected to office. However, times are definitely changing and it is time for the "Silent Majority" of registered UNAFFILIATED voters to STAND UP and be heard. I am a registered Unaffiliated voter and chose to be an Unaffiliated voter because, like many of you, I still believe the United States of America is the greatest Country in the world, and I am proud to be an American. However, I am not proud of the current state of politics in our country or in our

government. I am one of the majority of Americans that no longer has faith or trust in our government to genuinely LISTEN to the People, REPRESENT the People, and be ACCOUNTABLE to the People.

I believe that Politics has turned into a lucrative position of power and control that only a select few are allowed to participate in, because we have allowed ourselves, over time, to be socialized to believe that our "only" option is to be "for us" or "against us" within a 2-party system.

This great nation of ours was founded on people coming together to build a strong united nation. Not the one of division, finger pointing, blaming, and name calling on BOTH sides of our political system that we entertain today.

Voter registration proves that Party politics is no longer working for the majority of the American voters and that it is time

for true Leaders to stand up, and represent ALL the People, not just those that are Red or Blue... Left or Right... Conservative or Liberal.... but the majority of the People and ALL those who identify with each of the other recognized political groups. Government should be about representing its People... not Political Parties. I will represent ALL the People... not a political party or political party agenda.

I am running for the seat of County Commissioner in District 3 of Montrose County, Colorado to Listen to ALL the People, Represent ALL the People, and be Accountable to ALL the People. I hope you will support my bid to serve you.

***With Much Gratitude -***

***Trisha Murray***

***Candidate for Montrose County Commissioner - D3***

***Murray4montrose@gmail.com***

***www.murray4montrosecounty.com***

## PROTECTING OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

*Editor:*

As former directors of the RE-1J School Board, with a combined 18 years of service, we are writing to express our deep concerns about two critical issues facing our community, the proposed **Montrose Classical Academy** and **Initiative 138**. Our commitment to public education has never waived and we believe that the decisions made now will have lasting impact on our students who need our support the most.

**Initiative 138** is being promoted as a way to reinforce parents' ability to send their children to any public school, charter school, private school (including religion based) or homeschooling program of their choosing. While school choice is a fundamental part of our educational system—one that we have always supported—we are gravely concerned about the potential damage this initiative could do to an already fragile public school system, particularly here in Montrose. It would seem that this initiative is being proposed as a stepping stone to a statewide voucher program.

The **Montrose Classical Academy** as currently proposed stands to benefit a select group of students—those who are already succeeding through private schools or through homeschooling. However this will inevitably come at the expense of the broader student population who rely on the resources and support provided by our public schools. Diverting attention and funding away from public education to serve an elite few will only deepen the disparities that already exist.

We strongly urge the RE-1J School Board to vote "No" on the Montrose Classical Academy and to the voters to oppose **Initiative 138** when it comes to the ballot in November. Public Education is the cornerstone of a healthy, equitable society and we must protect it for the benefit of all students.

The decisions we make today will shape the future of our community. Let us ensure that every child in Montrose has access to a strong, well-supported public education.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Dr. Michael Benziger*

*Phoebe Benziger*

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Photo, Larry Don Suckla & Derek Goldtooth after gathering the cow herd.

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# PARENTS PROTEST CORRUPTION OF FAMILY COURT SYSTEM From pg 1

protect the child.”

The letter continues by stating, “It is estimated that 58,000 children across the country are ordered annually into the custody of an abuser – a number which is widely considered low. To extrapolate by population that would mean that in Colorado 1,033 children are ordered each year into the custody of an abuser. That means thousands, likely hundreds of thousands of children over the course of decades, have been sent into harm’s way by the Colorado family court system. Some of those children have ultimately been killed by the abusive parent. Most others have been physically, emotionally and sexually harmed.”

The child-safety advocates also provided a list of Colorado laws that are intended to protect children from being placed with abusive parents. The advocates say these rules are not being followed by the Colorado criminal justice system. They also provided a list of articles published in *Propublica*, the *Denver Gazette*, and the *Montrose Mirror* that talk about children being placed into the custody of abusive parents despite the evidence brought forth in the family court system.

Judge Donald Cory Jackson, the chief judge of the 7th Judicial District in Ouray, was the subject of several articles including those published in *Propublica* and the *Montrose Mirror*. In many of these cases, it is determined by the court that the protective parent is alienating the children from the alleged abusive parent. This is known as parental alienation, which is also a booming industry connected with expensive reunification camps that are often ordered by the family court system in Colorado and around the world.

Tina Swithin, the author of *Divorcing a Narcissist* and blogger at “One Mom’s Battle,” has been speaking out about this problem for 15 years after she had her own experience in the family court system trying to protect her children. She helped organize the event in Denver and spoke with the *Montrose Mirror* about this ongoing issue.

Swithin said Kayden’s law was passed to

help protect children that are put in these situations, but said “rogue judges” are able to skirt the law without accountability. She is grateful that the law passed and that there are representatives working to solve this problem. “When those laws were passed, it infused hope into survivors in Colorado that their children’s safety would finally be prioritized,” Swithin said. “Unfortunately, what I see as the problem is that we have rogue judges that just feel that they are above the law and that they don’t have to follow the law. It’s really disheartening to see. For survivors, so many of them fought so hard for this legislation that should have been a clear path for Rachel to use to protect her kids.”

Kayden’s law “Requires courts to consider evidence of past physical or sexual abuse, including protection orders, arrests, and convictions for domestic violence, sexual violence, or child abuse of the accused parent.” It also restricts the use of reunification camps.

Swithin also said the appeals process is lengthy, costly, and often doesn’t work when it is pursued. She also said survivors of abuse that are trying to protect their children often don’t have the energy and money to push forward with an appeals process. Judicial review boards exist, but Swithin said they are not truly independent boards that look at cases objectively.

“I’ve been a part of so many cases over the past 15 years where people have filed complaints against judges,” Swithin explained. “You’re just asking a group of their colleagues to review these judges and they’re going to play golf with them next Sunday or play golf with them at the country club. There is no accountability in family court. I rarely make blanket statements. That is one I will stand by.”

Swithin described the big money that can be made with the reunification industry and exposing the realities of what is happening has become her life goal. She created the site alienationindustry.com.

“You have this industry that has been created by unscrupulous professionals who are forcing children into very dangerous situations with a variety of different

types of abuses, because they’re making ungodly amounts of money,” Swithin said. “You’ve got the big ticket items which are the reunification camps which run anywhere from \$12,000 to \$40,000 for four days. And that’s not the total cost. You’ve got the reunification therapy leading up to it. You’ve got the transport agents and the mandatory after-care. Parents are bankrupted over this industry that has come up around this legal strategy created by Richard Gardener. He was a pedophile sympathizer. Some of his quotes are incredibly disturbing.”

Swithin made it clear that she does not believe that most of the judges who side with the alleged abusive parent are knowingly doing so for their own personal gain, but she does believe it happens in rare cases.

“I think a huge part of the problem is the lack of judicial training and education,” Swithin explained. “So when they are listening to two sides, it’s often he said she said. We know that perpetrators of abuse love the family court system. That becomes their stage and their platform. They are much more convincing than a survivor who possibly has PTSD, or anxiety or a history of trauma from the abuse they suffered. These judges are not educated in victim perpetrator behaviors. They’re going to often believe whoever has the more convincing expert witness or the more convincing attorney. I think there are a lot of judges that fall into that category. They have no business making judgment calls or orders on things that they don’t understand. When you have an expert witness being paid \$50,000 to sit on the stand to say that mom is alienating, they can be very convincing.”

The *Propublica* story that covered the alleged alienation case between Bruce and Christine in Ouray in Judge Jackson’s courtroom mentioned Susan Coykendall’s role as a special consultant to the Child Welfare Agency. Despite undeniable evidence of abuse from the father, Coykendall said Bruce didn’t raise any red flags or set off her “creep-o-meter.”

She added that everyone involved in

**Continued next pg**

## PARENTS PROTEST CORRUPTION OF FAMILY COURT SYSTEM *From previous pg*

these evaluations misses something. The *Montrose Mirror* confirmed that Coykendall is married to J. Steven Patrick, the former chief judge of the 7th Judicial District in Gunnison who retired earlier this year. Patrick was replaced by Judge Jackson as the chief judge of the 7th district. Judge Jackson was the judge in the story

that sided with Bruce, who allegedly sexually assaulted his own son.

Swithin and the child-safety advocates are calling for judicial reform and accountability.

One local parent, who prefers to remain anonymous due to fear of retaliation, made the trip to Denver to protest the

corruption of the Colorado Family Court system and the 7<sup>th</sup> Judicial District.

"The energy was amazing. To meet so many other parents who share similar stories on how these systems have failed our children and have failed and punished the protective parent. We need reform now. We need accountability!"



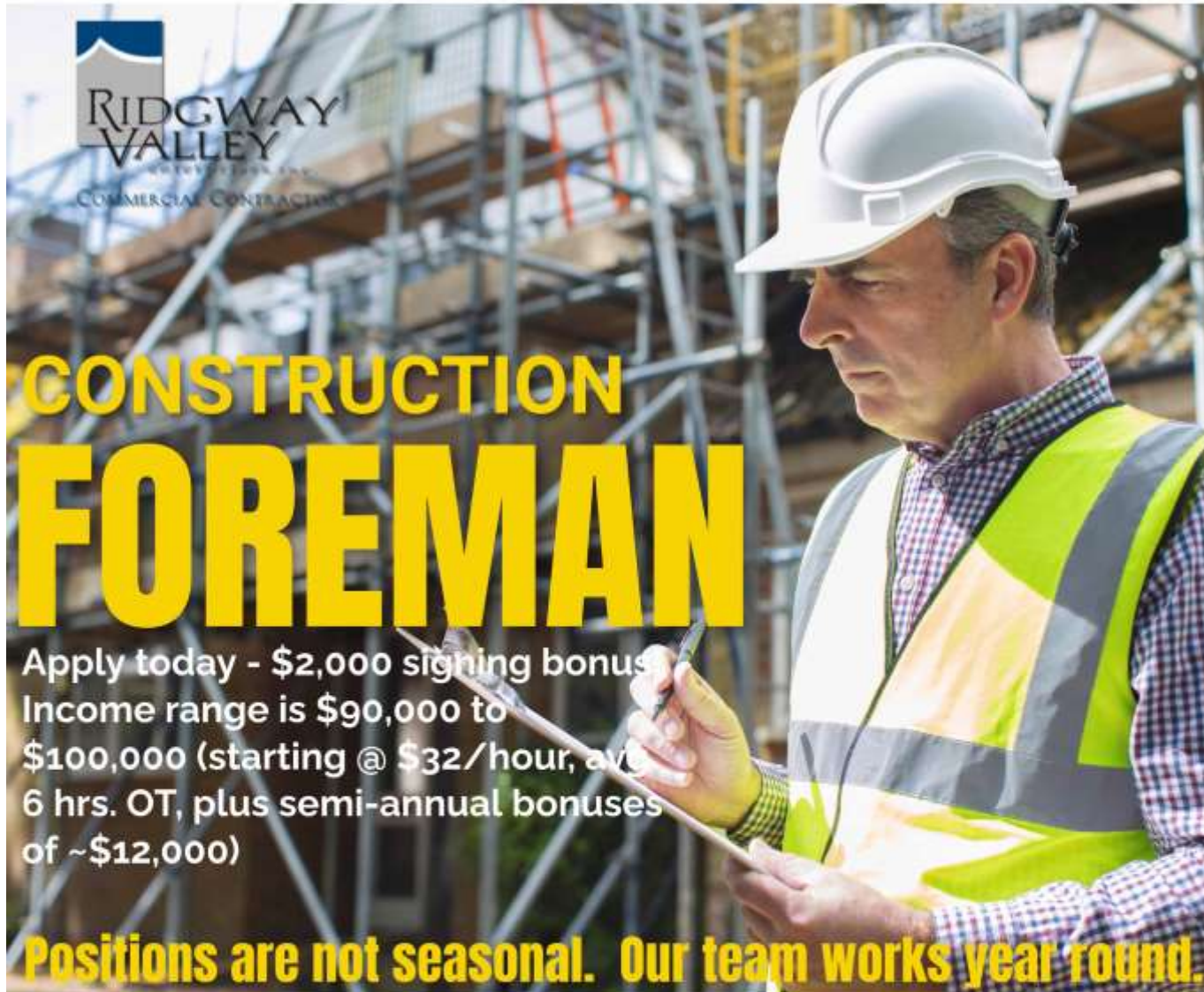
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# MONTROSE RED HAWKS SPORTS ROUNDUP



Red Hawks Junior Varsity practice. Photo by Cliff Dodge.

By Cliff Dodge

**RED HAWKS VARSITY FOOTBALL:** No game this week. The Red Hawks have a bye on their schedule. Next game vs Grand Junction Central Warriors at home on Friday, Sept. 20. The Kick-off is scheduled for 7 a.m.

## RED HAWKS VOLLEYBALL:

### Red Hawks 3, Grand Junction Tigers 0

The Montrose Red Hawks varsity volleyball team returned home after playing four games on the road and defeated the visiting Grand Junction Tigers 3-0. The Red Hawks improved their overall record to 5 wins and 2 losses, and hold a 1-0 record in league play. The two losses came at the hands of Windsor and Platte Valley while participating in the Lewis-Palmer tournament just to the north of Colorado Springs.

The Red Hawks and the Grand Junction Tigers battled back and forth in the first set as the two teams tied at 9-9 before the Red Hawks took control of the contest and defeated the Tigers 25-15. The second set was more of the same as the Red Hawks again defeated the Tigers by the score of 25-19. The third set saw the Tigers take the initial point to lead 1-0. Junior Maggie Legg served for the Red Hawks and she ran off 11 service winners to lead 11-1 before the Tigers would hit the score

sheet again. The final in favor of the Red Hawks in the third set was 25-12. In the preliminary game the Red Hawk Jayvees defeated the Tigers 2 sets to 1.

### Palisade Bulldogs 3, Red Hawks 0

The Red Hawks traveled to Palisade on Thursday to do battle with the Palisade Bulldogs, and a battle it was. The Bulldogs took no prisoners as they defeated the Red Hawks 3-0. The Red Hawks were unable to get untracked and lost the first set 25-10. The visitors doubled their point total in the second set but still lost 25-20. The Bulldogs completed their victory with a 25-17 win in the third set. Next up for the Red Hawks will be a trip to Gunnison to take on the Cowboys next Tuesday.

## RED HAWKS SOFTBALL:

### Grand Junction Tigers 17, Red Hawks 0

The Montrose Red Hawks softball team played host to the Grand Junction Tigers at the Montrose diamond and were defeated by the Tigers 17-0. This was a game where virtually nothing went the Red Hawk's way. The Tigers pushed across 4 runs in the top of the first inning and then added 6 more tallies on the second and topped off the game with 7 more runs in the third. The game was called after three innings due to the "mercy" rule. The Red Hawks sent the minimum number of batters to the plate, three

batters in the first, second and third innings. No Red Hawk was able to get a base hit.

### Grand Junction Central 13, Red Hawks 4

The Red Hawks hit the road and visited the Warriors of Grand Junction Central who sport a 7-5 record overall and are undefeated 3-0 in league action.

The Red Hawks started strong as they pushed across 4 runs in the top half of the first inning. The euphoria did not last as the Warriors put up a 7 spot in the bottom of the first inning. The Warriors proceeded to add 6 more runs in the final six inns to win the game 13-4. The Red Hawks managed only 5 singles in the contest. Sophomore Isabelle Mott pitched the entire game for the Red Hawks and absorbed the loss.

## RED HAWKS JAYVEE FOOTBALL:

### Red Hawks 24, Fruita-Monument Wildcats 12

The Montrose Red Hawks JV football team hit the road for a game vs the Fruita-Monument Wildcats last week and emerged victorious by the score of 24-12. The Red Hawks basically controlled the line of scrimmage offensively and their defense clamped down on the Wildcats offense to assure the victory. The Red Hawks have now won three games while losing none. The Red Hawks are 1-0 at home and 2-0 on the road. The Red Hawks offense has scored 102 points while giving up only 26. Fruita-Monument fell to 0-2.

The Red Hawks next action will be on Sept. 16 when they host the Warriors of Grand Junction Central High School. Kick-off is slated for 6 p.m.

## RED HAWKS VARSITY SOCCER:

### Red Hawks 5, Fruita-Monument 1

The Montrose Red Hawks varsity soccer team continued their winning ways last week as they travelled to Fruita-Monument and defeated the Wildcats by the score of 5-1. The Red Hawks offense was dominant throughout the contest as they scored 2 goals in the first half and added 3 more in the second half. The Red Hawks defense stood tall as they gave up only 1 goal which came late in the game.

*Continued next pg*

## MONTROSE RED HAWKS SPORTS ROUNDUP From previous pg



*Red Hawks soccer team prepares to take the pitch. Photo by Cliff Dodge.*

The Red Hawks have now won three games in a row. The Red Hawks dropped their first game to Rifle and then defeated Delta, Grand Junction and Fruita-Monument to arrive at their 3-1 record overall and 2-0 in league play.

### **Red Hawks 2, Eagle Valley Devils 1**

The Eagle Valley Devils paid a visit to the Montrose Soccer pitch on Friday and the

Montrose Red Hawks improved their overall record to 4 wins and only 1 loss as they defeated the Devils 2-1. The victory improved the Red Hawks league record to 2-0. The Red Hawks scored a goal in each of the halves of the game while allowing only a single goal to the Devils in the second half of the contest.



*Red Hawks softball team prepares to take the field. Photo by Cliff Dodge.*

Once again the Montrose defense was very stout and disrupted the Devils offensive efforts while preserving the victory. Next up for the Red Hawks will be a visit from the Warriors of Grand Junction Central High School on next Tuesday. Stay tuned.

# The Mirror:

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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

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*Special to the Mirror*

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## CITIZENS GROUP HOLDS SECOND MEETING WITH CITY TO FOCUS ON CRIME



**Montrose Chief of Police Blaine Hall said, "I want to come back to one thing, if you see something you have to call us. That's what people can do, be involved." Hall noted that the phone number for citizens to use is easy to remember because it includes the number 911. The phone number is 970-249-9110. (Photo courtesy of David White).**

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE—On Sept. 10, a group of citizens concerned with crime and illegal immigration in Montrose met for the second time with city staff — City Manager Bill Bell, Chief of Police Blaine Hall, and Public Safety Attorney Matthew Magliaro.

Citizen Ron Smith said, "I don't want to get into the politics of this thing. We want to have a two-way conversation with you guys. You guys are not the enemy. We requested this two-way forum [so as] not to have a one-way conversation at council meetings."

Chief of Police Blaine Hall acknowledged citizen concerns over the outbreak of crime, both nationally and locally. In the past most crime was committed in the middle of the night. Hall said, "Now it's busier during the daytime. It's busy all the time." Hall referenced HR 241280 which provided grant funds to immigrants. He said, "All of us are immigrants to some extent."

Smith said, "What are we doing in terms of vetting and not vetting? I challenge everyone in the city to put together a plan. It's humanitarian stuff, but who is it going to?"

Lake Havasu City resident Jim Bowman said, "My question is, in the news recently,



**On Sept. 10, a citizens group met with city staff concerning crime in Montrose. Ron Smith (salmon shirt) said, "I don't want to get into the politics of this thing. We want to have a two-way conversation with you guys. You guys are not the enemy. We requested this two-way forum [so as] not to have a one-way conversation at council meetings." Photo by Gail Marvel.**

what's happening in Aurora. If there is a way we can help you. How are you trying to deal with this?"

Hall said, "You understand that I can't share Police Department (PD) operations. I can't share the nitty-gritty. We have a Drug Task Force, multi-agency task force, which is not a federal task force. We are funded solely by local city and county [training]. We have had substantial seizures of fentanyl in the city and the county. We are not beholden to the DEA, we're partners. We have prosecuted a few and are putting out a tremendous amount of pressure. There were 24 individuals prosecuted and federally indicted. We cooperate with ICE, but on criminal federal detainees, not civil. It's difficult to arrest someone unless it's a crime of violence. It is disproportionate, the immigrants are not causing the crimes committed. Right now, with our four detectives, we have about 55-60 cases. Of those, we believe two are with undocumented citizens."

Hall continued, "Aurora is appalling. I blame them [officials] for letting it get that far. That ain't going to happen here! If you commit a crime here, there will be the full force of the police department. Same with Gene Lillard [Montrose County Sheriff]."

Smith said, "Is there anything like that here [Venezuelan gangs]?"

Hall said, "No. We're keeping tabs. Honestly, the gangs are going where there is money — drugs and sex trafficking. There is violence in their own population [immigrant population]. I want to come back to one thing, if you see something you have to call us. That's what people can do, be involved. That's how you can help. The best way to get involved is by putting pressure on individuals making the law. SB 217 puts a tremendous strain on state and local law enforcement. Colorado always likes to be first. Colorado is the only State that passed a law like this. It took away police qualified immunity...if officers are charged, some of the [costs] come out of

**Continued next pg**

## CITIZENS GROUP HOLDS SECOND MEETING WITH CITY TO FOCUS ON CRIME

### From previous pg

officers' pocket. No other state in the nation did this."

Citizen Lance Michaels said, "One item that has not been addressed is the large-scale influx to our community [from illegal immigrants]. Is there an emergency management plan to deal with that? Budget wise, is funding available to handle that?"

Hall said, "Montrose County Health and Human Services are task with that type of job. That's not a city function."

Michaels said, "What if 10,000 people were dropped off [here]? Do you have a plan?"

Hall said, "Not for that. But the chance of 10,000 people being dropped off is few and far between. We would declare an emergency, which would open us up for help from other agencies. Yes, if 10,000 people were dropped off we would call it an emergency."

Bowman said, "Busses from Denver to Montrose?"

Hall said, "First thing, there would be coordination of transportation for them to move on. They are going to go where they can get services."

City Manager Bill Bell said, "We don't plan for emergencies for things that are not likely to happen. We make emergency plans on things that might happen."

Bowman said, "Montrose has avoided a big influx of people who could blend in. Montrose is not a great target for the time being."

Hall said, "Venezuelan gang members. Their members are hard to miss with their head and body tattoos and their nose piercings. If just a couple of those folks

were dropped off on Main Street we'd be getting calls."

Tagging in the community, which is caught on video, is being done by destructive youth in the community. Hall said, "Our citizens have spoken. They want safety in the parks."

Hall identified three groups of people that are causing issues in the parks.

-Homeless – "Truly there are homeless. There are many services available, but sometimes accessing those services is difficult."

-Transients – "They don't cause a lot of issues [crime], but in the city parks they are leaving an ungodly amount of trash."

-Aggressive Transients – "There are a growing group of individuals in Montrose who chose to be transient and chose to attack police officers and citizens. They are truly creating havoc in our parks."

Recent policy changes before the city council have included second offense mandatory jail time.

However, those changes are being resisted by members of the public and state defenders who are coming before the council.

Bell said, "Monthly we are cleaning out [homeless/transient] camps."

Hall said, "Three weeks ago there was a Summer Soccer Camp with 50 kids playing soccer. Transients took over a gazebo and a bathroom. We have to find a way to focus on the conduct. Not focus on the homeless, but on the conduct of transients. We need to protect everyone in our city. People say we are going after the homeless. We're not; we're going after

conduct!"

Hall continued, "We have an outreach program for lifesaving in freezing conditions. We're pretty good at our responses."

Citizen David White said, "And Jim Renfrow is handing out sleeping bags. He's a good humanitarian, but he is encouraging [the transient situation]."

Citizen Jeff Krebs said, "And they [Renfrow's] are handing out bicycles [to the homeless/transient population]. People are riding bikes in the middle of the night, on the sidewalks, with no lights or reflective wear!"

Hall reiterated the need for people to call when they see something. He said, "I know people sometimes don't call because they think they are bothering us when we are busy. They also think that by the time we get there, the person may be gone. You still need to call us."

Hall noted that the phone number for citizens to use is easy to remember because it includes the number 911. The phone number is 970-249-9110.

Hall introduced Public Safety Attorney Matthew Magliaro, who has 10,000-11,000 cases a year that deal with policy, legal issues, and review of warrants. Hall said, "He defends our police officers against zealot public defenders."

The citizens thanked the city staff for meeting with them and asked for more public exposure of the various PD departments, as well as more public forums. Bell reminded the group that every week there are forums that are video recorded and are available on the city website.

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“ Kathleen knows ranching firsthand and her lengthy and excellent past legislative service gives her extremely valuable background in the challenging water and agricultural issues of HD58. As always, her focus will be on promoting and fighting for what's best for the West Slope, especially the people in her district. She'll bring much needed rural common sense to Denver and the state Capitol! ”

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OF DURANGO



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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## SAN MIGUEL POWER: A.I. FIREWATCH SYSTEM PROVES ITS WORTH

*Special to the Mirror*

RIDGWAY—"If there was ever a question, this summer has proven that the investment was well worth it." That's the sentiment from Telluride Fire Protection District (TFPD) Chief John Bennett regarding the PANO-AI fire detection system that's currently scanning county, state and federal lands in portions of SMPA's service territory. "So much of wildland fire protection is about early detection," says Chief Bennett "...and that's exactly what the PANO system does."

Back in 2023, SMPA and TFPD took an innovative first step to leverage an emerging technology from worldwide company, PANO-AI and applied it to wildland safety and fire protection. As a result, four 360-degree, high-definition cameras were installed at high-altitude perches at the Raspberry Communications Tower, Telski Lift #9, Grayhead and McKenzie Springs.

The video feed of these cameras is analyzed, in real time, by an Artificially Intelligent (AI) system. When the system detects an anomaly, an on-duty operator is alerted and local fire protection authorities can be

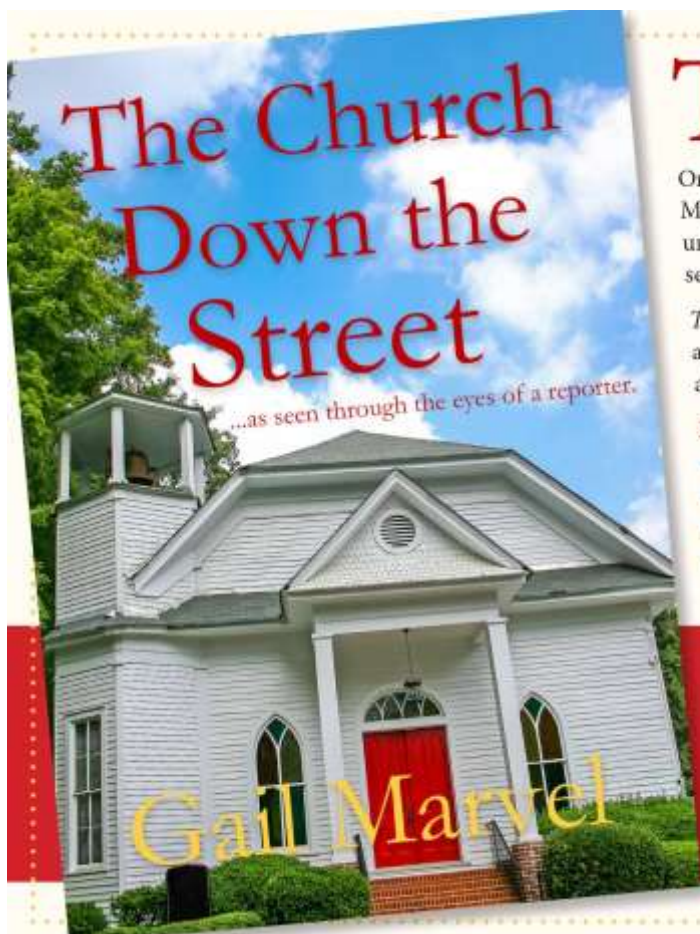
notified, based on human discretion. The process is extremely fast and efficient. "It's a very effective tool," says SMPA Chief Operating Officer (COO), Jeremy Fox. "Most often, when we receive an alert from PANO, it is the very first notification." A notable example was the recent Bucktail fire in Montrose County, near Nucla. "When we received the call on that fire from Norwood, through mutual aid," recalled Chief Bennett, "...our crews were already geared up and ready to deploy." In several other cases, fire crews had been engaging in fire suppression on a scene before the first 9-1-1 call was received. In addition to the time advantage, the PANO system has demonstrated a better-than-promised range. "We actually received an alert of an event on the Grand Mesa," stated Chief Bennett. The site is located about 40 miles beyond the nameplate range of the camera that saw it.

"I am very proud of our partnership with the TFPD," said SMPA CEO, Brad Zaporski. "This relationship has enabled the deployment of some of the most advanced wildfire protection technology currently

available, and which is performing beyond our expectations to protect the communities that we serve."

To enhance public safety, all PANO alerts are shared with an inter-agency dispatch center. San Miguel, and other counties, fire districts, and two power transmission authorities have all been benefitting from the improved vigilance. "Currently, the only funding partners are the TFPD & SMPA. "We are hoping that other local organizations will see the value and pledge support for the program," stated Bennett. "With a discounted price ensured by the 3-year contract, and support from additional partners, we could not only continue the program in its current form; we could expand it with the addition of more cameras."

"It's clear that PANO's mission is well-aligned with that of the Telluride Fire Protection District and of San Miguel Power Association," said Fox. "It's exciting to be part of an advanced solution for wildfire protection, but we need help if the program is to continue protecting our lands into the future."



**T**he *Church Down the Street*, published pre-COVID, peers into the worship services of more than 70 churches, some of which have a weekly attendance of less than 10.

Organized in a topical format (Hospitality, Program & Source Material, Music, Meditations & Invitations, and The Message), the author uses an unbiased approach to allow readers to experience the worship service as seen through the eyes of a reporter.

*The Church Down the Street* contains anecdotes and stories from the actual worship services and asks thought-provoking questions that allow readers to draw their own conclusions.

### Readers will:

- See strengths and weaknesses in the worship service
- Re-evaluate hospitality toward visitors
- Become more aware of source material used in the worship service
- Compare and contrast music presentations and selections
- Discern the value and content of the sermon.

Gail Marvel's book, *The Church Down the Street*, is available online at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) and [wingedpublications.com](https://www.wingedpublications.com).

**GAIL MARVEL**  
Montrose Author & Reporter



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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## DISCRIMINATING AGAINST WOMEN TO PROTECT MEN IS NOW OK FOR DEMOCRATS

*Editor:*

It's astonishing what the media reports on, and what they don't, as they campaign for Kamala and other Democrats. Springfield, Ohio, population 60,000, is overwhelmed with 20,000 illegal Haitian migrants as a result of Biden and Kamala's non-enforcement of our borders, but the media has chosen to ignore it, even though this has clearly been going on for a long time. But we do know that Tim Walz's favorite milkshake is vanilla and that ka MALA shops for spices at an anti-Republican spice store. Occasionally the media slips up and actually tells the truth, like the Meet The Press interview with Bernie Sanders where he said the quiet part out loud: Kamala's sudden attempt to shift from the extreme left is nothing more than a political charade to win votes, not anything close to a genuine change in ideology. Sanders admitted Harris is scamming voters and not standing on principle.

A key point to voters, whether you are Independents, RHINO never Trumpers, or Democrats suffering from Trump Derangement Syndrome (TDS), is that if Trump/Vance lose, the only principles and integrity that will matter will be those of Harris/Walz -- and they possess neither. Democrat Nicole Shanahan, R.F. Kennedy's ex-running mate, just put out an ad tackling TDS head on. "Do you deny the issues facing our country, such as historic inflation, illegal immigration, corporate corruption, war escalation, .... ? Are you willing to elect someone who was the least popular vice president in modern history and who offers no policy or vision for America simply because your brain keeps telling you 'anyone but Trump'? If so, you may be struggling with TDS." The ad then introduces the solution: "Independence."

"Independence may not be for everyone. If you enjoy being lied to about your president's cognitive abilities, support Orwellian totalitarianism, or are excited about communist fiscal policy, independence may not be right for you."

Christians in particular need to be careful to not be sucked into the Democrat fraud machine's lies about abortion. A vocal minority of pro-life supporters are disappointed at some of Trump's recent comments on abortion, but they do not fully understand the

law, or why Trump's position is as pro-life as possible. Trump is the only Republican president in the last half-century who has kept his promise to the pro-life movement. The old GOP promised them the moon and repeatedly delivered nothing. What Trump accomplished with Dobbs is to put the abortion question beyond the reach of federal regulators, by moving abortion back to state law where it constitutionally belongs. To those who want to restrict abortion, that is everything they could ask for under a constitutional Republic. The only other way to legally regulate or abolish abortion nationally is through an [Article V](#) constitutional amendment.

Rather than being upset that Trump indicated he will not sign federal abortion laws (which have no chance of being enacted anyway in a country dominated by pro-abortion advocates), pro-lifers should be thankful that the federal government does not Constitutionally have that power. They have to realize that if Harris gets elected, Dobbs will not be respected, judicial activism will return, and Harris will reinstate unlimited abortion in federal law --- the Constitution be damned.

Florida's Amendment 4 ballot initiative is an example of how Harris/Walz continue to deceive Americans, both about Trump's position, and the consequences of abortion initiatives. That initiative is not about overturning the state's six-week abortion ban. It is about inscribing an unlimited, unregulated access to abortion-on-demand for the entire nine months of pregnancy into the state constitution. Trump knows this, which is why he is voting "no" on Amendment 4 in his home state. Rather than criticizing Trump and handing the Oval Office over to Harris -- the most extreme pro-abortion candidate ever -- pro-lifers should focus on exposing the falsehoods abortion apologists continually sell to the American public. Remember, Trump installed pro-life Supreme Court justices who repealed Roe. The other party set up abortion buses at its national convention. That party celebrates abortion, and actually prosecutes and tries to destroy those who counsel against it.

As grave as abortion is, voters should not view abortion as an isolated issue. Demo-

crats are increasingly anti-Christian, as evidenced by Walz signing new teacher licensing rules that will go into effect in July 2025 that target practicing Christians (as well as Jews and Muslims) and effectively ban them from teaching in public (and many private) schools in Minnesota. This is the same state that has become a "trans refuge" and provides "gender-affirming care" for minors and mandatory tampons in boys' bathrooms. This is the same Democrat Party who throw women to the bottom of the barrel by encouraging men identifying as women to dominate women's sports and invade their daughters' locker rooms -- even when it results in serious physical injury to female victims. They are now re-imagining Title IX to erase decades of protections for women. Discriminating against women to protect men is now OK for Democrats. This is the same party that label traditional Catholics and parents objecting at school board meeting about pornography in their school libraries as "terrorists." The same party that thinks it is OK to ignore attacks against pregnancy resource centers and the burning of our cities by Antifa and BLM, but send twenty armed FBI swat team members in the middle of the night to peaceful abortion protestors. This is the same party that is running Adam Frisch locally in CD3 in spite of (perhaps because of) the fact that his family business is abortion. Meanwhile, Trump just announced that Dr. Ben Carson will be his "National Faith Chairman" in his new administration to protect religious freedom in the U.S.

As Trump is fond of saying, we need the victory in this election to be too big to rig. In other words, the vote has to be such a landslide that there is no way the cheating Un-Democrat party can win. The Christians I know are not about to "cut off their nose to spite their face." They know it would be a moral and economic disaster if Komrade Kamala and her communist wrecking ball were unleashed on this country. The choice is not between two evils. It is between true evil and someone who might irritate you, but will do everything possible to fight against the left's war on families, religion, and Christianity.

*Ed Henrie, Montrose*



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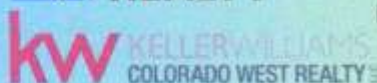
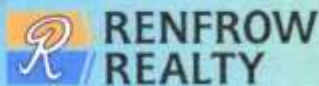
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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## IS HOAXER- HARRIS REALLY THE BEST THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY CAN DO?

*Editor:*

A hoaxer is defined in the Cambridge Dictionary as; a person who carries out a trick or plan to deceive people. And that's exactly what Kamala, and, I might add, the entire Democrat party did by hiding president Biden's cognitive decline before the 2020 election. And they're still hiding him today. How many vacation days are they going to allow him to take?? And more importantly is this behavior endangering every American? You bet it is!! And not one Democrat seems to care. It's truly despicable!!

Every American knows that the /Harris/ Biden team has been an absolute FAILURE on two of the most critical issues that affects every single adult and child in the United States. They have failed miserably on helping Americans to afford and sustain a healthy life. Plus, they are catastrophically failing on keeping us all safe. Just look at how many terrorists they have let into our country that could pull off another 9/11. Democrats OWN every future foreign terrorist attack on American soil. And Harris and the Democrats OWN this high inflation! They cannot escape either of these affairs, no matter how hard they try. The Democrat's hoax will go down in history as one of the largest, and most conse-

quential, acts of trickery in United States political history!! And NEVER, ever forget Kamala Harris is smack dab in the middle of this deception. Wake up Americans!! We do NOT need a person as our next president, who purposely deceived every American into believing that president Biden is the smartest, most capable, honorable, president of our time. So incredibly great that his face belongs on Mount Rushmore, per Pelosi.

I'm absolutely shocked at the depravity of the entire Democratic party who is going along with this charade!! Everyone witnessed Harris come in last place in her own party. She didn't even receive, not one vote. Yet we're supposed to believe she should become leader of the free world this easily? Did these Democrats grow up receiving participation trophies for everything they did? It sure seems like it!

If Democrats are not going to take the Democratic procedure more seriously than they don't deserve any votes at any level!!!

Fool me once shame on you. Fool me twice shame on me for being so incredibly gullible and ignorant! And that's exactly what the entire Democratic party is hoping to do!! I implore people to educate themselves better by watching and listening to

more than the propaganda media of CNN, MSNBC, NBC and ABC. They fooled you once with the Russia collusion hoax. They fooled you twice with the Hunter Biden laptop from hell. And they are currently fooling you with their lack of hard-core legitimate interviews and questions that should be asked and answered in detail by Harris and Walz. How many more times are you going to allow them to make a fool out of you? If you still haven't figured it out, the propaganda media is absolutely bought off by the Democratic party. Just like what happens in communist countries. We MUST demand better from our political leaders and especially from the media!! I will never forget hearing a holocaust survivor answer when asked. "How do you think your country changed so quickly? And he spoke. "Evil thrives when good people bury their heads and refuse to broaden their knowledge.

p.s. if you want to see the police bodycam video of Haitians in Ohio, that were dropped off by the Biden/Harris administration, caught eating American's pets, just go to govictory.com and watch their 9/11 morning news show. President Trump was not lying like discredited ABC debate moderator, David Muir insinuated.  
*Kelly Ray, Montrose*

# SEE SOMETHING - SAY SOMETHING



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ANONYMOUS CALL

## MONTROSE REGIONAL CRIME STOPPERS

## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

### VOTE YES AND SUPPORT BUILDING A NEW MONTROSE HIGH SCHOOL

*Editor:*

In 2002, I worked in Grove City, Ohio, when a tax proposal for the local school district failed. The cost of that decision went far beyond the few dollars that could have been invested in the community. People began leaving in droves, losing equity in their homes as property values plummeted. Neighboring towns began referring to Grove City disparagingly as "Grovetucky." That community paid the price for not stepping up when it mattered.

Here in Montrose, we know how to rise to the occasion. We've done it before, from supporting our police department to building the Montrose Recreation Center, which is now enjoyed by residents from all walks of life. We overcame the odds to build Columbine Middle School, and despite doubts, we revitalized our public library, opening it every day of the week. These efforts have enhanced our community for everyone.

Now, it's time to turn our focus to Montrose High School, which has reached the end of its lifespan.

The building is no longer safe or suitable for the needs of today's students. Instead of continuously patching up a broken structure, we must invest in a new high school that will serve as a foundation for the next generation.

A new school does more than just improve education for our children—though that in itself is reason enough. It will provide more opportunities for learning, reduce overcrowding, and allow for better student-to-teacher ratios. These factors lead to higher-quality education and individualized attention, helping students reach their full potential. Furthermore, a modern, well-regarded school increases the desirability of our community, and encourages local investment. It will also attract talented educators and professionals, contributing to our local economy and creating jobs for teachers, administrators,

and staff.

We've seen firsthand the benefits of investing in our community. Just as the recreation center became a hub of activity and engagement, a new high school will foster greater community involvement and pride.

It will be designed with the latest safety standards, addressing concerns about school shootings and ensuring that our children can learn in a secure environment.

As someone who has volunteered on similar community projects, I can tell you that the planning and foresight behind this proposal are sound. Taxes that support our schools are an investment in our future, our property values, and our civic pride.

I urge you to vote YES and support building a new Montrose High School. Our children, our community, and our future depend on it.

*Ellen Angeles, Montrose*

### ADVANTAGES OF MONTROSE CLASSICAL ACADEMY FAR OUTWEIGH THE DISADVANTAGES

*Editor:*

Today I read an article in *'The Federalist'* which reported that the classical charter school in Woodland Park, Colorado, has posted the best test scores of the four districts in which Woodland Park families can enroll their children under open enrollment. Merit Academy is a 3 year old K-11 school. Merit high schoolers also outperformed state averages on the PSAT. If our school board denies the application for Montrose Classical Academy, it will

appear that they fear it will outperform the other schools in the district.

> Several of the letters to the editor of the *Montrose Press* and the *Montrose Mirror* expressing opposition to this charter school have stated inaccurate information regarding who will be enrolled in it, that it will use Christian curriculum, and regarding funding.

I hope that these letters do not influence our school board's decision.

Don't we all want more choices in life,

rather than fewer or none, whether it is in the grocery store, health care, or many other areas of our lives? Montrose needs to offer this additional choice for our families.

The advantages of having this classically chartered school for Montrose far outweigh the disadvantages.

> I hope the Montrose County School Board approves the application to open Montrose Classical Academy.

*Carol Antolovich, Montrose*

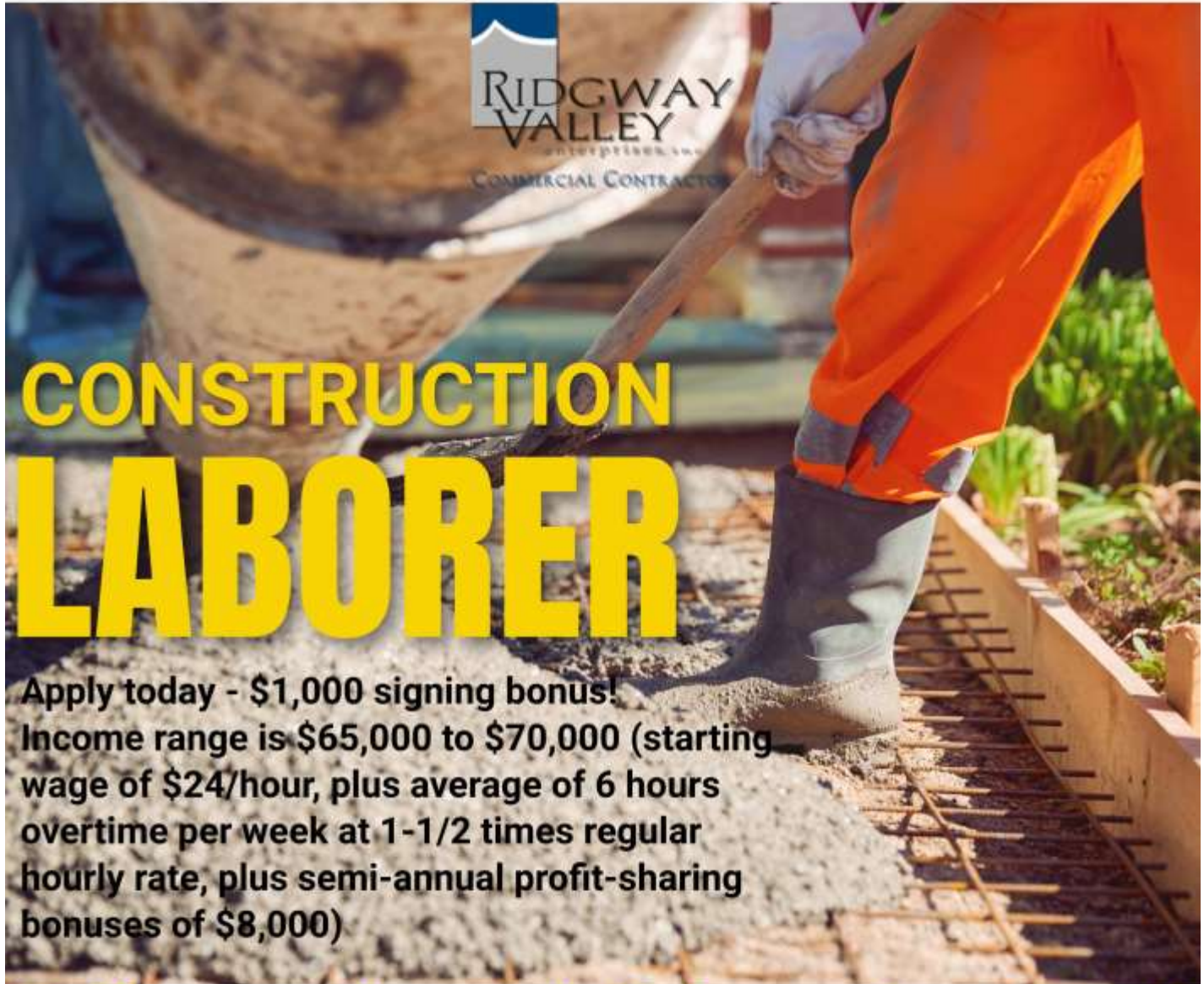
### LET'S RETHINK IDEA OF REMODELING THE RUSSELL STOVER BUILDING

*Editor:*

Am I right in hearing that employees of the Montrose School District were ordered not to speak on their personal opinions regarding the new school proposal? Isn't that censorship of Freedom of Speech? AND wouldn't it be prudent to hear from the people who actually spend a lot of time in the current school buildings every day? If it is as bad as you say it is, I would think that would help your cause. As it stands right now, I don't know of anyone who is going to vote our taxes to increase to build the Taj Mahal. I have nieces, nephews, grandkids that are in this school district. I too want them to be safe and get the best education they can get. This is not the time to get a good rate on loans, grants are hard to come by (which are still our tax dollars). Let's rethink this idea of remodeling the Russell Stover building.

*Thank you,  
Cindy David, Montrose*

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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## NORWOOD FIRE TO HOST MILL LEVY MEETING IN REDVALE

*Special to the Mirror*

REDVALE – The Norwood Fire Protection District will host a community meeting on Saturday, Sept. 21st at 9am at the Redvale Community Center to provide Montrose County residents with an overview of the district's upcoming mill levy election. District Chief John Bockrath will lead the discussion and answer questions relating to the NFPD's critical funding vote on Nov. 5. All members of the community are invited to attend, learn about the ballot issue,

and ask questions about the future of emergency services on the West End. The NFPD has not increased its budget in nearly a decade, but with much higher call volumes, it now faces existential pressure to maintain emergency response capabilities.

"Budgetary restraints may force our tax district to cut emergency medical services and re-structure the department," said Bockrath. "To keep effective fire and EMS protection on the West End, this mill levy

is critical to the Norwood district. We simply can't afford to lose this election."

The Norwood Fire Protection District provides emergency medical services; structural and wildland fire suppression and prevention services; search and rescue; motor vehicle extraction; home healthcare checks; and hazardous material response across nearly 900 square miles between San Miguel and Montrose Counties. For information: John Metzger, 303-641-1062, [john@metzger.com](mailto:john@metzger.com)

## CHANGING NEEDS?

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# 'TITLE IX IS 37 WORDS; THE MOST IMPORTANT ONE IS SEX' *From pg 1*

presentation with slides from their 2022-2024 project, Belize Blood Drive, and spoke about the experience.

"That's a really cool project," Fishing said. Students raised funds and met with officials from the blood center in Belize. They had an enjoyable time although a hurricane was heading to Belize just as they were preparing to leave. "...We had to wake up really, really, really early," one student said, "to try to get on a boat back to the Mainland because everybody on the island was evacuating..."

## RECOGNITION & DONATIONS

PIO Matthew Jenkins said that the September 2024 KREX Golden Apple Award was given to Pomona Elementary Kindergarten Teacher Melanie Bushee.

Cottonwood Elementary School received donations for the 5th grade Gunnison River Rafting trips from the following:

- Friends of Youth and Nature in the amount of \$1,500.

- The Blanchard's in the amount of \$500.

Peak Academy received a \$1,000 check from Emalie Boyce and Nathan Self to be distributed as follows:

- \$100 Doug Eccher's discretion;

- \$300 Middle School elective - all grades 6-8;

- \$300 Student Engagement;

- \$300 Library/Reading.

## QUARTERLY FINANCIALS

Director of Finance Emily Imus presented the Quarterly Financial Reports both by Fund and by Investment. Auditors will be on site Oct. 8-10, she said.

## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT-25 YEAR STAFF APPRECIATION

Superintendent Carrie Stephenson presented 25-year Staff Appreciation Certificates to Lidia Bond; Carie Brannam; Erin Fields; Connie Haptonstall; Catherine Holcom and Ben Stephenson.

## SCHOOL PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK UPDATE

Executive Director of Academic Services Jessica Kalb delivered a presentation on Academic Performance Frameworks. The complete presentation is in the meeting board docs packet.

## SPECIAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT EXPENSE PRESENTATION

Kalb introduced RE-1J Director of Special

Education Brittany Picard. Picard discussed recent decisions on collaborations, out-of-district placements, and a staffing contract that will no longer be needed due to an in-person hire. Picard answered questions from the board as well. "Good to meet you guys."

Picard delivered a presentation on Special Education Department Expenses, also included in Board Docs.

## COMMUNITY INPUT

Jarrad Despres spoke about the proposed new Montrose High School. "I want to be behind this...I think everybody agrees in our county that Montrose High has definitely been lacking in some updates and needs...our family is a third-generation family within Montrose High so we have a vested interest to see it succeed, to see it expand. I currently just cannot get behind it, I just can't...the last year we've struggled with a massive tax increase from the Assessor's office with all of our property...it was a huge hit... so to come before the county and say look we need another huge bond measurement, that's a big ask for us...I think what we can do is possibly go before the county commissioners and look at adjusting our tax burden to accommodate this bond measure...the amount we're paying in property taxes has increased drastically...I think we can work together hopefully...to where we're not putting a burden upon our community as well...I think the big windows maybe not need to be there, cut some costs...I've got five kids..."

The project will cost \$62M every year for four straight years, Despres said. "...I'll go along with you, I'll be right there in that meeting to say look, let's get this done, but how do we do it to not put such a massive burden..."

Next to speak was Jenny Horn, who called out the board for amending policies concerning Title IX protections.

"I am a supporter of the original Title IX law," Horn said. "My sister Julie and I were first generation Title IX athletic scholarship recipients. We were part of the first group of women to benefit from that legislation. 1972, one in 27 girls participated in high school sports; 32,000 female college athletes; less than ten percent of law and

medical degrees were earned by women; no athletic scholarships for women.

"With Title IX, 52 years later one in three girls are in high school sports; 230,000 female college NCAA athletes; about 50 percent of law and medical degrees are earned by women; in 2021, 75,000 athletic scholarships for women.

"Title IX is 37 words; the most important one is sex," Horn said. "There is no ambiguity in what the law states out to protect.

"Males are built differently in thousands of ways," she said. "Such as lean body mass, strength, speed, reproductive impacts, bone structure and density, muscle and oxygen usage. Sex based upon categories for sports are fair, safe, and competitive.

"The question the governing bodies of sport are asking, how to make guidelines to include male athletes in the female category, is it to impair male performance to equate to a woman? This argument is not empowering for girls or women, it is damaging, misogynistic and demeaning," she said.

"We are not small or encumbered male bodies, we are female," Horn said. "The message to female athletes right now is fairness doesn't matter. Be good. Be kind. Be silent.

"Trans-identified male athletes (TIM) participation on girls' sports teams produce mental and emotional anguish for girls. It's a danger to their physical body and to their mental well-being."

Horn said, "TIMS watching girls undress in locker rooms is traumatic for girls, producing mental health issues such as anxiety, depression, withdrawal, loss of self-value and esteem, shame and anger, as recently testified by women forced to share a locker room. They were silenced, told to ignore their instinctive fears and discomfort. TIM students undressing and displaying to girls in a locker room is, again, distressing and traumatizing for girls.

"Girls need safe, protected spaces," she said. "Does your new school blueprint include gender identity neutral locker rooms in addition to girls' and boys' facilities and bathrooms, or do you insist that girls share their private space with TIMS?"

"What is your plan to protect girls' and

## ***“TITLE IX IS 37 WORDS; THE MOST IMPORTANT ONE IS SEX” From previous pg***

boys' spaces? Are you telling girls to ignore their right to safety and instincts of self-protection? What about their right to privacy, and not to be in view of a male when they change?"

Horn said, "What is the school policy on allowing trans-identified male athletes to play on girls' sports teams? What is the school policy on allowing TIMS to use girls school locker rooms?"

Next to speak was Kim Shell, who said that a trusted school bus driver retired last year. "You could set your watch to what time he would show up at the end of our driveway to pick up my older son..."

Her younger son has some medical issues, Shell said, and it is unsafe for him to pedal a bike on a hill with no shoulder to the new bus stop.

"Our bus stop is now two miles away from our house, where in the past, the bus would come up the hill..."

Consolidated routes now require several families of children to meet at the bottom of the hill, with a road that has no shoulder, Shell said. "Fine and great until the snow starts flying...that side of the hill does not see sun...cars come down the hill sideways, guess who's going to be there walking on the side of the road with nowhere to go..."

Donna Elkins spoke, saying the Board of Education has enough responsibility running the school district without having to interpret legalities. Elkins asked that the Board retain an expert from the legal field to ensure that the board is in compliance with policies.

"...We understand that your unpaid elected positions are time-consuming and complex...it is not reasonable to ask you or the secretary to the board to also have the legal expertise required in real time at a board meeting to ensure fair and complete implementation of the ever-changing laws, policies, and rules to which you are legally bound.

"This is a key part of the reason why many boards in a district of this size contract with an expert from the legal field that has that specialized knowledge about

school district boards and regulations to ensure that each of you is fully and correctly informed, which in turn will allow you to conduct business fair and openly with the full confidence that you're not only preserving your rights but the rights of the public that has entrusted you to represent them. "Please consider adding one more member to your superhero team, a contracted legal expert."

Nita Abney spoke in support of the proposed charter school Montrose Classical Academy. She asked the board to educate themselves about the proposed school and reach out to the board of the proposed charter school. "I want to encourage you to think critically about this new school...I believe going back to the basics of classical education...I just want to encourage you to think more about it..."

She suggested the RE-1J board welcome the board of the proposed charter school to a discussion.

### **APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

Consent Agenda Items 14, 15, and 16 were pulled for further discussion; the remaining items, including Personnel Report, were approved.

District C Director Alice Murphy moved to approve Consent Agenda Item 14, approval of the renaming of the Olathe High School Press Box to the Joe Archuleta Press Box. "I just wanted to recognize what a swell guy Joe is...he's given a lot to the community, so I really like the idea of having the name Joe Archuleta Press Box..."

District F Director Jody Hovde said, "I did a lot of thinking about this, and I don't know Joe as well as you know Joe, but I was wondering how we just decide, a community member says let's name something after somebody, and what are the procedures and what not...and one of the things was that we would have an ad hoc committee that would be established that was representative of the school community...and did we do that and did we come to this conclusion?"

Olathe High School Principal Scot Brown said that the decision was brought to him

two years ago, there have been many conversations, and Brown has met with local groups, "...There's been a lot of conversation over two years..."

Hovde said that there have been more formal presentations with other district facilities.

The Board of Education voted to approve the renaming of the Olathe High School Press Box to the Joe Archuleta Press Box, in a five to one vote with Hovde voting "Nay."

RE-1J Executive Director of Operations James Pavlich discussed Consent Agenda item 15, "Approve payment to the Blythe Group in the amount of \$678,165. for completion of Montrose High School Schematic Design" ... the meeting Agenda notes, "*This amendment includes the completion of the remaining 80 percent of the SD phase, for a cost of \$616,165, as well as reimbursable expenses of \$62,000. The amendment covers necessary architectural, engineering, and design services, excluding cost estimating, now handled by the CM/GC.*"

Also approved was Consent Agenda Item 16, "an amendment to the design services contract with Blythe Group for the Early Childhood Education Center (ECC) conceptual design. This amendment totals \$81,845. for the ECC conceptual design, as well as reimbursable expenses of \$17,750. The scope of work includes developing three design scenarios (consolidated, semi-consolidated, and dispersed) and conducting meetings with staff and stakeholders to refine the plans, excluding cost estimating, which is now covered by the CM/GC."

### **ENROLLMENT REPORT**

Director of Finance Emily Imus presented the first Enrollment Report of the 2024-2025 School Year. "As of September 5<sup>th</sup>, our enrollment is 6,017," Imus said, adding that the total is 17 students lower than this time last year. The official October Count will take place on Tuesday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, she said.

The Board of Education voted to adjourn. "See you on the 24th," Fishing said.



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## WEEKLY CARTOON

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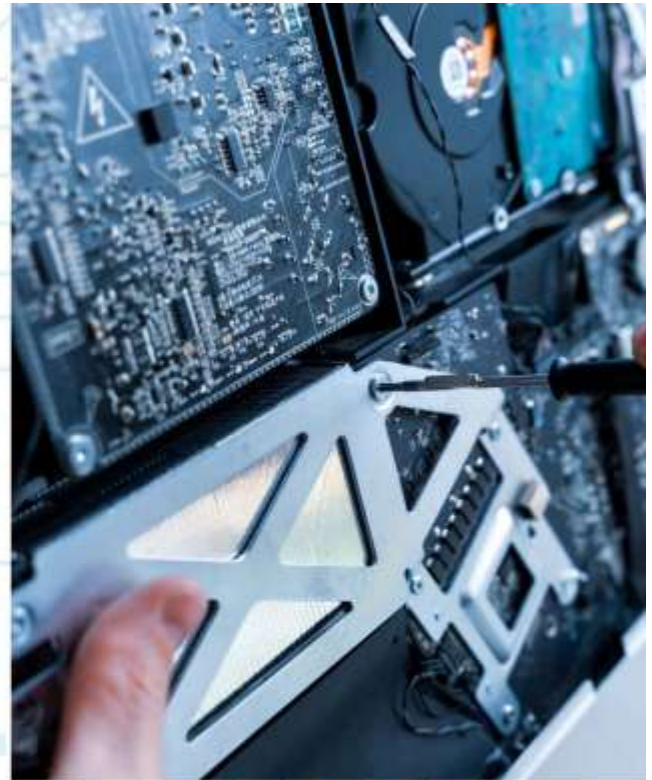
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## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

### THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE MONTROSE VETERANS MEMORIAL

#### Letter to the Editor:

Thanks to everyone who donated money for the bronze service seals that will be imbedded in the granite stone at the entrance to the Montrose Veterans Memorial. We are grateful for your contributions.

Now that the memorial planning process is nearly finished, we will be looking months in advance to raise funds in the same manner for the black granite panels. There will be seven panels--the first will be a welcoming stone at the entrance, the other six will represent images from WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Gulf War, Desert Storm, the War on Terror, and other conflicts. Everyone is welcome to participate in this fundraising.

The etchings on these black panels will be similar to the ones on the attached photo. Please contact us if you are interested in donating to help us with this part of the memorial [www.montrosevmc.us](http://www.montrosevmc.us)

We are so grateful for all the donations, including the bricks which will frame all the elements of the memorial. If you are interested in purchasing a tribute brick, please visit <https://www.montrosevmc.us/memorial-bricks.html>

Please stay tuned...we'll be talking soon



Photo courtesy of PG Memorials.

about benches that will be placed around the memorial panel area for resting and reflecting.

Sincerely,

Les Williams, President

On behalf of the MVMC Board of Directors

### WHY SHOULDN'T CHOICE APPLY EQUALLY TO SCHOOLS?

#### Dear Editor:

In support of Montrose Classical Academy  
A little while ago, I was sitting with a couple of very liberal women. I asked if they were in favor of Choice.

They both were adamantly and enthusiastically in favor of choice. If course, they were thinking of reproductive choice. But why shouldn't that equally apply to the choice of to which school you send your children. And by extension, why should the school district limit the choices of venues?

Montrose Classical Academy will offer another choice of curricula and environment.

America is as great as it is because it al-

lowed the best to flourish and the worst to fail. I by no means mean to infer that our school system should fail. It is doing the best it can with the resources that it has and the Board members whom we have elected. If we are unhappy with the school system, the time to voice that is at the next School Board election. But if the Montrose Classical Academy does what the parents of its students want, it will succeed. If not, it will fail. I think we need to give it that opportunity.

It has been said that this will be an elitist school. But entrance is not limited to the elite. If I were a parent who is at the lower side of our economic spectrum and I wanted better for my kids, I would try to

get them into this school. It may be true that MCSDD would be better able to provide all the benefits to disadvantaged learners, then those parents would choose to have their students stay where they are.

I think that this is a wonderful opportunity for us to provide a different environment than MCSDD provides for those parents who wish to take advantage of it. It will also provide a different cultural exposure to its students.

I believe that it is a good fit for our community and that it deserves a chance.

Please encourage your reader's School Board members to vote for it.

Rick Bleier, Montrose

# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## ADVANTAGES OF CLASSICALLY CHARTERED SCHOOL FOR MONTROSE FAR OUTWEIGH DISADVANTAGES

*Editor:*

Today I read an article in *'The Federalist'* which reported that the classical charter school in Woodland Park, Colorado, has posted the best test scores of the four districts in which Woodland Park families can enroll their children under open enrollment. Merit Academy is a 3 year old K-11 school. Merit high schoolers also outperformed state averages on the PSAT. If our school board denies the application for Montrose Classical Academy, it will appear that they fear it will outperform the other schools in the district.

> Several of the letters to the editor of the *Montrose Press* and the *Montrose Mirror* expressing opposition to this charter school have stated inaccurate information regarding who will be enrolled in it, that it will use Christian curriculum, and regarding funding. I hope that these letters do not influence our school board's decision. Don't we all want more choices in life, rather than fewer or none, whether it is in the grocery store, health care, or many other areas of our lives? Montrose needs

to offer this additional choice for our families. The advantages of having this classically chartered school for Montrose far outweigh the disadvantages.

> I hope the Montrose County School Board approves the application to open Montrose Classical Academy.

*Carol Antolovich, Montrose*

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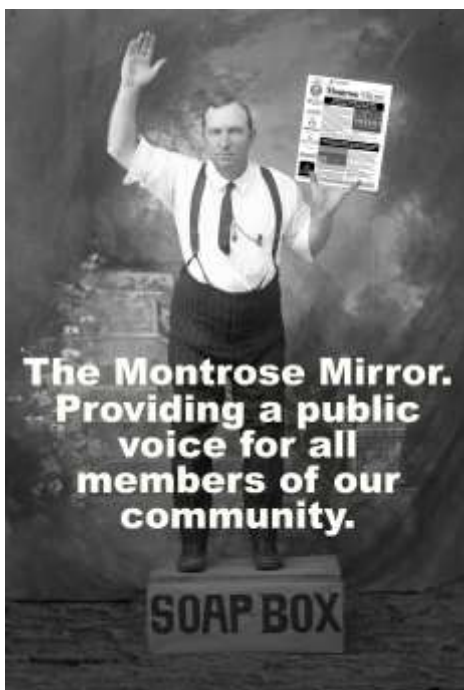
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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS & COMMENTARY

## MILL LEVY IS CRITICAL TO THE NORWOOD DISTRICT

*By John Bockrath, NFPD Chief*

NORWOOD-A mill levy increase for the Norwood Fire Protection District (NFPD) is on the November ballot. To protect life and property in southwest Montrose County, your fire department's budget must keep pace with our obligation to provide essential services. We're counting on district residents to vote YES to make this possible.

The NFPD has not gone to the voters for a funding increase in nearly a decade. Our budget has remained the same, but with much higher call volumes, we are facing existential pressure to maintain emergency response capabilities. We simply cannot afford to lose this election.

As careful stewards of district revenues, we have had to get creative in managing our finances. Since the last mill levy election in 2015, we have adjusted to increasing fire/EMS demand by:

- Cancelling plans to buy land and build a new station
- Deferring expenses on equipment and new vehicles
- Refurbishing our existing properties in Norwood, Redvale and Basin solely with donations and our members doing the work

-Forming a revenue-generating wildland team, now in its fourth season deploying to federally managed fires in Colorado and across the country

Staffing is our biggest challenge. Since it is difficult to recruit externally and match market salary expectations, we have focused on hiring locally, and training and qualifying our own firefighters, Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs), and Paramedics. Burnout and turnover remain huge problems.

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) were formalized by an act of congress in the early 1970s. However, the federal government does not provide for EMS and leaves oversight to the states.

Most state-level public health departments have central control over their emergency systems, but Colorado law as administered by the CDPHE (Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment) delegates most EMS to local control.

There is no state law that requires special districts or counties like San Miguel and Montrose to actually provide ground ambulance services. As a result, budgetary restraints may force our tax district to cut EMS and re-structure the department.

In addition to the mill levy, the NFPD's funding depends on grants allocated to counties and special districts that provide "essential services." Unfortunately, the state of Colorado recognizes only two such public necessities: law enforcement and fire protection.

Medical emergencies make up over 80% of Norwood's call load. While maintaining sufficient fire protection and making ends meet in today's inflationary environment, the most practical way to remain eligible for grants would be to relinquish the burden of providing "non-essential" services. We don't want this to happen, and neither should Norwood voters.

If the NFPD focuses solely on fire protection and throws EMS to the county, Norwood residents would be less safe, almost certainly pay more in taxes and homeowners' insurance, and their votes will have far less impact in future elections.

Unfortunately, thousands of rural departments like Norwood's are struggling and consolidating into larger districts – yet public safety is always best managed under local control.

To keep effective fire and EMS protection on the West End, this mill levy is critical to the Norwood district.

## CONFORM, COMPLY, SUBMIT, OBEY

*Editor:*

And now a new batch of wolves is being kidnapped in British Colombia, in the Pacific Northwest, to be sent to Colorado mountains. Way way out of their element.

This is cruelty to the wolves.

The [perpetrators](#) of this whole wolf transplant thing are just cruel people. It originated as Hate for the hick ranchers. Then the whole process is being pursued for the sake of cruelty to all the poor dumb animals, cattle, dogs, and wolves, involved. These are the same cruel people who put the elderly into solitary confinement, a known cruel punishment, during the covid hoax. The tenets of the Totalitarian Left are conform, comply, Submit, OBEY.

*Charles Zimmerman, Montrose*



# COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

## NEW BUSINESS LOAN OFFICER ANNOUNCED FOR REGION 10'S BUSINESS LOAN FUND

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE— Dario Fasoletti has joined Region 10's Business Loan Fund (BLF) as a business loan officer. Now based in Montrose and covering Delta, Montrose, Ouray and San Miguel counties, Fasoletti moved to Colorado in December from California, where he owned a small business with nine employees.

Dario previously served as managing director at Rabobank International, where he led the global markets team in delivering risk management solutions to middle market and corporate clients. In this role, he provided critical support for managing interest rates, foreign exchange and commodity risks through over-the-counter derivatives.

Before his tenure at Rabobank International, Dario held senior management positions at Bank of America N.A. in San Francisco and London. Earlier in his career, he accumulated extensive experience as a loan officer, analyst, commodity trader and letter of credit negotiator at various financial institutions in Los Angeles, California and Lugano, Switzerland.

Dario earned a cum laude bachelor's degree in economics with a minor in accounting from the University of California, Los Angeles, and a diploma in business and banking from Scuola Professionale e Commerciale in Lugano.

"Dario speaks four languages and comes to us with an impressive background in international banking. While he knows the ins and outs of international finance, he also understands the challenges our small businesses face. We are thrilled to have someone with his credentials join our team," says Nancy Murphy, director of small business development and West Central Small Business Development Center for Region 10.

"I'm particularly drawn to Region 10's mission of providing access to capital and technical assistance for regional small business," says Fasoletti. "I also am enthusiastic about the opportunity to connect with referral sources and work closely with small business owners to support their growth and success."

Region 10's BLF is a lending source that provides capital to small businesses and focuses on business expansion, creation and retention of jobs, and health of the regional economy. For more than 30 years, the BLF has assisted for-profit and nonprofit businesses with loans that typically range from \$5,000 to \$250,000 with terms of up to 10 years.

For more information about Region 10's Business Loan Fund and business services, visit [www.region10.net](http://www.region10.net).

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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### NUVISTA FEDERAL CREDIT UNION RECEIVES NATIONAL GRANT TO EXPAND FINANCIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMMING FOR WESTERN SLOPE

#### *Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE— NuVista Federal Credit Union proudly shares that they have secured a \$50,000 grant from the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA) Community Development Revolving Loan Fund (CDRLF). This generous grant will help NuVista expand their Community Development Financial Education program into the five counties where they serve their membership.

"Credit unions have a clear mission when it comes to promoting financial literacy. This grant helps support our own mission to empower our members and prioritize the financial well-being of the communities we serve," said BJ Coram, NuVista CEO.

"Through additional financial education programs, we can provide our members and others in our community with the tools they can use to make informed financial decisions and build their own financial futures."

The key part of the expanded Financial Education program will include the newly created position of Financial Education

Specialist. In the beginning, the Financial Education Program will focus on three main priorities of working with schools, regional nonprofit organizations, and NuVista membership to develop programming and curriculum. Of most importance, programming will be created in a manner that feels comfortable, is accessible, and taught in the language that the students of all ages prefer.

NuVista plans to work with schools to help teachers and students fulfill Colorado State P-12 Financial Literacy Standards. Teaching financial literacy at a young age helps students develop healthy financial habits for their futures. For six years, NuVista has partnered with Montrose County School District and Black Canyon Rotary Club to host a Bite of Reality Financial Reality Fair for 350 students in the Spring. NuVista has been contacted by nonprofit organizations who want to teach financial basics to their clients. Relevant programming and a curriculum that can be taught in English and Spanish will be developed to fulfill requests and establish future partnerships. The third part of the

expanded Program will focus on NuVista's members, who are also owners of the credit union. NuVista will reach out to members to understand what additional financial knowledge is desired to offer workshops to help build members' financial literacy.

Over the last year, NuVista has focused its efforts on ensuring that individuals, businesses, and nonprofits in rural areas have access to essential financial products and services. Sara Plumhoff, Director of Grants & Special Initiatives, expressed, "As a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI), we're in a unique position to access federal funds unavailable to other financial institutions. We've talked to partner organizations and know that there is a need for financial education in our region. Collaborating with nonprofits and school districts will help us spread financial knowledge to underserved and rural populations.

Collaborating with the NCUA CDRLF was a clear opportunity for us given their shared vision. We're extremely grateful for their investment."



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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

## MONTROSE, A BREEDING GROUND FOR OPPORTUNISTS?

### *Your Tax Dollars Lay the Groundwork for the Monied Few*

By David White

As most residents of the City of Montrose know, the City has poured millions of dollars into the Colorado Outdoors project on the north side of the City after declaring the 165 acres it encompasses as blighted. This allowed for the creation of the Montrose Urban Renewal Authority (MURA) and their partnership with the Dragoo family which promised to bring affordable housing to the City along with plentiful, well-paying jobs. Neither of these have happened. If anything, the focus of Colorado Outdoors has been more on high end housing and the promise of tourist driven growth through the taxpayer funding of hotels and restaurants.

Seeing success with their business model of extracting sizeable government "investments" in their schemes, the Dragoo's have recently appeared before the Archuleta County Colorado Board of County Commissioners with a development proposal that is surprisingly similar in concept to the Colorado Outdoors project in Montrose. Not surprising, Archuleta County's seat of government, Pagosa Springs (60 miles east of Durango) is Dragoo family patriarch Doug Dragoo's city of residence.

According to reports by Bill Hudson in the Pagosa Daily Post last month and this month ([Pagosa Daily Post News Events & Video for Pagosa Springs Colorado – Fresh News Fresh Views](#)), the Dragoo Clan (father Doug, son David & his wife Heidi) are proposing to sell the Archuleta County government on a plan to develop 99 acres of ground in Pagosa Springs into a Colorado Outdoors style project with the County government as the anchor tenant in the development on a 5 acre parcel on which they would build a new County Administration building. Interestingly, the County building would be built on land that the Dragoo's are paying under \$2.00 per square foot for but have graciously agreed to sell this parcel to Archuleta County for \$10.00 per square foot or \$2.1 million

dollars! And, the County will have to build all of the infrastructure (streets, utility tie ins, curb, gutter, sidewalks, etc.) using County tax dollars to do so.

In an article from the Pagosa Daily Post August 23<sup>rd</sup> ([EDITORIAL: Two Views of Pagosa's Future, Part Three – Pagosa Daily Post News Events & Video for Pagosa Springs Colorado](#)), the following information was reported:

*"The Dragoos have been working closely with the Town planning department — the 99-acre property is within the Town boundaries — to apply for state housing grants. Reportedly, the Dragoos have also established working relationships with the Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation (PSCDC) and with the Archuleta County Housing Authority.*

*"The utilities are sized sufficiently for these first two projects." That is, the County Administration Building and the proposed "lower income" apartments. I'm putting that phrase — "lower income" — in quotes, because it's not clear who, exactly, will be able to afford these apartments, even with state and local subsidies.*

*A mile farther down Highway 160, PSCDC is overseeing ten subsidized "workforce housing" units being built by BWD Construction. PSCDC is a non-profit corporation, itself heavily subsidized by the Town and County governments. BWD is a private company, so we assume they will be making a profit constructing these ten homes. But PSCDC — as a non-profit corporation — is not allowed to make a "profit" facilitating these homes."*

All of this sounds all too familiar...**USE OTHER PEOPLE'S MONEY** to make your development successful. A true, professional, developer used to pay their own way and take the risks that the entrepreneurs in this country are known for, but that doesn't seem to apply to the Dragoo's who benefited to the tune of millions and millions of our local tax dollars for what appears to have been empty

promises. Affordable housing was promised in the form of the Basecamp Apartments but what are they today? Market rate housing that is far from affordable for most and which are managed by one of Doug Dragoo's old Colorado Springs real estate friends and their company, Griffis-Blessing. High end housing projects are on the books or have been approved for construction. What the heck were we and apparently others sold?

Now, let's move to Northern Colorado and the town of Craig. Guess who's buying up property, obtaining state and federal grants and using taxpayer funds to "develop" so called affordable or workforce housing. Yep...you guessed it...the Dragoo family.

According to the Steamboat Pilot & Today newspaper ([Developers land \\$2.7 million state grant to support Craig workforce apartments | SteamboatToday.com](#) ([steamboatpilot.com](#)))

*"The \$2.7 million state grant is awarded to the developer Colorado Outdoors, which is run by the Dragoo family and is operating in Craig under the name Woodbury Housing Authority LLC. The company has developed a variety of projects ranging from a distillery to an all-accessible park to the 96-unit Basecamp market-rate apartments in Montrose, Heidi Dragoo said. The company also previously bought and sold the former Bank of the West building in downtown Craig.*

*Craig Economic Development Manager Shannon Scott said other funding has assisted the workforce rental housing project including \$1.9 million from the Energy and Mineral Impact Assistance Fund from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs that was received in the spring. That funding will help with installation for publicly owned infrastructure such as water, sewer, electricity, transit center and possibly broadband, Scott said.*

*The project in Craig will include a mix of studio and one-to three-bedroom apartments for tenants earning 80-140% of the*

*Continued next pg*

## ***MONTROSE, A BREEDING GROUND FOR OPPORTUNISTS? From previous pg***

area median income, Scott said. The goal is for a ground-breaking in early summer 2025 with an estimated completion in late 2026, she said."

All I can say to the folks in Craig and Pagosa Springs is to watch out. Promises made in Montrose weren't kept. This is all about the mighty dollar and how many of those can wind up in certain pockets. As local Montrose insurance agent Scott Riba accurately remarked in the September 2016 issue of the magazine 5280 in an article entitled "A Fishy Deal" ([A Fishy Deal? - 5280](#)), "Mayfly (aka, Colorado Outdoors, LLC) held the city hostage, and the city paid the ransom."

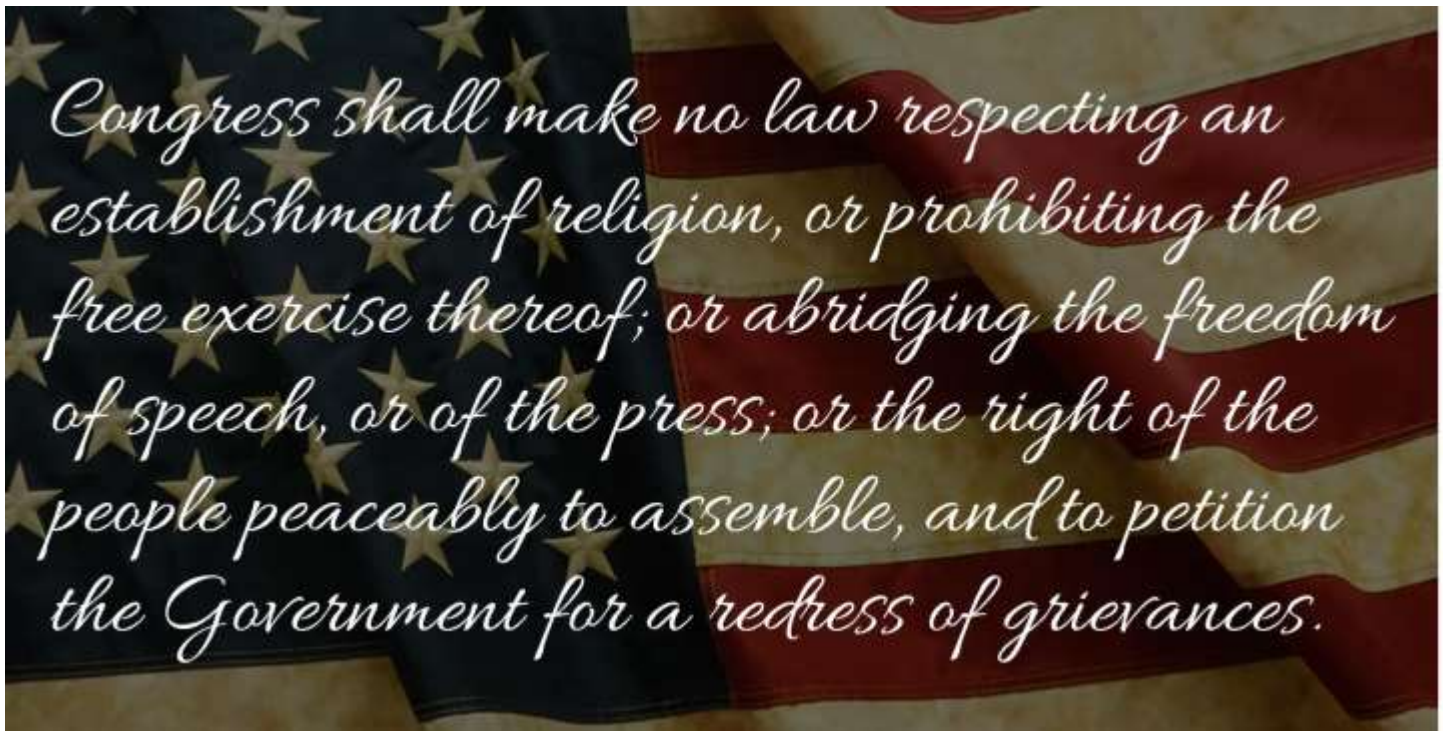
While I commend the Dragoo's for their business acumen in tapping into taxpayer funds for their ambitious projects, I have to wonder if the City of Montrose's largesse in giving millions of dollars to them has now somehow taken the profits from the local economy and had those dollars moved to these and other projects. I suspect that the sights are no longer on the target. While we all have an interest in seeing our "investment" paid off, with interest, in the years to come, success is now truly in question.

As if what has happened with the Dragoo's parlaying their Colorado Outdoors project's dollars into other ventures in the state wasn't enough, we recently learned that after the City (namely, Manager Bell and City Council) "invested" almost \$2,000,000 of our taxpayer dollars into the Rathbone Hotel and Parlor Bar to aid Telluride developers Clay Bales and Jason Raibles with their "boutique" upscale downtown venture that these two "carpetbaggers" have unloaded the recently opened hotel to the newly formed Typhoon Properties, Inc. (owned by local seasonal resident Alia Eyres) for, as of now, an undisclosed sum of money, but no doubt, at a profit for Bales and Raibles. In addition to seeing our money most likely profiting these Telluride folks, we learned that the "Historic City Hall" across from the Police Operations Building, on South 1<sup>st</sup> Street, which Bales and Raibles had under contract for \$1.5M (less than half of what the building is worth and for which the earnest money they had put down on the project was given back to them months ago at no penalty by our City leaders), is also being sold to Eyres with the promise that she would continue

the "CMU Hospitality Program" that Mayor Reed championed months ago to provide culinary training for cooks who would work at the many restaurants that the City has given money to support their goal of determining how many and what types of culinary choices we have to offer the residents and visitors to Montrose. Central planning by our City Manager and his Business Development troubadour (Anthony Russo) is still in full swing with more deals in the works for your money that, will at the end of the day, profit those who are the beneficiaries of the City's generosity.

I'll conclude with this quote from Octavia Butler: ***To be led by a fool is to be led by the opportunists who control the fool.*** Such is the state of affairs in the City of Montrose today.

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



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# Two Western Women at LaNoue DuBois Artists' Reception

Friday, Sept. 20, 6-8 pm

LaNoue DuBois Winery

67289 Trout Rd., Montrose CO

Susan Humphrey Fine Art

Giovanna  
Jewelry Designs



Visit with the artists. Enjoy live, acoustic music. Indulge in light refreshments and a cash wine bar. Take home something wonderful to wear, to share, to add a piece of the west to your home.

While you're here, if you can, please consider making a tax-deductible donation to the charity the artists are supporting for this event: Tri-River Area Livestock Judging.



Your host, LaNoue DuBois Winery is part of a multi-generational ranch contemporary to the Sanburg-Humphrey ranch families.

*The winery is 5 mi. south of Target, on the east side of 550. Turn by the hop farm.*

**WHAQV** **Wed., Sept. 25**  
**5:30-7:30 pm**

Open to Public with Kate Burke

# Fall Watercolor

Includes demos, instructions  
all materials, coffee or soft drink

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<https://kathrynrburke.com/product/092524whafv>

**Thur., Oct 10**  
**5:30-7:30 pm**

with Kate Burke

# Fall Watercolor

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and all materials

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## DIY Fall Door Decor

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Plus a drink.

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<https://kathrynrburke.com/product/092624M>

**Saturday, Oct 12, 1-3:30 pm**

# Paint a Vineyard

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67289  
Trout Rd.  
Montrose

with Kate Burke

Includes a winery tour!  
Everything provided  
plus a glass of wine

<https://kathrynrburke.com/product/101224LN>

# Decorate Wine Glasses

**LA NOUE DUBOIS**

**Sat., Sep. 28**  
**1-3:30 pm**

Includes Winery tour

With Kate Burke  
Provided: 2 wine glasses  
specialty (washable) paints,  
demo & hands-on help,  
Snack and complimentary  
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<https://kathrynrburke.com/product/092824wine>

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<https://kathrynrburke.com/calendar/>

## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

### A FEW FACTS ABOUT MONTROSE CLASSICAL ACADEMY

#### Editor:

It is necessary to correct a number of misstatements that have found their way into local conversations (and print) about the proposed classical charter school that anticipates opening in Montrose in Fall 2025. Colorado law states that charter schools must accept ALL students who enroll, including children with IEPs, disabilities, lower incomes (free lunch program), and language differences; MCA is thus reaching out to ALL segments of the community. By approving this charter school application, MCSD would acknowledge the desires of families who wish to have this tuition-free school choice available and have completed "Expressions of Interest" for 275 children, thus far. This approval would also demonstrate that the District recognizes a 'one size fits all' model does not ensure success for all children. In regard to curriculum, there is a significant difference between what is taught in Montrose schools and E.D. Hirsch's "Core Knowledge" curriculum (<https://www.coreknowledge.org/curriculum/>) which will be used by MCA. The addition of one subject does not create 'core knowledge', and the preoccupation by some with Latin is spurious, at best. (As an aside, MCA will NOT have any religious affiliation.) MCSD will not be hiring MCA's teachers nor 'footing' the bill for its facility; those will both be funded through the 'per pupil revenue' from the State, which is allocated to the actual school children attend. If students are not attending a particular school, it is therefore not educating them and does not receive state money for those empty chairs. Accurate and complete details about MCA may be found at [www.montroseclassical.org](http://www.montroseclassical.org). Please visit this website and see what could be accessible to any family in the Montrose/Olathe community which desires an education that might be exactly what their children need to succeed in life.

**MCA Founding Board – Kay Alexander, Joe Fockler, Becky Waugh, Aubrey (Katherine) Sharman**





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## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

### TRUMP IS AN OLD CURMUDGEON AND FAILING MENTALLY

Dear Editor:

"We're going to come up with a great health plan." - December 13, 2016

"And this is a great plan." - May 4, 2017

"Wait till you see the plans we have coming out literally over the next 4 weeks." - May 10, 2018

"We're going to have fantastic healthcare and the plan is coming out over the next 4 weeks." - May 20, 2019

"We already have the concepts of the plan.. we'll be announcing that in about 2 months." - June 17, 2019

"We're signing a healthcare plan within 2 weeks." - July 19, 2020

"I have concepts of a plan." - Sept. 10, 2024 (Harris-Trump debate)

All quotes of Donald J. Trump.

Trump has no plans, only hatred. He and his running mate continue to fabricate stories of legal migrants in Springfield, Ohio eating family pets, and now geese in the city parks. It has been debunked. Yet schools, city offices, medical facilities, and a small college have had to close down due to bomb threats. People's lives have been threatened. Yet Trump and Vance refuse to apologize. Refuse to stop their tirades. They continue to preach hate, with no thought on how their words might injure or harm people, and flame their followers to repeat their lies and insults; in some cases taking action against an innocent town and its people.

I watched the debate. Trump is an old curmudgeon. He is failing mentally. All he feels is anger. All he can speak about, is his attempt in creating and instilling fear. He refuses to acknowledge that there was a riot at our Capitol on January 6th. He refuses to say that he lost the election. He has belittled our military and veterans in too many instances to even repeat.

Goodbye Mr. Trump.

*Jon Sering, Montrose*

I READ ABOUT IT

*in the*



MONTROSE MIRROR

# DAVE WOOD – THE MAN, THE ROAD, AND THE NATURE TRAIL

**By Anne Janik,  
Friends of Youth and Nature**

MONTROSE-The name Dave Wood is often mentioned in conversation around town, mostly in the context of directions to access to the Uncompahgre National Forest. Dave Wood Road is one of the closest access point to the forest from Montrose. We are lucky to be able to access these public lands within 40 minutes of town for a quick nature get away to recharge and reset ourselves. However, there is more to the name- Dave Wood. Here is a brief history of the man, the area as well as a guide to a fun interpretive hike to help you observe the nuances of the area's ecology.

## Who was Dave Wood?

*Dave Wood was a freighter in southwestern Colorado. He started his business in 1881 in Gunnison, when the Durango & Rio Grande Railroad made him their "forwarding and commission merchant." Wood freighted supplies west to construction gangs and newly-settled towns from the railroad's end-of-the-line. When the D&RG built its narrow gauge line through the Black Canyon and over Cerro Summit into Montrose, Wood took his business to that town. Montrose would be his largest and most permanent base, and for five years he was the exclusive agent for all freight going to Ouray, Telluride, and Rico. The D&RG extension, built from Montrose to Ouray in 1887, forced Wood to again move his base of operations. From his new location at Ridgway, he did a large freighting business into Telluride and Norwood. The completion of the Rio Grande Southern in 1891 ended Wood's operations. Built in 1882, the famous Dave Wood Road between Montrose and Telluride, via Horsefly Mesa, ran on the west side of the Uncompahgre River parallel with the present highway from Montrose to Ouray, and is today identified by a U. S. Forest Service marker.*

## Who were the first inhabitants of the Uncompahgre Plateau?

Long before Dave Wood set foot on the plateau, about 10,000 years before the early explorers investigated the area; the Paleo Indians roamed the plateau hunting herds of wildlife without bows and arrows! They travelled in groups of 10-20,

found shelter in rock overhangs and caves, and subsisted on the abundant natural resources of the area. The Ute tribes were descendants of these early native peoples.

## Dave Wood Interpretive Trail

The area encompasses about 3200 acres of typical habitats of the Uncompahgre Plateau. To the careful observer, there is evidence of multiple ecosystems, traces of past life that swam in an ancient sea, plants that actually communicate with each other, and traces of history that shaped our lives. A very informative guide is available to help you explore and understand these ecosystems.

The trail meanders through a montane forest. The word montane means mountain. These forests occur between 5,500-9,000 feet elevation. Not surprisingly, the major feature of this zone is trees! Ponderosa pines dominate in this forest along with Rocky Mountain juniper. At higher elevations, lodgepole pine and spruce become more common. Other trees and shrubs in the montane forest include aspens, mountain mahogany and serviceberry. The guide will help you decipher the difference between a ponderosa pine and Douglas fir, coniferous and deciduous trees, mountain and western bluebirds and more. This is a landscape forged by wind and fire and as you hike along the trail, you will observe signs of those forces shaping the forest. Pines have evolved to take advantage of periodic fires. The guide described details of plant and animal adaptations that allow species to thrive here.

Here are a few tips to keep in mind as you walk along the trail. Look and listen for the sounds of nature. Ask yourself questions about the forest such as describing what it looks like, pointing out living and nonliving parts of the forest, or thinking about how the forest helps us. Engage your sense of wonder, dig deep for bits of forgotten knowledge, and test your connections to new nature knowledge you may have read or observed recently. Take a closer look at the layers of this forest: the canopy, the understory and the forest floor. Pick a layer and check it out more closely. Look for living and non-living items in your layer. Draw it in your journal. How is your item connected to the



**Friends of Youth and Nature courtesy photo.**

forest? (Example: a leaf is connected to a tree, but also shelters a ladybug, and will soon become a part of the nutrient rich soil.)

Be an observant hiker and discover your forest- there are surprises everywhere! You may learn a few new fun facts about the forest as well as refresh some of the nature knowledge you haven't thought about in a while. You can download the guide from the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forest website under highlights (<https://www.fs.usda.gov/gmug>). The website also provides links to more information about the Paleo Indians of the area, Dave Wood and details about the ecology of the plateau.

## Directions from Montrose:

From Townsend and Main in Montrose head west on Main, Left onto CO Highway 90, 0.4 miles stay right on Oak Grove (Hwy 90), 0.25 miles turn left onto Dave Wood Road/6250 Road.

Continue on Dave Wood Road for about 8 miles. The interpretive trail is the first part of the Simms Mesa/Dave Wood Trail. The trailhead is on the east side (parking area) at the forest boundary. The Simms Mesa/Dave Wood Trail is designated for horses and hikers only; across the road, Forest Service Route #536 is open to motorized travel (OHVs and snowmobiles).

**Friends of Youth and Nature is a non-profit that promotes opportunities for youth and families to get outside, experience outdoor activities, and explore nature. Follow our outdoor news blog and receive monthly tips on connecting your children to nature. Learn more, visit [www.friendsofyouthandnature.org](http://www.friendsofyouthandnature.org)**

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# COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

## RONALD JOSEPH LUTTRELL *October 27, 1937 — September 7, 2024*



RONALD (RON) JOSEPH LUTTRELL, age 86 passed away on Saturday September 7, 2024. Ron was born in Melrose Iowa on October 27th 1937, the middle of nine children born to Vincent and Ann Luttrell. The family lived in Albia and Melrose IW, Pilot Grove MO before moving to Montrose CO the summer of 1955. Ron attended Montrose High School where he was

Prom King and enjoyed playing basketball. After graduating in 1956 Ron went to Iowa City Iowa where he studied Lineo Type Graphics. Upon completing his studies, he moved to Cortez Colorado where he worked for the newspaper, Montezuma Journal. He married MaryLou Mills in 1959. The couple moved to Montrose Colorado where Ron worked for CE Mills Construction Company for 11 years. Ron moved to Greeley Colorado in 1973. He married Virginia Mills in 1974 where they lived until they returned to Montrose in 2003. Ron moved into Montage Creek 2021 and lived there with Virginia until his death. He loved sitting on the south of the building looking at the San Juan Mountains, watching the deer in the pastures as well as the new baby calves in the Spring. During Ron's career in Construction he worked for CE Mills Construction, Goddell Construction in Eaton CO, Grasser Construction in Stratton CO. He finished his working career with Big R Manufacturing in Greeley CO. He was active in the Colorado Contractors Association for many years. He received State of Colorado Pioneer Award on January 25th, 1997.

Ron is survived by his wife Virginia. His children Rhonda Castle (Randy), Chauncey Luttrell (Jennifer), Rachel Werner (CL) and Stephanie Moore (Jody) and Virginia's daughters Lyna Hoey (Danny) and Tina Cordova (Bill). Ron is also survived by three siblings: Leo Luttrell of Quincy Ill, Kathy Waller of Boonville MO and Mike Luttrell of Springfield MO. 10 grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren. Ron was preceded in death by his parents, Vincent and Ann, three sisters Margaret Ann McGinn, Irene Wessing and Mary Wessellman and two brothers Jack Luttrell and Ed Luttrell. One granddaughter Chandra Castle and one grandson Sebastian Larsen. Ron loved his family, enjoyed all sports especially basketball when he was younger. He enjoyed running and ran in the Bolder Boulder several times. He enjoyed his golf game as his time allowed him to play more. Anytime he could go fishing, that made his day. He loved to make people laugh and to laugh himself. He enjoyed his new friends at Montage so much. He will be missed by many. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to HopeWest Hospice of Montrose, CO.



## COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

### **CLAUDIA ALIX MAGNUSON** ***June 22, 1946 – August 13, 2024***

CLAUDIA ALIX MAGNUSON passed away peacefully at the age of 78 on August 13, 2024, at her beloved home in Montrose, Colorado.

She was preceded in death by her parents Clarence (Claus) Magnuson and Lillian (Krohn) Magnuson, her sister Karen Johnson, and her granddaughter Bridget Cable. She leaves her sister Greta Trott and husband Kenneth, son Andrew Cable and wife Kristen, granddaughter Monica Cable; daughter Marni Soss and husband Jeff, granddaughter Rachael Cappello, and two great-grandchildren Maeve and Arthur, grandson Bill Soss and wife Emily, granddaughter Emily Soss; daughter Jennifer Johnson, grandson Austin Johnson, granddaughter Allie Gray and husband Daniel, grandson Max Johnson; daughter Molly Hovde and husband Matt, granddaughters Lillian and Blakelynn Hovde. Her good friend and companion, Jerry Peagels. As well as many other nieces, nephews, and various other family members.

She loved the outdoors, enjoying kayaking, hiking, camping, gardening, and water; from the ocean to lakes, ponds, rivers, and streams. She also loved new adventures living in multiple states, from Connecticut, Oklahoma, Nebraska, Colorado, Maine, Arizona and back to Colorado where she eventually bought back the house she had once lived in and helped renovate in the 1970's and 80's.

She was a very confident woman, active in her church, and had multiple jobs from being a gymnastics coach, office manager, newspaper assistant, and later working in real estate at a title company and real estate office.

She went back to college in her 50's while living in Maine attending Washington Community College, and University of Maine at Machias receiving a degree in Office Management.

She was also a fighter. After being diagnosed with ovarian cancer in 2015, she did not give up. She went through several



rounds of chemo, had multiple surgeries, but never let it take away her wonderful outlook on life. She was a dreamer and a doer. She will be missed by many, but not forgotten.

*Now more than ever...*

*Thank you for reading*

**THE MONTROSE MIRROR**

# COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

## BRYCE WALKER DEINES

***February 17, 2001 — September 3, 2024***



Bryce Walker Deines, 23, died on September 3rd, 2024

In a tragic dirt bike accident, doing what he loved most, braap-ing it up.

Bryce was born on February 17, 2001 to Shane Leroy Deines and Amie Lynn Middleton in Montrose, CO. Bryce graduated

high school in 2019, then went to college at Lincoln tech in Denver where he graduated for welding.

Bryce is preceded in death by his father Shane Leroy Deines who passed away June 22, 2007, who Bryce is flying with now.

Survived by his mother Amie Middleton, stepfather Scott Middleton, sister Mariah Roberts, brother Zac Roberts and his wife Brigitte, nieces Rhea and Kyla Roberts, Lainey, Haylee, and nephew Ryatt Roberts, stepbrothers Sam and Jack Middleton. Grandmother Cindy Clark, Grandpa Bill Deines, Grandma Judy Martin, Aunt Marchelle Hubbard, and many cousins of the Deines family.

Bryce was a natural athlete, and true outdoorsman. He loved Snowboarding and started young with BMX then went onto racing dirt bikes. In high school Bryce was on the climbing and mountain bike team and traveled all over to win dirt bike races. Bryce's dad had a deep love for dirt biking as well as it is a shared passion throughout the entire Deines family, he often spent time camping or in the adobes with his

family and friends. When he was a child instead of playing baseball with the other kids,

Bryce would be in the outfield chasing butterflies. He was always submerged in the beauty of life around him and had the most beautiful smile. However, Bryce was fierce in his passions and dirt biking was his language. His love and talent on a dirt bike was "sick sauce," although speed and big air was his fuel. He never hesitated to slow down, long enough to smell the roses and enjoy the little things, capturing the innocent moments of greatness in the world.

Bryce had a kind and gentle spirit and loved his people. His buddies were his brothers and his family was very dear to him. He had such a pure heart through and through.

He never understood why people couldn't just be nice to each other, gravity can't hold him down anymore. On his last day on this earth Bryce grew wings and is riding with his dad in heaven, kick stands up forever #414 "ride on."

News, if unreported, has no impact.  
It might as well have not happened at all.  
*Thank you for reading The Montrose Mirror.*

# COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

## IRENE PHYLLIS SNYDER

***August 22, 1933- September 1, 2024***

IRENE PHYLLIS SNYDER, 91, of Norwood Colorado, passed away peacefully surrounded by her family on September 1, 2024.

Irene Phyllis Skelton Snyder, known by most as Phyllis and affectionately nicknamed Squirt by her husband Raymond, was born on August 22, 1933 in Norwood, Colorado to Lothan and Louise Skelton. During Phyllis' childhood, the family moved to Uravan and Nucla after her father secured work at the uranium mill. Then in 1942 Phyllis' father was offered a job in California working on a horse ranch.

Phyllis enjoyed her time in California where she joined a 4-H club and even showed a Hereford steer at the famous Cow Palace. The family moved back to Norwood, Colorado in 1947, where Phyllis graduated from Norwood High School. On June 15th, 1952 Raymond Snyder took Phyllis Skelton's hand in marriage. The couple celebrated 72 years of marriage.

Family meant everything to Phyllis and she was the person who brought everyone together. She played an integral role in

helping to establish the family's ranching legacy and helped out in whatever capacity was needed. She was known for her ability to feed large crews a good home-cooked meal—nobody ever left her care with an empty stomach. Phyllis was kind, intelligent, hardworking, fair, humble and classy – traits that will forever leave an impression on her family and all who knew her.

Phyllis was preceded in death by an older sister Billie Skelton, a younger brother Dwayne Skelton and her parents Lothan and Louise Skelton. She is survived by her husband Raymond Snyder, her sister Janet (& Glen) Gardner, sister-in-law Ruth Skelton, children Mont (& Sue) Snyder, Scott (& Robin) Snyder and Lonnie Spor. She is also survived by seven grandchildren: Lothan (& Regan) Snyder, Elisha (& Brandon) Morris, Laura (& Andy) Sherman, Zach Snyder, Jeremy Spor, Jamie (& Jordan) Spor, Danielle (& Ryan) Schopp, and 14 great-grandchildren whom she loved dearly.

Services will be held at Norwood Christian



Church on Saturday, Sept 21st at 11 am. Graveside services to follow for family only with potluck meal following the funeral.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to Norwood Emergency Services.

**CELEBRATING LOCAL BEAUTY.**



ISSUE 486 Sept. 16, 2024

## ART &amp; SOL

## GIOVANNA DESIGNS



Giovanna, photo by K.R. Burke.

By Kathryn R. Burke

MONTROSE-Giovanna designs jewelry. She combines beaded semi-precious gemstones with gold and silver enhanced by a carefully curated collection of unique and special charms and objects. Her pieces are designed for mixing and layering with fine gemstone jewelry to create an elegant,



Southwest Bohemian style. Constantly evolving, imbued with her life experiences and exposure to exotic cultures through her travels, Giovanna's work is irresistibly distinctive. You can tell she loves wearing it and making it. And believing that all women want to feel beautiful, she wants to share it through creating elegance that fits every situation and lifestyle. We asked her how she came to establish Giovanna Designs. Here is her story.

I love jewelry. I've always loved jewelry. When I was a little girl, I had this big ugly "ruby" ring, one of those things that turns your finger green. But I loved it. I wore it everywhere. It made me feel special, powerful, protected. I felt regal. Most little girls dream of being a princess. I dreamed

of being a queen.

I never outgrew that dream, but where it was once a fantasy enhanced with glitter dust, today I've traded the sparkly spray for real rubies and gemstones. I'm making the jewelry I once dreamed of. And I'm wearing it, layers of it, beautiful pieces that elevate my mood. Wearing jewelry can be life-changing.

We are always presenting versions of ourselves to the world. Whether it's what we drive or how we interact on social media, the way we wear our hair or how we dress. Jewelry is the way we decorate ourselves. It is the finishing touch that we place on our story. So, what is it that you're trying to say? Who is it that you want to be? Some days I'm Jackie O, and some days I'm Stevie Nicks. The clothes and the jewelry are what tells my story in that moment.

The choices that you make, the things that you do, everything you do every day is about trying to become our best self. I think jewelry is a part of that.

When you wear jewelry, you feel confident. It's more than an accessory. Think of a cupcake. A plain cupcake is good. But add frosting and some sprinkles, and it's next-level. Your jewelry is your frosting. It makes a statement, enhances your style. I wear it all the time, working out, riding my bike, creating in my studio, or totally decked out for an event. No matter where I am or what I'm doing, I feel more complete when I'm wearing jewelry. Some-

Continued next pg

# GIOVANNA DESIGNS From previous pg

times it's just a single piece, sometimes I layer it, mixing and matching, depending on my mood.

If I'm going out to run errands, I might run around in jeans and a tee shirt and flip flops. But, if I put on the same jeans and the same tee shirt, then put on Double D cowboy boots, a Johnny Was duster, and about six pounds of jewelry, suddenly, I am a Bohemian Gypsy Cowgirl. I am a completely different person than the schlep who was just running out to City Market. It's a *totally* different thing. And that's just by adding a few accessories. It elevates your look and your mood. You feel good about yourself. Which is reflect-

ed in the way you carry yourself. The way you walk: your chin is higher, your shoulders are back, you walk with more grace. You smile more, you usually make eye contact.

Wearing jewelry gives voice to how we celebrate ourselves, how we honor our femininity. We *embrace* that and *share* that. Wearing jewelry dates back thousands of years. The symbolism imbued in jewelry can be both social and personal. It is whatever we want it to be; that's part of its magic.

When you look beautiful and radiant in something that *anyone* can wear, it makes a positive statement that other women

can relate to. It doesn't matter how much you weigh or how smooth your skin is. It doesn't matter if you have a small chest or big feet. It doesn't matter. Because it's sparkly and shimmery, and that's exactly what everyone is looking at. It's the frosting on the cupcake.

Join Giovanna and Susan Humphrey for an Artists' Reception, Friday, Sept. 20, "Two Western Women," at La Noue Du-Bois Winery, 67289 Trout Rd., Montrose Colo.

**Kathryn R. Burke is an artist, educator, author, and publisher. Visit her website to see more.**



## Where Quality Meets Affordability

Cimarron Creek is a community that offers new, upgraded, beautifully crafted, move-in ready manufactured homes. If you place value on a quiet neighborhood, camaraderie, and a sense of well-being, then Cimarron Creek is for you.

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**CIMARRON CREEK**

# GROOVIN' AROUND



# THE GLOBE

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music inspired by far  
away places

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29  
3:00PM**

**MONTROSE PAVILION  
FREE ADMISSION**

the  
**Montrose Mirror**  
A MONTROSE PAVILION



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





## FOURTH ANNUAL TRIVIA NIGHT

Put together your team of up to 8 people for a fun evening of Trivia and competition. There are a limited number of tables available so get your teams together and register quickly. Prizes will be awarded. This is a fundraiser for Altrusa International of Montrose to help support all the wonderful projects we do for our community.

**DATE:** SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2024

**TIME:** 5:30pm – 9:00pm

**PLACE:** Montrose Elks Lodge, 801 S Hillcrest Dr, Montrose

**COST:** \$25 per person due at registration (includes Dessert/Snack Bar)  
The Elk's cash bar will be available

Team Name: \_\_\_\_\_

#1 Contact ph # \_\_\_\_\_ (\*) Email: (\*) \_\_\_\_\_

Players names:

1 (\*) \_\_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_\_\_

5 \_\_\_\_\_ 6 \_\_\_\_\_

7 \_\_\_\_\_ 8 \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete one form per team.

Please be sure to be seated before our start time of 5:30pm.

No outside food or drink will be allowed.

Questions? Please contact Gail at 970-275-0751 or Debby at 970-209-2614

Please make checks out to Altrusa International of Montrose and mail along with the completed application to: Altrusa of Montrose, PO Box 3184, Montrose, CO 81402. Or call one of the contact people above and we can meet to obtain registration form and check(s).

**DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS SEPTEMBER 19**

## COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

# GRIEF IS NO SIMPLE THING FOR CAREGIVERS

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-When caring for a loved one who is experiencing cognitive decline, nothing is simple.

Grieving, for example, isn't just tears at a funeral. It is a complex series of emotional crusades for the person watching a loved one fade in the face of brain failure's winds.

Carrie Bauer of the HeartLight Center of Aurora, Colorado, has worked in the end-of-life and grief field for over a decade and has learned that her passion is supporting griever of all ages. She brings a message to the Summit that is aimed at providing clarity for caregivers at all levels of grief.

She is one of the two keynote speakers at the 2024 Family Caregiver Summit. The 2024 Summit date is set for October 1 at the Montrose Pavilion in Montrose, Colorado. The free event runs from one to four-thirty in the afternoon.

In her kickoff discourse, Bauer will discuss at length why grief is no simple thing.

"Most people think that we only feel grief after a major loss, such as the death of a loved one, a divorce, job loss, etc. However, we can feel grief for any change or loss, which also includes smaller losses and changes that caregivers often experience while caring for their loved ones," Bauer explained. She added that this process is often called ambiguous or anticipatory grief. She will explain the difference between the two griefs and offer strategies for understanding these and why they are different from "normal" grief after death.

Bauer said that some coping strategies may include journal writing, joining a support group, or creating a self-care routine. It is also helpful to simply name the experience as grief. Once a caregiver names



*Laird Landon. Courtesy photo.*

their experience, it is a start to finding support.

"One of my goals with this talk is to help people feel more comfortable discussing it openly with others and finding more support and resources to help griever and caregivers," Bauer said.

Laird Landon, Chair of the Caregiver Support Foundation, will provide the second keynote discourse for this year's Summit. "Too often caregivers end up frightened and shell shocked when their loved one's doctor delivers the diagnosis," Landon recently told a gathering.

Landon found in his own journey caring for his wife that grief can hit very early. The first sign of Marilyn's disease caused him concerns. But when a neurologist gave her a diagnosis, Landon cratered. They had just retired and suddenly their planned future was destroyed on one visit to her doctor. She had a rare neurocogni-



*Carrie Bauer, MS. Courtesy photo.*

tive disorder that would take her and their future away.

Landon will offer his thoughts about the significance of a family's first encounter with a doctor and how the caregiver can handle the conversation and not have an emotional melt down.

Summit attendees also will be able to participate in six "breakout sessions" offering vital information for caregivers.

The sessions are:

- Palliative and Hospice Care* by Sally O'Conner, Montrose Regional Health's Director of Care Coordination
- Family Member Placement and Resources* by Sandy Walker, Region 10 Ombudsman
- Dementia and Alzheimer's Disease* by Angel Hoffman, Director of Community Engagement, Alzheimer's Association, Grand Junction, Colorado
- Navigating Medicaid* with Shauna Clemmer, Brown & Brown, PC, Grand Junction, Colorado.
- How To Talk To Your Loved One's Doctors* by Dr. Landon
- Caregiver Grief* by Carrie Bauer, MS



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## arthur miller's **ALL MY SONS**



DIRECTED BY BILL BOTTOMLY · ASSISTANT DIRECTOR JOHN LANGE

**FRIDAY | SEPT 6 · 13 · 20 @ 7:30PM**

**SATURDAY | SEPT 7 · 14 · 21 @ 7:30PM**

**SUNDAY | SEPT 8 & 15 @ 2PM**

This Tony Award winning, American classic is rated PG -13 for thematic elements.

ALL MY SONS is presented by special arrangement with Broadway Licensing, LLC, servicing the Dramatists Play Service collection. ([www.dramatists.com](http://www.dramatists.com))

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# MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY

## ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

**Office Hours:** By appointment.

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

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

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

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

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

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

## BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Olathe, Co 81425

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

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Sunday 6 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Study/Prayer 7 p.m.

## CELEBRATION CHURCH

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

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

**Office Hours:** By appointment

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

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

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

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

**Senior Pastor:**

Pastor Brandon Mathis

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

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

**Demographics:** Multi-generational

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

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

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

## CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

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

**Contact:** 970-633-0226

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

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

**Pastor:** Tim Onnen

**Worship:** Sundays at 9 AM

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

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

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

## COVENANT HEBRAIC FELLOWSHIP

**Denomination affiliation.** No affiliation

**Address Office hours** N/A

**Contact:** 720-951-9941,  
[office@ccfmontrose.net](mailto:office@ccfmontrose.net),  
[www.ccfmontrose.net](http://www.ccfmontrose.net)

**Name of current Senior Pastor.** Led by  
 elders

**Worship service times.** Noon on Saturdays  
 (Potluck on 1st, 3rd and 5th shabbats)  
 Covenant is a Hebraic roots community  
 that studies the Torah as well as the rest of

Scripture. We learn about the Hebrew  
 roots of the language and believe that the  
 Lord's feasts are for today. We are pre-  
 dominantly made up of older folks, but  
 have some young blood, too.

**Sunday School and childcare:** None

## FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

**Denomination:** Church of the Nazarene

**Address:** 705 South 12th Street

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

**Contact Information:** Office Phone 970 249  
 -9213, [mncfirst@gmail.com](mailto:mncfirst@gmail.com),  
[www.montrosenazarenechurch.org](http://www.montrosenazarenechurch.org)

**Pastor:** Buddy Cook

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

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

*disciples in Montrose Colorado and around  
 the world.*

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

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MONTROSE

**Affiliation:** Presbyterian

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

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

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jesse G. Mabanglo

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

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

# MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY From previous pg

## HILLCREST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**Denomination affiliation:** United Church of Christ

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

**Office hours:** By appointment

**Contact information:**

Phone number: (970) 249-9047

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

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

**Current Pastor:** Rev. Wendy Kidd

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

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

on life's journey.

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

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

## MONTROSE MISSION OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH

**Affiliation:** Orthodox

**Meets:** 2057 S. Townsend, Montrose, CO

81401 and Cimarron Creek Clubhouse.

**Worship Services:** The Montrose Mission of the Orthodox Church meets every Saturday night at 7 PM at All Saints Anglican

Church for Vespers, and we currently meet only on the third Sunday of each month for Divine Liturgy in Montrose at 9:30 AM at the Cimarron Creek clubhouse.

## MONTROSE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**Denomination Affiliation:** United Methodist

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

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

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

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

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

**Worship service times:**

8:30 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual

9:45 a.m. Christian Education & Fellowship

11 a.m. Sanctuary

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

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

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

## ROSEMONT BAPTIST CHURCH

**Affiliation:** Southern Baptist

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

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

**Contact information:**

Phone: 970.249.4887

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

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

**Senior Pastor:** Rolland Kenneson

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

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

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

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

matter what stage of life they are in.

**Children's services:** We have a fun Sunday School for children from four years old through youth. We provide Children's Church during the Sunday Worship Services where children four years old through 9 years can learn to be 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](mailto:arlyn@spiritaware.org),

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

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

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

## ST. STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

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

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

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

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

**Rev. Dec.** Garrett Agajanian

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

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

**Sunday:** Holy Communion 10 am.

Fellowship following service.

Children's nursery available (unstaffed).

# MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY From previous pg

## SUMMIT CHURCH OF MONTROSE:

Denomination affiliation: Southern Baptist  
Address: 10977 60.75 Rd. Montrose, CO 81403  
Office hours: Varies  
Contact information:  
email: [summitchurchmontrose@gmail.com](mailto:summitchurchmontrose@gmail.com)  
website:  
[www.summitchurchmontrose.org](http://www.summitchurchmontrose.org)  
Senior Pastor: Interim Pastor

Worship service times: Sunday Worship is at 9 a.m. followed by a time of fellowship and snacks.

Beginning Sept. 8 we will have a family Bible study, "Who's in Charge?" following fellowship from 10:45-11:30 a.m. All family members are welcome.

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

Camp.

We have communion on the first Sunday of each month and meet later in the day for a potluck dinner at 5:30 p.m., followed by a prayer session at 6:30 p.m.

Please visit <https://www.summitchurchmontrose.org/events> for more information.

Summit Church welcomes people of all ages!

## VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH OF MONTROSE

**Denomination Affiliation:** Independent Baptist  
**Address:** 2890 N Townsend Ave., Montrose, CO 81401  
**Office Hours:** Monday-Friday 8am-12pm  
**Contact Information:** Phone (970) 249-

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

**Current Pastor:** Roland Kassales

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

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

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

### Church Directory

#### Mirror Editorial Staff

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

### information to the Montrose Mirror:

Name of church

Denomination affiliation

Address Office hours

Contact information (phone number, email address, website)

Name of current Senior Pastor

Worship service times

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

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

Do your church services include Sunday School and childcare?

## Local Immunization Providers



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

# COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

## WESTERN SLOPE POETS JOAN SHAPIRO AND RAY HARVEY TO READ IN NORWOOD SEP. 18

### Special to the Mirror

NORWOOD-Joan Shapiro of Ridgway has been a staunch supporter of the Talking Gourds program for many years. The Telluride Institute is very pleased to feature her and her friend Ray Harvey as guest poets at the monthly Stories & Poems series at the Lone Cone Library Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm.

"Joan and I had the good fortune to travel together to San Miguel de Allende one year to attend the famous Mexican writers' conference," said Talking Gourds Director Art Goodtimes. "We've been partners in poetry ever since."

Joan is a retired psychotherapist and community organizer. Her work as a writer is informed by her study of cultural psychopathology, a baccalaureate degree in Comparative Literature, and as she notes "many years on Planet Earth." In 2023, she published *"Stolen Seasons: Observations, Poems, Lyrics and Rants."*

Current projects include *The Dog Poem*, a children's book about dogs being "bad"

and an album of music with the group *Jack Plus Jill*, inspired by her lyrics from *Stolen Seasons*. Her presentation in Norwood will elaborate on the organic process of setting lyrics to music, enhancing and transforming a print medium using musical treatment, and the intricacies of collaboration with gifted musician/composers such as Jessica and Aaron Seibert and engineer/percussionist Taylor Riley – all of Grand Junction.

Ray Harvey was born and raised in Ouray and graduated from Ouray High School. He has worked as a short-order cook, construction laborer, crab fisherman, janitor, bartender, copy editor, pedicab driver, and more. But as he explains it, "No matter where I've gone or what I've done to earn a living, literature has always been the driving force in my life."

This free series happens on the third Wednesday of each month. Our featured guests will give a 30-45 min. presentation, followed by a short question and answer period after the presentation. Then

there's a passing of the gourd, where community members are encouraged to share stories or poems. For those who like prompts for stories or poems, this month it's "Dogs."

A collaboration of the Lone Cone Library and the Telluride Institute's Talking Gourds poetry program, *Stories & Poems* is free and open to all ages, thanks to the generosity of the library, private donors and Talking Gourds' Fischer & Cantor poetry contests. For more information, text 970-729-0220 or email Goodtimes at <[art@tellurideinstitute.org](mailto:art@tellurideinstitute.org)>. To visit the website: <[www.tellurideinstitute.org/talking-gourds](http://www.tellurideinstitute.org/talking-gourds)>



Ray Harvey Courtesy Photo.

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## COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

# 108TH ANNUAL FRUITA FALL FESTIVAL

***Fruita Fall Festival Returns with a Rootin' Tootin' Good Time! 109th Annual Event Celebrates "Rockin' Rodeo" Theme***

### *Special to the Mirror*

FRUITA— Giddy up and get ready for some down-home fun! The Fruita Area Chamber of Commerce proudly announces the return of the **109th Annual Alpine Bank Fruita Fall Festival, presented by Spectrum**, supported by Republic Services and the City of Fruita. This year's festival, has events taking place **September 26th through 29th**, and promises a "Rockin' Rodeo" theme with a full schedule of events guaranteed to entertain the whole family.

### **Kick-Off the Festivities with Next GEN Producers**

The fun starts early on **Thursday, September 26th** with the **Next GEN Producers Beef & Wine Fundraising Dinner**. This special event offers a delicious way to support local agriculture and kick-off the festival weekend at Fruita Civic Center Park. Tickets are on sale now but won't last long – secure yours by **September 20th** at [bit.ly/beefandwine](https://bit.ly/beefandwine).

### **A Weekend of Non-Stop Fun**

**Friday, September 27th** explodes with a jam-packed schedule. Immerse yourself in the "Rockin' Rodeo" spirit with live music from local favorites like Honeyskunk, Zolopht, Stray Grass, and Peach Street Revival. Witness the legendary **Fruita Fall**

**Festival Outhouse Race**, a hilarious competition that's sure to leave you in stitches. Craving delectable craft brews? Don't miss the **Fruita Fall Festival Brew Fest**, happening **Friday and Saturday evenings from 5:00 pm to 9:30 pm**.

**Saturday, September 28th** starts with a hearty breakfast courtesy of the Fruita Lions and Rotary Club. Support a great cause and fuel up for the day at the **Pancake Breakfast** on S. Mesa Street. Lace up your running shoes for the **Mesa County Search & Rescue 5K**, their only fundraiser of the year. Show your community pride by cheering on the runners and supporting this vital organization.

### **The Festivities Continue**

The excitement continues throughout Saturday with the vibrant **Fruita Fall Festival Parade** at 10:00 am. Witness a delightful showcase of local businesses, community groups, and dazzling floats. Test your skills at the **Cornhole Tournament** or delve into local history at the **Fruita History Fair**, both starting at 11:00 am.

### **Fun for All Ages**

The Fruita Fall Festival has something for everyone. Get ready to squeal with delight at the **Pet Show**, indulge your sweet tooth at the **Cupcake Eating Contest**, or showcase your facial hair at the **Beard Rally**.

Live music continues Saturday with an impressive lineup featuring Slim Pickings, The String Burners, Tim + Richard, Irelynn & Unmarked Roads, Faith Eliza, The Lip, Wowzers, and, our festival headliner, The Williams Brothers Band.

### **Thank You to Our Sponsors**

The Fruita Area Chamber of Commerce extends sincere gratitude to the sponsors who make this incredible event possible: Alpine Bank, Spectrum, City of Fruita, Republic Service, Mak Global Corporation, Red Canyon Family Medicine, FCI Constructors, Fruita Thrift Shop, The Christi Reece Group, Family Health West, Atlasta Solar Center, Kooler Garage Doors, Grand Valley Bank, Community Hospital, Enstrom Candies, LEafFilter Gutter Protection, Fruita Arts & Culture Board, T & C Customs, Sparks Fly Studio, Canvas Credit Union, Rhema Music, Balanced Rock Inn, and Humphrey RV.

### **Mark Your Calendars and Join the Fun!**

Don't miss the ultimate celebration of community spirit, entertainment, and Western fun at the 109th Annual Alpine Bank Fruita Fall Festival presented by Spectrum.

**For the complete schedule of events and to sign up for specific activities, visit [fruitafallfestival.com](https://fruitafallfestival.com).**



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## **MONTROSE REGIONAL CRIME STOPPERS**

*see something, say something*

## COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

### MONTROSE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM PARTICIPATING IN OUR WORLD: WORLDWIDE DAY OF PLAY SEPT. 28

#### *Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE—Montrose Children's Museum announces their participation in Our World: Worldwide Day of Play on September 28, 2024. As a day dedicated to experiencing joyful learning through play, this event is focused on getting kids and their families up, out, and playing around.

Montrose Children's Museum will participate in Our World: Worldwide Day of Play hosting an event on September 28 focused on play. The museum has partnered with multiple community agencies to provide a wide variety of activities. Colorado State University will run a forensic science lab supported by a Montrose PD detective, Montrose Regional Library will be on site with their book bike, and the Montrose Recreation District will join with activities as well. The museum is actively seeking further partnerships, so be on the lookout for more fun. "Play is a powerful experience that enriches people's lives in

museums, schools, homes, and beyond," states Arthur G. Affleck, III, executive director of the Association of Children's Museums. "ACM is pleased to partner with Nickelodeon on amplifying the importance of play on wellbeing and healthy brain development, and to make learning more effective and joyful for everyone. As children's museums, we believe in the power of play and we strive to nurture more play and playful learning everywhere we go."

"Day of Play perfectly aligns with our mission to ignite imagination and fuel creativity in our community," explains Montrose Children's Museum Publicity Chair, Allison Wofford. "We recognize the importance of learning through play and are proud to work alongside our community partners to create an enriching and fun experience. As always, we welcome all community members to join in the fun and can't wait to see what the day brings."

The event will be hosted at Montrose

Children's Museum on September 28 from 10 am - 4 pm. More details can be found online at

[www.montrosechildrensmuseum.org/events](http://www.montrosechildrensmuseum.org/events).

Our World: Worldwide Day of Play is part of Nickelodeon's Our World global initiative to inspire kids and provide them with tools to activate their individual and collective agency. As part of a network of than 300 ACM member children's museums who reach millions of families in North America, and the more than 1,000 museums participating in Museums for All, a national access initiative that ACM manages, Montrose Children's Museum is a vital collaborator in the Our World: Worldwide Day of Play.

For a list of all participating Our World: Worldwide Day of Play events and more information about the initiative, please visit [www.childrensmuseums.org/dayofplay](http://www.childrensmuseums.org/dayofplay).

### WEEKLY FOOD TRUCK NIGHT FINDS NEW HOME AT ORCHARD MESA LIONS CLUB PARK!

#### *Special to Art & Sol*

GRAND JUNCTION – September 10, 2024 – Get ready to grab a bite and enjoy some family fun because our weekly Food Truck Night is back on and better than ever! Due to unforeseen circumstances with the previous location, the popular weekly event has found a new home at the Orchard Mesa Lions Club Park next to the Mesa County Fairgrounds (2770 US-50 in Grand Junction). We are thrilled to announce Fun at the Fairgrounds! This weekly event will take place next to the Mesa County Fairgrounds weekly on Fridays and includes food trucks, bounce houses by Shires Bounce Rentals, and live entertainment. We are also excited to announce 'Movies Under the Stars' thanks to our promotional partner, Atlasta Solar Center. On September 20, October 11, 18 and 25 we will have a FREE family movie night at the Orchard Mesa Lions Club Park.

"We're excited to announce this new location for Food Truck Friday," says Juncsure Productions, organizer of the event. "The Orchard Mesa Lions Club Park offers a spacious and convenient location for attendees to enjoy a variety of delicious food trucks and vendors. We're also thrilled to welcome back our friends at Shires Bounce Rentals for some extra family fun!"

This weekly event is an opportunity to bring together local food trucks, vendors, and families for an evening of delicious food, entertainment, and socializing. The event is open to the public and features a diverse selection of food trucks offering a variety of cuisines.

"We're grateful for the continued support of our promotional partner, Atlasta Solar Center," says Juncsure Productions. "Their dedication to community events like Fun at the Fairgrounds helps make these events possible."

Fun at the Fairgrounds is always looking for new food trucks and vendors to join the fun. Interested vendors can apply through email at [kayla@juncsure.com](mailto:kayla@juncsure.com).

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## COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

### 21st ANNUAL OURAY COUNTY RAILROAD DAYS SEPT. 21-22

#### *Special to the Mirror*

RIDGWAY-The weekend of September 21 and 22 will provide plenty of opportunities to experience the railroad heritage of the San Juan Mountains as the Ridgway Railroad Museum presents the twenty-first annual Ouray County Railroad Days. Visitors will be able to enjoy unlimited free rides from 9 am to 4 pm Saturday and Sunday on Galloping Goose 4, and in the historic Denver and Rio Grande caboose, as well as Rio Grande Southern Motor 1 and RGS Model T track inspection car No. 1. Docents will be on hand both days to provide information about southwestern Colorado's world-famous narrow gauge railroad history. There will also be a guided auto tour on Saturday along the route of the Ouray Branch of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad. The auto tour will meet at the museum railyard at 1 pm on Saturday. All Railroad Museum events are free.

### UNCOMPAHGRE POW-WOW SEPT. 21 AT UTE INDIAN MUSEUM

#### *Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-Uncompahgre Pow-Wow—Montrose, CO [Ute Indian Museum](#) | Sept. 21, 10 a.m. – 8 p.m. Join the Ute Indian Museum for its first Uncompahgre Pow-Wow! Hosted by the Western Slope Native American Resource Center and the Ute Indian Museum, the event offers visitors a chance to enter a dance contest, enjoy local food, and more. Over \$14,000 in prizes will be awarded with drawings for up to \$4,500 in prizes for all dancers who do not win first, second, or third in each of the dancing categories. Parking at the museum is limited but a free shuttle will run every 15 minutes from the Target parking lot from 10:30 a.m. – 8 p.m.

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# 1ST ANNUAL UNCOMPAHGRE POW-WOW

## SEPTEMBER 21, 2024

UTE INDIAN MUSEUM / 17253 CHIPETA RD, MONTROSE, CO

*Parking is limited. Please ride our free shuttle located at the Target parking lot by Discount Tire.*

*The Shuttle will run 10:30 am to 8 pm every 15 minutes*



Hosted by the Western Slope Native American  
Resource Center and the  
Ute Indian Museum in Montrose, Colorado.



# DANCE CONTEST

## OVER \$14,000 IN PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED

THERE WILL BE A DRAWING WITH UP TO \$4,500 IN PRIZES FOR  
ALL DANCERS WHO DO NOT WIN 1ST, 2ND, OR 3RD IN EACH CATEGORY

### POW-WOW: 11 A.M. TO DUSK

*Dance Registration 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Gourd Dancing until 1 p.m. Grand Entry 1 p.m.*

*There will be a Silent Auction starting at 11 a.m. and winners will be announced after the last dance.*

**VENDORS:** Vendors you must either donate an item to the Silent Auction **OR** pay a \$200 vendor fee.  
*There will be limited space for food vendors, so please sign up early!*

### DANCE CATEGORIES AND PRIZES

**TINY-TOTS:** 0-6 yrs / Prizes will be awarded

**JR. GIRLS:** 7-12 yrs / Fancy, Jingle, Traditional / 1st place \$100 / 2nd place \$75 / 3rd Place \$50

**JR. BOYS:** 7-12 yrs / Fancy, Grass, Traditional / 1st place \$100 / 2nd place \$75 / 3rd Place \$50

**TEEN GIRLS:** 13-17 yrs / Fancy, Jingle & Traditional / 1st place \$200 / 2nd place \$150 / 3rd Place \$75

**TEEN BOYS:** 13-17 yrs / Fancy, Grass & Traditional / 1st place \$200 / 2nd place \$150 / 3rd Place \$75

**ADULT WOMEN'S:** 18-49 yrs / Fancy, Jingle & Traditional / 1st place \$600 / 2nd place \$400 / 3rd Place \$300

**ADULT MEN'S:** 18-49 yrs / Fancy, Grass & Traditional / 1st place \$600 / 2nd place \$400 / 3rd Place \$300

**GOLDEN AGE WOMEN'S:** 50+ / 1st place \$600 / 2nd place \$400 / 3rd Place \$300

**GOLDEN AGE MEN'S:** 50+ / 1st place \$600 / 2nd place \$400 / 3rd Place \$300

**TITLE SPONSOR \$25,000 | GOLD SPONSOR \$15,000 | SILVER SPONSOR \$5,000**

*You may also sponsor any of the individual dance categories.*

Please visit [wsnarc.org/pow-wow-sponsorships](https://wsnarc.org/pow-wow-sponsorships) or call **970-773-4765** or **970-249-3098**  
for sponsorship information and to donate items for the Silent Auction.

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## SAVE THE DATE! LOCAL EVENTS CALENDAR

### ONGOING-

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

**MONTROSE FARMERS MARKET** (970) 249 0705 Centennial Plaza, 433 S. 1st St. Montrose, CO 81401 [www.valleyfoodpartnership.org](http://www.valleyfoodpartnership.org). Year-Round Farmers Market, Saturdays 9am-1pm (Summer), every other Saturday 10am-1pm (Winter). Accepts SNAP and Double Up Food Bucks.

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

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

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

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

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

**MONTROSE AREA WOODTURNERS** Montrose Area Woodturners meet second Saturdays 9 am. Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners. For location and information contact: Al Head 970-209-0981 or [aheadaviation@outlook.com](mailto:aheadaviation@outlook.com)

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

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

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

### MONTHLY

**Sept. 6-21**-All My Sons at Magic Circle Theatre. Directed by Bill Bottomly, Assistant Director John Lange. Tickets at [magiccircleplayers.com](http://magiccircleplayers.com). Magic Circle Players, 420 S 12th St, Montrose. Box office: 970-249-7838. *Remaining Dates:*

*Friday, Sept. 20 - 07:30 PM MDT*

*Saturday, Sept. 21 - 07:30 PM MDT*

**Sept. 17**-September is Library Card Sign Up Month. There will be a Library Open House Tuesday, Sept. 17 - 5:30-6:30pm. Libraries...more than meets the eye! Come and see everything your library has to offer. There will be popcorn, games, green screen photos, scavenger hunt and crafts for the kids, and much more! Montrose Regional Library, 320 S 2nd St, Montrose, CO, 970-249-9656.

**Sept. 18**--Do you have an interest in the history of brewing alcoholic beverages? Please join us as Dan Elsner presents the Archaeology of Ancient Brews. Sept. 18 at 7pm at the United Methodist Church 19 S Park Street Montrose. Free sampling of historic brews after the presentation.

**Sept. 18**-On Wednesday, Sept 18 at 3pm MONTROSE COUNTY NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH will meet in the Centennial Room at the Centennial Plaza, 433 S First Street. This program is under the direction of the Montrose County Sheriff's Office to help reduce crime. Stay connected, stay informed. For more information, call 970-252-4499.

**Sept. 20**-On Friday, Sept. 20 at Noon- Montrose Republican Women Luncheon & Program at Hampton Inn Montrose, Brown bag lunch. Montrose County School District will present information about the New Montrose High School Proposal and Bond Measure on the November ballot. Bring a friend! Call Kerri - 970-209-5170.

**Sept. 21**-OURAY COUNTY RAILROAD DAYS 9 am - 4 pm: Celebrate Ouray County's world-famous narrow-gauge history at the Ridgway Railroad Museum with docents on site and free train rides on Galloping Goose 4, D&RG caboose 91/0575, RGS Motor 1 and RGS Model T Inspection Car 1. Guided auto tour along the D&RG Ouray Branch route, meet at the museum at 1 pm. All events are free.

**Sept. 21**- Lake City hosts the Uncorked Wine and Music Festival.

**Sept. 21**-Uncompahgre Pow-Wow | Montrose, CO [Ute Indian Museum](http://Ute Indian Museum) | Sept. 21, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Join the Ute Indian Museum for its first Uncompahgre Pow-Wow! Hosted by the Western Slope Native American Resource Center and the Ute Indian Museum, the event offers visitors a chance to enter a dance contest, enjoy local food, and more. Over \$14,000 in prizes will be awarded with drawings for up to \$4,500 in prizes for all dancers who do not win first, second, or third in each of the dancing categories. Parking at the museum is limited but a free shuttle will run every 15 minutes from the Target parking lot from 10:30 a.m. - 8 p.m.

**Sept. 22**-OURAY COUNTY RAILROAD DAYS 9 am - 4 pm: Celebrate Ouray County's world-famous narrow-gauge history at the Ridgway Railroad Museum with docents on site and free train rides on Galloping Goose 4, D&RG caboose 91/0575. RGS Motor 1 and RGS Model T Inspection Car 1. All events are free.

## MONTROSE RED HAWKS SPORTS ROUNDUP: VOLLEYBALL



*Lilly Nelson (6) and Marcella Mendoza (10) team up to block a Tiger's return. Photo by Cliff Dodge.*

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