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# the Montrose Mirror

## RE-1J BOARD OF EDUCATION CONSIDERS APPLICATION REVIEW SCHEDULE FOR MONTROSE CLASSICAL ACADEMY (MCA) CHARTER SCHOOL, REQUEST TO BE RELEASED TO CCSI BY VISTA CHARTER SCHOOL

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-All were present as the Montrose County School District RE-1J Board of Education gathered for a regular meeting at District Offices on Oct. 8. Directors include President Sarah Fishing (District E); Vice President Steve Bush (District G); District A Director Neisha Balleck; District B Director Ted Valerio; District C Director Alice Murphy; District D Director Tom West, and District F Director Jody Hovde.

There were a number of observers present as well. All joined in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Vice President Steve Bush asked to amend the agenda, moving Item C-1, a [Career Pathways Update](#), to follow Item B2 in the President's Report, so as not to delay the Career Pathways students. The board voted to amend the agenda.

District A Director Neisha Balleck asked to add an item to the Agenda entitled, "Engaging an Expert Charter School Reviewer."



Vista Charter School Executive Director Luke Siebert and Principal Robi Wells spoke to the Montrose County School District RE-1J Board of Education on Tuesday, Oct. 8. Meeting Screenshot.

[Continued pg 22](#)

## MONTROSE COUNTY CONSIDERS PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2025

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-On Wednesday, Oct. 9, Montrose County Manager Frank Rodriguez and the County Finance Department presented the [proposed budget for 2025](#) to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) and to the public at a special meeting of the BOCC. All commissioners were present for the meeting. BOCC Chair Roger Rash welcomed all in attendance, asking Vice Chair Keith Caddy to lead in saying the Pledge of Allegiance, and asked County Planning & Development Director Tallmadge Richmond to deliver the invocation. Richmond said, "Our loving, heavenly Father we're so grateful to be here this Wednesday morning...we're grateful to discuss a big part of how the county functions and learn more about it. We're grateful for our commissioners, please bless them for their hard work and time dedicated to serving us. We're grateful for the finance staff and our great team there, and for county management and

[Continued pg 21](#)



Montrose County's South Campus Building is no longer safe for staff, officials say. Photo B. Switzer.

Red Hawks Sports Roundup  
By Cliff Dodge!

Red Hawks Bury Doherty 56-27  
By Cliff Dodge!

Op-Ed by David White!

Reader Photo Spotlight:  
Linda Lake!



# 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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## MONTROSE REPUBLICAN WOMEN TO MEET OCT. 18

*Special to the Mirror*

**MONTROSE**-Join us Friday, Oct. 18, Noon-1:30p at the Hampton Inn Montrose. Montrose County Clerk and Recorder Tressa Guynes will explain the election process and discuss the 2024 Ballot. Afterward, MRW will discuss ballot measures. It's a brown bag lunch. Doors open at 11:30a. Bring a friend!



## Community Conversations: A Changing Climate

**Tuesday,  
October 15—6 PM  
Montrose Regional  
Library**



The Montrose Library is partnering with Tri-County Health Networks for a series of Community Conversations this fall to discuss pressing issues facing Montrose alongside community leaders. These conversations will take place at the library meeting room, and will cover such topics as demographics, climate, housing, and mental health. Email Sara at [srinne@montroselibrary.org](mailto:srinne@montroselibrary.org) for more information.

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first and I will give you amazing rewards.

For more information, please call or text my foster mom, Shanda at (970) 901-8828. If no answer, please leave a

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## HOUSE DISTRICT 58



### TURN IN BALLOTS BY 7PM MST ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH



20



## VOTE REPUBLICAN



24



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 Rick Dunlap - Dist 3



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## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

### VOTE NO ON \$395 MILLION BOND ISSUE FOR A NEW MONTROSE HIGH SCHOOL

*Editor:*

As previously noted in multiple letters to The Montrose Mirror, standardized test scores in our high school indicate that our students are graduating unprepared in critical subjects to enable them to transition from high school into the challenges of the real world. This continued failure on the part of our educational system falls squarely on the shoulders of the current school superintendent and the school board.

Despite these critical failures and faced

with the worst overall economy we have experienced in over four years our school district has demonstrated a total lack of fiscal responsibility and understanding of the financial makeup of the taxpayers of our community.

For all those taxpayers who cannot afford to be further encumbered financially to pay for their living expense obligations already stacked up on their kitchen table awaiting payment, the proposed \$395 million bond issue for a new Montrose High School may very well cause health

and mental strains on our community that the elites in Montrose cannot comprehend or even care about.

We all owe a huge "thank you" to our County Assessor for charting out the actual yearly cost of all the collectable tax categories and their real YEARLY COST.

No one will be spared and who will be prepared for a whopper of a tax bill increase to be paid starting this January 2025. I strongly urge a NO VOTE on this issue.

*Dee Laird, Montrose*



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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### MONTROSE REGIONAL HEALTH CELEBRATES LOCAL HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS AT 53RD ANNUAL FALL CLINICS EVENT



**L-R General Surgeon Sarah Judkins and Carlton Mason. Courtesy photo.**



**L-R Physicians Assistants Rachel Stranathan and Jeannie Mueller. Courtesy photo.**



**Dr. Douglas Borgo and Dr. Alexis Garza. Courtesy photo.**

#### *Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE – Montrose Regional Health and the local medical community recently participated in the 53rd annual Fall Clinics event at the Montrose Pavilion. At the event, awards were presented to three outstanding individuals for their contributions to local healthcare - the Physician of the Year Award, the Advanced Practice Provider Community Award, and the Community Member of the Year Award.

The Physician of the Year Award was presented to Dr. Douglas Borgo, a distinguished Emergency Medicine Specialist in Montrose with over 29 years of experience in his field. The award was presented by Dr. Alexis Garza, the Medical Director of the Montrose Regional Health Emergency Department. "He is thoughtful, takes his time with his patients, and always demonstrates kindness," Dr. Garza said in her speech dedicated to Dr. Borgo. In addition to the impact he has made on his patients, Dr. Borgo has made a lifetime impact on the growing Emergency Department at Montrose Regional Health. "I've been here for over two decades, and I'm always happy to take care of people when they are in need," Dr. Borgo said in response to receiving this award. "The Emergency Department is always happy to

see them, and we will always do the right thing for them."

The Advanced Practice Provider (APP) Community Award was presented to Rachel Stranathan, Board Certified Physician Assistant at River Valley Family Health Center. It was presented to her by fellow Physician Assistant at River Valley, Jeannie Mueller. "Rachel has a particular talent for clear and effective communication, which is essential in providing high-quality patient care," Jeannie said. "She is a highly skilled PA-C, a dedicated professional, and a compassionate caregiver." Rachel has been instrumental in assisting patients in the community struggling with substance abuse disorders by advocating for the availability of Narcan, a medicine that rapidly reverses narcotic overdose. She has successfully implemented Narcan kiosks in the Montrose and Delta communities. "In community medicine, we don't just treat patients, we uplift the entire community—one compassionate act at a time," Rachel said upon receiving this award.

The Community Member of the Year Award was presented to Carlton Mason, Chief Executive Officer of CASA 7th Judicial District. Sarah Judkins, General Surgeon at Montrose Regional Health, presented him with the award. The mission of CASA is to

break the cycle of abuse and neglect of children through prevention, advocacy, and intervention. For the last 13 years, Carlton Mason has diligently run the organization, being described by his colleagues as humble, authentic, and selfless. "He shows up for these kids consistently, bringing his heart and his energy day after day, while leaving any judgement behind," said Sarah Judkins in her speech dedicated to Carlton. "Thank you, Carlton, for being a visionary for our at-risk children and for being a leader for those in a position to help." His contributions to CASA have led to countless opportunities for at-risk youth, assisting them and protecting them from the dangers of suicide, addiction, and homelessness. "One of our young people was recently asked, 'What did CASA do that made the difference?'" Her one-word response was forgiveness," Carlton said.

"What she wanted, and what she got, was forgiveness. It is with sincerest gratitude that I accept the Community Service Award presented by Montrose Regional Health and the 2024 Fall Clinics Committee in recognition of my small role in leading a team that offers the hope and opportunity that can be found in forgiveness."





**“They have backed us up  
against a wall. We only  
have one option and  
that is to fight.”**

## **Nov. 5th Election, Vote Early**

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## Questions?

**Scott Goodall**

Preconstruction Director

480-973-1274

SWGGoodall@McCarthy.com

**Chris Kostelny**

Project Manager

847-208-5331

CKostelny@McCarthy.com

**Mark Andrews**

Sr. Project Manager

562-254-3925

AndrewsMR@CDMSmith.com



## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

### KATHLEEN CURRY IS READY TO GET TO WORK ON DAY ONE

*To the editor:*

Kathleen Curry is a candidate for Colorado House District 58 and I believe her to be the most qualified and experienced person to represent the people of this district.

I have had many opportunities to attend her events over the course of her campaign and I have found her to be knowledgeable about the issues, articulate and easy to get to know. She has spoken of her passion about protecting our water rights on the Western Slope and understands the concerns of ranchers and farmers having operated her family cattle ranch with her husband for 20+ years.

Kathleen has a wide range of experience including serving 3 terms as a representative to the state house and the last 5 years advocating for water, wildlife and agricultural entities. She also owned and operated her own small business in Gunnison.

Kathleen Curry is ready to get to work on day one. She knows how the legislature functions and how to work on both sides of the aisle. Kathleen knows the needs and concerns of the people in our district and will work every day on our behalf.

*Jane Ryan, Montrose*

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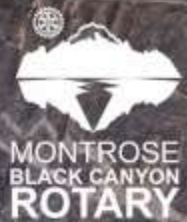
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**October 24th**

## PANELISTS



**Phoebe Benziger**  
Community Change  
Agent and Leader



**Kelvin Kent**  
Philanthropist, Author,  
and Businessman



**Tonya Maddox**  
Chief Executive Officer,  
Our Town Matters &  
Montrose Business Times



**Ricardo Perez**  
Executive Director  
Hispanic Affairs Project



**Dan Soderlind**  
Administrator  
Black Canyon Surgical Center

## AGENDA

- 7:30 – 9:30 am
  - Networking Before & After Panel Discussion
  - Coffee, Tea, Light Breakfast
- 8:00 – 9:00 am Panel Discussion
  - **Enhance Communication Skills:** Learn actionable strategies to improve your ability to connect with others.
  - **Build Stronger Relationships:** Discover techniques to foster meaningful connections within your community.
  - **Gain Insights from Experts:** Hear from panelists who have successfully implemented these strategies in their own work.
- 9:15 am Networking
  - Connect with fellow community members
  - Learn more about Rotary and Interact



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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

# ANNUAL FALL LEAF CLEANUP TO BEGIN NOV. 12

### *Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE— The City of Montrose will begin its annual fall leaf cleanup on Monday, Nov. 12, with the annual collection service running through Dec. 5.

Starting Tuesday, Oct. 15, the city will begin offering leaf bag bundles for the annual cleanup. Each bundle contains four clear leaf bags for \$1 and can be purchased at City Hall, located at 400 East Main Street, and at the city's Public Works office at 1221 64.50 Road.

Residents can use any brand of clear bags to collect leaves and place them on the curb for the city's pickup service. If scheduling is necessary, customers can contact Public Works at 970.240.1480.

The pickup service is free, but only for City of Montrose utility customers. No yard waste other than leaves will be accepted. City crews will begin picking up bags on Monday, Nov. 12, and continue until the cleanup ends on Thursday, Dec. 5.

The City of Montrose thanks customers for participating in this event and reminds residents never to rake leaves into the street or city storm drains in accordance with Sec. 3-7-2 of the city's Municipal Code.

For information about the City of Montrose visit [CityofMontrose.org](http://CityofMontrose.org)

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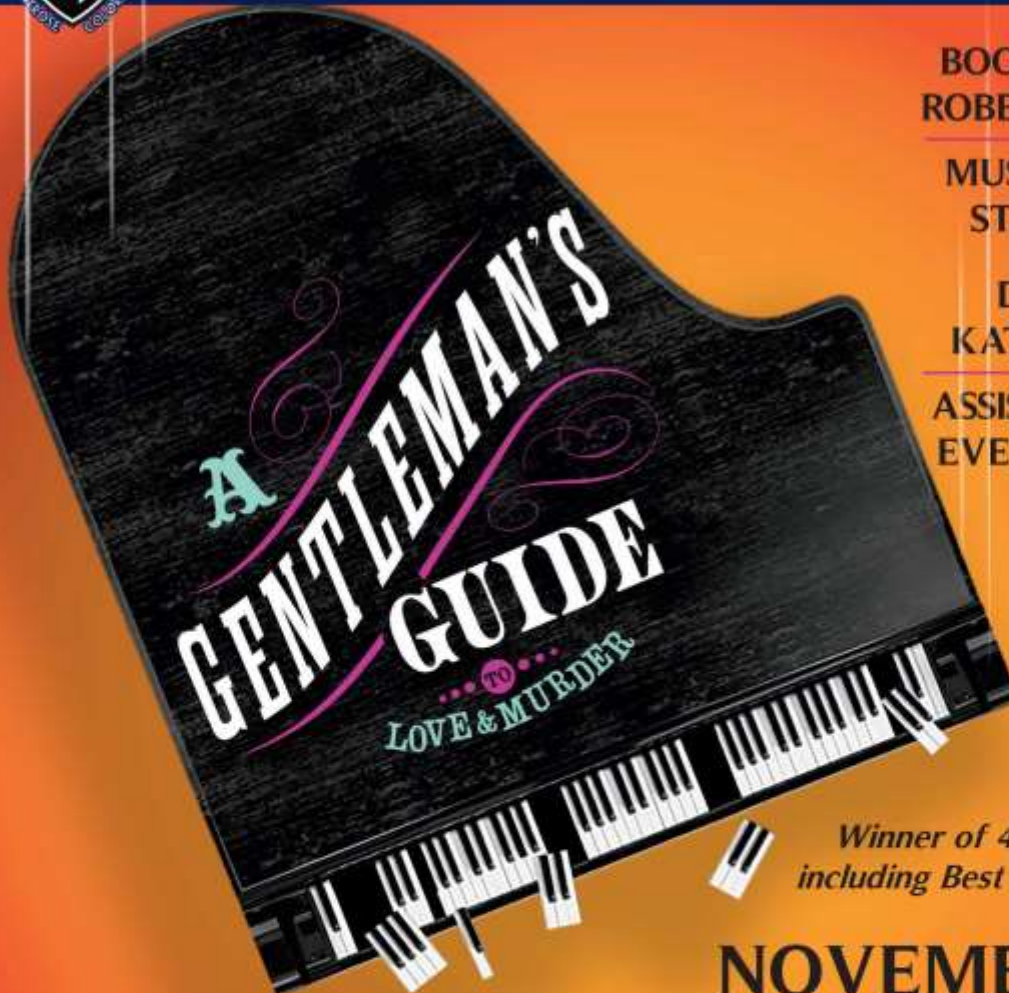
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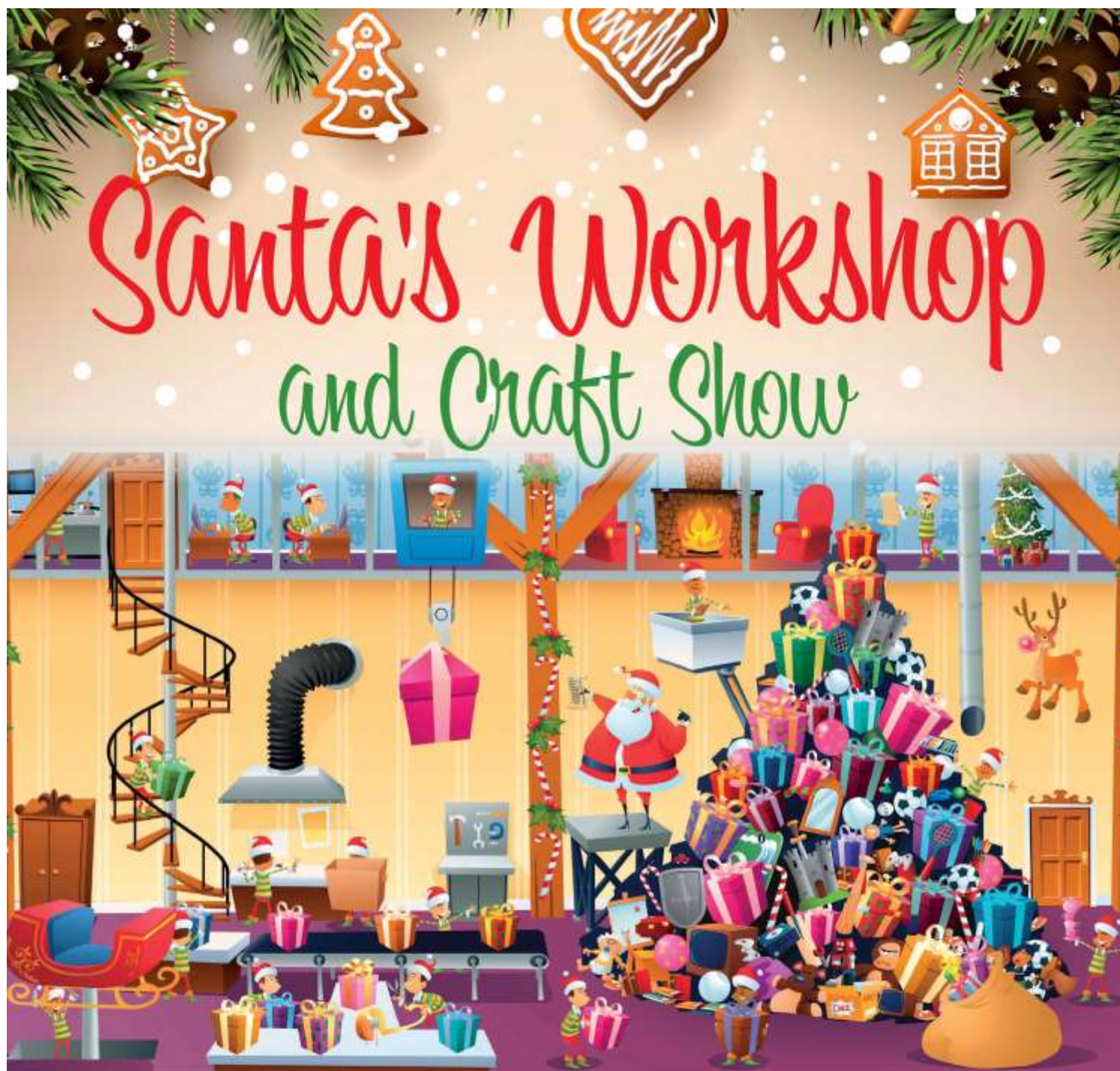


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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## PROTECT COLORADO'S WILD CATS FROM TROPHY HUNTING AND FUR TRAPPING

Dear Reader,

The science is clear on Prop 127, which protects Colorado's wild cats from trophy hunting and fur trapping.

Mountain lion "hunting" is all done with dogs, 100% according to state data. It is always recreational, and always for the trophy (head and skin), not meat. Trophy "hunters" use high-tech advantage and large packs of dogs who chase down the lion in her own habitat. The dogs force her up a tree and once contained, the so-called hunter then shoots her dead. This is not hunting by any stretch of the imagination. This is unethical and unsportsmanlike and needs to stop immediately. Statistics from regulatory agencies show that the vast majority of lions killed are females, leaving any kittens they have to starve to death.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife's former carnivore manager states lion populations will remain stable, not increase once Prop 127 passes. It is the scientific consensus among our best scientists. We've seen this in California, where they have not allowed trophy hunting lions in 52 years.

Mountain lions will always be in balance with nature and never overpopulate, according to our best independent scientists. It is how nature works. Anyone who suggests otherwise is ignorant or biased in support of cruel and inhumane lion trophy "hunting", and just looking for an excuse to allow this state-sanctioned cruelty.

Prop 127 will also ban trapping of bobcats. Lynx trapping is already illegal.

Bobcats are trapped during extreme winter, and suffer in the cold until the trapper bludgeons them to death to make a personal profit off our wildlife driven by foreign markets in China and Russia.

If the above doesn't convince you to vote YES on 127, then you should also know that the "surplus" dogs used in hunting mountain lions are not treated badly and have been left to die alone after scrapping with a mountain lion. Vote YES if you love dogs.

Cindy Fravel, Fort Collins



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DUNLAP**

For  
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District #3**

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- Past President of County Sheriffs of Colorado
- 21 years U.S. Army, Retired - Awarded Bronze Star

### Volunteer Service to Montrose Community

- Current President of West Montrose Sanitation District
- Current Board Member for Welcome Home Alliance for Veterans
- Current Board Member of Grace Community Church
- Past Montrose County Fair Board Member
- Past Volunteer Firefighter - Montrose Fire Protection District
- Past Member of Montrose County Sheriff's Posse
- Past Board Member CASA of the 7<sup>th</sup> Judicial District

### More About Rick

- Associates Degree in Business Management
- Married to my wife, Karen, for 52 years
- Proud father of 3 sons, with 8 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren
- Resident of Montrose County for 42 years.

**VOTE FOR PROVEN LEADERSHIP!**

**PAID FOR BY COMMITTEE TO ELECT RICK DUNLAP**



### Program Administrator

#### *Experience:*

Project Coordination, Team work, Fiscal Responsibilities and Budgeting

I began working with the Courts doing research on recidivism rates of drug offenders and ended up writing a federal grant securing over a million dollars in start-up funds to implement the first circuit wide Drug Court Program in the State of Missouri. As program Administrator, I was the liaison between the Judges, Prosecuting Attorneys, Public Defenders and Law Enforcement. I secured all funding and budgeting for the entire program, and provided oversight on the hiring of all positions and ancillary services

## QUALIFICATIONS....

### Montrose County Government

#### *Experience:*

Full understanding of day to day operations and a "history" of working with the last 7 Commissioners

The County Attorney's office has one client- The County, which includes representation of ALL the departments and Elected Officials. Having worked in this position for the last 7+ years, I am very familiar with the numerous Ordinances, Resolutions, IGS's MOU's and countless contracts the county has approved over the years. I have and understand of everything from Federal & State government contracts to the preparation of the annual budget for the Legal department.

### Government House of Representatives

#### *Experience:*

Full understanding of how House/Senate Bills become law and how to "listen" to other's perspective with an open mind.

While working as an Intern at the State Capitol, my job was to be the "right-hand" to the State Representative I worked with. I attended all committee meetings, hearings and dinners, was in the gallery of the House while he was on the floor debating or voting on issues. I was included in all conversations with fellow Representatives, Lobbyists and constituents. I did research on both House and Senate Bill proposals, tracking of all bills and constituent contact.



## CURRENT COUNTY CONCERNS....

### PSST-

There have been statements made by the BOCC that all the spending of the PSST funds to date have, in fact, been fully justified. There continue to be members of the public that are not satisfied with the statements provided by the BOCC. Our Sheriff's Department continues to be understaffed due to better paying opportunities with other agencies. There has been no unified Resolution of this matter to date. My question is - If the People voted in an additional tax specifically dedicated to fund our Sheriff's Office (70%) and other Public Safety matters (30%) Why is the County experiencing a short-fall in funds to compensate our deputies?

### General Recruitment and Retaining of Employees

The County has engaged in a comprehensive study of the current wages & benefits package it provides to its employees as they continue to have difficulties hiring qualified applicants that remain employed long term. 29% of the 2024 Budget was dedicated to Personnel Cost

### Major Capital Improvements-

The Historic Courthouse renovations project continues to progress forward to be a proud and firm foundation to Montrose County. At the same time, the County is currently accepting RFP's (Request for Proposal) to build a new North Campus building, to relocate the departments (Public Health, Human Services, Finance, and Human Resources) currently housed at the South Campus building located on Townsend Avenue. 31% of the 2024 Budget was dedicated to Major Capital Improvements.

*Consideration:* With the issues that the County is currently having recruiting and retaining employees, is it wise to be spending more dollars on buildings than people?

### West End

Severely economically depressed region of Montrose County after years of closures to the Uranium mining industry and local power plant, leaves the area with very limited infrastructure. And now, the West End is working to find a solution to the proposed designation of the Dolores Monument. This Monument, if designated, will have profound demands on the community without the infrastructure to support such demands. What is the County's plan to provide necessary and additional infrastructure to the region, and is the designation in the best interest of those living in the area, and is the Monument supported by the current residents of the West End?

\*Paid for by the committee to elect Trisha Murray County Commissioner



## PLATFORM....

### LISTEN

to ALL the People

### REPRESENT

ALL the People

### BE ACCOUNTABLE

to ALL the People



*Vote*

**TRISHA  
MURRAY**

**County Commissioner District 3**

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Murray4montrose@gmail.com

www.Murray4montrosecounty.com



# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## CELEBRATE THE MONTROSE FARMERS MARKET WITH VALLEY FOOD PARTNERSHIP AT THE STONE SOUP COMMUNITY LUNCH

### Special to the Mirror

**MONTROSE**—Join us for a heartwarming celebration of the power of food to build community on Saturday, Oct. 19, as Valley Food Partnership hosts its second annual Stone Soup Community Lunch, sponsored by Hilltop Family Resource Center and Montrose Community Foundation. This special event is dedicated to honoring the Montrose Farmers Market's incredible vendors, loyal customers, and invaluable community partners who work together to bring a vibrant local food scene to downtown Montrose, week after week, all year long.

From 11 AM to 1 PM at the Montrose Police Department Community Room, come share a bowl of delicious homemade soup made primarily from locally sourced ingredients. There will be both a meat and a vegan soup option, salad, and bread. It's our way of saying "thank you" to the people who help make the Montrose Farmers Market a true community hub.

We are especially proud of our amazing vendors. Whether they're up before dawn harvesting fresh produce, traveling from outside the county, or dedicating extra time to crafting beautiful booths, these hard-working individuals bring the Montrose community fresh, local food and artisanal goods every Saturday. They are the backbone of our market, and we are grateful for the heart and effort they pour into their work.

We also extend our appreciation to the dedicated Montrose Farmers Market staff. Wearing many hats, from event planning and marketing to administration and customer service, the MFM team ensures the market runs smoothly and remains a lively, engaging space for all.

The Montrose Farmers Market wouldn't be where it is today without the continued support of the City of Montrose, including the Development and Revitalization Team (DART) and Public Works. Their assistance with road closures, storage, sponsorships, and more is essential to the success of our market.

We also want to give a special shout-out to the Montrose Police Department. Their ongoing support—whether helping with market safety or providing the community room for events like Farmers Market Bootcamp and our Stone Soup Lunch—is invaluable.

A heartfelt thank you to our sponsors whose contributions keep market operations thriving. From financial backing to in-kind support, their generosity allows us to offer special events, food access programs like SNAP and Double Up Food Bucks, and live music throughout the summer. A special mention goes to our top sponsors: Alpine Bank, Montrose DART, and Atlanta Solar.



**CLIP & SAVE**

**MONTROSE COUNTY  
REPUBLICANS**

**2024 BALLOT INITIATIVE  
RECOMMENDATIONS**

More info: [MontroseRepublicans.org](https://MontroseRepublicans.org)

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| <b>YES</b> | <b>Amend G</b> -Modify Property Tax Exemption for Veterans with Disabilities   |
| <b>—</b>   | <b>Amend H</b> -Judicial Discipline Procedures and Confidentiality, establish judicial review board                                  |
| <b>YES</b> | <b>Amend I</b> -Constitutional Bail Exemption for First Degree Murder  |
| <b>NO</b>  | <b>Amend J</b> -Repealing the Constitutional Definition of Marriage  |
| <b>NO</b>  | <b>Amend K</b> -Modify Constitutional Election Rules   |
| <b>NO</b>  | <b>Amend 79</b> -Constitutional Right to Abortion & Removes the Constitutional Prohibition on Taxpayer funding of Abortions          |
| <b>YES</b> | <b>Amend 80</b> -Constitutional Right to School Choice in K-12 Education   |
| <b>—</b>   | <b>Amend JJ</b> -Retain Additional Sports Betting Tax Revenue for Water Conservation Projects  |
| <b>NO</b>  | <b>Amend KK</b> -Firearms & Ammunition Excise Tax  |
| <b>NO</b>  | <b>Prop 127</b> - Prohibit Bobcat, Lynx & Mountain Lion Hunting  |
| <b>YES</b> | <b>Prop 128</b> -Parole Eligibility for Crimes of Violence to serve 85% of sentence imposed  |
| <b>—</b>   | <b>Prop 129</b> - Establish Qualifications & Registration for Veterinary Professional Associate to practice under supervision of Vet |
| <b>YES</b> | <b>Prop 130</b> -Funding for Law Enforcement   |
| <b>NO</b>  | <b>Prop 131</b> -Establishing All-Candidate Primary & Ranked Choice Voting in General Elections                                      |
| <b>NO</b>  | <b>Issue 2A</b> - <b>City of Montrose</b> -Increase hotel room tax for 2025 & Increase current Excise Tax                            |
| <b>—</b>   | <b>Issue 2B</b> - <b>Town of Olathe</b> -Public Safety Tax   |
| <b>NO</b>  | <b>Issue 5A</b> - <b>Montrose School Dist RE-1J</b> - \$198M Bond for New Montrose High School                                       |
| <b>—</b>   | <b>Issue 7B</b> - <b>Crawford Water Conservancy Dist</b> - \$1M Bond, special assessment fee to pay back                             |

**Note: — means Neutral**





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# MEDICARE MONDAY

## 2025 MEDICARE CHANGES WORKSHOP

In-Person Presentation, Medicare Expert  
Colorado Gerontological Society



Content Presented: Parts A, B, C and D explained  
Premium increases, Deductibles & New drug benefit

**Monday, October 28, 2024 - 11:00 am**  
**Montrose Library, Meeting Room**  
**320 S 2nd Street, Montrose**

**For more information, Call CGS: 303-333-3482**  
**Register Online for Zoom: [www.senioranswers.org](http://www.senioranswers.org)**



# MONTROSE COUNTY CONSIDERS PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2025 *From pg 1*

and the many others involved in the budget for their good work. Please bless them for doing that and spending their time, attention, and energy. Please bless us with a spirit of understanding and learning and humility today as we discuss these things..."

## PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no comments heard from the public.

BOCC Chair Roger Rash took time to thank Interim County Manager Emily Sanchez for her service. "She has done a heck of a job; we are so glad to have her. Thank you for your leadership."

## COUNTY MANAGER

County Manager Frank Rodriguez had no changes to the meeting agenda.

## GENERAL BUSINESS & ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Rodriguez commended staff for their work on the budget. "...I am proud to be a part of this team...I take no credit for the slides; they are really all the smart people..."

Rodriguez then shared a series of slides pertaining to the 2025 Proposed budget and discussed some of the uncertainties and challenges facing the county in the coming year.

County Finance Director Cindy Dunlap introduced the proposed budget. Assistant Finance Director and Budget Manager Lanny Paulson outlined some of the transactions and the reasoning behind the decisions.

Interim County Manager Emily Sanchez discussed a salary survey undertaken to compare Montrose County with other municipalities and organizations, as well as proposed salary increases.

Documents included in the agenda packet include the proposed Budget for 2025; a Slide Presentation on the proposed budget; and a history of the Public Safety Sales Tax funds.

Commissioner Sue Hansen said that commissioners are happy to discuss the budget with those who have questions. "...This board has been diligent, we have pondered over the north campus...but when you take a tour of the south campus, you can see that we have put our employees under somewhat of duress...in some cases there's cracks in the walls...it is a building that is way past its prime, it's a big decision...thank you Frank, thank you team, you've done a great job."

BOCC Chair Roger Rash said that there are 20 departments the commissioners must be concerned with. "...We have to be conservative; we do not want to end up with a deficit and the county in financial straits right away after we leave..."

No one department is more important than any other, Rash said. "...This staff has worked hard to balance all those revenues and expenditures..."

BOCC Vice Chair Keith Caddy said he has heard comments from the public on the North Campus. "I think it would be a good thing to do for the for the community to get an idea of how much it would cost to put that old (South Campus) building back into 100 percent shape...we're talking about a complete remodel. There's carpet in there that's been there since the '70's...at least we would know we have good numbers to work with...I think that's a fair thing to do..."

## EXECUTIVE SESSION-MONTROSE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

The BOCC reconvened as the Montrose County Board of Health and entered into Executive Session with County Attorney Marti Whitmore to consider legal advice related to enforcement of OWTS regulations.

Following the Executive Session, the Board of Health agreed to meet on Oct. 22 at 9:30am to consider a possible violation of state statutes and regulations with regard to the household at 21835 Government Springs Road.



## Welcomes DR. WILLIAM SUMMERS

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## RE-1J BOARD OF EDUCATION CONSIDERS CHARTER SCHOOLS From pg 1

Balleck said that she had also emailed ahead of time to ask that the item be placed on the agenda. An expert charter school reviewer could be beneficial to the process of reviewing the Montrose Classical Academy (MCA) Charter School application, she said. "I am having trouble getting on the agenda..."

The district has not approved a new charter school application in more than 20 years, she noted. With Balleck and Valerio voting "aye," the board voted 5 to 2 against adding an additional agenda item.

### STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

RE-1J PIO Matthew Jenkins read the Student Spotlight information into the record, "Pomona 5th graders pushed themselves and grew together as a team at Camp Cedaredge for the fifth annual field trip and outdoor learning experience! This is yet another great example of the awesome opportunities at Pomona and MCSD.

"Centennial Celebrates! Check out the school homepage and social media for Centennial Middle School. Each week staff are celebrating an outstanding student achievement for kids who are going above and beyond (four weeks going).

"We are so proud of our Olathe FFA students for winning the State Livestock Judging Competition! They will be recognized at the prestigious 2024 National Western Stock Show in Denver and are receiving a \$2K scholarship to attend. These students have shown incredible dedication and skill in the field of agriculture science, and this is a huge achievement for both them and our community. "SRO student awards will return in November."

### RECOGNITION AND DONATIONS

Altrusa Apple Award winners were announced. This month's winners were Early Childhood Health Assistant Abbie Sanchez and Cottonwood Elementary Reading Interventionist Jen Smith.

Donations included \$12,000 for sponsorship of Friday Night Lights to allow free admission for everyone on Friday, Sept. 6. Donations for Montrose Athletics included:

- Redhawk Sports, Inc. donated \$25,000.
- Comfort Dental donated \$2,000.
- Red Mountain Roofing donated \$3,500.

### BOARD RECOGNITION

Board Vice President Steve Bush was honored for his service after winning a [McGuffey Award](#) through the Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB)

### CAREER PATHWAYS CELEBRATION

Students involved with the Career Pathways program discussed the experiences and opportunities they have had. The board docs for the meeting include a Career Pathways [presentation](#) as well.

### BOARD ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATES

The [District Accountability Committee \(DAC\)](#) has met. District C Director Alice Murphy and District A Director Neisha Balleck are both on the DAC. The committee considered the charter school application and the proposed school bond package for a new Montrose High School facility.

### CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICATION REVIEW PROCESS

The Board spent time in discussion pertaining to the Montrose Classical Academy (MCA) Charter School application review process, and agreed to meet at 6:30pm on Monday, Oct. 21 to determine whether the application is complete. The meeting will be live streamed.

### COMMUNITY INPUT

Jennifer Morrow spoke. "I stand before you today to express my whole-hearted support for Vista Charter moving to CSI (Colorado Charter School Institute). Over the past few years I have witnessed firsthand the remarkable strides our school has made in enhancing student education. Our commitment to excellence has been unwavering and the results speak for themselves. As we contemplate this new initiative, I am confident that this will bring even greater benefits to our students and our staff. Moving to CSI promises to provide us with more resources and support, which are crucial for fostering an environment where students can thrive. Implementing this move will significantly alleviate staff technical difficulties, as well as enhance support systems. This will allow our educators to focus more on teaching, and less on trouble shooting...this will ultimately benefit both staff and students. Additionally, it will create a more cohesive and supportive at-

mosphere, as we as staff will have the opportunity to learn from schools with similar student demographics and circumstances. The potential for this positive impact is immense. With additional resources and support our teachers will be better equipped to address the diverse needs of our students, this in turn will lead to improved academic outcomes...I believe that by embracing this transition we are taking a significant step toward ensuring our school continues to be a place where every student has the opportunity to succeed..."

Connie Fries spoke. "I am also here to advocate for Vista transitioning to CSI...I'm a parent of two children that graduated from Vista. When COVID came around, my two older children really struggled...we stumbled upon Vista...my daughter Vanessa is now an astronomy major at CU Boulder. My son Anthony is at CMU, deciding between Geology and American literature..."

Carol Parker spoke. "I'm a former Vista Charter School board member and served as President and as part of the team that conducted a community-wide feasibility study to examine the needs and the funding to expand the high school in 2003. And this feasibility study also informed our entire application process to become a charter school...I served on the board literally from inception past the completion of our new building, so please excuse a brief trip down memory lane to set a context for tonight's decision.

"By 2003 Vista High School had already served this district for 16 years," Parker said. "Hundreds of teens who had been on the streets and...otherwise not included in our October count, were now being served through an expulsion intervention and dropout prevention program. Because of our unique, individualized approach and our ability to have three sessions a day, morning, afternoon, and evening, we met the needs of emancipated teens and still do...they needed to work, and we met the needs of those with unique learning needs...with over 60 students on a waiting list in 2003, it was clear that Vista needed more space and more staff.

"It became clear also that a charter



## RE-1J BOARD OF EDUCATION CONSIDERS CHARTER SCHOOLS *From previous pg*

school with non-profit corporation status had access to many more opportunities for public as well as private funding. Vista was chartered in 2004 with the District serving as its authorizing authority. We later moved into and remodeled a 6,000-sf manufacturing space. Finally, Vista staff had its own bathroom, and we no longer had a waiting list. Vista then allocated its meager capital construction funds to purchase land near St. Mary's. And we leveraged that into a \$1.5M grant match, to obtain a little over \$5M BEST grant. So our \$6.5M project became a great community investment which I'm sure has appreciated a lot since 2011...I am here to beg you to keep control of Vista as a community asset and not hand it over to CSI."

Next to speak was Leeanna Spadafora. "I retired in 2015 from Montrose School District," she said, "after 30 years working at Vista and various other district projects. During those years the relationship between Vista and the district was very positive, supportive, and solid. Vista Charter School was proud to be a unique conversion charter, in partnership with the district."

"Several of us remained district employees," Spadafora said, "retaining our retirement and health benefits while working for Vista. You attended our graduation...ceremonies, we were invited to your back-to-school rallies. When we moved to our new building space I was invited to work at the district office, using your computers until we were settled enough for me to move into the building. Our former district co-workers were good friends. Vista continued to feel like we were still part of the district."

For many students, Vista is their family, she said. Vista students were as unique as those at other schools, she said, and came from a variety of circumstances.

"Vista was their safe place, where they suddenly did fit...some Vista students graduate and go to college. More of them graduate and remain in our community. They wait on you at the local restaurants, work in your schools, draw your blood at the local health fair, fix your cars, or spoon feed your great, great, great, great, great, great grandmother."

"One of them hopes to be your president someday."

These students were not aliens who dropped from the sky into Vista, she said. "They were your students first...they belong to you."

Of the 45 schools authorized by CCSI, only two are identified as alternative campuses.

"Does CCSI have the experience or the depth to support the unique population of Vista Charter School...?" Spadafora asked.

Erin Fields spoke, saying that she teaches at Vista Charter School and previously taught at the now closed Passage Charter School from 1999 to 2017. "...It is a much bigger district than we were back in 1999," Fields said, "...I think the district has many other challenges on their plate right now, and we are one more distraction from the work you're trying to do...as a CSI school we have the opportunity to be part of a larger organization, where we can share best practices that work for our students...as a teacher I want to be able to innovate...CSI will allow and provide our students with a collective of other educators...they can offer us tremendous opportunities..."

Paul Stucki spoke. "...I'm a staunch advocate for struggling learners, and I'm presently serving on the Vista board as well as being an educational consultant in the non-profit realm."

Montrose County School District has historically provided quality education for the majority of students in Montrose County and will continue to do so, Stucki said.

"I believe Vista's authorization under CSI would provide Vista the autonomy to pursue its full potential, allow Vista to fully develop its unique role within the greater Montrose educational network, ultimately add to the diverse programming available for all students, relieve some financial and service burdens for both the school district and Vista, and alleviate some historical tensions between Vista and Montrose County School District."

Next to speak was Sandra Suarez, a 2020 Vista graduate and a current Vista educator.

"...This year I am teaching computer aided design," she said. "My personal experi-

ence with Vista has been nothing but good, both as a student and an educator."

"I believe that the decision to be released by the Montrose County School District and allow CSI to step in is in the best interests of both students and staff..."

Miguel Saenz spoke. "...I graduated from Olathe High School, I recognize Mrs. Murphy...I'm here to advocate for authorizing the release from Vista Charter...the kids here...they really like the hands on training, a lot of times... they can't afford to go to other colleges...I think if we release the authorization of Vista they can get more funds, they can have more programs, we can take care of our artists, our welders, our builders, as we know our students are the future, let's not be afraid of the future..."

Next to speak was former RE-1J board member Phoebe Benziger. She said that she is very familiar with Vista and the vital role it plays in the community.

"The students, the staff is exceptional...I've always been proud of the options this school provides to its students," Benziger said. "...Tonight you're being asked to grant authorizing authority for Vista Charter School to an Institute based on the Eastern Slope, and I'm here to strongly oppose this action...Vista Charter School is an asset to our community, a school built with the hard work of local contractors, teachers, and staff who obviously believe in its mission. It would not be prudent in my opinion to give up local control of the education of our students...if they have issues at Vista and there are desires and needs, let's address them together as a district and a community...I strongly urge you to retain local control over Vista Charter School...please don't release oversight of Vista after nearly four decades of a vested community of blood, sweat, and tears...it is only common sense to keep this asset, the students and building, under local control..."

Next to speak was Robert Walraven, who said he was there to represent a number of parents, players, and community members who have concerns about the leadership ability of the Head Basketball Coach in the Olathe High School.

"...Tonight I'm here specifically about our

## RE-1J BOARD OF EDUCATION CONSIDERS CHARTER SCHOOLS *From previous pg*

basketball program...there's been several issues arise during the first year with the new coach, Coach Scott Hill, and this resulted in multiple players quitting mid-season last year...earlier this year we submitted a petition signed by 20 current players, eight parents and four community supporters all requesting his removal. Our concerns stem from his ineffective coaching style, poor communication, and the negative atmosphere he's fostered with the team...

"Despite the overwhelming support for change, the administration's decided to retain Coach Hill," Walraven said, and expressed concerns over the basis for that decision. Also, the Athletic Director at Olathe is Coach Hill's uncle. This clear family connection presents an appearance of favoritism, he said. "We're not asking for special treatment, but we do ask for fairness and for our concerns to be taken seriously...we urge the school board and this administration to investigate this thoroughly..."

Next to speak, Dawn Fritze said, "... I'm here to express serious concerns regarding the performance of the Olathe High School Boys Varsity Basketball Head Coach Scott Hill. As a parent of a player on the team I have observed and heard troubling issues that I believe warrant immediate attention...many players worry about potential retaliation from either the administration or Coach Hill..."

She said that a community petition in support of his removal was not given appropriate consideration.

"Four players have already expressed that they will not play for Coach Hill...He has failed to build confidence in his players, develop their skills, foster positive relationships. Instances of body shaming during practice led one player to quitting the team after being humiliated in front of his peers...another player who was injured

during the game never received a phone call, a message from the coach to check on his well-being..."

Next to speak was Pat Mroczek Van Allen, who voiced a passion for Vista.

"...I taught at Centennial for many a year, I've been in education for 40 years...I have passion, great passion...I've always wanted to go to Vista Charter School...I have a passion...we're all on the spectrum somewhere...the teachers that are at Vista have that passion, that drive, and want to specialize for the kids.

"I tease about that I fly by the seat of my pants which is very true that's why I've decided that God has given me a large derriere, so if I go flying if I land I have a wide space to land in ...I feel it's very important that we hang onto Vista so they can give them that specialized means that they need."

The final speaker was Donna Elkins, who said that senior citizens in Montrose would be financially burdened by the proposed bond issue for a new Montrose High School. "We all want to do things for the kids...I also have such a heart for the seniors. I don't think it has to be an either or, but...25 percent of our population are senior citizens...it's a fact that a lot of our seniors are on fixed incomes...the bond measure that's coming before them is causing concern...we're a small community with more limited housing that these property taxes are being attached to..."

### CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda items, including [Personnel Report](#), were unanimously approved.

### NEW BUSINESS

The agenda states, "Vista Charter School's charter contract is up for renewal in 2025. They have reached out to the district for a release of authorization for the school so they could partner with the Colorado Charter School Institute (CSI). The Board will vote to approve or deny the

[resolution.](#)"

Vista Charter School Executive Director Luke Siebert was present to speak and answer questions; Principal and Special Education Case Manager Robi Wells was also present.

Siebert spoke about the reasons for wanting to join CSI, saying that CSI would offer greater access to funding, staffing and resources. The RE-1J schools did not share any of the Elementary and Secondary School Relief (ESSER) funds with Vista, Siebert said, and Vista lost available transportation funds after buying a bus due to a timing issue with RE-1J.

A representative from the Colorado Charter School Institute was present via livestream, to answer questions as they arose.

Siebert said that the building Vista is housed in would remain school district property. Board President Sarah Fishing said that she would like more time to verify the impacts of the proposed resolution on the Vista Facility. If the RE-1J Board does not vote to release Vista to CSI, the Board of Education will need to renew the current contract with Vista, Fishing said. "And last time, the contract negotiations were difficult."

The Board agreed to table the vote on the proposed resolution until the Nov. 12 regular board meeting.

### ENROLLMENT REPORT

Re-1J Finance Director Emily Imus presented the [Enrollment Report](#). Total District Enrollment is 6,000, which is 17 students lower than last month and 47 students lower than last year at this time.

### EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER (ECC)

An updated ECC [Data Dashboard](#) is included in the board packet.

There will be a special meeting of the Board at 6:30pm on Monday, Oct. 21. The next regular meeting of the RE-1J Board of Education will be Tuesday, Oct. 22.







# Holiday

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# RED HAWKS SPORTS ROUNDUP



*Maggie Cross (#15) and Ashlin Mitchum (#16) attempt to block a spike vs the Palisade Bulldogs. Photo by Cliff Dodge.*



*Sophomore Isabelle Mott warms up prior to pitching for the Red Hawks. Photo by Cliff Dodge.*

By Cliff Dodge

## **RED HAWKS SOCCER: GLENWOOD SPRINGS 5, MONTROSE RED HAWKS 3**

The Montrose Red Hawks boys soccer team travelled to Glenwood Springs this past weekend as they took on the Demons on their home court. The Demons prevailed by the score of 5-3. The game was tight from beginning to end with the Demons coming out on top. The Demons outscored the Red Hawks 2-1 in the first half of action and outscored the Red Hawks 3-2 in the second frame.

## **GR. JUNCTION CENTRAL 3, MONTROSE RED HAWKS 0**

The Montrose Red Hawks continued their road trip, this time they visited the Warriors of Grand Junction Central High School last Wednesday. This was another closely fought game with the home team Warriors prevailing 3-0. The Red Hawks defense gave up one goal in the first half and then surrendered a pair of goals in the second half to account for the final score of 3-0.

## **RED HAWKS SOFTBALL: PALISADE BULLDOGS 11, MONTROSE RED HAWKS 6**

The Montrose Red Hawks softball team travelled to Palisade last Monday and were defeated by Palisade by the score of 11-6. The Red Hawks jumped out to a 2-0 lead but it was short lived. The Bulldogs

played 7 runs in the bottom of the first inning. The teams traded scoring 4 runs each over the next six innings making the final score 11-6. Senior Cali Fulks led the offensive attack for the Red Hawks as she pounded out four base hits including three doubles. Freshman Aubrey Blacker chipped in with two base hits. Sophomore Isabelle Mott pitched a complete game giving up eleven runs, only three of which were earned.

## **DELTA PANTHERS 15, MONTROSE RED HAWKS 5**

The Montrose Red Hawks hosted the visiting Delta Panthers last Thursday and found themselves in a close-knit game with both teams scratching for runs. The Panthers led 5-4 after five innings and exploded for 9 runs in the top of the 6<sup>th</sup> inning, which the Red Hawks had no answer for. The final score of 15-5 saw the Red Hawks manage 9 hits but were unable to string anything together that drove in runs. Freshman Aubrey Blacker led the Red Hawks with 2 base hits. Senior Cali Fulks was credited with a base hit and an RBI. The Red Hawks season to date record is 7-15 with one game vs the Grand Junction Tigers remaining.

## **RED HAWKS VOLLEYBALL: RED HAWKS 3, GR. JUNCTION CENTRAL WARRIORS 0**

The Montrose Red Hawks volleyball team continued their winning ways as they trav-

elled to Grand Junction and took on the Warriors last Tuesday. The Red Hawks dominated the Warriors, winning all three matches easily. The individual scores were as follows:

Montrose 25-11, 25-13 and 25-10.

## **PALISADE BULLDOGS 3, MONTROSE RED HAWKS 1**

The Palisade Bulldogs, currently ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Colorado High School Activities Association rankings, took the measure of the Montrose Red Hawks 3 games to 1. The 6<sup>th</sup> ranked Red Hawks did not go down easily. The Bulldogs jumped out to a 5-0 lead in the first game and the teams played evenly throughout the match. The Red Hawks were unable to dent the Bulldogs lead and lost by 5 points 20-25. The second game was tied at 10 when the Bulldogs excellent outside hitter took over. The Bulldogs ran off 11 straight points to put game two out of reach. The Red Hawks stormed back in the third game and won it by the score of 25-22. The fourth game of the set got out of reach quickly for the Red Hawks as the Bulldogs ran off seven straight points. The Red Hawks could amass only 9 points in the fourth game ending up on the short end of a 9-25 score. The Red Hawks season to date record stands at 11-4 and a league mark of 6-1. The Red Hawks have a lot of volleyball left and are looking toward the state playoffs which are up ahead as the teams battle for a spot in the big dance.



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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### DECEASED BODY FOUND DURING SEARCH

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE—On 10/09/2024, members of the Montrose County Sheriff's Office and Sheriff's Posse conducted a search on a property in the 71000 block of Buckhorn Road. The search was conducted in response to a recent reported missing person in the area. During the search, a body of a deceased person was located. The identification of the body will be released by the Montrose County Coroner's Office pending next of kin notification.

There is an on-going investigation by the Montrose County Sheriff's Office in conjunction with Colorado Bureau of Investigations, 7th Judicial District Attorney's Office, and the Montrose County Coroner's Office. There is no threat to the community at this time. If you have information about this case, please contact Investigator Cesar Lopez at 970-252-4002.

### FOREST SERVICE OFFICES CLOSE FOR COLUMBUS DAY HOLIDAY

*Special to the Mirror*

DELTA— The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests' Supervisor's Office, along with all ranger district offices, will be closed in observance of the Columbus Day federal holiday, Oct. 14, 2024. Offices will resume regular business hours Tuesday, Oct. 15. Please plan accordingly for your GMUG National Forest's needs.

While Forest Service offices will be closed, permits for firewood can still be purchased [online](#) or at any of the following locations:

Paonia Flower Shop—201 Grand Avenue, Paonia, Colorado; 970-527-4664  
Desperado General Store—40486 D Road, Crawford, Colorado; 970-921-5665  
Gambles Work Wear—178 E Bridge Street, Hotchkiss, CO; 970-872-8002  
Valley Ranch—57454 Highway 330, Collbran, Colorado; 970-487-3000

For information and updates on current fire restrictions, conditions, and recreation opportunities on the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests, visit the [forest website](#). Connect with us on social media ([X](#) (Twitter) and [Facebook](#)).

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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## DON'T ALLOW THIS FEDERAL ELECTION TO BECOME A PERSONALITY CONTEST

*Editor:*

It's a huge mistake to allow this federal election to become a personality contest, evidenced by some signaling they'll vote Harris simply because they hate Trump. It appears that's driven more by Trump's personality than his policies. In his defense Trump often jokes and speaks metaphorically but some mistakenly take too much of that literally...but for very important issues he's direct, clear and absolutely serious. In reality Trump's traits are similar to successful leaders like Bill Gates, the late Steve Jobs, and Elon Musk like being demanding, rude at times and not suffering fools...but overriding those are their vision and energy that result in accomplishing formidable goals. Trump adds unarguable patriotism not seen from Harris and despised by the far left unfortunately now controlling the democratic party.

The leaders mentioned wouldn't be successful without a competent supporting team with the skills to comprehend and handle difficult problems. Trump's team was impressive and formidable whereas Biden's team is an embarrassment—just for starters Mayorkas, Levine, Jean-Pierre, Cardona etc. Harris, if elected, would most likely retain them.

The self-appointed champions of virtue

and civility don't realize they contradict themselves by their vocal hatred of Trump. That obsession has taken their attention from the huge problems that threaten our way of life and safety - the direct result of Biden / Harris policies orchestrated by the radical far left and supported by the biased naïve main stream media:

- Huge non vetted illegal immigration draining our resources and bringing drugs and crime.

- Inflation... caused by irresponsible government spending such as the "Inflation Reduction Act" admittedly a misnomer due to its huge funding of Green New Deal initiatives, many being failures.

- National debt rising precariously.

- No focus on crime ridden areas where repeat offenders go free.

- International issues mishandled such as not enforcing Iran sanctions which helped stabilize the middle east.

Do we want continuation of these very serious problems? Harris has provided no evidence that she has the intention, or ability, to change Biden administration policies.. substantiated by her non-sensical ramblings. She's also flip-flopping on key issues to get elected, like fracking.

Can we trust that she'll follow through?

There's no question Trump is much more

qualified and committed to make needed changes. The proof is there.. just objectively compare whether we're better off today than we were during Trump's administration. Harris has repeatedly declined to answer that.

The notion that Trump is a threat to democracy is disingenuous. If true it would have surfaced during his term as president; also any attempt to encourage a January 6<sup>th</sup> insurrection has been debunked. Examples of real threats are weakly based efforts to keep Trump out of office suspiciously starting when he announced his candidacy, electoral college elimination that negates middle America votes and expanding the Supreme Court to ensure liberal initiatives are not challenged.

Many vote based on a single consideration such as straight party, friend suggestion, social media, race, gender, abortion or personality. What's critically important, though, is a candidate's overarching policies that ensure our country's prosperity and security and their ability to implement those policies.

If we don't make the effort to objectively evaluate these considerations but instead vote based on secondary issues are we really voting responsibly?

*Matt Goldasich, Montrose*

## VOTE KATHLEEN CURRY HD 58!

*Editor:*

HD58 has a very clear difference between the candidates who are running to represent us in the coming years. First, we have Kathleen Curry, whose previous service as a Representative for HD58, actively ranches, served as a successful advocate for Western Slope issues for years, and has actual experience working on the Colorado River Compact and water management for Upper Basin and the western slope. This is one of THE most serious issues facing farmers, ranchers and urban and rural cities. The Challenges are many, but what we need is someone who has the knowledge, actual experience, the passion and professionalism to work with the legislature to find solutions. That means she will reach across the aisle; has reached across the aisle to find solutions. Her opponent has said in previous posts that he will not compromise. In an environment of political and social polarization, Kathleen Curry is a breath of fresh air, a person who works for solutions not chaos. She is forward thinker who is in constant learning mode. That is the key, a willingness to learn, have opinions, listen to pros and cons, then develop a position and that is Kathleen Curry. Her Opponent does not have her level of experience inside or outside state government. She is passionate, professional and proud to be a Western Slope Advocate. She is the person that HD 58 needs. Vote Kathleen Curry HD 58!

*John Pavlich, Montrose*



## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### NORWOOD FIRE “YES ON 7A” MILL LEVY MEETING SET FOR OCT. 17

*Special to the Mirror*

**NORWOOD** – In preparation for the upcoming vote to increase the Norwood Fire Protection District’s mill levy, the NFPD will host a community informational meeting on Thursday evening at 7pm, October 17<sup>th</sup> at the fire-house, 1605 Summit Street in Norwood.

Residents of the recently expanded district straddling San Miguel and Montrose Counties are encouraged to attend to learn more about ballot issue 7A, and to bring their questions to District Chief John Bockrath and his team. Election Day is coming up on November 5<sup>th</sup>, and county mail-in ballots start being distributed on October 11<sup>th</sup>.

The NFPD has not gone to the voters since 2015 for a mill levy increase. Nearly 10 years later, the district faces significant operational, budgetary and human resource challenges with its growing emergency call volume and the specter of state-mandated property tax reductions.

“A YES vote on ballot issue 7A is mission-critical to community safety,” said Bockrath. “The NFPD cannot afford to lose this election.” Bockrath also encourages the Hispanic community to attend, and a translator will be on hand to assist in sharing information and to answer questions for Spanish speakers.

The NFPD 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 on Colorado’s West End.



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## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

### 4.8% OF HOTEL ROOM TAX HIKE WILL GO TO GENERAL FUND

*Editor:*

The city is at it again, this time it's the City of Montrose Ballot Issue 2A. This ballot is said to be for tourism and raise the Hotel Room Tax from .9% to 6% when the tax for tourism is only being raised from .9% to 1.2% the rest is going into the general fund, 4.8%. The city should have put forth another Ballot Measure to raise the sales tax 4.8% and not hide it the Hotel Room Tax. Also the City should not compare our tourism tax to other communities and say how low ours is and then use most of the 6%, 4.8% on other things. You said you wanted to be up front well than do it.

*Joseph Balet, Montrose*



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Nestled on 2 pristine, fully landscaped acres, this charming 3-bedroom, 2-bath home is a true gem. With a spacious one-level layout, the property offers a 3-car attached garage, as well as a detached one-car and toy garage, perfect for storage or hobbies. The inviting curb appeal is enhanced by a concrete drive, mature spruce trees, vibrant flowers, and artfully arranged rock gardens. Relax on the covered front porch or take in the stunning mountain views from the expansive covered back deck. A stamped concrete patio and cozy fire pit make outdoor gatherings unforgettable. Inside, the home exudes warmth and elegance with vaulted ceilings and hardwood flooring throughout the main living areas. The well-designed kitchen features modern amenities, including a pot filler at the stove, a center island with a warming tray, a wall oven, and a microwave, catering to every culinary need. The living room's gas log fireplace, framed by stack rock, built-in bookcases, and storage, creates a cozy focal point. The split floor plan ensures privacy, making it ideal for families or guests. This home offers a blend of comfort, functionality, and scenic beauty, providing charm at every turn.



## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

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

*Special to the Mirror*

REGIONAL-Beginning the week of Oct. 14, crews will complete paving efforts at the wildlife underpass located at Billy Creek (Mile Points 113 to 115) on US Highway 550. Installation of the wildlife structure was completed earlier this month, and crews will now finalize construction efforts with paving over the structure. Following the completion of the paving, crews will remove the temporary traffic signals and continue work on deer fencing, deer guards, permanent signage, guardrail replacement, and seeding.

Next week, travelers can expect single lane closures and flagging operations with alternating traffic and 15 minute hold times. Travelers are urged to plan ahead and expect delays.



December 10



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## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

### LET'S SUPPORT THE EFFORTS OF MONTROSE COMMUNITY DINNERS AS THEY CELEBRATE 30TH YEAR

*Editor:*

Let's remember the incredible work done by Montrose Community Dinners as they celebrate their 30th year of providing a free Thanksgiving meal to our community. Even during the challenges of COVID-19, they adapted and continued to serve the community with dedication and resilience.

The volunteers' hard work and commitment to serving others is truly inspiring. With their goal of serving around 4,000 meals this year, their call for more individual and major donors reminds us that every contribution, no matter the size, plays a significant role in ensuring everyone can enjoy a Thanksgiving meal. Their message of community support and the invitation to join in their mission is a reminder that together, we can make a difference.

Visit their website at [montrosecommunitydinners.com](http://montrosecommunitydinners.com) to learn more about their story and how you can contribute to this meaningful cause. Let's support their efforts and make this festive occasion a success!

*Kim Floyde, Montrose*

### MAN'S BEST FRIEND?

*Editor:*

In *The Better Angels of Our Nature*, Steven Pinker argues that violence in the world has steadily declined because of effective government systems, increased literacy and communication, and a rise in empathy. Slowly, over the centuries, norms about animals and violence have changed. Humans have discarded the desire to watch a chained bear fight against several bulldogs in a fancy bearbaiting theater, to outlaw bearbaiting and

hunting bears with dogs in Colorado and several other states, and to condemn dogfighting as a felony in most countries.

(Sadly, dogfighting is a lucrative form of gambling, with losing dogs sometimes killed as part of the entertainment.)

Although we've made progress in treating "man's best friend" with respect and kindness, Colorado still permits packs of radio-collared hounds to chase down and tree cougars, violating fair chase norms. The dogs sometimes get wounded or killed;

they are often kept very thin and sometimes underweight, ready for the chase. They are sometimes trained using inhumane and outdated negative reinforcement techniques. And obviously, cougars suffer from these cruel chases as well.

Colorado voters have a perfect chance to take another step towards emphatic treatment of animals by voting YES on Proposition 127 to ban trophy hunting of cougars.

*Katie Dolan, Edwards*

### RESEARCH INDICATES THAT TROPHY HUNTING RESULTS IN A HIGHER RATE OF CONFLICT

*Editor:*

As a trail runner, I have spent many hours alone in the foothills in deer and mountain lion habitat. I was and am always aware of the possible presence of lions. However, until recently, I did not know that trophy hunting could increase my risk of a mountain lion attack. Proposition 127 is both an urban and rural issue. Millions of people live in the Front Range and recreate in mountain lion habitat. Mountain lions that are not causing conflict are trophy hunted with a pack of GPS-collared dogs. About 500 of these Colorado mountain lions are killed for trophies every year and nearly half the dead are female. Adult females often have dependent young and the orphan kittens generally die without their mother. The surviving orphans tend to cause conflict; orphaned, unskilled juvenile males who gravitate into the territory previously occupied by a mature male lion. Academic research finds that sport hunting can result in increased conflict with people, pets and livestock. A study published in 2020 compared 10 western states with mountain lion sport hunting to California, where mountain lion trophy hunting was banned 50 years ago. California has the 3rd lowest per capita incidents between mountain lions and people and the same mountain lion population estimate as Colorado. A 2016 study evaluated 30 years of trophy hunting data from British Columbia, which shows an even more direct link between trophy hunting and increased conflict: "Hunting as a management tool? Cougar-human conflict is positively related to trophy hunting." In summary, conflict with mountain lions is rare. However, research indicates that trophy hunting results in a higher rate of conflict than if we prohibited sport hunting these animals. This November I will vote Yes to protect our wild cats and my safety.

*Marley Shipps, Lakewood*



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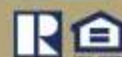
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## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

### WILL YOU ACTUALLY IN GOOD CONSCIENCE GIVE THIS GUY YOUR VOTE?

*Editor:*

I am a Vietnam veteran with questions for my fellow veterans & citizens. Will you vote for a man who called American war dead "Losers & Suckers"? A man who told his chief of staff, Retired General John Kelly, that he didn't want to be seen with military amputees because "It doesn't look good for me". A man who said at Arlington National Cemetery "I don't get it, what was in it for them?" You'll vote for him? A man who said of Senator John McCain, imprisoned & tortured for seven years in Hanoi, "I prefer people who don't get captured." All this from a man who bought a Vietnam deferment for "bone spurs." You'll vote for him? Really?

You'll fly his flag, that of a draft dodger & convicted felon, beside the Stars & Stripes that your fellow citizens fought & died for? Will you actually in good conscience give this guy your vote?

*Rich Pringle, Montrose*

### MAKE THE RIGHT CHOICE IN THE THIRD DISTRICT RACE AND VOTE FOR TRISHA MURRAY

*Editor:*

I would be remiss if I neglected to make a slight change to my letter of last week regarding the Third District Commissioner race between Trisha Murray and RICK DUNLAP. For almost 8 months now and on multiple occasions I have pointed out the very clear conflict of interest that would be created if RICK DUNLAP was elected for Commissioner of the Third District. For years his daughter-in-law Cindy Dunlap has served the county in an excellent manner as Chief Financial Officer in the County Finance Department. If elected Commissioner DUNLAP would immediately be faced with that conflict and be duty bound to recuse himself from any financial discussions or decisions.

A very clear conflict of interest because of that family relationship.

Late last week I learned that the commissioners, in a feeble attempt to negate that conflict of interest have demoted Cindy Dunlap to Finance Director while at the same time naming Emily Sanchez as Chief Financial Office, even though she has no history of working within the Finance Department. This highly questionable move further highlights the growing lack of full transparency within our county government and sadly the devious nature of our current commissioners.

In spite of this behind the scenes episode of governmental musical chairs, if elected commissioner Dunlap would still be faced with broad criticism by a perceived conflict of interest because of his family relationship with the now Finance Director. This one issue combined with a public disclosure a year ago by Sheriff Lillard regarding the state of disarray in the Sheriff's Department he inherited from DUNLAP certainly points to Trisha Murray as the best choice for Commissioner in District # 3.

She comes to us unencumbered by any questionable baggage and her eight years of service as legal assistant in the County Legal Department have given her a clear insight into the internal workings of our county government. As an unaffiliated candidate she won't be manipulated and will serve as a representative for all Montrose citizens. Make the right choice in the third district race and vote for Trisha Murray.

*Dee Laird, Montrose*





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*Continued next pg*



# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## PROTECT COLORADO PUBLIC EDUCATION

### Editor:

I am writing to express my support for Ellen Angeles, Colorado Board of Education candidate for Congressional District 3. With over 20 years of experience as a teacher, Ellen has a profound understanding of our public education system and the needs of both students and teachers.

Ellen is not just an advocate for fully funded and equitable education; she is also a dedicated community organizer who has worked tirelessly to improve the schools, public library, and a recreation center in her area. She knows that a well-rounded

community helps create a solid foundation for children.

Our schools deserve leaders who believe in transparency, fiscal responsibility, and genuine community engagement. Ellen embodies these values and has shown her commitment time and time again. She knows that when teachers are well-compensated and highly qualified, our students benefit. She has seen the impact of underfunded programs and overcrowded classrooms firsthand and is ready to fight for the resources our students need.

Ellen Angeles understands the im-

portance of public education and has the experience, vision, and dedication to ensure our schools receive the support they deserve.

Please join me in supporting Ellen Angeles, she is who we need in the CD3 to protect Colorado public education.

Please also Vote NO on Amendment 80, we already have school choice here in Colorado.

For more information -

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

[www.protectpublicschools.co](http://www.protectpublicschools.co)

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# KATHLEEN CURRY FOR HD58

## EXPERIENCE MATTERS

Kathleen is thrilled and grateful to have received endorsements from both Republican and Democratic state and local leaders, as well as respected bipartisan organizations. Here are just a few of the 15:



### **Phil Weiser, Colorado Attorney General**

"Kathleen Curry is a proven leader with experience getting results at the State Capitol. Kathleen will continue her important work to figure for the people of House District 58 and the Western Slope, championing important priorities such as protecting our water and promoting economic prosperity for our communities. Please join me in supporting Kathleen Curry for House District 58!"



### **Ellen Roberts, Former State Senator of Durango**

"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!"



### **Committee to Protect Health Care**

"Due to your commitment to protecting health care access, lowering costs, and expanding coverage for Colorado residents, Dr. Kristen Nordenholz and I are pleased to offer you the Committee to Protect Health Care's Care for CO Candidate Endorsement for State House District 58!"



### **Colorado Outfitters Association**

"Because of her staunch, realistic, and continuous work for wildlife and sportsmen at the Capital, the Colorado Outfitters Association happily and easily endorses Kathleen Curry."



### **Colorado Advocates for Rural Electrification**

"CARE represents the many rural electric associations in Colorado. We are endorsing Kathleen Curry for Colorado House District 58. She has always been an advocate for rural electric coops, and we know she will continue to do so when she is elected."



### **National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB)**

"NFIB is the voice of small business. We're a member-driven organization advocating for America's small and independent business owners in all 50 states. Our members represent every industry and sector nationwide. We are thrilled to endorse Kathleen Curry for Colorado House District 58. Her experience as a small business owner will make her an excellent advocate for all small businesses in Western Colorado."

## ELECT KATHLEEN CURRY FOR COLORADO HOUSE DISTRICT 58



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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## WHAT WOULD MOTIVATE A PERSON OR PERSONS TO STEAL POLITICAL BANNERS AND CAMPAIGN SIGNS?

*Editor:*

I'm curious. What would motivate a person or persons to steal political banners and campaign signs from another person's property?

So far three Democratic banners and 50 Democratic campaign signs have been reported stolen from private property.

I don't think Independents or Democrats are stealing these items, so the logical conclusion is that it's Republicans. Really???

I hope not.

*Jo Clugg, Montrose*

## THERE'S ONLY ONE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE WHO WON A PRIMARY!

*Editor:*

Every American, no matter your political affiliation, should ask the following question. "Do we really want to become a nation where presidential primaries really don't matter?"

It sure seems like the current Democratic party wants that.

Presidential primaries originated to allow voters to have a strong voice regarding nominees. The process is supposed to make delegates highly aware of what the majority of the people truly want as the presidential candidate.

The other business that typically takes place during the primary is delegates are SELECTED not by you, but by the elite in the party to represent you at the party's convention. And those delegates are supposed to listen to you through your vote. However, recently the Democratic party absolutely CUT voters totally out of the primary election process. They didn't even care to hear from their constituents. Obviously, it's because they have major doubts about their voters' ability to pick a candidate to win the General Election. The Democrats proved, to the entire world, that their voters really don't matter at all!

In the past historically party leaders, of all different affiliations, have consistently seen the primary election process as something to keep as a tradition mostly because it fosters trust and respect between their voters and their party. However, when the leaders of any party lack confidence in their voters, they typically

find ways to block or bypass them. And that's exactly what the Democratic party did this year. They really didn't want to hear from their voters. They just wanted to install a person who would make their donors and lobbyists happy. They sold their party out to special interest groups and others. And every single disenfranchised Democrat voter should feel absolutely insulted!!

This blatant disregard for voters has happened off and on throughout American history, from both parties, I might add. But, it's still an incredibly dirty and disgusting tactic that every single American should abhor and reject!! And it's definitely not a good way to keep your people happy when they expect and rightly deserve a say in democracy, which by the way is described properly, as a system of government by the whole population. Just a reminder; leaders in government work for, we the people, and never, ever should they get away with replacing our voice with their own.

I would ask. "Did you vote for Harris in the primary?" "Did your neighbor or friend vote for Harris in the primary?" "Did any of your relatives vote for Harris in the primary election?" If you've answered honestly, the answer is a collective "NO." Kamala Harris didn't receive any votes in the presidential primary. She never even made it to Iowa. And it should infuriate you that your voice was never heard in the primary election regarding Harris for president. And not only that, you should

be angry that the Democratic Party seems to have zero confidence in your ability to pick a suitable candidate. Instead, they collectively chose to rely on un-elected delegates to speak for you.

Do you know who the delegates are that they chose to represent you? And do you know where these delegates reside? Because intelligent people know the closer you are to representatives, the more you can hold them accountable. Can you name the delegates that cast a vote for Harris for you? If the answer is "NO", then you allowed strangers to select Harris as your presidential candidate while having zero say whatsoever. And the Democratic Party permanently marred the United States election system, where representation was supposed to matter but doesn't any longer! Just a reminder, delegates are typically just early supporters of a candidate or they're party activists, lobbyists and leaders or people who have a special interest to profit off of tax payer money.

**Ask yourself. "What are the names of the delegates that decided on Harris for you? If you can't name them, then the Democratic party's plan of distancing their voters from representation worked beautifully. Think about it voters; THERE'S ONLY ONE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE WHO WON A Presidential PRIMARY!**

**PS: A good reference and informative website regarding delegates and how the process works can be found at [theconversation.com](https://theconversation.com)**

*Kelly Ray, Montrose*



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## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

### VOTE "YES" IN NOVEMBER TO BAN TROPHY HUNTING, TRAPPING OF THESE MAGNIFICENT CATS

*Editor:*

Please vote Yes on Proposition 127 which will end inhumane trophy hunting and trapping of bobcats, but still allows CPW to use nonlethal and lethal measures if a specific cat is a threat to humans, pets, or livestock.

I want to thank all fellow Coloradans who signed our petition so as to get it on the November ballot.

These Coloradans share a love of these magnificent cats which are important in

maintaining a balance in nature and should not be killed for their heads or fur. Wildlife biologists know that mountain lions self-regulate their numbers, whereas deer and elk do not, and they keep our elk and deer herds healthy by ridding them of chronic wasting disease. Trophy hunters typically kill the adult male lions, creating unstable populations that lead to social chaos and more conflicts with humans and pets. Additionally, almost half of the mountain lions killed by trophy hunters

are females, who spend 75% of their adult lives either raising young or pregnant. Fellow Coloradans, help educate others on this issue and vote "yes" in November to ban trophy hunting and trapping of these magnificent cats. For additional information go

to [catsarenttrophies.org](https://catsarenttrophies.org).

*Margaret-Ann Mayer, Durango Conservation lead SW CO Sierra Club, former NPS ranger and instructor Dine College*

### KEEP WILDLIFE BIOLOGY OUT OF THE BALLOT BOX

*Editor:*

Proposition 127 is another attempt to take wildlife biology and decision-making out of the hands of professionals and place it in the ballot box. Even though the reasons for a 'NO' vote on 127 are numerous, I will try to keep this succinct.

First and foremost, one must realize that the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation is the most successful model in the World. That is not even up for debate. There are success stories after success stories of animals on the brink of extinction being brought back to flourishing populations. The North American Model emphasizes that wildlife is a public resource, managed through science-based ap-

proaches, with equal access for citizens to hunt and fish, and international collaboration to protect migratory species. One of the tenants of the North American Model is that hunting is used to help manage populations of numerous different species. The amount an animal is hunted is determined through population studies and landscape carrying capacity. The decision if and how much to hunt a species should be left up to Wildlife Biologists. Currently, lynx are not hunted in Colorado and mountain lion/ bobcat populations are doing fantastic while being properly managed. The lion and bobcat hunting that does take place has nothing to do with "Trophy Hunting". As a matter of fact,

trophy hunting of any type is already illegal in Colorado. This verbiage is included in Prop 127 simply to sway voters with the negative connotation of the word "trophy" when it comes to hunting.

Whether your hot button topic is conservation, economics, benefit to wildlife or simply believe we should "follow the science", a NO vote is the right vote for Prop 127. You need look no further than 2020 (wolf reintroduction) to see the detrimental effects of ballot box biology. Let Wildlife Biologists make the decisions that affect wildlife and leave a system that is incredibly successful as it is!

*Respectfully,*

*Daniel K Drakulich, Montrose*

### PROP 127 IS BACKED BY CLEAR, INDEPENDENT SCIENCE

*Good Morning,*

Support of Prop 127 is backed by clear, independent science, which shows that lion populations will remain balanced and never overpopulate. This is how nature maintains equilibrium. Claims to the contrary are either misinformed or intentionally biased to support the cruel practice of lion trophy hunting.

Prop 127 is essential to protect our wild cats from inhumane practices like trophy hunting and fur trapping. Bobcats, for ex-

ample, are trapped in harsh winter conditions, left to suffer before being killed for profit—largely to cater to foreign markets like China. Prop 127 includes provisions to allow killing a lion posing a threat to livestock, pets, or people.

Data from our own state confirms that all lion hunts are recreational and trophy-based, involving the use of dogs. Dogs are fitted with GPS collars and chase the lion up a tree where they are trapped and shot. Dogs sometimes tangle with the lion

and die or are injured as a result.

This practice is unethical and lacks scientific grounding, as stated by experts such as Dan Ashe, a hunter and former head of the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

By voting YES on Prop 127, we can put an end to these inhumane and outdated practices.

The cruelty is undeniable, vote YES on Prop 127.

*Respectfully,*

*Mindy Gasperek, Manitou Springs*

# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS



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*Special to the Mirror*

**MONTROSE**—The 2024 Exceptional Women of Ouray County—Robyn Cascade, Irene Stith, Donna Whiskeman, and Sue Husch—were honored for their service, dedication and leadership at a celebratory reception Oct. 5. Courtesy photo.

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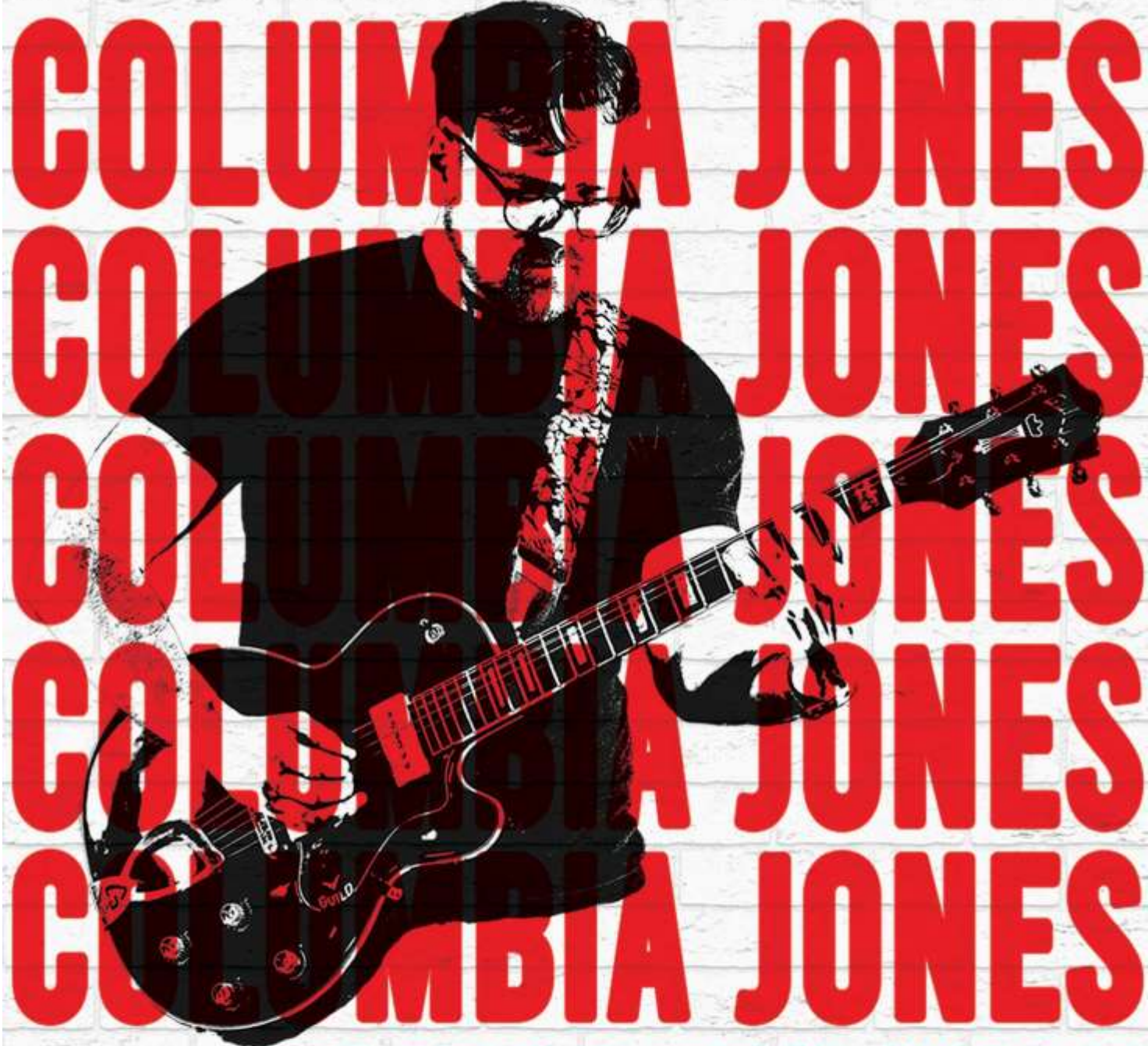
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## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

### BILL, WHEN DO WE GET THE SAME TREATMENT THAT THE SOUTH SIDE GETS?

*Editor:*

After reading the CITY BEAT newsletter and the words of Mr Bell saying that the city's budget for street maintenance is \$5,000,000 annually. You can see what that can get us after seeing the streets on the south side of town, nicely done!

The problem is that reading further in his article it appears that he has no intention to make the same improvements on the north side, not acceptable. Do we not pay taxes like the south side folks do. Do we not deserve the same benefits as the south side does? Bill when do we get the same treatment that the south side gets?

*Ric Simon, Montrose*

### VOTER RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE

*Editor:*

It's a privilege to vote, and a big responsibility. We want to be as well informed as possible.

There is a non-partisan voter guide that shows candidates' positions on important topics in a simple chart. The candidates were interviewed, and this chart summarizes their answers. It can be accessed at [transformcolorado.org](https://transformcolorado.org). Scroll down the page to Voter Guides, and click on Southwest.

If you would like to be more informed about the issue of abortion, OB/GYNs who have performed numerous abortions at various stages describe the procedures in short videos on [Whatisabortion.com](https://whatisabortion.com).

*Sandy Anderson, Montrose*

### CATS NEED OUR HELP. VOTE YES FOR PROP 127

*To My Fellow Coloradans,*

In our beautiful state of Colorado where our precious Mountain Lions and Bobcats share space with us, we need to come together now and end the ruthless and inhumane sport of trophy hunting of these cats by Voting Yes to Prop 127 on Nov. 5th.

Our Mountain Lions are brutally killed for the purpose of wall decor and our Bobcats for their fur pelts to be sold to China and Russia. Cats are rarely consumed as trophy hunters claim they are, along with their other excuses to kill them. Half of mountain lions killed every year are females, many with cubs that need their mother to survive. Without her they have a 4% survival rate while most die of starvation. Mountain Lions are often killed using methods that are unethical including using high tech collared dogs that chase the lion up a tree with no escape and then the hunter walks over and shoots the lion out of the tree from below. The Bobcats are trapped with bait, often then struggling for up to 24 hours until the hunter comes back and kills it. It is a long, horrible, unnecessary death.

Mountain Lions self-regulate and the CPW former Carnivore Manager states the lion population will remain stable-not increase once Prop 127 passes. California has not allowed trophy hunting for 52 years and have not had lion overpopulation.

Mountain Lions have lived in Colorado for over 100 years and we can coexist. Our Colorado Cats need our help. Vote Yes for Prop 127.

*K. Smith, Woodland Park*

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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## SEARCH RESULTS OF PAST DELTA COUNTY ELECTIONS WITH ELECTIONSTATS

### Special to the Mirror

DELTA-The Delta County Elections team has partnered with CIVERA to introduce a new tool that allows residents to search past election results. CIVERA, a company dedicated to enhancing democracy through accessible civic information, provides technology to promote transparency and accountability in government. The product, called ElectionStats, is a "publishing platform and a searchable data warehouse of historical elections, ballot measures, and voter turnout statistics." The tool is now available to the public at [electionstats.deltacountyco.gov](https://electionstats.deltacountyco.gov).

"We're thrilled to announce Delta County's partnership with CIVERA, providing our residents with an easy-to-use database for accessing past election results,"

said Delta County Clerk and Recorder Teri Stephenson. "Whether you're a student, a candidate for public office, a member of the media, or a voter, you can now search Delta County's election history more efficiently using this tool."

ElectionStats allows users to explore historical Delta County election data through a search function that filters by year, office, and election type. The results include both candidate information and ballot measures, along with voter turnout data. All data is linked to primary source documents from Delta County Elections, allowing users to verify the information. The tool also enables users to compile data over multiple years and export it into a .csv file for further analysis.

"By adding this tool, we're improving our

office's efficiency, reducing costly public records requests, and strengthening voter confidence in our electoral process," added Stephenson.

This tool operates separately from the County's election management system, and the latest election results will not be included until they are certified by the County Board of Canvassers. Currently, election results from 2018 onwards are available, and the database will be expanded to include results back further in separate phases into 2025.

"We hope Delta County residents find this database useful as we continue to provide secure, transparent, and accurate elections," Stephenson concluded.

To learn more about the CIVERA tool, visit [electionstats.deltacountyco.gov](https://electionstats.deltacountyco.gov).

## ENDORSEMENTS for MARC CATLIN Candidate for State Senate District 5

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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## HALT THIS CRUEL AND INHUMANE PRACTICE

*Editor:*

As a long-time resident of Colorado, I've always lived in the country. Our wildlife is a source of inspiration to me. I've had the honor of watching a mountain lion stroll through the trees as it passed through our area. It was magnificent. When I read about Trophy hunting of these beautiful animals still being legal in Colorado, I had to do my part to assist in halting this cruel and inhumane practice.

The proposition only halts trophy hunting of native cats. It allows for control of any problem animal to protect humans, livestock and pets.

Mountain lions are vital to maintaining the balance of nature. Overpopulation of deer and elk can cause dangerous car crashes. The lions target old, infirm and diseased deer and elk, helping those animals avoid needless suffering, and keeping the herds viable. Almost half of the mountain lions targeted currently are female, and since the lions breed throughout the year, it can be extrapolated that when a female is killed, her kittens, who live with her for up to two years to learn the ropes, are orphaned, left to languish and die a horrible death by starvation.

Let Coloradans know this barbaric practice still exists in our beautiful state, and we should all take action to halt it. Vote YES this November.

*Ashara Morris, Elbert CO*

## PROPOSITION 127 BANS CHASING MOUNTAIN LIONS WITH DOGS

*Editor:*

As a PhD Wildlife Biologist and Vice Chair of the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission I urge a YES vote on Proposition 127.

If you embrace the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation, which guides wildlife agencies across the US and Canada, you must vote yes on Proposition 127. That model, much heralded for its conservation successes, clearly states that hunting must involve "fair chase," and that wildlife cannot be commodified. Proposition 127 bans chasing mountain lions with dogs, in which the "hunter" follows the GPS signal from the dogs' collars to a treed lion, walks up and shoots the animal. That is not hunting, and something we would never allow with ungulates (animals with hooves). Similarly, bobcats are trapped not for personal use, but for the sale of their fur for sale to buyers from outside the US – the very definition of commodification.

Opponents of proposition 127 argue that we must allow our agency to professionally and scientifically manage wildlife. Nothing in proposition 127 prevents the agency from doing that, it simply sets the ground rules by which the agency operates. We already do that. We do not permit use of night lights and baiting, for example. Yes, we may have to change some management, but our professionals at CPW are up to the task.

The literature is clear that lions self-regulate their populations, so a surplus of lions is highly unlikely. More research shows that lions do not suppress deer and elk populations, likely because they are self-regulating. Instead, lions do us a great service by removing sick and injured animals from populations, such as those infected with Chronic Wasting Disease.

Our cats deserve the same protections and guidelines as our other species in Colorado – managed with science and ethics. A YES vote on Proposition 127 encompasses both.

*Richard P. Reading, PhD, Denver*

*The views expressed in this letter are my own, as a private citizen and should not be construed to represent the Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) Commission. CPW is neutral on Proposition 127.*



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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## MOUNTAIN LIONS ARE A SELF-REGULATING SPECIES; VOTE YES ON PROPOSITION 127

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing in regards to Proposition 127 which seeks to ban trophy hunting of mountain lions for their heads and fur and to ban trapping of bobcats for their fur which is then often sold to China. These acts enact intense cruelty to animals.

Trophy hunting in Colorado is the same as is done in Africa. Many so-called hunters pay \$8,000 for a guaranteed kill which utilizes dogs to hunt down and tree the cat. The dogs' radio collars then send a signal whereby the hunter comes out and shoots the cat.

If you love dogs, you should definitely vote YES on Proposition 127, because trophy hunters have "surplus dogs" since they know that dogs will be killed during the hunt.

Bobcats suffer from extreme terror and cruelty as they are often left for long periods of time in extremely frigid conditions before the "hunter" comes along and bludgeons them to death. These hunters then benefit monetarily by selling their fur to foreign markets. This is a totally cruel and heinous act that serves no good purpose.

Mountain lions are a self-regulating species meaning they do not over-populate. Just look at the case in California where trophy hunting has been banned for 52 years. They have not experienced an increase in population.

Let's take it from the experts. [Dozens of wildlife scientists](#) – some neutral on the measure -- offer a letter to inform voters that hunting is not managing populations. These are the PhD level independent, academic and agency researchers.

Best regards,  
Karla Heeps, Denver

## BEING CHASED IN THEIR FORESTS BY A TERRIFYING PACK OF LOUD DOGS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ETHICAL SPORT

Editor:

I'm a veterinarian in rural Colorado. I raise chickens and sheep and am in the process of acquiring some cattle. I also grew up in Western Pennsylvania hunting deer and enjoy fishing. I support Proposition 127, Cats Aren't Trophies.

My YES vote is an investment in Colorado — for our future of ethical hunting of prey animals and outdoor recreation, and a shift toward proven practices by professionals, to keep my ranch animals safe. Trophy hunting increases risk to livestock, studies show, by removing trophy males that are coexisting with humans in lion country without conflict, and who control vast ranges keeping out juveniles prone to predation. Prop 127 grants me security to know trophy hunting won't be prioritized as it is today ahead of my ranch animals.

As someone whose life is dedicated to halt needless suffering of animals, I can tell you that all cats, even wild ones, suffer and feel pain. Being chased in their forests by a terrifying pack of loud dogs has nothing to do with ethical sport. High-tech GPS tracking collars bring unfair advantage. It's not a hunt, it's an easy target. And an undeserving one among hundreds each year.

We should be investing in wildlife for health. The trophy lion male is best adept at killing large elk infected with Chronic Wasting Disease, which is fatal and has no cure. I can confidently say that science shows us that lions boost healthy deer and elk populations, including from ravaging disease that threatens the future of elk and deer hunting, too.

Bobcats too are much more valuable alive in our ecosystems, rather than as someone's fur coat. Fur trapping methods are abysmal, including baiting then choking an animal to death.

Mountain lions and bobcats self regulate their populations and won't overpopulate if not hunted. There's no scientific evidence that killing lions for their heads and bobcats for fur manages anything except for a sport whose time has come.

Join me in a YES vote to protect these deserving wild cats and keep them away from trophy hunting and fur trapping that degrades our wildlife and our morality.

Steven Smolen, DVM, Norwood, CO





# OPINION/EDITORIAL:LETTERS

## HUNTING MOUNTAIN LIONS IS NOT NECESSARY

Dear Editor,

Colorado voters it is time for us to protect our native wild cats.

Proposition 127 will end the unnecessary trophy hunting of mountain lions and bobcats, as well as the trapping of bobcats for their fur.

Hunting mountain lions is not necessary in order to maintain or control their population. Multiple research studies, including a 10-year study in New Mexico, have shown that mountain lion populations are self regulating, and their populations will remain stable, never overpopulating.

California, which has not allowed trophy hunting of mountain lions for over 50 years, has seen their mountain lion population remain stable, not increasing.

Hunting mountain lions risks destabilizing the mountain lion population by skewing the gender and age of the population, as well as disrupting the social structure of these territorial cats.

When you kill a territorial animal, it inevitably leads to social chaos as other lions try and move in on the newly available territory, which can lead to conflict with domestic animals.

Hunting mountain lions also has not been shown to help increase their prey species or reduce human conflict.

Proposition 127 balances the needs of public safety by including exemptions to kill mountain lions in order to protect people, pets, and livestock.

Over two dozen wildlife scientists have publicly stated that hunting mountain lions is not managing them, and it is time for Colorado voters to back the science behind wildlife management. Vote YES on Proposition 127.

*Erin Wallace, Colorado Springs*



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## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

### HALT THIS BARBARIC PRACTICE

*Editor:*

As a long-time resident of Colorado, I've always lived in the country. Our wildlife is a source of inspiration to me. I've had the honor of watching a mountain lion stroll through the trees as it passed through our area. It was magnificent. When I read about Trophy hunting of these beautiful animals still being legal in Colorado, I had to do my part to assist in halting this cruel and inhumane practice.

The proposition only halts trophy hunting of native cats. It allows for control of any problem animal to protect humans, livestock and pets.

Mountain lions are vital to maintaining the balance of nature. Overpopulation of deer and elk can cause dangerous car crashes. The lions target old, infirm and diseased deer and elk, helping those animals avoid needless suffering, and keeping the herds viable.

Almost half of the mountain lions targeted currently are female, and since the lions breed throughout the year, it can be extrapolated that when a female is killed, her kittens, who live with her for up to two years to learn the ropes, are orphaned, left to languish and die a horrible death by starvation.

Let Coloradans know this barbaric practice still exists in our beautiful state, and we should all take action to halt it. Vote YES this November.

*Ashara Morris, Elbert CO*

### PASS PROP 127: THE BENEFITS ARE CLEAR

*Dear Editor,*

This year, voters have the chance to pass Prop 127, and the benefits are clear—it will protect Colorado's wild cats from unnecessary trophy hunting and fur trapping.

Science shows that mountain lions naturally regulate their own populations and even help maintain healthy prey species. Claims that lion populations could spiral out of control are unfounded. In fact, lion hunting destabilizes their populations and disrupts their social structure. Killing mother lions leaves cubs orphaned, increasing the likelihood of human-lion conflict. The real threat comes from hunting them, not from overpopulation.

Prop 127 is not an urban versus rural issue. Lions have lived alongside us across Colorado's Front Range for more than a century. Lion hunting is unnecessary, unethical, and done solely for trophies. We can put an end to all lion hunting because it serves no purpose beyond violent recreation. State data reveals that every lion is hunted purely for sport - just so that the lion's head can be mounted on a wall to serve as a piece of morbid home decor.

In Colorado, bobcats are also victims of this cruelty. Trapped in cages to be killed for their furs, they endure unimaginable suffering. Commercial companies are killing bobcats to sell their fur to Russia and China for profit.

By voting YES on Prop 12, we can protect our iconic wild cats while allowing exemptions to protect livestock, pets, and people when necessary. It's time take a stand against animal cruelty and keep Colorado's wildlife in the wild.

*Sincerely,*

*Cara Thorsen, Fort Collins Resident*

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# CARTOON BY TIM JONES

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by Tim Jones



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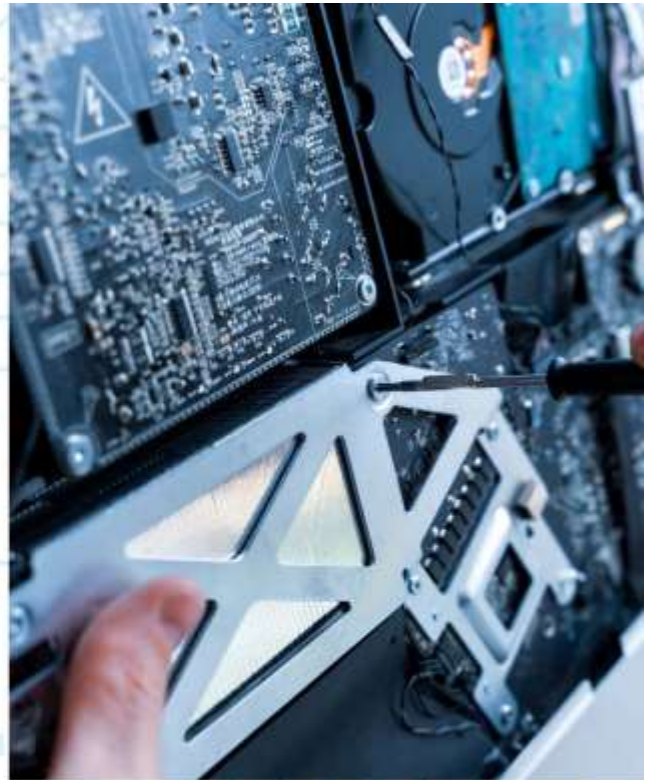
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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## IT'S NOT A QUESTION OF MONEY; IT'S A QUESTION OF PRIORITIES

Editor:

The 2025 Proposed Budget for Montrose County was presented to the public in a special meeting this past Wednesday. My first observation was the lack of public interest. There were very few citizens in the room and no questions from the audience. The entire meeting lasted 49 minutes. Even as a County Commissioner elect I was hesitant to ask questions because the presentation zipped along so fast through several presenters.

I did however manage to go through the documents and notice a few items of interest.

It is well known that the Sheriffs Department is dramatically understaffed and underfunded when it comes to personnel. It was surprising to me that the budget calls for a 10% reduction in staff to 90 full time employees (FTE's).

According to Sheriff Gene Lillard his Sheriff's Department has 47 Certified Deputies. Of that, there are 10 that work in the Jail House, 6 Command Staff and 4 investigators. That leaves 27 Certified Deputies left to patrol a county of 2,241 square miles with +(-) and 44,000 people. By contrast, the City of Montrose has 45 Certified officers patrolling 18 square miles with 21,000 people.

The situation gets worse when you compare the pay and benefits of Montrose PD officers. They receive up to 25% higher pay

compared to the Montrose County Sheriff Dept. The City of Montrose can also recruit seasoned law enforcement officers because they offer the Fire Police Pension Association (FPPA) to their officers which allows them to bring their vested retirement with them to the Montrose PD. That is a big deal.

Our current County Commissioners will tell you that we can't afford to increase the Sheriffs budget. "It already accounts for a substantial portion of the county's budget". After additional review I was able to see why they could feel that way. In 2023 the BOCC approved a renovation and expansion of the Sheriffs Complex totaling \$7,927,925.00. This was to include a 5,000 sf. expansion and 6,000 sf of renovated space at an average cost \$720.00/sf.

According to recent data, the average cost per square foot to construct a jail in 2023 was around \$200 - \$300; however, this can vary significantly depending on factors like location, size of the facility, design features, and quality of materials used. It is important to note that 6,000 sf. was a renovation to existing construction and 5,000 sf. was new construction of the Sally Port addition. (Sally Port is a large Garage structure that was added to the existing structure).

This is a huge price tag for a project like this

and I would love to know exactly how it was justified.

To add additional pressure to the proposed 2025 budget is a new North Campus. This new 50,000 sf. building is to be built on the Colorado Outdoors campus at a projected cost of \$28,000,000. It will become the new home of our county employees leaving the South Campus Building empty and in need of repairs.

In my opinion this is no way to manage the limited resources of the County or to respect our hard working taxpayers. We really need to do much better and we need to begin by prioritizing the safety of our citizens with a strong, well trained law Sheriffs Department.

As one of your incoming County Commissioners I will advocate for an agenda that prioritizes the needs of Health, Safety, and Welfare for all citizens of Montrose County. I ask for your help and support. We need to attend these bi-weekly County Commissioner meetings and have our voices heard. Here is a link to where you can find the time and dates of upcoming meetings.

<https://www.montrosecounty.net/390/Agendas-Minutes-Upcoming-Board-Meetings>

*Thank you for your votes and thank you for your support.*

*Scott Mijares, County Commissioner Elect, District 1 - [scottm4montrose@gmail.com](mailto:scottm4montrose@gmail.com)*

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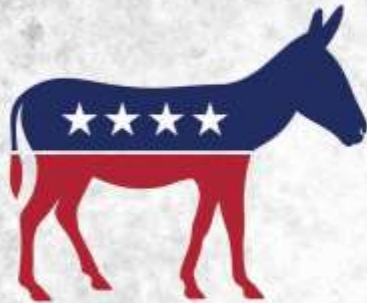
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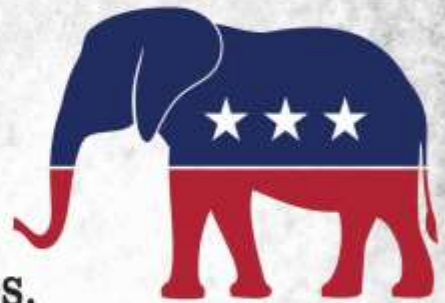
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Colorado's radical one party State Legislature will be unchecked if they gain a super majority in the Senate. We must elect fair minded Conservative Republicans to bring balance to our State House.

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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### MARC CATLIN HONORS LOCAL HERO AND CENTURION

*Special to the Mirror*

DENVER— Local “Rosie the Riveter” Betty Hayes turns 100 years old. A celebration at the Welcome Home Alliance for Veterans Resource Center in Montrose occurred on Thursday, October 10, 2024. As a celebratory surprise, Representative Marc Catlin presented Betty Hayes with the Congressional Gold Medal for her service to this country during World War Two. The Congressional Gold Medal is the highest honor a civilian can be awarded from the United States Government. This award comes eight decades after the “Rosies” efforts during the war. Representative Catlin also presented our “Rosie” with a Colorado State Flag, which was flown over the State Capitol in honor of Betty Hayes’ turning 100, for service to the country, and her service to her community.

Representative Catlin says, “Our country, our state, and our local communities are ever grateful for our Betty “The Riveter” Hayes’ service. She is a hero amongst us. She heard our Nation’s call and went to the factory to help the American Cause. Anyone that gets the opportunity to meet Betty, sees the beaming pride and love that she has for this country. I am honored to have a chance to be a part of this ceremony.”

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



*Betty Hayes was honored with the Congressional Gold Medal. Courtesy photo.*

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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## IF YOU HAVE A FLAT TIRE, YOU CHANGE IT ... YOU DON'T DRIVE ON IT FOR ANOTHER FOUR YEARS TO SEE IF IT GETS BETTER

*Editor:*

It is so reassuring to hear Kamala repeating the phrase “we love America” numerous times in a campaign rally this week. The whole Democrat campaign has been one big facade, complete with a gaslighting operation unparalleled in history. This is the same Harris that endorsed the deeply anti-American and debunked 1619 Project that asserts that the American experiment in self-government was deeply corrupt and evil from its beginning. The same person that showed her disdain for law and order during the BLM riots in the summer of 2020 when she helped raise bail money for those arrested for rioting and looting, and stated the riots were “a mark of a real democracy.” The same Que Mala who made a mockery of the Constitution's separation of powers when she promised “executive action” on gun control if Congress didn't pass legislation to her liking within 100 days of taking office. On a host of other issues (abortion, immigration, etc.) she promised to wield legislative power from the White House, the Constitution be damned. But Kamala loves America.

How much love for their country can Democrats have when they not only allow, but encourage and assist, eight million unvetted people to invade the country in less than four years? How much value does a party put on the lives of citizens when it unleashes 13,000 known brutal killers into their midst? How concerned for the safety of women and children can a party be that releases 15,000 rapists to prey upon them? How much love can Kamala have for America when she chooses self-proclaimed knucklehead Tim Walz as her VP running mate. You don't have to consider Walz's bizarre love affair with Communist China to understand that he is anti-American. He appointed left-wing extremist Brian Lozenski to restructure K-12 education in Minnesota. This is the same Lozenski that defined “ethnic studies” to mean hating Israel and the United States, and has actually called for the overthrow of the U.S. Government. That is Walz's vision for public education: teach our children, starting in kindergarten, that the U.S. government needs to be overthrown, because it is irredeemably evil. But Kamala loves America.

Prior to Harris' campaign, Biden's policies were the most radical in history, but he at

least tried to present himself prior to the election as moderate and normal. The radicalism of Harris/Walz is impossible to hide, even for the well oiled Democrat media fraud machine. When speaking without a teleprompter, Kamala is totally incoherent – she is unable to form a complete sentence, much less string several sentences together. Her answers invariably have nothing to do with the question asked. In her 60 Minutes interview, CBS had to take her word salads and “slice and dice” her gibberish in a futile attempt to make her appear more lucid. Even with the Dem fraud machine (media) spoon-feeding her interview questions and holding her hand, her extreme, far-left views slip out. After trying to campaign as if she had nothing to do with Biden's disasters, her fan club at “The View” asked her if there was anything she would have done differently than President Biden. In a rare honest moment Harris replied, “There is nothing that comes to mind,” admitting that her “new way forward” is an unwavering extension of the Biden fiascos. But Kamala loves America.

The media just cannot get voters to the point where they can deny the reality of their own lives. That reality is that Americans are not better off now than they were four years ago, and they hate Biden/Harris' policies. On the issues that really matter to them – invasion by millions of unvetted illegals, the economy, national security, domestic crime, their children's education and future, voters overwhelmingly dislike the world Biden/Harris have created. Que Mala cannot separate herself from the reality that her team has made America worse, and she is running to keep that team in office. This is the first time an explicitly anti-American ticket has tried to take over the Oval office, and voters know that, in spite of the gaslighting. Voters know that if you have a flat tire, you change it ... you don't drive on it for another four years to see if it gets better. They also know Donald Trump is the person most capable of resolving the problems Kamala and team created.

The 60 Minutes “interview” also illuminated the fraudulent attempt by Komrade Kamala to blame the border invasion on Trump. Kamala made it clear that her “solution” to the invasion is to have Congress pass an amnesty bill and legalize the invasion, and

noted that she and Biden had proposed such a bill upon taking office. When Kamala talks about “fixing our broken immigration system,” she has no intention of slowing the massive invasion. She just wants to make it more efficient and legal. Democrats clearly value illegal immigrants over American citizens. But Kamala loves America. Trump and Republicans have a clear plan: Close the border. Stop the invasion. Start deporting the hundreds of thousands of the criminal element among the illegals.

Here is this week's chuckle. While Kamala is professing that she loves America, it is becoming apparent that union workers no longer love her or her Democrat party.

After endorsing the Democrat presidential candidate for the last four decades, the Teamsters union announced they will not endorse any candidate for president. Their internal polls showed the majority of its membership now endorse Trump over Kamala. Sean O'Brien, the president of the Teamsters union, summarized it pretty well when he said: “I'll be honest with you. I'm a Democrat, but they have f\*\*\*ed us over for the last 40 years.” O'Brien also spoke at the Republican National Convention. The International Association of Firefighters also acknowledged their membership's support of Trump and chose not to endorse Kamala. Local polling amongst auto workers also showed membership favored Trump over Harris. The country's oldest and largest police labor organization, the National Fraternal Order of Police fully endorsed Trump earlier this month. Here is the funny part. After the NFOP endorsed Trump, the Harris campaign came out with the announcement that a “leading” law enforcement group, the “Police Leaders For Community Safety” endorsed Harris. This “top” law enforcement group, the only police organization to endorse Harris, is only a few months old and is run by a Democrat political operative who has never worked for a police agency. Not surprisingly, this small group praised the Biden/Harris administration for its latest string of gun-control executive orders targeting the Second Amendment.

Yep. Kamala loves America. (And Walz isn't really a habitual liar. He just repeatedly “misspeaks.”)

*Ed Henrie, Montrose*

# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## PLEASE VOTE NO ON AMENDMENT 79, BUT PLEASE VOTE!

*Editor:*

I encourage voters to vote against Amendment 79, because it is so broad and would prevent future regulation of abortion.

Abortion is already legal in Colorado, so why does it need to be part of our Constitution?

If Amendment 79 passes, it would place no limits on when a baby can be aborted. Babies have survived birth at 23 weeks, so ending her or his life at that time of gestation ... wouldn't it be the same as murder? The only difference between a baby in the womb or outside the womb is location; he/she is still a baby.

Second, if this amendment passes, parents would have NO say as to whether or not their daughter (minor) has an abortion. What if she has medical complications and the parents delay care for her because they didn't know she had an abortion? What if the parents want to help raise the baby? What if they want to walk alongside their daughter and help her through this experience? What if a parent doesn't know their daughter had the

"shot" or took the abortion pill or is on birth control, and she has complications? Sounds very unsafe to me. Having an abortion is traumatic both physically and emotionally and women need all the support they can get. I speak from experience.

Dr. Warren Hern, an abortionist with over 50 years of experience said, "In medical practice, there are few surgical procedures given so little attention and so underrated in its potential hazards as abortion. It is a commonly held view that complications are inevitable." [Hern, Warren M. Abortion Practice. Philadelphia, PA, Lippincott, 1990, p. 110]

Most women are not told the risks and repercussions of the procedure:

- future pregnancy complications (premature birth, low birth weight, placenta previa)
- damage to the uterus
- pelvic inflammatory disease (PID) leads to infertility
- ectopic pregnancy overlooked
- incomplete abortions can lead to infec-

tions and future surgery. In chemical or medical abortions (pill), incomplete abortions occur up to 13% of the time. [<https://www.plannedparenthood.org/learn/abortion/the-abortion-pill>]

-emotional and mental health complications

-death

Third, many Coloradans oppose abortion for several reasons: moral, religious or personal. Why should they have to help fund abortions to which they morally object? Currently, our state uses taxpayer dollars to fund abortions when the mother's life is at stake and does not allow taxpayers' money to fund elective abortions.

Fourth, local and state government spending will increase if future abortion-related programs are created, because taxes will help fund them.

Whether you are for abortion or against it, we do not need an amendment about an issue that is already legal in Colorado. Thanks for reading.

*Sincerely,*

*Leah Vandersluis, Montrose*

## CHOOSE WISELY WHEN VOTING

*Editor:*

Cleave Simpson is the only real choice we have for Senate Seat District 6 for Colorado, in this year's election. Cleave is determined to make Colorado more affordable for all of us to live, work, and run our business here. Cleave is a rancher, farmer, and knows water better than anyone else. We are going to fight for us to keep our water in western Colorado, he is going to fight to keep Tabor in place. He knows how hard it is for each of us to make ends meet every month and we do not need more taxes added to us every month. Cleave has fought for us the past four years and he will continue to do so the next four years.

The person running against Cleave is Vivian Smotherman. She on the other hand wants to do away with Tabor and raise our taxes more, as she said in the debate in Grand Junction. Vivian has tax liens that are over \$10,000.00 she has not paid, but wants us to pay more. It appears that she thinks it is alright for us to pay more when she has not paid her share. She has had her wages garnished after the court intervened on her back child support to her former wife. She verbally assaulted her ex-wife. She has spent her campaign money on clothes, makeup, and new hair dos. This is irresponsible and she wants to tell us we need to pay more in taxes so she and the other democrats can spend it foolishly. Now it is time to let you all know this is a woman that used to be a man. What kind of message are we sending to our children if this person is elected?

Do you want a true American man that has paid his taxes, fought for us, is a good person that loves his family, but most of all Loves God. Cleave believes in that American should come first. Or do you want someone like Vivian that has not paid her taxes, must not love her family or she would have paid child support, and has verbally abused her wife. The choice is yours to make on November 5<sup>th</sup> so choose wisely.

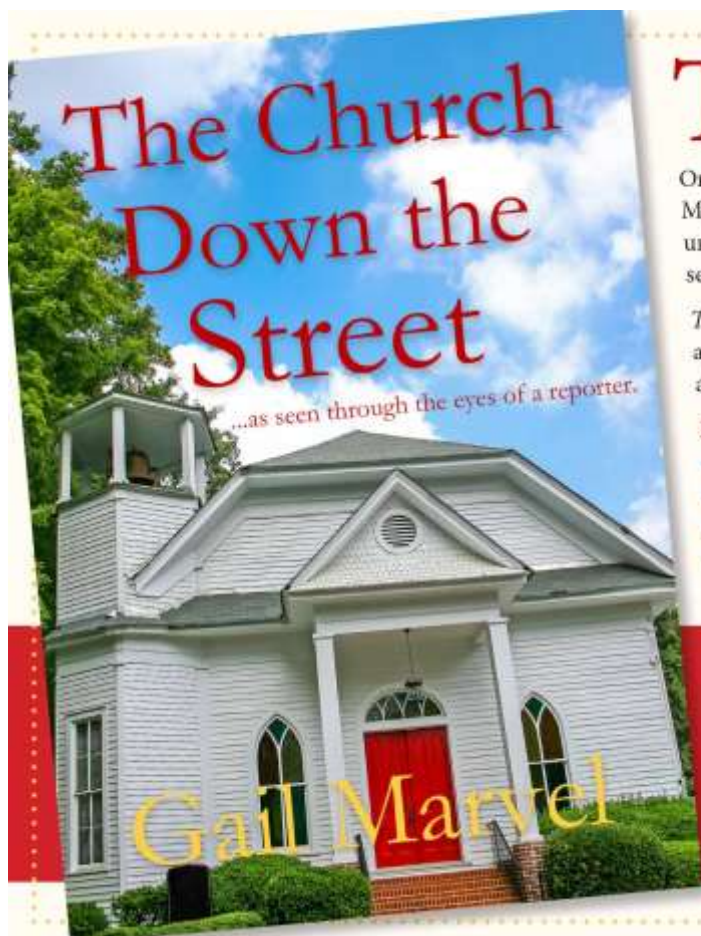
*Doris Van Ness, Bedrock*



# MIRROR IMAGES: NORTHERN LIGHTS



Two views of the beautiful Northern lights displays last week-Linda Lake captured the skies from an out of town view point, at left. At right, Harry Switzer snapped the Northern and other lights from beside the Railroad tracks on the West Side of town.



**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



# OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

## THE NEUTRAL SCIENCE OF PROP 127

*By David Jennings, Elaine Leslie and Delia Malone*

COLORADO—As wildlife scientists devoted to rigorous independent research, we wish to inform Coloradans what the best peer-reviewed and published science says about mountain lion and bobcat trophy hunting.

Voters deserve to know without bias what are mere assumptions without proof, and what are science-based facts backed up by evidence.

As journalists dive into wildlife science, they too should realize that all opinions are not equal when it comes to science, and everyone — including our government agencies — ought to be fact-checked based on scientific research.

The big question: Does Colorado's current program, allowing citizens to kill 500 mountain lions and about 1,000 bobcats every year, have any positive or negative effect on wild cats or other wildlife populations, on public safety, or on domestic animals like cattle and dogs — and if so, what?

As you might imagine, mountain lion populations are not at all like prey animals. Lions are territorial, and do not tolerate the presence of other lions residing within their vast ranges — unlike deer, for instance, which congregate and are easy to spot. There are about 4,000 lions in Colorado, but we don't have precise estimates because their shy, elusive nature makes them difficult to count.

Science confidently informs Coloradans that mountain lion populations self-regulate. In layman's terms, that means that trophy hunting is not managing their populations, and that they will not explode in the absence of trophy hunting.

World-renowned [big cat researcher](#) Maurice Hornocker, in his book "Cougars on the Cliff," explains that mountain lions "regulate their own numbers and actually help prey animals maintain or

increase their population numbers."

In California — a state without trophy hunting for the last 52 years — lion populations remain stable, not increasing, and just 15 are killed each year for predation on livestock.

Without exploding lion populations, assumptions about decimating deer, as some would claim, are false, [according to researchers](#). Colorado Parks and Wildlife researchers, among others, have provided ample studies to show that in layman's terms, where there are fewer lions, there will be fewer deer and vice versa. Nature has its own way of balancing without artificial interference.

In terms of public safety, pets, and livestock, multiple studies show that trophy hunting does nothing to make us, our pets, or livestock any safer than we already are. In fact, [there is evidence](#) to suggest that when you take out what is typically considered a trophy lion — a large resident male, living longer in coexistence — you invite conflict to the region by opening up his territory to juveniles that are more likely to get into trouble.

In sum, the recreational killing of lions and bobcats, which allows keeping heads and selling fur as recreational choice or commercial business, does not solve any true management need; it neither reduces human-lion conflict, nor prevents depredations; it will not make humans wandering in the woods or pets at home any safer than families already are.

The science also informs us that there is a proven, effective way to prevent conflict between lions and livestock, pets, and people: to identify individual lions that pose risk, and have the professionals verify and handle them as they see fit.

On bobcats, Colorado has no estimated population count. Bobcats are allowed to be trapped during the season in unlimited numbers. Live traps set with bait are allowed to be unattended for 24 hours, and

there is documentation showing lynx have been accidentally trapped where habitats overlap.

Because recreational trophy hunting and commercial fur trapping are not managing anything, the question of whether we wish to keep allowing it is one of social science, or ethics. That is beyond our expertise, but a [Colorado State University survey](#) found that 88% of Coloradans disapproved of hunting mountain lions with dogs, which is how lion hunting is done in Colorado because lions are so shy.

It's good overall that Colorado is having this conversation for the science to be accessible to the public.

Furthermore, there is a whole body of science on the ecological services of mountain lions and bobcats that deserves equal attention. Apex predators serve to keep whole ecosystems healthy, and that is increasingly important today as we are losing our biodiversity so quickly across the map.

So let's all follow the science, as well as our ethics, and the environmental goals of Colorado, as we stay attuned to this important conversation.

**David Jennings, PhD, is a working interdisciplinary wildlife conservation scientist who recently lived in Salida and resides in Denver.**

**Elaine Leslie, PhD, is former Chief of Biological Resources for our National Park Service and has conducted numerous research studies on mountain lions of Colorado. She lives in Durango on the West Slope.**

**Delia Malone works as an ecologist with the Colorado Natural Heritage Program. She serves as Wildlife Chair for the Colorado Chapter of the Sierra Club and Executive Committee member of the Roaring Fork Group and is vice chair of Roaring Fork Audubon, and a member of Colorado Parks and Wildlife's Wildlife and Habitat Roundtable.**



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# COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

## MONTROSE POET PAOLO MUNGUÍA TO READ IN NORWOOD OCT. 16

*Special to the Mirror*  
NORWOOD-Paolo Munguía is a Mexican-American poet living in Montrose who will read his poems in Spanish -- with an English speaker alternating an English translation line for line -- at the Talking Gourds' monthly Stories & Poems series at the Lone Cone Library in Norwood Wednesday Oct. 16<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm.



**Paolo Munguía.** Courtesy photo.

"Paolo and I met at the Ah Haa show this past winter in Telluride: *In Their Own Words: A Poetry Experience / Según Sus Palabras: Una Experiencia Poética*," explained Talking Gourds director Art Goodtimes. "We're delighted he's willing to take time out of his busy work schedule to come share his work with us."

Born in Morelos, México, Paolo moved to the U.S. as a 23-year-old, since he was without good opportunities down south. He's been living and working in Montrose in construction since 2001.

Always interested in the arts, Paolo started playing guitar at age 11 for local church choirs.

A few years later he found his passion in playing rock'n'roll. Since then, he has been inspired to write songs and poems.

The Stories & Poems free series happens on the third Wednesday of each month. Our featured guest will give a 20-30 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's prompt is: "Autumn."

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>. To visit the website: [www.tellurideinstitute.org/talking-gourds](http://www.tellurideinstitute.org/talking-gourds)

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THANK YOU FOR READING.



#montrosemirror

# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## A DESCRIPTION OF IGNORANCE OR SELFISHNESS?

Editor:

Did I hear a dumb statement the other day? At various times recently each member of our august County Commission has stated to the effect that, 'He/she would never agree to pay our deputies higher wages than presently because it would upset the status quo with the other county employees.' This is just the kind of thought pattern resident in our county commission. More to the point, an \$80,000 starting wage for deputies would be too close to the Commissioner's wages for their comfort. But what group of fools would even suspect that most county employees would even consider being a law enforcement officers in Montrose County. Even if they were so inclined, would they go to school to do so; would they go to POST to qualify; would they desire to work nights, weekends, in good weather or bad; patrolling the roads west of Nucla and Naturita between midnight and six AM alone; often breaking up domestic fights or stopping a robbery or murder with a gun; or serving court papers on lord knows who. Probably not one of them or they would have done it already.

My college degree entitled me to strive

for a Marine Corps Commission. I pledged for it and I got it. For twenty-one years I served in a dangerous profession that began with several trips to Vietnam. Yes it was dangerous and unpleasant at times. Yes some folks thought I should be shot at (and hit) BUT it was not a threat every day I went to work. Not even in Vietnam. But for policemen or deputies IT IS ALWAYS A REAL POSSIBILITY.

A REAL POSSIBILITY that every law enforcement officer must consider as he/she puts on their shirt and duty belt in preparation for his/her tour of duty. A POSSIBILITY that a wife and mother must consider leaving for her tour. Oh I do not believe that it is foremost in each of their minds---but it is there. I went to POST in Idaho. We, as students, had to do everything that the regular cops had to do including nighttime traffic stops and domestic disturbances. Definitely ugly and dangerous work. High pucker factor activity. Well I did it all but I would never, never, never be a policeman or deputy doing that kind of stuff. These guys earn every bit of their pay and MORE every day.


In our county our commissioners have been provided by the taxpayers in 2008

with the where-with-all to provide decent pay and allowances in the form of the PSST. The PSST is a tax WE the people voluntarily voted for wherein we taxed ourselves since 2008 \$86,000,000 of which approximately \$50,000,000 belongs to the Montrose County Sheriff's Department 'to use as he sees fit'. Yet the BOCC has seen fit to TAKE it for their own purposes. I DID NOT TAX MYSELF FOR THAT MONEY TO AUGMENT THE COUNTY GENERAL FUND.

Look at your BOCC. Two of them and maybe the third have been public employees their whole life. One of them a retired policeman and doesn't want deputies paid what the Montrose cops are paid. I offer the opinion that taxpayers should NEVER elect a former municipal, state or federal employee to any elected office. This applies especially to policemen.

Think about this when voting for a retired sheriff for Commissioner in November, first he is too old to have fresh thoughts or pay attention in meetings and his 12 years as sheriff was not any more stellar than the rest of his public service. Think about it.

*Bill Bennett, Montrose*



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



## RED HAWKS FOOTBALL



Red Hawks break the Huddle during Friday night game against the Doherty Spartans . Photo by Cliff Dodge.

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# RED HAWKS BURY DOHERTY 56-27



*The Red Hawks dominant offense runs through the Spartans defense. Photo by Cliff Dodge.*

*By Cliff Dodge*

MONTROSE-The Montrose Red Hawks wasted little time getting on the scoreboard Friday evening at the football stadium as they forced the Spartans to punt and then scored in five plays as Aiden Grijalva scored from 7-yards out to lead 7-0.

The Red Hawks put points on the board in eight of their nine possessions. The heavy lifting in the running game saw Elijah Womack, Aiden Grijalva, Chase Mehan, Wyatt Berry, Maverick Powers, Biniyam Kenney, Lincoln Jones and Will Neuman carry the football.

The Red Hawks forced a punt on the Spartans second possession and Chase Mehan scored on an end sweep that ended up with a fumble as he crossed the goal line. Fortunately Mehan fell on his fumble and scored the touchdown, increasing the Red Hawks lead to 14-0.

The Spartans offense then awoke and proceeded to put together a 16-play drive that ended with a touchdown pass from quarterback Leland Frescaz to Jalen Hale from 4 yards out cutting the Red Hawks lead to 14-7.

The Red Hawks then rode the running of junior Elijah Womack to the 15-yard line when a fumble gave the football back to the Spartans. The Red Hawks defense then rose up and forced the Spartans to

turn the ball over on downs at the one-yard line. The goal line stand gave the offense new life and Aiden Grijalva scored his third touchdown of the game with a 6-yard scoring burst increasing the score to 21-7.

With just under three minutes to play in the second quarter the Spartans drove deep into the Red Hawks territory only to fumble the football at the 10-yard line. The home team then drove 95-yards as Chase Mehan scored on a 31-yard touchdown run increasing the Red Hawks lead to 28-7 as the first half ended.

The second half started with a bang. Aiden Grijalva received the kick-off and raced 70 yards to the 25-yard line deep in Spartan territory. Elijah Womack scored from 5 yards out to stretch the lead to 35-7.

The Red Hawks defense came to the forefront once again as they forced the Spartans to turn the ball over on downs at the Montrose 48-yard line. The Red Hawks turned the possession into another touchdown, this time with junior Chase Mehan scoring from 4 yards out to make the score 42-7.

The Spartans then pulled off the longest scoring play of the night as Frescaz fired a 70-yard touchdown pass to wide receiver Jalen Hale cutting the Red Hawks lead to 42-14. The start of the fourth quarter saw

the Red Hawks marching once again to pay-dirt. This time it was a 22-yard touchdown pass to senior Wade Berry in the corner of the north end zone increasing the score to 49-14.

The Spartans continued to battle and drove 76 yards and scored their third touchdown, this time on a 20-yard pass from Frescaz to sophomore Brady Noll, again cutting the lead to 49-21.

Many new faces were now in the game for the Red Hawks as their offense continued to move the football. The home team put together an 8-play drive that resulted in a sophomore Lincoln Jones touchdown on an 8-yard dash adding the final 7 points to the Red Hawks total, 56-21.

The Spartan's last gasp came with just four seconds left on the scoreboard clock as they scored from six yards out to make the final score 56-27.

The win increased the Red Hawk's season mark to 7 wins and 0 losses with three league games remaining. The Red Hawks are currently ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 4A classification with 4<sup>th</sup> ranked Mesa Ridge as the Red Hawks next opponent. Pueblo West, currently ranked 1<sup>st</sup> in 4A, will be the Red Hawks final regular season opponent at home on November 12<sup>th</sup>.

Then it becomes playoff time. Strap on your helmets and stay tuned.





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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

## THE COUNTDOWN IS ON! PREPARE WISELY. VOTE WISELY.

***Know what your community is up against. Elected Officials don't always have your best interests in mind as you know!***

By David White

Last Wednesday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, The Forum (a community information group that meets on Wednesdays, 8-9 am, at Cascade Hall on the Colorado Mesa University-Montrose campus) held a candidate information session whereby those running for Federal, State and County seats were given an opportunity to present information on themselves and their ideology to those in attendance and those watching via the City of Montrose's YouTube channel. Since it's archived, I suggest you take a few minutes and watch it here: ([The Forum: Wednesday October 9, 2024 \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)). It's worth it if you want to educate yourself, to a certain degree, on those running for office this November 5th.

In that meeting, Montrose County Commissioner Candidate, Scott Mijares brought up an interesting topic that got me thinking and which bears repeating. Namely, do you want to see the State of Colorado totally ruled by one party after this November election is over? In political terms, one party rule is accomplished when one party gains a "supermajority" in the State Senate and State House of Representatives AND controls the Governor's Office. Such is what is at stake on November 5<sup>th</sup>.

According to the publication, Colorado Politics, in an August 2024 article they state that: "In 2018, Colorado Democrats accomplished something that would have been unimaginable two decades earlier — They secured a supermajority in both the House and the Senate. Although they lost their Senate supermajority two years later, they still maintain it in the House, holding 46 of 65 seats." ([Colorado Legislature: Democrats' supermajority at stake | Elections | coloradopolitics.com](https://coloradopolitics.com)).

"Supermajority rules in a democracy can help to prevent a majority from eroding fundamental rights of a minority, **but can also hamper efforts to respond to problems and encourage corrupt compromises**

**at times when action is tak-**

**en.**" ([Supermajority - Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Supermajority)). Simply put, regardless of your political affiliation (or not, if unaffiliated), is it worth supporting a political party who already controls, by supermajority, the Colorado House of Representatives and who is trying to take the State Senate in this election cycle which would then put it back in the supermajority classification? Overriding gubernatorial vetoes as well as taking unilateral actions that might have a detrimental effect on those with opposing views to what has become a very "progressive" agenda by Front Range Democrats, will no doubt bring to rural Colorado laws and regulations that are in direct conflict with the values that we hold dear.

The message is simple, regardless of party or not, it is in our collective best interests to vote for Marc Catlin (Senate District 5) and Larry Don Suckla (House District 58) to try and keep the supermajority in the State House and potentially the Senate from becoming a permanent progressive voting bloc. I see California style politics, which are already present in the State Legislature, becoming the norm as we move down the road to a more and more socialistic State government. You can stem the tide if you choose to.

While there several questions on the ballot ranging from gun rights to abortion and more, I would encourage readers to understand what's at stake for the State of Colorado. There are numerous resources available to educate yourself on the issues. I'll get into some of them next week.

Locally, the RE-1J school bond issue (money to build a new Montrose High School - \$198M in construction costs plus \$197M in interest over the next 25 years or \$395M total equaling hundreds of additional property tax dollars on each property within the school district for those years) is at the forefront of the tax increase measures being asked of us locally.

Another is the City of Montrose's ask of the voters to increase the hotel and lodging sales tax from .90% to 6% or 66% increase. The City claims that you, the residents, don't have to pay for this tax. Only your friends, relatives and other visitors to our area will pick up the tab. When confronted with the oxymoronic nature of "gifting" millions of your tax dollars to promote tourism as well as to pay for improvements to existing or new hotels (Fairfield Inn by Marriott, The Rathbone Hotel, etc.) which, they claim, will ostensibly increase tourism in the City, the City's September 2024 revenue report isn't supporting that claim. Instead, the report shows that hotel tax revenue at the .90% rate is **DOWN 5%** for the year through September 30, 2024! ([City Council Meeting • Montrose Public Meetings Portal • CivicClerk](https://www.cityofmontrose.org))

So, using the City's logic, **LETS VOTE TO RAISE THIS TAX!** How absurd! And, according to the City Council and Bill Bell, City Manager, who is advocating for the increase in this sales tax in this month's edition of the City Beat Newsletter ([City Beat Newsletter \(cityofmontrose.org\)](https://cityofmontrose.org)) because we have "the lowest lodging tax" of **"the communities we surveyed"** – (how convenient to rig your own survey!) and since, he claims, the State average lodging tax is 6.7%, we have to get our tax up close to that level so those organizations always asking for money from the public trough, have more tax money to subsidize their operations.

He further states that we need to increase this tax to give folks access to affordable housing (aka, government subsidized housing), pay for street maintenance that tourists are somehow causing the City to have to repair more streets (more circular logic here), tourism management (oh yeah, let's bring more tourists here so we can tax the crap out of them), childcare and public transportation.

All of this advocacy for a tax increase is



## THE COUNTDOWN IS ON! PREPARE WISELY. VOTE WISELY. From previous pg

not only a blatant conflict of interest, but also a violation of multiple campaign laws, but what the heck, he and this Council really don't give a crap about appearances such as this if it serves their end goal of putting more lipstick on Bill Bell's pig, aka, the façade that all is great in Montrose when the City throws millions of dollars at private businesses that knock on their door so that the City can give them money to compete against our home grown businesses. The new Les Schwab Tire Store (Les Schwab is a corporate giant with a \$7 billion dollar market value) is a case in point as are many of the businesses in the Colorado Outdoors project. And we, the locals who have contributed to the economy here without government funding are being asked to subsidize the City's ongoing so-called economic development strategy of bringing corporate operators to Montrose to compete against us. What a sound economic policy! NOT!!

And it's not stopping there. Get ready for a new home to cost more. The City Clerk issued a memo on Thursday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, with proposed revisions to the City's Fee Schedule. Included is an increase in Land Use Fees wherein a new fee called "Land Dedication Fees in Lieu" is added for City Parks (\$1,575.00 per permit) and schools (\$679 per residential unit – language that says this applies to apartments, duplexes and other multifamily housing units). As a rule, municipalities may require developers to provide park land for new develop-

ments. They may also offer developers the option to instead pay fees, construct facilities, or establish private park land. This is not only a fee change but a policy change. The end result is that you're going to pay more for a new home soon. (City Council Work Session • Montrose Public Meetings Portal • CivicClerk)

Not only are you going to pay more for a new home, but you're going to find your water, trash and recycling bills going up too. According to the City Clerk, the following is a summary of the increases coming your way:

-Water and sewer connection fees are **increased by 5 percent.**

-Water usage fees per 1,000 gallons are **increased by 5 percent plus \$.50 that is passed through from Project 7 (to pay for their upcoming \$500,000,000++ 2<sup>nd</sup> water treatment plant that YOU DON'T GET TO VOTE FOR!)**

-Sewer connection and non-residential usage fees are **increased by 5 percent.**

-Trash and Recycling fees are increased by **20 percent** (in spite of the City obtaining a reduction in waste disposal costs by switching from Waste Management to Bruin Waste Management at their August 8, 2024, City Council meeting. Minutes from that meeting stated that: **City Councilors voted 4-1 to approve a contract with Bruin Waste Management for landfill services for the City of Montrose. Bruin Waste offered a lower tipping fee and also included a benefit to the city by re-**

**ducing the distance to a transfer station, located on North Townsend Ave, where the city trucks would unload the municipal waste. This station is significantly closer to the trash routes which will help to reduce the wear and tear on the trash trucks and the time required to complete a route. (https://www.cityofmontrose.org/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=2049) So the City is cutting costs on their end, but raising our rates? Why??**

While we can't vote out some of the City Council members until April of 2026, calls need to be made so that the average citizen is heard and not the special interests that seem to dominate the decision making at City Hall.

The timeless and true statement that "elections have consequences" has never been more accurate than in this upcoming election. There's more to come but do yourself a favor and VOTE! If you want to continue living in this beautiful part of the country and afford it, please pay attention to what is going on here and in Denver!

**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.**

# SEE SOMETHING - SAY SOMETHING



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ANONYMOUS CALL

## MONTROSE REGIONAL CRIME STOPPERS

# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## IF YOU DON'T RESPECT ME, WHY SHOULD I RESPECT YOU?

*Editor:*

RESPECT: When I was growing up I was taught to RESPECT many different groups and individuals. Let's look at some of those.

1. Respect my elders, teachers and policemen.

2. Respect my elected officials.

3. Respect my mother and father.

And I have done that. 20 years as a Marine and another 20 in private enterprise I have done a lot of respecting. I address everyone as mam or sir until they earn my contempt. I tend to respect those who are in elected office. I have learned that to be respected one must earn that respect---respect is not just handed to you. More and more we find that the people who should be respected do not earn that respect. Those folks are generally elected officials. They are the first ones to note that they are not respected, generally because of their behavior while occupying their seat of power. I noted this at a meeting a few months ago where our three commissioners sat 'on high' and pontificated. When their constituents demanded to be heard the 'lady' on the stand failed in all ways to earn the title either as commissioner or as a 'lady'. She was followed by one of our two so-called 'gentlemen' who proceeded to prove his ignorance, intolerance and ineptitude by

shouting loudly and refusing to shut up. No gentleman he. The third of this threesome sat still, mute like a bump on a stump. Like his mouth was taped shut. It might well have been. As the senior in years he should have exhibited respect and demanded that his two 'buddies' respect their constituents as well.

Since that meeting I have found that the three have diabolically agreed not to be divided on any issue or behavior but to build and maintain a wall between them and their constituents. How convenient!

It is the same way at city council except they just 'gang up' or ignore the single dissenter. Then we move over to the School Board where all but one of their number just sit mute while the chair runs an ill-conceived 'new high school plan' onto the ballot hoping that by some accident of numbers or public ignorance it will pass. Well, I hope not!

Our school board is not a board dedicated to sound governance of a public institution, it is a CHOIR dedicated to singing the same tune as their director. This is disrespectful to all of the citizens over which they hold a considerable amount of sway as to how our tax monies are taken from us and spent (or rather squandered). You see they disrespect me (and you) by not thinking the plan through. They disre-

spect me by failing to have our county assessor 'run the numbers' and the 'truth tellers' prior to the presentation. They disrespect me by having the issue so poorly written that no intelligent person can understand it. They disrespect us all by publishing a full color flyer of photos of how nice the new school will be without a single reference to what the \$198 million dollar price tag will do for education, witnessed by the abominable test scores of our student output. The school board has no respect for how much or how little I make, or my neighbors, or the retired folks in Montrose. They show no respect for families who already count on food being provided by the community to barely exist. They show no respect for the man or woman who proudly works their tails off to support their family. They fail to respect the fact that most Americans, man or woman, are proud to provide for their families and do not want to take charity. Besides, who wants to have their money taxed away from them so that they can apply for monetary aid just to survive. This proposition does not represent the actions of a free society---it has all the attributes of indentured servitude---in other words, SLAVERY.

If you don't respect me, why should I respect you?

*Bill Bennett, Montrose*



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## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

### A YES ON PROP 127 VOTE IS FOR THE SAKE OF OUR SANITY AND HUMANITY

*Editor:*

It's a no-brainer to vote YES, for prop 127, Cats Aren't Trophies.

Who would ever want to support a dark fringe industry that asks, "Should I slowly choke this bobcat to death in its cage, or inject it with acetone, or just bludgeon it to crack its skull open?" For the sole purpose of selling the unoffending beautiful animal to make some money by turning it into someone's frivolous fur coat. In China.

Who would want to live in a world where any random peaceful native wild cat at any moment can be hunted down by a gang of dogs, shot out of the tree it turns to for refuge. To be mounted on someone's living room wall?

Who would accept the logic that if you eat it, you can kill it any which way. If I shoot your dog, and eat it, this means you should thank me.

Who would call themselves a hunter for disrupting nature with chaos of buzzing drones flying to aid dogs with GPS-laden collars, to spot and terrorize any feline for personal pleasure. Leaving her kittens to die slowly from starvation and dehydration.

A Yes on Prop 127 vote is for the sake of our sanity and humanity. All lion hunting is always done with dogs, and upgraded technology like smart phones will continue to provide lions zero respect or chance at survival.

Opponents talk about science yet offer none. Science does not support cruelty.

Opponents instill fear, attacking the very nature of shy, elusive cats and the humans who care about their overall well-being tied to healthy ecosystems.

Opponents hate lions for eating deer they wish to hunt themselves, pretending 50 years of science doesn't exist informing them it's mountain lions who keep deer herds healthy and robust.

Opponents claim they care about ranching and pets yet pretend science doesn't exist to inform them hunting lions increases predation on livestock and pets.

Opponents prey on voters' egos and irrational fears of a shy predator who has always lived among us and wants nothing to do with us.

Don't give into hatred and buzz words. Vote YES on Prop 127.

*Julie Marshall, Lafayette*

### PROP 127 HAS EXEMPTIONS TO KILL ANY LION TO PROTECT LIVESTOCK, PETS AND PEOPLE

*Editor:*

I am dismayed at the amount of lies and misinformation that a small but well-funded group of trophy hunters and bobcat trappers are spreading to confuse Colorado voters. I wish to clarify and make it clear to voters that the choice is simple- vote YES on Prop 127 to ban the trophy hunting of mountain lions and the trapping of bobcats for their heads and beautiful coats.

According to state data, lion hunting is 100% recreational, and always done for the trophy (head and mount) regardless of excuses by trophy hunters. It is not ethical or scientific, according to PhD level scientists like Dan Ashe, our former head of the US Fish and Wildlife Agency, who is a hunter and scientist. It is simply thrill killing for profit and selfies.

In addition, Colorado Parks and Wildlife's former carnivore manager states lion populations will remain stable, not increase once Prop 127 passes. California proves this fact, where they have not allowed trophy hunting of lions in 52 years.

Trophy hunting is not like hunting deer and elk for food, which is still a sizable economic driver in Colorado. The hounding and baiting of our lions and bobcats bring in a miniscule 0.4% of funds to Colorado Parks and Wildlife, according to our Secretary of State. Clearly, this 'sport' is not boosting our economy. And it is cruel beyond belief.

Note: Prop 127 has exemptions to kill any lion to protect livestock, pets and people. Vote YES on Prop 127.

*Julia Archer, Colorado Springs*





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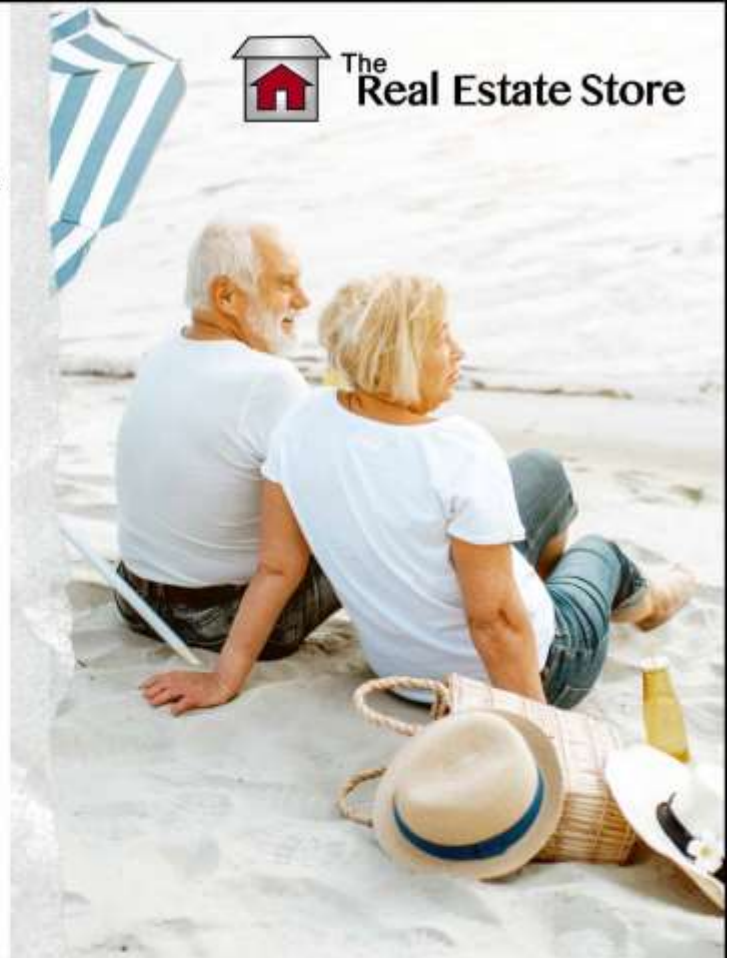


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I am running because I care about the West Slope and want our voice to be heard in Denver.

I have a background in water management and my family ranches in Gunnison.

When I am elected I plan to bring legislation to help communities on the West Slope deal with funding for drinking water and wastewater treatment costs in addition to providing more funding to repair aging ag infrastructure.

I also plan to run a bill to provide additional support for ranchers faced with wolf reintroduction and would like to pursue legislation that would incentivize affordable housing construction.

As your next representative, I will be in a position to make progress on the important issues impacting the eight counties in the district and the West Slope.

I would be honored to get your vote this November.



Kathleen

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Curry for Colorado  
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*Peg Evanoika*

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# COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

## CHERYL SUE WARD *May 27, 1960 — September 28, 2024*

Our dear Cheryl: the liveliest smile in the room, has triumphed over pain and is at rest.

She took her last breath on September 28, 2024 at her home on High Mesa Rd in Olathe Colorado. Cheryl was 64 years old. Cheryl Sue Lynch was born on May 27, 1960 in Beech Grove, Indiana to Joann (Nauert) and James Robert (Bob) Lynch. Cheryl was the 5th of 6 children. She had the great fortune of growing up as a country girl who couldn't wait to get outside and explore. She and her siblings would anxiously wait for the dew on the grass to be dried by the morning sun, signaling that they were free to go play.

In this fashion she spent her childhood and created her innate love for nature. She spoke so fondly of her family home and the stability it provided her.

Cheryl was baptized into the General Assembly and Church of the Firstborn on March 3, 1974. It became the most life-changing year for her as later that spring her father would pass away.

Bringing new life into her world; Aaron Branham then married her mother in August of 1975. He had 3 children of his own; and together with Joann they loved each child, not as stepparents, but as parents. Cheryl cherished her parents and had a unique bond with them; they were her companions, her cheering squad and her choice of friends.

She had an affinity for design and a sense of style that was as unique as her personality.

Combining her design style with her enthusiasm for landscaping and woodworking led her to plant, build and create gardens, ponds, decks, furniture and homes. She and her Bubba, (Mike) built decks for Trish and Karen. They built pergolas; flipped a home together and built her tiny home from the axles up. Their many hours of laboring side by side led to a friendship



that was filled with laughter. There was a constant banter between Mike and Cheryl in which they perfected the balance of humor, sarcasm, and minor embarrassments.

Cheryl had an uncanny ability to make humor out of thin air. It was a God-given talent....

She loved to make people laugh; and she did it well.

Cheryl's abilities were self-taught out of determination and her strength of character. She faced many disappointments in her life, and yet her radiant smile remained.

Her Grandmother Mam wrote poetry and self-illustrated stories, perhaps that is where Cheryl inherited her love of words. Her communication skills were excellent. Cheryl could ask the deep and important questions; and in the next minute have you laughing to tears.

Cheryl was an outstanding photographer. She had an ability to capture light, shadow, and composition, and she was always willing to stop and capture the moment with a photo.

Her Momma was undoubtedly her best



friend. (And Cheryl was the self-proclaimed favorite child.) Cheryl and her mother had a unique Mother Daughter bond that transcended into soul mates; this relationship was the most important one in Cheryl's life.

She moved many times in her life. She seemed to search hard for 'home'. She spent her last chapter living just minutes from her sister and was able to enjoy hours of camaraderie and togetherness. It was with her sister beside her that she gained her final 'home.'

Cheryl is survived by her parents, Aaron and Joann Branham; her sisters, Karen Day; Terri and husband Matt Branham; and Shelly Grady; her brothers, Mike and wife Terri Lynch; Mark and wife Lori Lynch; Kevin Branham; and Aaron Keith Branham. Cheryl did not have children of her own and she treasured her nieces and nephews. She is preceded in death by her father, Bob Lynch, her sister Becky Neal, brother-in-law Mike Day, and nephew Little Aaron Grady.

Her title 'Funniest Person EVER' is immortalized with her.



# COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

## **NOLA MAE (WELLS) GOLDEN** ***February 12, 1940 — October 7, 2024***



NOLA MAE (WELLS) GOLDEN of Montrose, Colorado, passed away peacefully on October 7, 2024, at home with family members around.

She was a homemaker, wife, mother, grandmother, sister and friend. She especially enjoyed sewing, crocheting, quilts, babies, and flowers (especially lilacs and violets). Nola gave her life to Jesus at a young age. Her favorite song was What a Friend We Have in Jesus and one of her last sentences was "Jesus Loves Me and He Tells Me So."

Nola was born on February 12, 1940, to Charles and Geneva (Sullivan) Wells in Eddyville, Illinois. She married Lowell Golden on January 31, 1959, in Pekin, Illinois, and they celebrated their 65th anniversary this year. He survives.

She is also survived by three sisters: Norma Morgan, Bettie DeWitt and Melba Wells, by six children: Gayla Jo Slauson (Michael), Darlene Hudson, LaNelle Martin (Dan), Cole Golden (Irene), Noleta Golden (Shaun B), and Allen Golden (Sheri B), and by numerous grandchildren, great and even great great grandchildren and many friends. Nola was preceded in death by her parents and a granddaughter, Briana (Wilson) Grossnickle.

A Celebration of Life is planned for Friday, October 18, 2024, at 2pm, at Grace Baptist Church on South 5th Street in Montrose.

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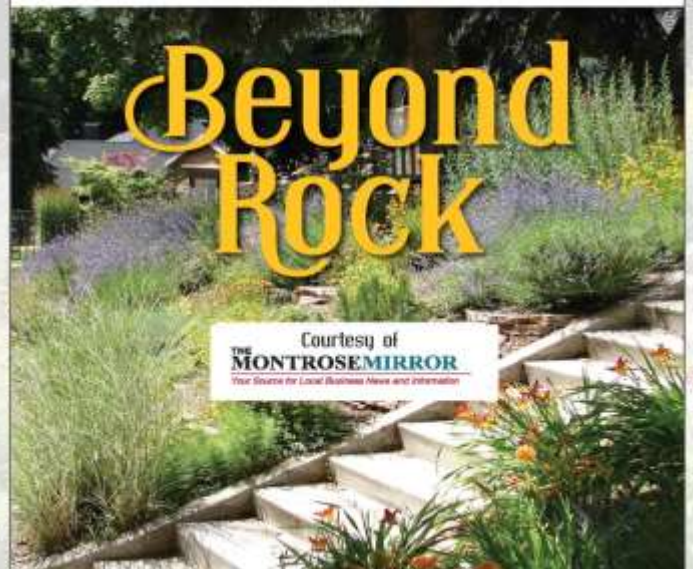
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## COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

### RICHARD MCCLOSKEY

***December 24, 1942 — September 26, 2024***

RICHARD MCCLOSKEY, a beloved man known to many as Rick, came into this world on a snowy December 24, 1942, in the bustling city of Denver, Colorado.

Sadly, on a quiet September 26, 2024, he departed from this life in the comfort of his home in Montrose, Colorado, with his devoted wife by his side.

After bravely facing the challenges brought on by Parkinson's disease, his valiant struggle has ended, and he is now free, his body restored to its former strength.

After graduating from Sheridan Union High School in Denver in 1960, Rick enlisted in the service in October 1962. A year later, in October 1963, he tied the knot with his beloved, Sherry Gosewisch, and she accompanied him overseas until he received an honorable discharge. Following his military service, the couple settled down and expanded their family. Adoption was the only thing on their minds, so in 1967, they were overjoyed to welcome a beautiful baby boy named Ryan. In 1972, they were blessed with a second child, Allison, a lovely baby girl.

With an entrepreneurial spirit, Rick purchased a dump truck to be self-employed. However, he was ahead of his time, as the

construction boom did not occur in Colorado until the mid-eighties. As a result, he secured a job at Coors Brewery, driving a semi locally and working in the brewery until he retired at 57 after 35 years at Coors. He devoted himself entirely to his wife and children and was willing to take on any additional jobs to ensure their financial stability. Despite his already busy schedule, he dedicated nine ½ years of service as a volunteer firefighter in Arvada, Colorado, and volunteered as a Jefferson County sheriff for four years.

After the tragic loss of their son in an accident in 1991, he demonstrated remarkable courage as he bravely faced overwhelming pain and grief.

Upon retiring, they decided to construct a cozy cabin nestled in the serene mountains of Cripple Creek, Colorado. They wholeheartedly embraced the uncomplicated mountain lifestyle, reveling in the tranquility and beauty of nature while encountering and admiring a diverse array of wildlife.

They followed suit after their daughter relocated to the Western Slope of Colorado. It was a blessing for the three of them to support and care for one another, knowing God's hands guide them through



every step.

Rick experienced deep love, joy and celebration, heartache, and challenges. His unwavering dedication and the immense love he bestowed upon his family will endure for eternity.

Rick was preceded in death by his father, Edward McCloskey; his mother, Leona McCloskey; his son, Ryan McCloskey; his sister, Gayle Tyler; and many other family and friends.

*Now more than ever...*

*Thank you for reading*

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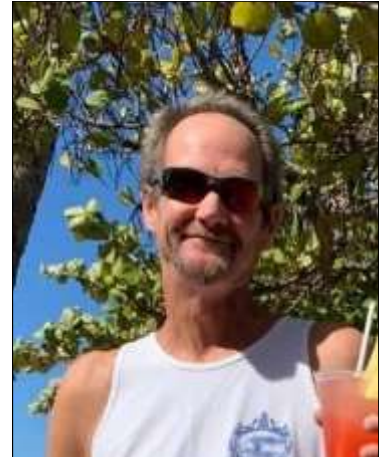


## COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

### MARK PAUL MUNROE

***February 6, 1956 — September 24, 2024***

MARK PAUL MUNROE, 68, passed away on Tuesday, September 24, 2024, in Montrose, Colorado, surrounded by family. Mark was born on February 6, 1956, in Beverly, Massachusetts, to Paul and Jean Munroe. Throughout his childhood, he lived in Massachusetts, Washington, and California. Colorado ultimately became home; the place he wanted to raise his family. Mark was a beloved father and grandfather, and he will be remembered as a family man. Behind the camera, outdoors, or spending time with loved ones was where you would often find him. Mark was preceded in death by his parents, Paul Munroe and Jean Russell, and his sister Lyn Munroe. He is survived by his siblings, Craig Munroe and sister Marylou Stacey (Gene), and children Michael Munroe (Denise), Brittany Urquizo (Cristian), and Ryan Munroe (Taylor). He also leaves behind eight grandchildren, Julian, Andrew, Jayden, Connor, Jazmyn, Maci, Kiera, and Lainey. Mark's family invites you to a memorial at Grace Community Church in Montrose on Friday, October 25, 2024, at 10 a.m. with a reception to follow. The family would also like to thank Crippin Funeral Home for their assistance during this time. Mark touched many lives with his kindness, and he will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him. His memories will live on in our hearts and through the stories we share, we will keep his spirit alive.



### THOMAS "TOM" JAMES MCNERNEY

***February 12, 1950 — October 3, 2024***



THOMAS JAMES MCNERNEY passed away peacefully Thursday October 03, 2024 at the age of 74. He was surrounded by his loving family and friends in his final moments. He was a man of immense humor and wisdom, cherishing every moment spent with his loved ones.

Tom was born on February 12, 1950, in Toledo Ohio. He graduated St. Francis de Sales High School and entered the military shortly after. During his time in the Army, he relocated to Colorado where he met the love of his life. On January 3, 1975, he married Nancy and soon after he received a bachelor's degree in marketing from Metropolitan State College.

Tom had a love for skiing and shared that love by becoming an instructor for handicapped skiers with the National Sports Center for the Disabled (NSCD). He also had a passion for tennis and played competitively for years until he discovered running which became his new obsession. Tom loved running so much he would train in any weather and would soon be entering marathons, even talking his granddaughter into joining him! Tom coached six years of soccer for his son and never missed a game or performance for any of his children or grandchildren. Tom's greatest loves in this world besides his family were music, golf, traveling and of course The Ohio State Buckeyes.

Tom is preceded in death by his parents Thomas and Phyllis McNerney and his younger brother Kevin McNerney. He is survived by his devoted wife Nancy Ann and his children Michelle and Timothy (Shandra). Tom is a grandfather to six grandchildren and five great grandchildren. He is also survived by six siblings and numerous nieces and nephews and great nieces and nephews. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Esophageal Cancer Awareness Association Inc. (ECAA) or EC Aware.

CELEBRATING LOCAL BEAUTY.



ISSUE 490 Oct. 14, 2024

# ART & SOL

## BLM CELEBRATES 25 YEARS OF GUNNISON GORGE NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA



*Clockwise L-R-Gunnison Gorge; whitewater rafting in the Gorge. Courtesy photos by Jerry Sintz. Below left-Sixth graders watch Colorado Parks and Wildlife biologists at work along the Gunnison River during Cottonwood Days. Courtesy photo BLM.*

### *Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE— The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) invites public land enthusiasts everywhere to join in celebrating the 25th anniversary of Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area (NCA) and Wilderness. Driven by local community efforts, the nearly 63,000-acre NCA was established on Oct. 21, 1999 to recognize and protect the area's outstanding natural, cultural, geologic, scenic, wilderness, and recreation resources.

Several public events are planned to mark the occasion. All require registration and space may be limited:

**Oct. 18, 6:30-8 PM - Eagle Rock Shelter Talk, Bill Heddle's Recreation Center, Delta:** Learn about the archaeological discoveries of Eagle Rock Shelter in this one-hour lecture with retired BLM archeologist, Glade Hadden.

**Oct. 19, 9 AM and 10:15 AM - Eagle Rock Shelter Hike:** Join Glade Hadden and BLM staff on a 1.5-mile hike to one of Colorado's oldest archeological sites.

**Oct. 19, Noon to 2:30 PM, Gunnison Gorge Pleasure Park:** A celebration highlighted by uplifting words, fond remembrances, and light refreshments.

Visit <https://www.coloradocanyonsassociation.org/events/gunnisongorge-anniversary> for event details and to register.



*Extra Ordinary Pub Crawl*

# Whispers in the Alleys

This exclusive event caters to adult thrill seekers eager to uncover what lurks in the downtown alleys' darkness. Accompanied by the local museum ghost expert, you'll hear stories intertwining history with the eerie tales of Montrose's shadows. The tour stops at unique historical buildings, providing ample time to absorb the historical ambiance and sample various libations. Spaces for this special crawl are limited. Tickets cost \$25 per person. RSVP by calling 970-249-2085 or emailing [info@montrosehistory.org](mailto:info@montrosehistory.org). (The ticket price includes appetizers and the guided tour with the local historian; drinks are not included). The tour begins at the Montrose Historical Museum at 6:00 pm on Friday Oct. 18th





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## COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

### MAGIC CIRCLE PLAYERS: A GENTLEMAN'S GUIDE TO LOVE AND MURDER

#### *Magic Circle Players*

MONTROSE-A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder is a knock-'em dead, uproarious hit musical comedy, with ten Tony nominations including Best Musical winner for 2014. Set in 1907 London, Monty Navarro, a penniless clerk, is informed after the death of his mother that he is ninth in line to inherit the earldom of Highhurst, controlled by the wealthy D'Ysquith banking family. After the imperious ruling Lord dismisses Monty's claim of being a relative, the eight D'Ysquiths ahead of young Mr. Navarro begin dying in the most creative, side-splitting ways. This fast-paced musical romp is filled with unforgettable music, soaring ballads and non-stop laughs that will have audiences dying with laughter. Directed by Kathy Murdoch, Assistant Director Everett Gregory. Tickets at [magiccircleplayers.com](https://magiccircleplayers.com). Magic Circle Players, 420 S 12th St, Montrose. Box office: 970-249-7838.

#### *Performance dates:*

Friday, November 1, 2024 - 07:30 PM MDT  
Saturday, November 2, 2024 - 07:30 PM MDT  
Sunday, November 3, 2024 - 02:00 PM MDT  
Friday, November 8, 2024 - 07:30 PM MDT  
Saturday, November 9, 2024 - 07:30 PM MDT  
Sunday, November 10, 2024 - 02:00 PM MDT  
Friday, November 15, 2024 - 07:30 PM MDT  
Saturday, November 16, 2024 - 07:30 PM MDT  
Sunday, November 17, 2024 - 02:00 PM MDT  
Friday, November 22, 2024 - 07:30 PM MDT  
Saturday, November 23, 2024 - 07:30 PM MDT



# MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY

## ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

**Office Hours:** By appointment.

**Contact Information:** (970) 249-2451

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

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

Sunday Worship. Wednesdays 11AM, Mid-  
week prayer and communion, Wednes-  
day, Noon, Multi-denominational Commu-  
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All Saints Anglican Church is an Evangelical  
Anglican Church committed to the minis-  
try of Word, Sacrament, and Spirit. Our  
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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://](https://celebrationmontrose.org/)

[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.

## COMMUNITY SPIRIT CHURCH

**United Church of Christ (UCC)**

**Address:** 504 N. 1st Street (HAP Building)

**Office hours:** Call or text for appointment

**Phone:** 970-765-7070

**Email:** [spirit@communityspiritucc.org](mailto:spirit@communityspiritucc.org)

**Website:** [communityspiritucc.org](http://communityspiritucc.org)

**Current Pastor:** Rev. Wendy Kidd

**Worship service:** Sundays at 11am

**Mission:** Our commitment to a more inclu-  
sive and accepting world is steadfast, and  
we will continue to work towards a future

where everyone can live freely and au-  
thentically.

**Demographics:** We are a small congrega-  
tion of mostly adults and seniors, however,  
we are always ready to welcome families  
and children.

## 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.** 10AM on Satur-  
days with potluck at Noon. Children's  
Church will be offered as needed.

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.



# MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY From previous pg

## 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 older 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, [info@fpcmontrose.com](mailto:info@fpcmontrose.com), [www.fpcmontrose.com](http://www.fpcmontrose.com)

**Pastor:** Rev. Dr. Jesse G. Mabanglo

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

*support one another through spiritual growth, worship, and service in our community, country, and world. We also encourage children and youth to grow their relationship with Christ through our children and student ministries.*

## 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)

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

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

**Worship service times:**

8:30 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual

9:45 a.m. Christian Education & Fellowship

11 a.m. Sanctuary

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

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

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

## ROSEMONT BAPTIST CHURCH

**Affiliation:** Southern Baptist

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

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

**Contact information:**

Phone: 970.249.4887

website: [www.RosemontBaptist.org](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.*

# MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY From previous pg

## 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:** [ststephensmontrose@yahoo.com](mailto:ststephensmontrose@yahoo.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).

## 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:email: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://](https://www.summitchurchmontrose.org/events)

[www.summitchurchmontrose.org/events](http://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?



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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

**Oct. 16**-Did you ever wonder about the colors in rock art? Please join us for Creating Color in Prehistoric Art of the Southwest by avocational archaeologist Connie Massingale. Oct. 16 at 7pm at the United Methodist Church 19 S Park Ave Montrose. Free.

**Oct. 18-19**-Montrose Womans' Club Bazaar, Friendship Hall - 9am to 4pm, Admission is free.

**Oct. 18**-Montrose Area Woodturners will host their 2024 Art Exhibition and Sale, Friday, Oct. 18, 4 pm - 7 pm at the Cobble Creek Clubhouse 699 Cobble Dr.

**Oct. 21**-Ribbon cutting for new accessible playground, 4pm at Delta County Fairgrounds, keynote speakers, refreshments, and play time. 4pm

**Oct. 24**-The League of Women Voters of the Uncompahgre, which serves Delta, Montrose, and Ouray counties, and the City of Montrose will host a candidate forum for the State Senate District 5 race on Thursday, Oct. 24 from 6 pm to 7 pm. The forum will take place at the Montrose City Council Chambers, 107 Cascade, in Montrose. Doors will open at 5:30. The public is welcome and will have the opportunity to submit written questions as they arrive at the Forum. The event will be livestreamed, recorded, and available both at the League's website at [www.lwv-uv.org](http://www.lwv-uv.org), and on the City's YouTube

**Nov. 7**-The Montrose Women's Giving Club meets Nov. 7 at 5:30pm. at Bridges Golf and Country Club. All women are invited.

**Nov. 12**-The City of Montrose will begin its annual fall [leaf cleanup](#) on Monday, Nov. 12, with the annual collection service running through Dec. 5. Residents can use any brand of clear bags to collect leaves and place them on the curb for the city's pickup service. If scheduling is necessary, call 970.240.1480. The pickup service is free for City of Montrose utility customers. No yard waste other than leaves will be accepted.

## READER PHOTO SPOTLIGHT: LINDA LAKE



*Northern lights captured by local Photographer Linda Lake.*



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