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the Montrose Mirror

PROJECT 7 2ND TREATMENT FACILITY DRAWS QUESTIONS

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE-On Thursday, Oct. 24, the Project 7 Water Authority Board of Directors held their Budget Hearing and monthly meeting at headquarters. Approximately 30 people were in attendance, of which a handful were citizens. The majority was comprised of staff, managers, and board members (plus alternates).

All six board members were present for the more than four-hour meeting, which included an executive session following the regular meeting. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jake Foreman. The minutes for the September 26, 2024, meeting were approved; changes to the agenda included combining Resolution 2024-4 and Resolution 2023-5 "as a package".

There was no public comment during **Public Input**. However, later in the meeting a request to make public comment on an agenda item was denied.

Proof of Publication - Budget Hearing.

Foreman presented photocopies

Continued pg 18



DA Davidson representative Greg Swartz (standing) said, "Affordability is what should decide this project, not the GMP [Guaranteed Maximum Price]." Chipeta Board Representative John McCollum (seated center) expressed concerns, "What I'm trying to figure out, is how can I go back to my constituents? How do we guarantee to our constituents we are going to meet our goal? Not without [knowing] the GMP." Photo by Gail Marvel.

COLORADO EMULATING CALIFORNIA? A LOOK AT THE NUMBERS



California and Colorado both have significant housing shortages. Photo by B. Switzer.

By Steve Middendorp

MONTROSE-Is Colorado turning into another California? That is a commonly heard statement on the Western Slope that deserves to be explored. Long-time Colorado residents are increasingly concerned about their home becoming more like the West Coast state, which has seen increased inflation, an affordability crisis, higher taxes, housing shortages, and more crime. So how does Colorado compare to California?

Population migration

Colorado is a popular settling place for people who want to move to a new state, but there have been relatively neutral migration numbers over the last couple of years.

Census data shows that 229,876 people moved to Colorado in [2022](#) while 239,200 moved out. In 2021, 33,648 people moved from California to Colorado and another 29,754 moved here from Texas. Of the people moving to Colorado,

Continued pg 61

[With Stagnant Funding From State and Feds, Region 10 Steps Up To Serve Seniors!](#)

[City Open House Considers Future of Historic Power Plant!](#)

[Grand Valley Agriculture: Early 1900's: By Joe Zeni and Kathryn R. Burke](#)

[Red Hawks Sports: By Cliff Dodge!](#)

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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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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

CORRECTION TO OCT. 14 LETTER BY DEE LAIRD

Ms. Switzer,

In an effort to ensure that our Citizens are armed with accurate information. I am writing to correct the letter published in the Montrose Mirror on Monday, October 14 by Mr. Dee Laird regarding Cindy Dunlap. Mrs. Dunlap has and continues to be a tremendous asset to Montrose County, selflessly serving all of us in a manner that

far exceeds expectations. Her behind-the-scenes objectively applied knowledge is to be commended. Due to these attributes, I would like to clarify that Cindy Dunlap continues to serve as the Finance Director and has not been demoted.

During the July 17 BOCC meeting, Emily Sanchez was, according to standard practices, Jon Waschbusch's successor and

appointed as the interim "Budget Officer" to guide us through the current budgeting process.

For additional questions regarding Montrose County, as well as the budget process, please reach out to me and I'll gladly make myself available.

Montrose County Manager
Frank Rodriguez



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Editor:

My name is Ellen Angeles, and I am running for CD3 State Board of Education. As a recently retired teacher with over 20 years of experience, a parent, and a longtime advocate for public education, I have dedicated my life to serving my community. Throughout my career, I've worked in education, banking, sales, and fundraising, which has given me a broad understanding of how to manage budgets, engage with people, and build strong relationships. My experience as a community organizer has also deepened my knowledge

of the needs of our district, and I've been actively involved in improving our school district, recreation center, and public library.

I am running because I believe our district needs a representative committed to improving public education, increasing transparency, and ensuring financial responsibility.

Education is the foundation of a thriving society, and I will work tirelessly to ensure that our schools are fully funded and that all students have equitable access to opportunities. I will advocate for highly qual-

ified educators who are well-compensated because I know firsthand how crucial they are in shaping the future of our children.

My goal is to foster stronger community engagement.

I want to hear from the people I serve and

ensure their voices are heard. I believe in working collaboratively with community members to find solutions that work for everyone, and I will prioritize transparency in all decision-making processes to build trust and accountability.

People should vote for me because I have the experience, dedication, and passion necessary to bring positive change to our district. I understand the importance of fiscal responsibility and will work to ensure that taxpayer dollars are spent wisely and efficiently. My background in education, community service, and finance has prepared me to navigate the complexities of the position.

I am committed to being an accessible and responsive representative, someone who listens and takes action on the issues that matter most to our community. I believe that with the right leadership, we can create a stronger, more equitable future for everyone. Please visit my website to learn more about me and see my endorsements at www.EllenforColorado.com. That is why I am asking for your support and your vote. Together, we can make a difference.

Ellen Angeles, Montrose



Ellen Angeles. Courtesy photo.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

COLORADO IS TURNING INTO ANOTHER CALIFORNIA

Editor:

Living in Colorado For 76 years and love the country, Mother Nature, I'm about to leave.

The State is turning into another California and run by The Other life Style Governor and Democrats gone wild with power. The State is Taxing and controlling the people right out of their homes. SS barely covers my expenses and paying property tax is difficult. Working for 55 years to own a house and the Government is trying to tax it away. Montrose is on the same path as the Front Range, pet projects and wages to the top employees exceeding citizens' income. Paying for food, fuel, heat and owning a home is not the American Dream anymore, It's just trying to survive.

I would love to divide Colorado into 3 sections

1. Thirty miles outside of Aurora, and South of Pueblo join Kansas.
2. Along the Continual Divide join Utah or Wyoming.
3. Leave the Front Range Cities to die in their Democratic controlled System.

If things don't change the working people of Colorado will spend and lose all they have worked for to survive. Seniors will be on the streets begging for food and a place to sleep.

Lynn Gabehart, Montrose

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

PLEASE JOIN ME AT THE NOV. 19 CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Hello Montrose Residents –

According to the recent Public Safety edition of the "City Beat" newsletter, "Code enforcement emerged from the 2023 Community Survey as one of residents' top three priorities for the city over the next two years."

Our neighbors in Gunnison, a town of 5,000, are served by three civilian Neighborhood Services Officers who respond to "calls for service include parking problems, neighbor complaints, animals running at large, and illegal dumping." I was instrumental in developing this response and believe it could serve the City of Montrose quite well. Please join me at the Nov. 19 City Council meeting at 6pm during Public Comment to have your voice heard by our elected officials if you should agree.

Where do we start to build an efficient response to the lack of code enforcement faced over decades in this town? Updated codes are needed to address these issues, including noise, as well as staff to educate the community in compliance and enforcement. Civilian employees require substantially less training than Police Officers and can provide important assistance to their colleagues on the street. If the department has money to create a mounted horse patrol, money should be available to improve the City's response to nuisances.

Perhaps some of the funds going toward promotion of the "Montrose Lifestyle" can be used to coordinate care of our streets and neighborhoods overgrown with weeds, junk and litter? We can build on the model that Gunnison has successfully

built. I believe Montrose deserves the same and can create a similar response for our community.

Please attend on Nov.19th, or write a letter if you are interested in this conversation and want to see action to get things started. I am more than happy to volunteer my time & skills to build positive momentum moving forward in service to the beauty of our town. Consider the potential impact possible when a dedicated team works diligently toward a common goal. Positive community building is contagious, especially in small, beloved towns like Montrose. Let's all work together to have our voices heard and be part of creating the solution.

Thank YOU for listening!

Most sincerely,

Tricia Winslow, Montrose



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*Paid for by the Committee To Elect Rick Dunlap

I'd rather trust my neighbors with more freedom than politicians with more power.

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Larry Don Suckla for House District 58

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COMMISSIONER PROFILES:



Polar Opposites, Anderson and Suckla Find Common Ground. The unlikely alliance of liberal Democrat Jason Anderson (left above) and conservative independent Larry Don Suckla (right above) is better described as a case study in how county commissioners - even those worlds apart in political philosophy - are ideally supposed to get along. Anderson (Saguache) and Suckla (Montezuma) say they are, in many ways, a reflection of the constituents of their rural counties. Saguache's natural beauty attracts a diverse group of new residents from across the world while Montezuma's economic foundation is built on logging, farming, ranching and CO2 production, which is why the two commissioners may differ on an issue like the environment. "My folks are big on protecting the environment, and I am too," says Anderson. "My folks see the land as the source of their livelihood," says Suckla. But even at that, they find common ground on an issue like cleaner forms of energy and they actually went together to the International Solar Institute in Washington, DC, to learn more about the opportunities. The more they have been around each other- mainly at CCI and NACo meetings - the more they appreciate their friendship.

"In a bar fight, I know Larry Don's got my back," laughs Anderson. "Jason is a world traveler who has expanded my horizons in so many ways, says Suckla. Anderson credits Suckla with helping him understand the values of "old Colorado." By the same token, Suckla says Anderson has helped him better relate to environmental groups and deal with the impact of demographic changes and diversity. It helps that both have children roughly the same ages and love the outdoors and competitive mountain biking (where they are, not coincidentally, on the same team), but it took a certain courage on both their parts to develop a lasting relationship. "The lesson here is that (as commissioners) we're really all in this together, regardless of our political views," said Anderson. "It would be sad if we had let politics keep us apart," says Suckla. "I think we would each have missed out."

Written by Luis Garcia, January 2017

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WITH STAGNANT FUNDING FROM STATE AND FEDS, REGION 10 STEPS UP TO SERVE SENIORS

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE—When Region 10 Community Living Services Director Brian Bowler spoke to City of Montrose officials during a recent work session, he discussed the importance of contributions to Region 10 from member municipalities to supplement scarce funding from state and federal sources.

After hearing from Bowler and from Region 10 Executive Director Michelle Haynes, the City of Montrose will consider an action item regarding a possible increase to Region 10 dues at the regular city council meeting of Nov. 5, Deputy City Manager Ann Morgenthaler said.

Meanwhile, the *Mirror* spoke with Bowler last week to learn how local programs are stepping up to meet the needs of seniors in the community.

The Region 10 League for Economic Assistance & Planning provides programs in support of community needs and economic development in one of Colorado's 14 economic development regions, the Central Western Slope Region. Region 10 includes Delta, Montrose, Ouray, San Miguel, Gunnison, and Hinsdale counties. All six counties are designated Enterprise Zones.

For the past five years funding for the Older Americans Act, which funds the Region 10 Area Agency on Aging (AAA), has been flat, Bowler said. Meanwhile, the need for services has not diminished. It's

not merely a local problem, he noted. "We're seeing this worldwide."

With increasing pressure on the AAA, Region 10 will also seek additional grant funding, Bowler said. Partner Organizations help to ease some of the burden, including member municipalities and regional non-profits such as Volunteers of America, Shepherd's Hand, Tri-County Health Network, and All Points Transit, which provide support for local services. Despite funding challenges, most AAA services are still intact—especially those run largely by volunteers, Bowler said. By working together, local communities can meet local needs, he added. "We need to be mindful of each other, and of our seniors."

Senior resources presently available in Montrose include the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), Caregiver Respite, and Home Care.

Congregate meals are now held at the Mexican American Development Association (MADA) on Wednesdays, Bowler said.

Senior meals are delivered as well, with assistance from The Shepherd's Hand, a non-profit that provides services to homeless and hungry people five days a week. "Region 10 runs the program. We package the food and send drivers out to peoples' houses every Monday, Wednesday and Friday," said Miranda, who runs the front desk at the Shepherd's Hand. Of the roughly 50 people who come to The Shep-

herd's hand for services every weekday, around 10 to 15 are senior citizens, she said. "Quite a few people come in here."

Volunteers of America is a national non-profit that has also joined forces with Region 10 to provide essential services to seniors in West Central Colorado.

"Unfortunately, recent funding cuts to Region 10 and the Area Agency on Aging have placed essential programs for our elder population at risk," said Craig Ammermann, VP of Health Services & Regional Operations for VOA. "Volunteers of America National Services is deeply concerned about the impact these reductions may have on the number of meals our Senior Community Meals program will be able to provide to vulnerable seniors across our service area. For many of these individuals, our meals are often their primary source of nutrition. In addition, the meals program also provides connection, dignity, and hope."

"We are committed to continuing our mission of serving seniors, but we cannot do it alone. The need for community support is greater than ever," he said. "Every donation, no matter the size, directly helps us continue delivering meals to those who need it most."

The Senior Community Meals program receives funding through the Area Agency on Aging/Region 10.

Read more about SCM at seniorcommunitymeals.org.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

WHY HAS RECYCLING BEEN PICKED UP AND DUMPED INTO THE TRASH TRUCK?

Editor:

We live in English Gardens we normally get our recycling picked up in the afternoon we have seen that the recycling has been picked up and dumped into the trash truck. I don't know why this is happening but we separate our recyclables and expect for them to be picked up by the Recycle truck and recycled.

We pay for recycling and should expect that it will be done, or at least a good explanation for why it is not being done.

Ric Simon



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

THE WILD ANIMAL SANCTUARY ENDORSES PROP 127

Editor:

The Wild Animal Sanctuary, headquartered in Weld County, is a proud endorser of Prop 127, and we urge all Coloradans to vote Yes on 127.

For 44 years, I've been working to promote safety for big cats and other wildlife at the Wild Animal Sanctuary. With more than 1,000 big cats, bears, and other large mammals rescued from unsafe circumstances throughout the U.S. and on several other continents, the sanctuary is, by many measures, the biggest and most successful of its kind in the world.

Our work has always gone beyond the boundaries of our 34,000 acres in Weld, Baca County, and Moffat counties. Our core work is to prevent cruelty to wildlife.

Using dogs to chase and attack a mountain lion until the animal climbs a tree to escape the pack and then shooting the cornered animal as it cowers 40 feet off the ground. The use of GPS tracking equipment rigs the trophy hunt.

Bobcats are killed with the aid of dogs, but also subjected to commercial trapping, an underhanded method that in-

volves first baiting the cat to step into a cage and then bludgeoning or strangling the animal once caught in the device. It's all done to sell furs to Chinese elites.

It's time to relegate the inhumane, unsporting practices of trophy hunting and commercial trapping of bobcats to the history books and show that Coloradans value the ecological and economic benefits mountain lions and bobcats bring to our state.

*Pat Craig, Executive Director
The Wild Animal Sanctuary
Keenesburg, CO*

SS4A Grant - Safe Streets and Roads for All

Public Workshop - November 7, 2024

5:30 p.m.

Public Works Meeting Room

63160 LaSalle Road

Montrose

Montrose County intends to develop a new Safety Action Plan using a data-driven methodology to improve safety and enhance mobility for all roadway users.

Public input is crucial to develop an Implementation Plan.

The Montrose County Safety Action Plan will be a Vision Zero plan and will be led by the county and based on extensive and inclusive community outreach!

Please join us for our third public workshop to learn more and provide input.

A safer Montrose County will promote multi-modal mobility and improve its economic prospects.





CITIZENS OF MONTROSE COUNTY

**ITS TIME TO
VOTE**



You still have time to make the right
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**Tuesday
NOVEMBER 5th**

**TRISHA
MURRAY**

**COUNTY COMMISSIONER
DISTRICT 3**

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CITY HOSTS OPEN HOUSE TO CONSIDER FUTURE OF THE HISTORIC BULLOCK POWER PLANT



Photo by Harry Switzer.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-From public employees and city officials to local non-profits and citizens, the crowd that turned out for a City of Montrose open house on Wednesday Oct. 23 was a diverse group. What they had in common was a renewed interest in an almost forgotten bit of Montrose history. Following the City's acquisition of the former Bullock Electric Steam Plant property in 2021, new consideration has been given to its future.

The Bullock Plant has long been a decaying structure on a parcel of land near the Uncompahgre River, overgrown with weeds. Still, the Bullock Plant serves as a silent reminder of an industry that altered the course of history.

The world itself was forever changed in 1891, after the power plant at Ames, Colorado near Telluride [became the first power station in the world to transmit alternating current](#) at high voltage for power purposes. Soon, electric power became a reality in Montrose as well.

As noted by researchers at [Fort Lewis College in Durango](#), "The Western Colorado Power Company (WCPC) was organized on March 12, 1913. By the next year it had consolidated the operations of eight major companies: the Durango Gas and Electric Company, San Juan Water and Power Company, Nunn's Telluride Power Company, the Telluride Electric Light Com-



City of Montrose Community Development staff Chris Ottinger and Jace Hochwalt.

pany, and (in 1914) the Ouray Power and Light Company, Montrose Electric Light and Power Company, Delta Electric Light Company, and Ridgway Electric Company. The new Western Colorado Power Company encompassed thirty predecessor companies, which had an average corporate life of only six years. Networking of the formerly isolated power plants was a daring concept, never before attempted on this scale. It involved construction of transmission lines through the steep mountains and construction of additional power generation sources. One result was a sharp decrease in the costs of electrical service. Before the turn of the century, users paid up to \$4 a month to light up four dim bulbs; fifty years later the average homeowner could light the entire house for considerably less than that."

In 2003, a [blogger named Christina Ray](#) was able to tour the old Bullock plant, and prepared a report with assistance from Marilyn Cox, then Curator of the Montrose County Historical Society and Museum, and Joe Crain of E-electric Service: "The first unit was built in Montrose in 1950 as part of a 25-year public power agreement and at the time was called the Montrose Steam Electric Plant. The second unit went on line in 1953, and the plant

name later changed to James A Bullock Steam Electric SE. The plant was named for James A. Bullock, the vice president and general manager of Western Colorado Power Company from 1938 to his retirement."

Today, the City of Montrose plans to restore the site as a community asset following an analysis of Brownfield Cleanup alternatives for the site. Last Wednesday's open house was an opportunity for City staff to share current plans for the historic facility, led by the Community Development team, Jace Hochwalt and Chris Ottinger. A document prepared by staff notes the current plans for the plant, which was acquired by the City on Oct. 12, 2021. "The future of the building is to be maintained by the City for a combination of public and private use. Cleanup of this particular property will encourage revitalization for a large area along the river including new shovel ready properties, community activities, park, and green space, and creating a connection to existing river trails..."

There are plans to coordinate the project with the Montrose County School District; overall cleanup and revitalization will take place in three major stages, according to reports prepared by staff.



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PROJECT 7 2ND TREATMENT FACILITY DRAWS QUESTIONS *From pg 1*

of advertisements published in newspapers.

Regional Water Supply Resiliency Update:

Deputy Project Manager for Project 7 Miles Graham gave a PowerPoint presentation. He said, "This is down memory lane from where we've been, to get up to where this was first presented in 2023. There are a lot of numbers flying around on this project. My intent is to make sure before we get to big milestones that we get to the foundation. A strong foundation for what we are considering now."

Graham's timeline included:

2000-2023 – Background and history.

2010 – Expanding and increasing storage.

2013 – A transmission line proposed.

2018 – Water chemistry in Ridgway.

2019 – 2022 – Full package brought together at the Colona site. Ridgway site not feasible.

2023 – Plant and Transmission.

2019-2022 – Estimated cost \$50M to \$100M.

Graham said, "Eighteen alternatives have been looked at over the years and contemplated. Where and what cost. Nothing ever gets less expensive as time goes on. No one is questioning the necessity, but the affordability."

D.A. Davidson Municipal Advisors Representative Greg Swartz said "Our role here is to address matters relating to financials. Our role and responsibility are Duty of Care and Duty of Loyalty. When you sell bonds, we cannot underwrite bonds. Why is Project 7 doing this...I'm doing a lot of, why this or why that? Part of the evolution — [at] some point you have to be more structured. We're at that evolution point where we need more attorneys [allocation, consolidation, expansion, compacity problems]. We are going from less formally organized to more formally organized. Member agencies coming together to do things they can't do on their own. Project 7's Water Authority is evolving."

Swartz noted that in Colorado there are 15 funding agencies for water and sewer. He said, "There is not a single [funding] source. In Project 7 there are six agencies.

Our [Project 7] financial model is top down; member agency's financial model is "bottom up". They look at affordability; what impact there is to the average residential user. Our [Project 7] goal is not to fund it, but our goal is to fund it as affordably as possible. How to structure the debt. How we fund, we will know more as we proceed with this part of the process."

Swartz continued, "Where we are at is what we observe happening across the US today. It's not an issue of transparency. It's a natural part of the process to evolve in structure. This is not to finance the project, but to make it affordable."

Project team member Rick Huggins gave a brief PowerPoint funding update to the board, with detailed financial information provided in board packets. Although Huggins did not give the estimated cost during the meeting, the *Mirror* verified the cost for the project remains at \$172,394,936, as presented in the Oct. 2 open house. In email correspondence Graham said, "It is important to clarify that no downsizing of the project has been proposed."

The Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) has yet to be determined. Chipeta Water District Representative John McCollum said, "What I'm trying to figure out, is how can I go back to my constituents? How do we guarantee to our constituents we are going to meet our goal? Not without [knowing] the GMP."

The GMP is tentatively scheduled to be determined at a Special Meeting held on Dec. 19.

Graham said, "We need to get the solid foundation first."

Swartz said, "The GMP has three parts – known costs, unknown events, and fair fee. We have to have the GMP to allow Project 7 to lock in the price." Swartz cautioned the board about extending the GMP [decision beyond February]. He said, "Affordability is what should decide this project, not the GMP."

Background: In a previous meeting the board had authorized a loan in the amount of \$28M but it has now been determined the need is for only \$17M.

Previously Swartz recommended downsizing the Colorado Water Resources and

Power Development Authority loan. Strategically the Project 7 team is trying to maximize grants, minimize debt, and posture themselves in the most beneficial set of terms.

Pipeline Design Update:

Subcontractor bids are due Oct. 28. There is a three-year construction schedule which will be in the Dec. 12 board packet, with a Special Meeting planned for Dec. 19. The team will come back to the Board with Phase II construction and a decision is expected to come in late February.

City of Montrose Representative David Bries said, "We won't have the info on the \$30M grant [by that time]. That's federal funding with strings attached." Bries emphasized that \$30M is a big percentage of the proposed \$185M cost of the project.

Future Considerations:

Although not an issue on the table now, the board was told that in the future they would have to decide who would operate the new facility. It was suggested the operation would likely go to three entities; the City of Montrose, Tri County, and Project 7.

Newly hired Project 7 Attorney Sarah Abbott said, "We'll come back with a recommendation to give you a heads up."

Bries said, "We need the cost and benefits so that everyone is on the same page. Using Tri County infrastructure will eliminate some pump stations [cost savings for Tri County], but it may be a negative for their hydro."

Authority Manager's Report – Adam Turner.

Background: Minutes from the April 25 board meeting state, "Manager Turner reported that a neighboring piece of property to the proposed resiliency plant was for sale and possible foreclosure." After discussion, Bries proposed Turner go forward to purchase the property if it were reasonably priced.

There was no May meeting.

Minutes from the June 27 meeting state, "Manager Turner said the closing on the Stevens property was done the previous week and he had been contacted by CPW to possibly rent the house. He asked the

PROJECT 7 2ND TREATMENT FACILITY DRAWS QUESTIONS From previous pg

board for approval to rent the house for \$2500 per month..."

The minutes of April and May do not describe the Stevens property, nor do they state the purchase price of the property.

Turner began his report, "The Stevens property has been rented. Three out of 27 landowners won't respond to anything [easement inquiry]. We can use eminent domain to bring them to the table if necessary to engage them in conversation. It's part of getting people to the bargaining table."

Old Business:

There was considerable discussion on Resolution 2024-4 and Resolution 2024-5 (CWRPDA Loan of up to \$27 M Reimbursement Resolution). It was noted that the loan amount was \$28M, rather than \$27M.

Board member McCollum questioned the

wording of the resolution and requested that the resolution specifically state that the loan amount would be \$17M, which would ensure that the board would not then have the opportunity to tap into the remaining \$11M at a later date.

Financial advisor Swartz wanted the board to "bank" the \$11M.

The general consensus seemed to be that the \$11 M could be discussed at a later date and changing the resolution wording was not necessary at this time.

There was also considerable discussion on who would sign the resolutions; the board chair, or the secretary/treasurer. The confusion stemmed from Project 7's standard procedures vs. the unique requirements associated with the source funding (bond proceeds) that the Colorado Water Resource and Power Development Authority will use to fund a loan to Project 7.

The regular meeting was adjourned, and the board entered Executive Session for the purpose of receiving legal advice.

PROJECT 7 BACKGROUND:

Established on September 29, 1977, the Project 7 Water Authority is a cooperative among seven water entities that provides domestic water to the municipalities and rural areas of the Uncompahgre River Valley.

The seven entities that represent the Project 7 Water Authority are:

The City of Montrose

The City of Delta

The Town of Olathe

The Tri-County Water Conservancy District

The Chipeta Water District

The Menoken Water District

The Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association (non-voting member).

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

WHAT ABOUT 'SAVE THE HUMAN BABIES?'

Dear Editor:

The October 21, 2024 issue of The Montrose Mirror contained 19 letters to the editor urging people to vote yes on prop 127 to forbid the designed hunting of large cats in Colorado. There were two letters asking for votes against Prop 79 that would allow the abortion of babies at almost any time.

Many of us have lived through various campaigns to save the whales, save the seal pups, save the spotted owls; in other words, save the animals. What about "Save the human babies"? How is it that we have such empathy for the animal kingdom, yet have so little regard for the human side of things?

Whether one believes in a Creator or not, human life is precious and should not be considered so callously as to eliminate a life during its development. We strive to protect the lesser creatures and strive to NOT protect our own kind!

It's sad that people are so uncaring of human life that they don't take steps to prevent conception but instead take steps to snuff out a life that they care-lessly created.

Bob Ernst, Montrose, CO

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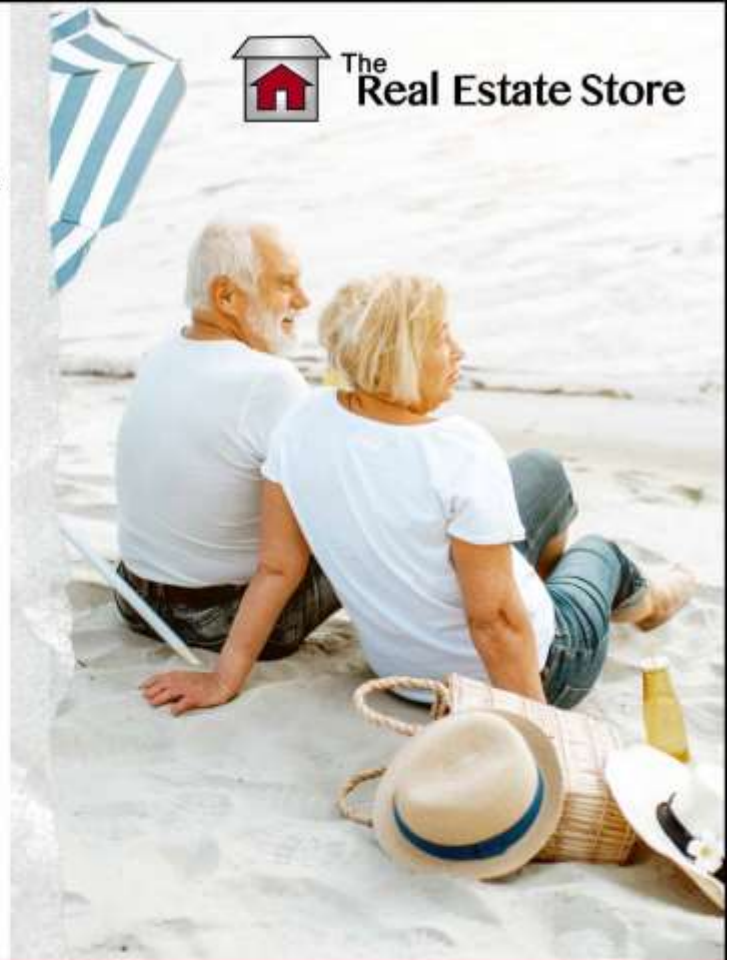
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

STATE PATROL WARNS PEDESTRIANS TO AVOID ROADWAYS NOT DESIGNED FOR PEDESTRIAN USE

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE—Unlike neighborhood streets or roads with sidewalks, designated bike lanes or large

shoulders, many highways and rural roadways are not designed for pedestrian use. When

pedestrians are present on access-controlled roads, such as highways, they are placing

themselves and motorists at great risk and can be ticketed, or worse, injured or killed.

Looking at data from complete years over a five-year period (2019-2023), the Colorado State Patrol investigated 292 crashes involving a person on a roadway where they were not

permitted. These crashes resulted in a fatality or serious injury 53.1% of the time.

Looking at this year's data from January through September 2024, incidents have outpaced 2023. Data from January 1 through September 30, 2024, show a 72% increase in the same time period as 2023. There were 25 pedestrian-involved crashes on interstates and State Highways last year (Jan-Sept) and 43 in 2024 (Jan – Sept).

“Crossing a highway on foot or walking alongside a road that is not designed for pedestrians is extremely dangerous,” said Col. Matthew C. Packard, chief of the Colorado State Patrol. “Pedestrians are less likely to survive these collisions. Drivers aren’t expecting to see people on these types of roads, and highway speeds reduce reaction time and require longer stopping distances, leading to devastating collisions if a pedestrian enters a lane or a vehicle fails to maintain proper lane position. Road debris can also be launched from passing vehicles.”

Looking at a five-year period (2019 – 2023) fatal and injury crashes caused by a pedestrian being in a roadway where not permitted, the five counties included (from highest to lowest):

1. Adams County
2. Pueblo County
3. Douglas County
4. Jefferson County

5. Boulder County

Narrowing further, the data over this same time period found that the top five roadways for fatal and injury crashes by a pedestrian being in a roadway where not permitted included (from highest to lowest)

1. I-25
2. H287
3. H50
4. I-70
5. H6

If you see someone in an unsafe situation on a highway, the Colorado State Patrol

recommends safely pulling off the highway, parking and calling 9-1-1 for assistance.

If your vehicle breaks down and you cannot exit the highway first, pull off the road as far as possible, put your hazard lights on, and call for help. If you can place yourself safely on the opposite side of a guardrail or up on a hill, exit the car on the non-traffic side and move to the safest possible location. If you can't call for help and need to walk, go to the nearest exit or safe location by walking, facing traffic as close to the edge of the road as safely as possible.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

HUNTING MOUNTAIN LIONS WHO ARE NOT CAUSING ISSUES WITH HUMANS INCREASES CONFLICTS

Editor:

I am an organic farmer who depends on my goats and chickens for income. I live in mountain lion territory and take the necessary precautions to protect my livestock and the apex predators in my area.

I have lived with Colorado's mountain lions my entire life and understand that hunting mountain lions who are not causing issues with humans increases conflicts. Renowned carnivore biologist Mark Elbroch, who has devoted decades to mountain lion research, has concluded "hunting may increase negative inter-

actions between mountain lions and people and livestock, rather than decrease them."

When I hike on my property, I only fear encounters with hunters who routinely trespass, poach, and steal our trail cameras. These hunters have also let loose packs of dogs to chase the bobcats and lions who live on our private land. If they kill the mountain lions who have established this territory the younger juveniles will move in and are more likely to kill my goats and chickens.

If the hunters kill a mother, she loses her

ability to teach her children to stay away from people and their livestock.

I had the privilege of having two encounters with the dominant male lion in this territory last Fall as we locked eyes in mutual respect. Those moments solidified my resolve to protect his species from cruel and needless trophy kills.

Coloradans, join me in voting yes on proposition 127 to protect the mountain lions in our state and, in turn, our pets and livestock too.

Thank you!

Deanna Meyer, Sedalia, CO

MONTROSE PARENTS DESERVE SCHOOL CHOICE FOR THEIR CHILDREN

Editor:

Parents used to be the primary people deciding what was best for their children. Choices whether they got immunizations, and how they got disciplined, Parents decided what was taught in schools and kids already knew they were a boy or girl **before** entering school. Parents' choices included homeschooling or putting their child in a private, charter, or alternative school.

Why is school choice important and why should it be left up to the parents?

Parents know their children best and have the best interest of the child at heart when making decisions for their children. Therefore, it only makes logical sense that parents have the right to decide what type of education and the type of educational setting is best for their child.

Educators are indeed "trained" to teach children and "should" know what's best

for each child. The reality is that even with professional training and experience, teachers, and especially administrators can't always make the best decision.

Administrators are concerned about what is best for the "school," the entire proficient functioning of the school as an organization, keeping parent complaints to a minimum, dealing with behavior problems, budget problems, and the school's public image, and following district guidelines.

Teachers, bless the teachers, each and everyone, are concerned about maintaining discipline in their classroom, following state standards, preparing lessons, documentation and the list goes on. Out of all their responsibilities, how much time is spent getting to know each child in their care? Do they exhibit appropriate social interactions? What is their specific learning style? Is each child up to grade level

proficiency or are they "good enough" to get passed on to the next grade?

I invite you to study the test scores and other significant positives for children in other charter schools in this state and you will see that charter schools are a benefit to a community and its families, not a negative, as some would like you to believe.

Montrose, the plain fact is this: Parents deserve freedom of school choice in Montrose and there isn't any factual reason why the Montrose County School Board and a few others should have the ability to take it away from the parents.

Please go to the Montrose County School Board on Tuesday, Nov. 19, at 6:30 pm. and rally for the freedom of parents to choose the school they want for their child. This is one of the most important actions you can take for the children of this community this year.

Deborah Lazear, Montrose



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Videlock believes that language is the invisible influence informing our thoughts, perceptions and actions. Her books are available where books are sold. Find out more at:
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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

SMPA CONSIDERS 2025 PROJECTED COSTS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE- At their October Meeting, the SMPA Board of Directors reviewed the SMPA budget for 2025 which considered a 6.2% rate increase from wholesale power provider, Tri-State Generation and Transmission (Tri-State) as well as other operational price increases. The Board is considering raising the SMPA access fee, starting in January 1, 2025, from \$25/mo. to \$28/mo.—still one of the lowest access charges in the region among similar electric cooperatives. The additional revenue would not be enough to cover projected costs. To cover the shortfall, the board may utilize “Rate Stabilization” funds, which were deferred from revenue totals of previous years. These two measures will allow SMPA to meet its obligations, while softening the increase to member-consumers.

The Board will also consider a proposed “Time-of-Use” rate design to take effect in May, 2025. This time-based rate would offer a more dynamic and equitable pricing model by charging different rates for electricity depending on the time of day. The proposed rates would be lower than the current rate for most of the day, and higher during peak demand hours of 4-9 PM. This approach would offer several key advantages:

1. **Value Pricing for Consumers:** A “Time-of-Use” rate would allow for a lower energy price to consumers that reflects the times of the day when it's cheaper to produce and deliver. This could be especially beneficial for those with electric vehicles or smart home technologies that can be programmed to take advantage of lower rates.

2. **Grid Efficiency:** TOU rates would encourage more effective energy use and even more energy storage, which is greatly needed to transition to a fully renewable energy future.

3. **Support for Renewables:** TOU rates would create a market for renewable energy sources, as they often produce electricity during off-peak hours when it's most valuable. This can accelerate the transition to a cleaner energy system.

4. **Fairness:** TOU rates would be a fairer way to distribute the cost of electricity, as those who use more energy off-peak can lower their overall energy bill while at the same time helping to make grid operations more cost effective for everyone.

The proposed Time-of-Use structure would also include an opt-out demand rate to give flexibility to members whose energy use profile positions them to take advantage of it. SMPA personnel and information tools can help consumers make informed decisions.

The Board of Directors will consider the proposal as well as any feedback from the membership at the November 19th meeting. At that time, there may be a motion to approve. If the rate design is approved, the access charge increase would take effect January 1, 2025 and the Time-of-Use rate would not take effect until May, 2025 in order to allow time for a smooth transition of billing processes.

The SMPA Board is actively seeking input from the member-consumers. If you have comments for the Board to consider, please email comments@smpa.com. There will also be a member-consumer comment period at the start of the November 19th meeting, which will be held in person at the SMPA Ridgway office as well as virtually over the Zoom® platform. (Register at www.smpa.com/board-meeting-agendas-and-minutes). All members are invited to participate.



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**MONTROSE COUNTY
REPUBLICANS**

**2024 BALLOT INITIATIVE
RECOMMENDATIONS**

More info: MontroseRepublicans.org

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

Note: — means Neutral

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU WANT WHEN YOU CAST YOUR VOTE

To the Editor:

What do you want?

It should be easy to decide who to vote for right now- just think about what you want. Vote for Trump if you want:

- A. Lower taxes for billionaires and corporations
- B. Girls who were raped going to prison for trying to end the pregnancy
- C. A president who scorns and insults our allies
- D. A president who admires dictators like Putin and Kim Jong Un
- E. White supremacists and religious fanatics in leading government roles
- F. A federal deficit going wildly higher
- G. Newspapers ordered to stop anything negative about Trump, even if true
- H. A constant stream of lies and conspiracy theories from the White House
- I. No more infrastructure projects- roads, bridges, ports getting worse
- J. Corporations given freedom to pollute rivers, air, oceans
- K. Cuts in Social Security and Medicare, the end of Affordable Care
- L. Much higher prices for most goods because of tariffs

This list could go on and on, but it should be enough to help you decide. Personally, I prefer candidates who practice honesty and kindness, who have worked for others, not themselves, and who want to protect the constitution. So, no, I won't vote for Trump, or anyone who supports him. But if you want the things on this list, you might have your nightmares come alive.

Sincerely, John Baldus

Montrose, Colorado

LET'S PUT AN END TO 'CRUEL, UNNECESSARY, UNSPORTING' PRACTICES

Editor:

Proposition 127 is plain and simple: it is just as inhumane to use GPS technology to track and shoot a mountain lion with a pack of dogs as it is to use a leg hold trap or drone to hunt.

Is Proposition 127 based on what Coloradans think is acceptable? Yes. Is that acceptable? YES.

Thirty years ago, Colorado's wildlife agency developed and applied standards "consistent with public expectations for humane treatment of animals." (Colorado Division of Wildlife, 1994)

Opponents claim what people think is cruel doesn't matter; heck, they don't even think science matters. But, as a matter of law both public perception and science matter.

That's why as a Colorado resident of 30 years, I'm proud to make my voice heard: YES to end animal cruelty. Vote your conscience Colorado.

Join the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commissioners calling for an end to "cruel, unnecessary, and unsporting" practices. It's the law and what you think matters.

Pam Milmoie, Arvada

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RED HAWKS OVERWHELM GLADS 63-7

By Cliff Dodge

MONTROSE-The Montrose Red Hawks football team continued their winning ways as they traveled to Colorado Springs and took apart the hapless Widefield Gladiators 63-7 at the C.A. Foster Stadium. The undefeated Red Hawks won their ninth game in a row with little trouble as they continued their drive to win their league championship and qualify for a bye in the upcoming 4A state championships in early November.

The Red Hawks won the coin toss and deferred their possession to the second half. The Montrose defense gave up 5 yards in their first 4 plays and forced the Glads to turn the ball over on downs. The Red Hawks offense then moved 31 yards and Aiden Grijalva scored the first Red Hawks points on a 15-yard gallop untouched into the end zone for a 7-0 lead.

The Glads were forced to punt on their second possession and the Red Hawks capitalized immediately as Senior Quarterback Chris Mock threw a 56-yard touchdown pass to Aiden Grijalva, his second score of the first quarter. The 2-point conversion made the score 15-0.

The Red Hawks attempted an unsuccessful on-side kick which was recovered by the Gladiators at the Red Hawks 46-yard line. A series of penalties helped to move the Glads deep into the Red Hawks territory and they scored on a 15-yard touchdown pass to narrow the score to 15-7.

The Red Hawks covered a short Widefield kick-off at the 49 yard line. On the first play from scrimmage the Red Hawks junior Elijah Womack dashed 47 yards to paydirt. The 2-point conversion was good increasing the Red Hawks lead to 23-7.

The Gladiators could not move the football on their next possession and were

forced to punt. Junior Chase Mehan returned the punt 24 yards from the Widefield 45-yard line down to the 21-yard line where the Red Hawks took over. Womack gained eight yards and Mehan added another eight yards to place the ball at the Gladiators 5-yard line. Coach Brett Mertens then showed a new offensive wrinkle as he inserted his "jumbo" backfield. He lined up three huge offensive linemen in the backfield and handed the football to senior Josh Maddox, who followed the blocking of sophomore Owen Cervantes and senior Jack Carson into the end zone for the Red Hawks fourth touchdown of the evening increasing the score to 29-7.

The Gladiators took the kick-off and promptly fumbled. Senior Will Neuman recovered for the Red Hawks. Montrose then returned the favor as they fumbled and Widefield recovered but were unable to advance the football and punted back to the Red Hawks. Senior Wyatt Berry and Elijah Womack took turns carrying the football to the Widefield 2-yard line. Womack then scored his second touchdown of the game increasing the score to 36-7.

The Glads offensive woes continued as they were unable to advance the football. On fourth down the Glads went for it but fumbled and the Red Hawks recovered. A 22-yard pass from Chris Mock to Hunter Gurule moved the ball to the Widefield 15-yard line. Junior Chase Mehan then ran 15-yards for a Red Hawks touchdown increasing the score to 43-7.

Another possession by the Glads turned negative as Sophomore Defender Chazz Miller sacked the Gladiators quarterback forcing another punt. The Red Hawks immediately drove 56 yards with quarter-

back Chris Mock scoring on a keeper from 9 yards out increasing the score to 49-7 as the first half ended. This triggered the running clock for the rest of the first half and all of the second half.

Coach Mertens substituted liberally and the bench played the entire second half. Sophomore Lincoln Jones scored on a 5-yard scamper. Sophomore Quarterback Cade Saunders scored on a 3-yard quarterback keeper which ended the Red Hawks scoring and making the final tally 63-7.

Virtually anybody who made the trip to Widefield ended up getting into the action at one point or another, giving game experience to many underclassmen.

The Red Hawks at last glance continued to hold down 3rd position in the CHSAA 4A rankings. Depending on who is doing the ranking the top five teams in 4A are Dakota Ridge, Pueblo West, Montrose, Broomfield and Riverdale Ridge. If history repeats itself the top four teams in the CHSAA rankings will draw a bye in the first round with at least one home game which is a great advantage in the quest for a state championship.

The final game of the Red Hawks season will be played on Friday, Nov. 1 at the Montrose Stadium with the kick-off slated for 6 p.m. The opponent will be the undefeated Cyclones of Pueblo West. Everything rides on the outcome of this pivotal game. The Cyclones are undefeated. The Red Hawks are undefeated. The winner will be the league champion. The winner will, in all likelihood, be ranked in the top 4 of the 4A rankings and receive a bye in the first round of the playoffs.

Other than that, it's just another ball game.

Stay tuned.



THE ROUNDUP: RED HAWKS SPORTS

By Cliff Dodge

VARSITY SOCCER:

GR. JUNCTION TIGERS 2, MONTROSE RED HAWKS 1

The varsity soccer season is winding down to its conclusion as October fades away and the November playoffs come into full view. The Red Hawks played host to the Grand Junction Tigers last week and ended up on the short end of the score, a 2-1 loss to the Tigers. Per usual, the game was a tight defensive struggle from the opening kick-off to the final whistle. The Red Hawks only score came off the foot of Senior Brody Cooling. All scoring was done in the second half of the match and the Tigers prevailed 2-1. Montrose goal tender, Junior Jude Carlton, stopped four of the six shots he faced.



*The entire Red Hawks team awaits service vs The Village Mountaineers.
Photo by Cliff Dodge.*

MONTROSE RED HAWKS 4, PALISADE BULLDOGS 1

The Montrose Red Hawks returned to their winning ways as they hosted the Palisade Bulldogs last Thursday, defeating the visitors 4-1. The Red Hawks controlled the pitch throughout the contest as they scored twice in the first half and two additional goals in the second stanza. The Bulldogs scored a single goal in the second half of the contest. Senior Tommy Montoya-Ornelas scored 3 goals for the Red Hawks and Christopher Gonzalez-Muniz added one marker to make the final score 4-1. Junior Goal Keeper Jude Carlton handled 6 of the 7 shots on goal to preserve the victory.

MONTROSE RED HAWKS 4, ROARING FORK RAMS 3

The Montrose Red Hawks and the Roaring Fork Rams engaged in a shoot-out of sorts earlier this week as the two teams combined for 7 goals. Fortunately for the Red Hawks 4 of the 7 were in the home team's scoring column, squeezing out a 4-3 victory. Senior Christopher Gonzalez-Muniz led all scorers with three goals while Senior Aidan Erives added one marker to the Red Hawks total. Junior Jude Carlton made four saves of the seven shots aimed at his net.

DURANGO DEMONS 2, MONTROSE RED HAWKS 2

The Red Hawks regular soccer season came to a close as the Durango Demons invaded the Red Hawks pitch and came away with a hard fought 2-2 draw. As usual, the defenses ruled the afternoon with each team scoring a single goal in each of the halves. The Red Hawks Senior Brody Cooling scored as did senior Bowden Vigil to account for the home team's 2 goals. The Red Hawks finished their season with a record of 9 wins, 5 losses and a tie. Their state ranking places them in 18th position as they wait for the state seedings to be released. The Demons ended in 9th position with a record of 10-2-3.

VARSITY VOLLEYBALL:

MONTROSE RED HAWKS 3, DURANGO DEMONS 0

The Montrose Red Hawks volleyballers hosted the Durango Demons last week and soundly defeated the visitors 3-0. The Red Hawks continue to be ranked in the top echelons of 4A volleyball teams. Junior Maggie Legg led the Red Hawks with 13 kills while Senior Brooke Williams and Senior Ashlin Mitchum chipped in with 8 each. Junior Lilly Nelson led the Red Hawks in digs with 20 while Maggie Legg added 16.

MONTROSE RED HAWKS 3, UNIVERSITY BULLDOGS 1

The Montrose Red Hawks continued their winning ways as they hosted the University Bulldogs and treated them a bit roughly, winning the match 3 games to 1. The Red Hawks basically controlled the play throughout, winning 25-22, 25-20 and 25-18. The Bulldogs only win was by the score of 25-20.

VILLAGE MOUNTAINEERS 3, RED HAWKS 0

The Red Hawks are heading into the final week of the regular volleyball season and are awaiting the playoffs. The last home game, a Saturday affair, did not go as planned as the 3A's 6th ranked team invaded the fieldhouse and departed with a 3-0 win. The Mountaineers and the Red Hawks played three closely fought games but the visitors had just enough at the final moments to ease to victory. The scores were as follows: 12-25, 25-27 and 20-25. The Red Hawks travel to Discovery Canyon next Friday and Saturday and will play the final four games of the regular season as they prep for the playoffs. The Red Hawks currently sit in 5th place in 4A and await where they will be placed in the big dance. The Red Hawks currently sit a 14-5 overall and 8-2 in league action. Stay tuned.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS



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SECURING OUR FUTURE: THE MONTROSE FOOD SECURITY INITIATIVE

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Hurricane Helene in North Carolina showed the nation how quickly local food supply can be lost and vanish in a single day. The Montrose Food Security Initiative is a non-government, simple, focused and critical initiative to stockpile 100,000 emergency meals in Montrose. In times of crisis, stored meals can be the difference between hunger and hope, panic and confidence for our families, neighbors, and community. The Initiative is about coming together to protect our own; to build a resilient Montrose. The Montrose Food Security Initiative is reaching out to our ready-made relief infrastructure, the churches, businesses, and local organizations to participate in establishing a network of support that covers all of Montrose. The Initiative calls on individuals to lead, support, or donate to the effort.

The Initiative intent is to raise \$29,000 for packing 100,000 meals. Donations are kept in trust with "The Heart Behind the Badge" 501c3 on deposit with the Alpine Bank. With these 501c3 funds, the Montrose Food Security Initiative will purchase the dry goods, engage organizations for storage and distribution, and manage the packing operation. Come help. Call on your church or social organization to join us. Donate. Volunteer. Spread the word. Every action, from the least to the greatest, matters. Imagine the calm knowing, if disaster or civil unrest strikes, Montrose is ready. Imagine the confidence and satisfaction in community caring for its own. The best way to predict the future is to create it. Let's create a secure future for Montrose. Together, we the people can make Montrose a model of preparedness, resilience, and community spirit.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!

Dear Editor:

Three thoughts on my mind:

When I was in business and went into a negotiation, I always made my initial bid for much more than I was willing to accept. Then, in the second or third round, when we had gotten to where I wanted to be, the other side was pleased with how much they had negotiated from me. The School District proposal is way over priced. They are asking for a couple of hundred million for the cost of the school. Then they will get about the same for the interest. And we all know that, since the total evaluation of the district will grow substantially, the revenue will also. I wonder whether the total revenue from this over the total time might exceed HALF A BILLION dollars! And, I asked Dr. Carrie Stephenson what would happen to the excess revenue over that needed to

pay for the bond and she said that *it would be available to use as they saw fit*. This is for a palace for our students, but not a word have I heard of how this will increase the scores and abilities of our students to thrive in later life.

Dr. Stephenson, I see that if this passes it will be the star on your resumé and you will be able to get a much more lucrative job elsewhere. Electors: Please vote this bond issue down and have the school district come to the people in a couple of years with something that we can afford and that will increase the outcomes for our students.

I have read the Letters to the Editor about hunting big cats. I notice, as has been mentioned here, that almost none of them originate on the Western Slope. This is another instance of Eastern Slope City Folks trying to enforce their will

on us against our best interests. Our DOW can limit the number of permits and the rules for hunting if they determine that is the best way to manage the cat population. Let us leave it to them. Please vote against Proposition 127.

You have probably decided how to vote for President. Whatever your decision is, please vote your conscience. The down ballot races will have as much effect on your life.

We are a conservative county. Jeff Hurd, Marc Catlin, and Larry Don Suckla will carry our traditional values to the Federal and State levels. They need our help. Please support them.

In any case, please fill out your ballot and deliver it to a drop box well before election day. DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!!!

Rick Bleier, Montrose

SUPPORTING KATHLEEN CURRY FOR HD58

Editor:

We are supporting Kathleen Curry for Colorado House District 58.

As a small business owner in Lake City for fifty years and knowing small businesses in our community and region are the lifeblood of our economy, we are confident that Kathleen Curry will be a strong advocate at the Colorado General Assembly for us. She has been a small business owner herself in Gunnison and knows how im-

portant it is that we have a voice on critical issues that affect us all. Kathleen has also been endorsed by the National Federation of Independent Business.

Besides her support for small businesses, she has already done critical work to help protect our valuable water rights for the western slope of Colorado and to see that public education is properly funded.

Most importantly, Kathleen Curry can be trusted. As a former Colorado State repre-

sentative in 2004-2010, she was a tremendous steward of the public good and approached all matters with a drive to find the best solutions possible for all concerned. We are confident that she will continue to do that for us if she is elected next month.

We know we can count on Kathleen Curry's word.

Respectfully submitted,
Phillip & Carolyn Virden



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

SUPPORTING YOUR 1ST AMENDMENT RIGHT –

Dear Montrose County:

As your Unaffiliated candidate for Montrose County Commissioner, District 3, my platform is to LISTEN to the People, REPRESENT the People, and be ACCOUNTABLE to the People. As a result of my interactions with the voters, and by plain ol' 'word of mouth' among community members and established groups of friends or organizations, I have fortunately drawn a wide variety of support from ALL voters – Liberals, Moderates, and Conservatives alike, which has always been my goal. Over the past several months I have spoken with numerous people associated with both major political parties as well as many moderates that chose to remain Independent.

During my campaign I have purposefully not asked for personal endorsements from any individual, group or political party, nor have I made any promises to take action on any specific matters. However, I have received published endorsements by individuals throughout the community. And although my personal views or current understanding of events may *not* match those who have publicly endorsed me, I DO appreciate and am very grateful for their confidence in me to hear them out and to LISTEN to what they have to say.

Having said that, my hope is to continue to encourage voters to feel free to speak openly with me. I cannot begin to address any matters that affect tax paying voters and our community if you are not willing to bring those matters or your ideas and questions to my attention. In order to build trust among the People and encourage open communications I will not censor people's opinions. We all have opinions – but not all opinions are the same.

We have nine (9) days left to vote. Voting is not only a privilege that we still have, but it is also a responsibility we have to ourselves, our country, and our community. If you have not done so already.... **PLEASE VOTE!** Your voice and your vote DO matter!

Trisha Murray

Independent Candidate

Montrose County Commissioner District 3



Trisha Murray.
Courtesy photo.

ENDORSEMENT ALERT:

THE CORTEZ JOURNAL

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Our View: Elect Kathleen Curry to House District 58

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

FOREST SERVICE ANNOUNCES HIRING OF 200 FIREFIGHTERS

Special to the Mirror

LAKEWOOD— The Rocky Mountain Region of the USDA Forest Service is hiring 200 temporary, seasonal wildland firefighters for the 2025 fire year across national forests and grasslands in Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, and Wyoming.

Firefighter positions include engine operators, hotshot crew members, hand crew members, helitack crew members, fuels technicians, fire lookouts, dispatchers, and other essential fire management positions.

Job information, including duty locations and application details, is available online on the Regional Fire Hiring webpage. Job seekers can apply for the 200 wildland firefighter jobs through USAJobs.gov for 14 days from October 24 through November 6, 2024.

Any U.S. citizen or national who is at least 18 years of age can apply. Hiring managers will use a Direct Hire Authority to hire ap-

plicants, which means Veterans' Preference and traditional rating and ranking of applicants do not apply.

Application and resume preparation tips and guidelines, including step-by-step instructions and on-demand webinars, are available on the How to Apply webpage.

The Forest Service is a federal agency under the U.S. Department of Agriculture that manages 193 million acres of land, roughly the size of Texas.

Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, and Wyoming are home to 17 national forests and seven national grasslands, collectively

known as the Rocky Mountain Region. The mission of the Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.



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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

BALLOT FRAUD SCHEME UNDER INVESTIGATION IN MESA COUNTY

Special to the Mirror

DENVER— The Colorado Secretary of State's Office is monitoring a developing situation in Mesa County, Colorado regarding intercepted ballots.

On Tuesday, October 23, the Department of State learned that at least 12 ballots appear to have been intercepted before reaching voters. Those ballots were voted and then returned to the Mesa County Clerk and Recorder via USPS mailboxes. This issue was flagged during Colorado's secure signature verification process.

Several of the affected voters contacted the Mesa County Clerk's office after re-

ceiving communication that their ballot required curing due to a discrepant signature.

One affected voter notified the Mesa County Clerk after they received notification through BallotTrax that their ballots had been received for processing by the Mesa County Clerk. BallotTrax is Colorado's statewide tracking and notification system that lets voters who've signed up know where their ballot is.

Secretary of State Jena Griswold has issued the following statement:

"Colorado's elections are safe and secure. This attempt at fraud was found and in-

vestigated quickly because of all the trail-blazing processes and tools Colorado has in place like signature verification, ballot tracking, and the curing process.

Every eligible Colorado voter will be able to make their voice heard this election."

The Mesa County District Attorney's Office has been alerted and is investigating.

Every voter impacted by this will have the opportunity to make their voice heard in the 2024 General Election.

As of 11:59 P.M. on Wednesday, Oct. 23, 2024, 27,625 ballots have been counted in Mesa County.

APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED FOR PLANNING COMMISSION VACANCIES

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE — The City of Montrose is accepting applications for four positions on the city's Planning Commission. Each appointee will serve a four-year term, beginning on January 1, 2025, and expiring on December 31, 2028.

The Planning Commission evaluates matters related to planning and community development. Members of the Planning Commission serve at the pleasure of the City Council and are appointed for four-year overlapping terms. Meetings are held on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 5 p.m. in the City Council Chambers located at 107 South Cascade Avenue. Applications are available at City Hall, 400 E. Main Street, on the City of Montrose website at CityOfMontrose.org/Application, or by calling 970.240.1422.

Applications and letters of interest must be submitted to the City Clerk by 6 p.m. on Thursday, November 21, 2024.

For information about the City of Montrose visit CityofMontrose.org.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

PROPOSITION 127 WILL PROTECT BOBCATS, LYNX, AND MOUNTAIN LIONS FROM HUNTING AND TRAPPING

Editor:

A YES vote on Proposition 127 will protect bobcats, lynx and mountain lions from hunting and trapping in Colorado. It will allow on a permit basis the killing of these animals under certain circumstances such as livestock depredation.

As a lifetime hunter and fisherman and most importantly, wildlife conservationist, I understand both sides of this issue. Hunters and trappers want to protect the opportunity to hunt and trap. Wildlife advocates, enthusiasts and conservationists are interested in viewing wildlife as well as the welfare of each wildlife species.

After spending over 30,000 hours in the field studying and filming mountain lions and bobcats I've learned that these animals, as keystone species, have an outsized positive impact on the ecosystems they inhabit. They deserve wildlife management that supports their welfare and works to maximize the overall health of their populations. Mountain lions and bobcats do not benefit from being hunted or trapped. Only hunters and trappers benefit. From a wildlife conservation standpoint, that's unacceptable. Solid science and research supports the fact that mountain lions, bobcats and lynx self regulate their populations. There is no scientific evidence that hunting and trapping is necessary to control their populations.

Wildlife in Colorado is managed to benefit the visitors and residents of Colorado

The Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission Policy states that Colorado wildlife are managed for the use, benefit and enjoyment of Colorado visitors and residents.

Every wildlife species has a set of biological

and ecological factors they are dependent upon for a healthy population. Every wildlife management plan should support these factors as the primary goal of the plan. The current goal for mountain lion and bobcat management is simply maintaining a population that can be hunted and trapped. But if the act of hunting and trapping mountain lions and bobcats does not improve the welfare of these species, then the activity must be called into question.

One of the most important biological factors that determines the health of these wild feline populations is kitten survival. Each year, mountain lion kittens are orphaned because a female mountain lion was killed by a hunter. Colorado Parks and Wildlife does not count these kittens that starve to death because they aren't of breeding age. Respected mountain lion biologists and researchers will tell you that if you are going to hunt mountain lions, no more than 22% of the harvest should be female lions of breeding age. In Colorado, 46% of the mountain lions killed by hunters each year are female lions.

Violating the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation

The North American Model of Wildlife Conservation (NAM) is often cited as the gold standard of wildlife conservation by hunters, trappers, fishermen and outfitters. NAM was a response to the market hunting that was decimating wildlife in North America.

A key tenet of this model is elimination of markets for wildlife.

This was put in place to prevent the selling of any part of an animal for profit. The trapping and hunting of bobcats and sell-

ing their pelts is a clear violation of this tenet. Fair Chase Rules Violated by Mountain Lion and Bobcat Hunting and Trapping

Fair chase is a term used by hunters to describe an ethical approach to hunting big game animals. It refers to the pursuit and taking of any free-ranging wild game animal in a manner that does not give the hunter an improper or unfair advantage over the game animals. The use of any of the following methods in the killing of a game animal is considered Unfair Chase. The bold items indicate how Fair Chase is violated in Colorado.

- Artificial light
- Electronic devices for attracting game (bobcat)
- Use of aircraft or other motorized vehicles (mountain lion)
- Use of drugs to immobilize animals
- Use of dogs to pursue or take game (mountain lion, bobcat)
- Use of bait to attract game (bobcat)
- Note pages 4 and 5 from the CPW regulations: <https://cpw.widen.net/s/kmpdszcx6j/ch03>

The price of a bobcat pelt in China or Russia determines how many bobcats are killed each year. During the 2023-2024 season a total of 955 bobcats were killed by hunters and trappers and during that same time, only 10 bobcats were killed because of livestock conflicts.

A YES vote on Proposition 127 would maintain the flexibility of CPW to kill mountain lions and bobcats when they are preying on livestock and at the same time support the positive impact these animals have on the ecosystems they inhabit.

David Neils, Loveland

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

CHOOSE ADOPTION INSTEAD OF ABORTION

Editor:

There's a big push during this election cycle to legislatively prevent hunting of mountain lions, lynx and bobcats. Similarly TV ads frequently solicit donations to give helpless small animals a new life. In contrast, appeals to ensure the life of yet unborn children, via adoption, are scarce. This implies, hopefully unintentionally, that human rights are subordinate to animal rights.

That's amplified by proposed Amendment 79 (Right To Abortion) which makes abortion a Colorado constitutional right. It doesn't promote the option of the many readily accessible pregnancy avoidance methods. Instead it employs regulations that even well-intentioned abortion proponents would consider extreme:

- Unrestricted abortion through all 40 weeks of pregnancy.
- No parental notification of any minor child receiving an abortion.
- Direct Colorado taxpayer funding for all abortions for both residents and non-residents.

The anguish and remorse of those that elect abortion is inevitable while adoption brings the opposite, joy. Our family has experienced that ... watching our adopted baby mature into a very successful woman in many regards.

It's incumbent upon us to promote adoption and prevent unrestrained permission to terminate life in the womb, and Vote no on Amendment 79.

Matt Goldasich, Montrose

THE FUTURE OF AMERICA IS AT RISK IF WE FAIL

Editor:

I am the most proud Hispanic Chicano you will ever meet and today I witnessed something that made me feel strong again with the strength I have not felt since my activism days with the great Victor Alires and Larry Quintana and I cannot hold back my pride. So I beg you, all races, to go to YouTube and view the following video Live : [President Trump participates in a Latino roundtable in Doral, Florida](#). I broke out in prayer as I watched.

Now I know most of you can't stand President Donald Trump but listen very closely to the testimony of the Hispanic individuals.

If your heart is right you should be compelled to vote for Trump.

I honestly feel that the future of America is at risk if we fail.

I love you all,

Bob Stollsteimer, Montrose



OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

PROPOSITION 127 SCIENCE SAYS THE FEAR IS REAL

Editor:

The sky is falling! The Martians are landing! There are monsters under the bed! The mountain lions are stalking and waiting to pounce if Prop 127 passes. Secure your children and pets! Stock up at the grocery store! But wait, there's more. The bobcats are coming to get you too if Prop 127 passes. Everyone pay your guide \$8,000 as you must do your part to stave off these threats. Waste no time, get your pack of dogs and radio collars, double check your GPS, load your guns and get your trophy lion before it gets you! And the bobcats too. Beat 'em, strangle 'em, shoot 'em in the eye, and sell their furs to China before we can't sell them anymore. Heed this warning if Prop 127 passes because the science says the fear is real.

Lynn Ackerman, Highlands Ranch

THERE IS NO SCIENTIFIC BASIS FOR KILLING OF MOUNTAIN LIONS

Editor:

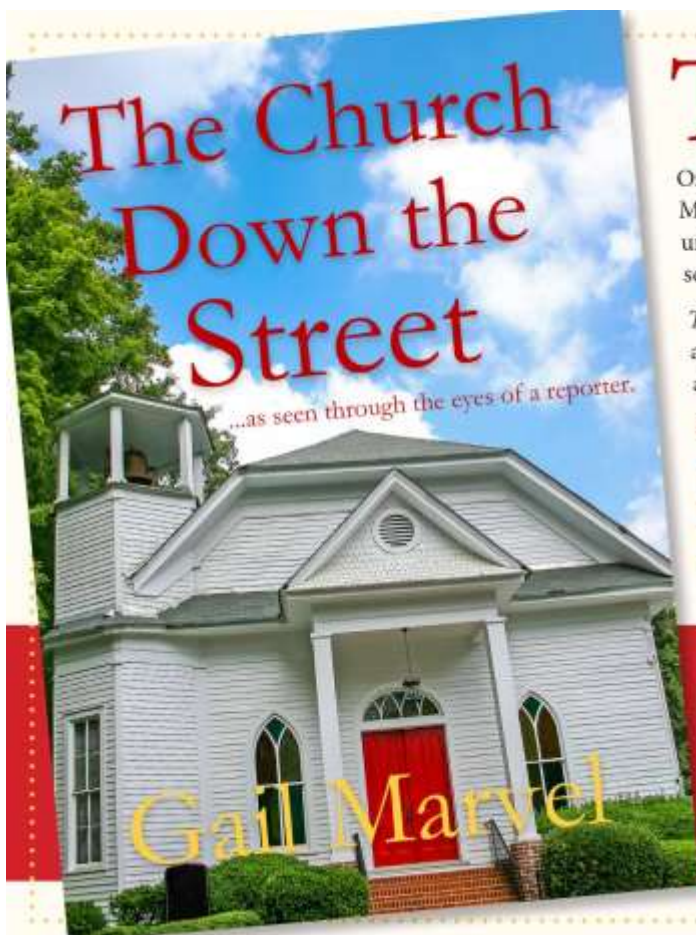
Why do less than 1% of Coloradans get to decide what happens with Colorado's mountain lions and bobcats?

I am voting YES on Proposition 127, to end the cruel unethical (not fair chase) hunting of mountain lions and trapping of bobcats, who are caught live then bludgeoned or strangled for their fur. But lion hunting opponents of Proposition 127, who represent less than 1% of Colorado's population, are well funded by national hunting

groups and are using these funds to spread lies and confuse and scare Coloradans. Example of a lie: Without hunting, Colorado's deer and elk populations will be decimated. Nope, first of all, as apex predators, mountain lions control their own populations. Second, mountain lions are an ally in reducing chronic wasting disease, as they take the weakest animals. It's chronic wasting disease that can truly decimate Colorado's elk and deer populations!

Please don't listen to opponents. There is NO scientific basis for killing of mountain lions, and certainly not for bobcats. Join me and ethical hunters, multiple wildlife scientists (who've worked and are working at organizations such as the National Park Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, University of Boulder, CSU, and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology), and over 100 Colorado veterinarians and Vote YES on Proposition 127!

Carol Monaco, Brighton, CO



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

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

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

Readers will:

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

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

GAIL MARVEL
Montrose Author & Reporter



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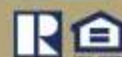
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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

KAMALA IS A TOTAL FRAUD

Editor:

I am finding writer Jack Hellner to be an excellent resource. He wrote an article this week titled "Pay attention to what Democrats do, not what they say." Democrats claim they care about corruption and the rule of law, but they will never prosecute Biden or Hillary no matter how many crimes they commit. They claim the DOJ is non-partisan, but have used multiple federal agencies to unlawfully go after Trump and his supporters. Biden and Kamala claim to care about the constitution and secure borders but their first actions included a massive number of executive orders inviting an illegal immigrant invasion. They also want to stack the Supreme Court to get the rulings they like and unconstitutionally use taxpayer dollars to pay off billions of dollars of student loan debt. Democrats claim to care about women, science, and freedom of choice, but they dictatorially require women to compete against men and share their locker rooms with men. They claim to care about poor and minority children but block their opportunities to go to safer and better schools. They claim they care about inflation but they support bigger government, unfunded spending, more regulations, higher taxes, and the destruction of companies producing reasonably priced energy. Democrats claim to abhor misinformation but they outlandishly lie every day, and most of the media fully participate in the spreading of that misinformation. The list of contradictions goes on forever.

I would expand on Hellner's comments and say we should also pay attention to what Kamala and Walz say when they are in unscripted situations. When they go off-script from the teleprompter they inadvertently reveal the truth about their intentions and who they are. A prime example this week was Kamala's rally where young men dared to proclaim that "Jesus Is Lord" and were subsequently tossed out. Harris ridiculed them and told them "you're at the wrong rally." She didn't have a script to tell her what to say, so she just said what she really believed --- that Christians don't belong in her rallies.

Que Mala also inadvertently showed who she is when she was interviewed with NBC's Hallie Jackson. For Kamala, abortion until the day of birth is her marquee position. She

views it as her vote-getter and brings it up wherever she goes. Again showing her disdain for Christians as well as devout Muslims and other people of conscience, she told NBC there should be no religious exemptions to medical providers for abortions, and referred to abortion as a "fundamental freedom." So much for freedom to choose for those whose faith and/or conscience commands them to respect human life.

Contrary to all her rhetoric (lies) about "fixing our broken immigration system," Kamala is seen on video saying she supports mass amnesty for illegals. We already know that when she says she will "fix it" that she has no intention of slowing the invasion. She just wants to make it more efficient and legal. The tape verifies what is already obvious --- that Democrats intend to grant mass amnesty. That should be encouraging to Laken Riley's parents and the people being terrorized by Venezuelan gang members in Aurora apartments.

This week's Kamala "town hall" in Michigan might be considered revealing, but it only emphasized what everyone already knows --- Kamala is a total fraud. Webster's defines a town hall as "a public forum in which those attending hear and ask questions about the ideas of a candidate for public office." In this case the host NBC's Maria Shriver admitted to the attendees that they can't actually ask questions at Komrade Kamala's fake town hall because the questions are "pre-determined."

Kamala's fraud started at an early age. She was admitted to law school under a program for students "who have experienced major life hurdles, such as educational disadvantage, economic hardship, or disability." She wasn't economically challenged. Her dad was a Stanford professor, her mom was a top cancer researcher.

They were wealthy. Nor was she educationally disadvantaged, having gone to a private school in an elite part of Montreal. And not being very bright doesn't qualify as a disability.

Meanwhile Kamala's VP candidate Walz tried to stay on-script by repeating the feeble Democrat lie that Republicans want to get rid of Social Security. Unfortunately, he went off-script when he claimed his 90-year-old mom waited for her Social Security check each month to feed herself and buy necessi-

ties. Millionaire Tampon Tim wants us to believe his mom would be destitute without her SS check. Make your own conclusions. He is either lying or he is someone who doesn't take care of his own mother.

It is totally understandable why the Harris-Biden government and the Harris-Walz campaign are so intent on hiding the truth from the voting public. Merrick Garland wouldn't release the full transcript of Biden's interview with Special Counsel Robert Hur because Democrats couldn't stand for voters to clearly see how Joe's brain was totally shot after years of telling the public how sharp he is. CBS is refusing to release the full transcript of Harris' interview for 60 minutes because they need to hide her incoherent non-answers from the public. They sure don't want to talk about credible accusations of domestic violence and adultery-with-the-nanny against Kamala's husband Doug Emhoff. So, they have to avoid unscripted situations like a real town hall, and rely on celebrities and the media to carry their water.

Here is this week's chuckle. Kamala's messaging geniuses decided it would be a good idea to recruit entertainer Lizzo to carry her message. I have no idea who Lizzo is, but I understand she has undeniable talent. She must be a commercial success because I saw pictures of her boarding her private jet (clad in a tiny thong that put her entire, very large, behind on display), and the Kamala campaign paid her \$2.3 million. That's not the funny part.

Lizzo announced that she wants Kamala to win so Kamala can make America look like Detroit. Detroit is the most dangerous city in America. Democrats have turned a once-thriving city into a rotting hulk of crime and corruption. Detroit's population is 1/3 of what it was before it became a third-world city under Democrat leadership. Kamala and her campaign are so out of touch with Americans they thought a crude celebrity promising that Kamala would make America Detroit would be appealing to voters.

Perhaps Democrats should stick with "town halls" where "participants" can't actually participate and ask their own questions --- anything to maintain their own delusions that Harris isn't totally unlikeable and dumb as a rock.

Ed Henrie, Montrose

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

US 550 PACO - BILLY WILDLIFE & SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT UPDATE

Special to the Mirror

Project Update

For the week of October 28, crews will be finalizing construction efforts at the wildlife underpass location at Billy Creek (Mile Points 113 to 115) on US Highway 550. Signals will not be present and traffic will flow freely during non-working hours. During working hours next week, travelers will continue to see single lane closures and flagging operations with alternating traffic and 15 minute hold times. Travelers are urged to plan ahead and expect delays. The project is scheduled for comple-

tion in late November.

Traffic Impacts

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

- Single lane closures and shoulder closures will take place within the work zone
- Plan ahead and expect 15 minute delays
- Flagging operations in the work zone
- Be aware of reduced speeds in work zone
- Travelers are urged to use caution and watch for workers and heavy equipment
- Construction schedules are weather de-

pendent

-High traffic volume flows expected from 6 a.m. to 8 a.m. and from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

-Intermittent county road and driveway closures for deer guard construction

-New passing lane alignment, right lane closures, passing prohibited during construction hours.

For additional information about this project, contact the project team.

-Project Hotline: 970-360-1411

-Project Email: us550wideningproject@gmail.com

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

I served three terms in the State House from 2005-2010 and have raised my family on the West Slope. We are outnumbered at the state Capitol, so it is critical that whoever we send has the experience and leadership qualities to get things done.

It really isn't about red and blue – it is about effectively protecting our values and quality of life. I would be honored to get your vote this November.

Kathleen



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

TRUMP AND THE MAGA FACTION HAVE DERAILED OUR SYSTEM

To the Editor,

Over the past many months, and particularly recently, I have spoken to a number of people who are having a hard time deciding on which presidential candidate to vote for. Their primary difficulty is wading through the amount of disinformation that they are surrounded by. One of the basic things that I learned as a child and have conveyed to my children is that lying is not to be tolerated. Changes in laws have made it permissible for political candidates to lie at will as though it is a First Amendment right. We must hold those who purposefully mislead and lie accountable. My basic approach is that I will not vote for a demonstrable liar or one who willfully ignores the truth. This propensity for lying is also being perpetrated by several of the regular Letters to the Editor contributors of the conservative persuasion that I refer to as "Propaganda Parrots." Why they feel compelled to mislead their fellow citizens is a mystery to me.

We have been engulfed in lies from the Republican Party to the point where the average person does not know what to believe. We have been told not to believe what used to be mainstream media sources and are overwhelmed by social media that promotes lies and propaganda. This is intended to make the average person throw up their hands and not believe the truth when it stares them in the face. My approach is to ignore anything that sounds outrageous or attempts to persuade through disparagement. You can easily look up political pundits and organizations to see what their orientation is. Most social media individuals are not experts in the political field, but are looking for followers so they can cash in on the revenue that follows. They are not concerned with the public good. The more outrageous they are, the more followers they garner. That does not make them experts, only publicity hounds. We have seen convictions for harmful rhetoric by

disreputable media sources. We have seen convictions for illegal actions by Trump. He is not being picked on. He is being held accountable for his actions, as any citizen should be.

My background is in history, and I find that most people have a strong interest in history. I particularly enjoy reading the daily column of Heather Cox Richardson on Facebook. She is a history professor in Maine who puts current affairs into historical perspective. You may agree or disagree with her conclusions, but her research is impeccable. She is not seeking notoriety or financial gain. Reading her will leave you with a better perspective of why we are where we are politically. You will find that nothing we are seeing is out of the blue, but has historical background and precedent. Be prepared, she is no fool.

The way our democracy is supposed to work is that ideas are debated, and common ground is reached. This is what our legislators' jobs are. Over the last 15 years we have suffered through so much far-right party-line obstinacy that most people don't remember when honest debate and compromise was normal. We may never see that again if Trump's fascist regime takes hold. I only use the Fascist term because that is what the common agreement is among his former staff members. Isn't it curious how Trumps only supporters worldwide are leaders of our former enemies who would like nothing more than to see the U.S. fail? This alone is enough not to want to see Trump's regime installed. We don't always get our way in a democracy. The checks and balances of the three branches of government worked well for over 200 years. Trump and the MAGA faction have derailed our system by causing Congress to be stymied by MAGA extremists and installing partisan Supreme Court justices. What used to be considered middle ground is now portrayed as being far left.

Our ability to live our lives without government interference has already shifted away from our ability to make choices as individuals. The MAGA crowd mindlessly spouts the word "Freedom" while doing their best to take our freedoms away.

If you have convinced yourself that Trump doesn't really mean what he says when he lies, puts out crazy ideas, and defames others, you should pay closer attention. If you like liars, you know who to vote for. If you enjoy chaos, you know who to vote for. If you think it is fine to make fun of or try to intimidate people who differ from you politically, you have found a home with the MAGA crowd. If you think it is funny to vote for someone who has committed and has been convicted of serious crimes – as the flag down the hill from me suggests – you are failing your country and your civic responsibility. If you think women or people with a darker skin tone than you are not capable of being excellent leaders, you have deeper problems than a letter to the editor can solve. To top it off, if you vote for Trump, you are in fact voting for Vance as our next president, as Trump is very unlikely to serve out the next term either because of cognitive disability or demise through natural causes. This was a concern with Biden, so why should we not have the same concern for Trump? Vance is a man with only months of legislative experience. We know little about him except that he is willing to lie on par with Trump. I have heard it said that we do not know enough about Harris and what her policies are while slamming her with lies and innuendo for her role in the Biden administration. Give me a break. Trump cannot articulate a coherent thought, and Vance is an unknown but clear Trump-in-training. The last time Trump was elected it was because his lies and innuendo made people reluctant to vote for the better choice. Don't make that mistake again.

Jon Horn, Montrose



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

HELP IS ON THE WAY

Editor:

The Fix Is In.

Since making the announcement to run for the office of County Commissioner in District 1 the current BOCC has made it clear they did not want me there. Instead they supported and campaigned for their ["Hand Picked" flawed candidate](#) who had over \$80,000 in federal tax liens filed against him in Montrose and Mesa Counties. This was in direct contradiction to resolution 67-2018. This resolution titled ["The Montrose County Board of County Commissioners Maintaining Political Neutrality with Ballot Measures and Campaigns"](#) was signed by all three County Commissioners on November 7, 2018. (Click on link to read)

This violation of public trust continues to this day. They seem determined to extend their influence upon the incoming Board of Commissioners despite the voters desire to have more transparency, more citizen input, and a stronger Sheriffs Department. Most recently they decided to hire a new County Manager on their way out of office. They did this despite my strong objections as an incoming Commissioner. However, to make it appear that I was involved in the decision they arranged a meeting with myself and the two other Commissioner Candidates. This meeting was sold to the public as an opportunity for the new board to interview the County Manager candidates. In this meeting I was handed a paper with interview questions on it. I was told I was only allowed to ask

the pre-prepared questions provided. That did not sit well with me since I had studied the resumes of each candidate and had questions of my own.

As the meeting proceeded I asked my questions only to be interrupted by our county attorney several times. I was warned that if I did not stay on script I would not be allowed to ask any questions. To complicate matters more, our county attorney repeatedly instructed one of the candidates that they did not have to answer any of the questions being asked by me. It felt like our county attorney was representing the candidate rather than the county.

In the end Frank Rodriguez was hired by the outgoing board on October 7th at a salary of approximately \$176,000 per year. The current commissioners also included a severance package that would penalize the incoming BOCC (and tax payers) if they are not happy with the old boards choice.

Last week I had a chance to attend the 2025 Budget Meetings. Nine of the fourteen department heads presented their proposed budgets for the year in this session. Upon entering the room I was immediately advised by Commissioner Roger Rash that public comment was not allowed. This was not surprising considering the attitude this BOCC has taken with me over the past 8 months. As a commissioner elect for district 1, who has decades of experience in business, you would think my input would be welcome. Wrong, not

this BOCC. They are way too smart for that. I was unable to ask pertinent questions of our department heads that I felt were relevant to their presentations. In addition, I was personally insulted by the Commissioner Rash in the presence of witnesses. This irrational, unprofessional behavior was unprovoked and showed a clear motivation of Commissioner Rash to place his personal resentment towards me over the needs of our county.

As we move closer to the end of this boards term as we know it, I fully expect this BOCC to do things that will undermine the authority of the incoming board. More contracts will be signed and more long term financial commitments will be made. This is not in the best interest of the new board or the tax payers.

The future of Montrose County is in your hands. Do you want a stronger Sheriffs Department? Do you want more transparency in your county government? Would you like to see more input and deliberation at BOCC meetings on issues that effect your lives?

If so, I strongly encourage you to do your homework. A dedicated BOCC that puts the needs of our citizens above their own can fix this. I encourage everyone to vote for the person you feel embodies the values you hold dear, regardless of their party affiliation.

Be diligent Montrose. Help is on the way.

Scott Mijares

*County Commissioner Elect. District 1
scottm4montrose@gmail.com*



REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

COUNTY LEASES NATURITA GYM TO MONTROSE WEST RECREATION AT NO COST

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— Montrose County is excited to announce a new partnership with Montrose West Recreation (MWR) to provide valuable recreational resources to the community. Through this partnership, MWR will lease the gymnasium at 147 West Main Street in Naturita at no cost. Earlier this year, Montrose County purchased the old Naturita school to use for county offices. Currently, the West End substation of the Montrose County Sheriff's Office is located in this facility. The property also contains a separate gymnasium facility that was previously used by MWR for their programming. As the county has no immediate need for a gymnasium, MWR was a natural fit for this space. The agreement also contains stipulations regarding the need for the space in the event of a wildfire and/or natural disaster.

Commissioner Rash expressed his enthusiasm for this collaboration, stating, "MWR plays a vital role in fostering community engagement and providing essential recreational opportunities for our youth. We are happy to support their efforts by offering them this valuable space."

"With this facility, MWR is looking to expand its programs," said MWR Board President Bri Bonacquista. "In addition to our youth programs, we are working to expand our senior and adult programs to foster community health and wellness. We are excited that this space is a rec center for our entire community."

This partnership aligns with Montrose County's commitment to enhancing the quality of life for its citizens and promoting a healthy, active lifestyle. To learn more about Montrose County, please visit montrosecounty.net.



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COLORADO EMULATING CALIFORNIA? A LOOK AT THE NUMBERS *From pg 1*

, 11-14% are from California each year and 8-13% are from Texas. More than 800,000 people left California in 2022 which was a net loss of over 340,000 people.

Cost of Living/Taxes

A report from earlier in the year suggests the key reasons for the California exodus stem from higher taxes, a higher cost of living, a housing crisis, climate-related concerns, and an increase in crime. Colorado has the 18th highest cost of living, which is 78% lower than 4th place California's cost of living. A *Colorado Sun* report over the summer revealed Montrose County's median rent to be \$1,250 per month. The median income for the county is \$62,817. The cost of living is especially noticed by the retired members of the community who are living on a fixed income. The 65+ population in Montrose County has substantially increased from 17.9% in 2010 to 26% in 2022. That is just slightly higher than the national population in this age group. The average monthly social security payment is \$1,918.

Colorado has a tax exemption up to \$24,000, which includes everyone who receives the median social security payment or less. Only nine states tax social security income for retirees, which does not include California. A recent report in the *Montrose Mirror* about food insecurity discussed the grocery tax in Montrose County. Forty-three percent of counties in the U.S. charge some kind of tax on groceries. The new Montrose school proposal would increase property taxes more than 12x the amount that Grand Junction residents received for their new school.

A 2020 National Council on Aging report showed that 49.6% of individuals over 60 had "household incomes below the Elder Index value for their geography." This means they had less than "the standard needed to afford basic living needs." Overall, this was a 4.6% increase between 2018 and 2020.

Housing

California and Colorado both have significant housing shortages, which further exacerbate the affordability crises. California has the most significant housing shortage in the country and Colorado is considered the 8th most significant housing shortage, according to a report released in May of this year.

A 2021 report found 1,221 homeless people

in rural Colorado, known as the Balance of State region. 42% of that homeless population lives in Mesa county, which is about 512 people. 5% live in Montrose County which is about 61 people. 25% of the homeless population is seniors over the age of 65 and 20% are families. Colorado had the second highest percentage increase in homelessness in 2023 with a 38.9% total increase.

Crime

Neighborhood Scout estimates the crime rate in Montrose to be 27.81 per 1,000 people while California has a crime rate of 28.43 per 1,000 people. California has more violent crime, but Montrose has more property crime. The website estimates Montrose to be safer than only 12% of all U.S. cities based on the per capita statistics. Last year, the *Montrose Mirror* interviewed Seth Ryan, then district attorney for the 7th Judicial District, about issues with the criminal justice procedures. Ryan talked about having a shortage of attorneys for the six-county case load and progressive judges granting personal recognizance bonds, which release suspects before trial without requiring cash bail on the constitutional premise that individuals are innocent until proven guilty.

There are case examples of individuals committing violent crimes in New York and California after being released on PR bonds. Despite that, studies have not shown a causal relationship between bail reform and an increased crime rate.

Ryan is still on the ballot to retain his position as the 7th District DA, but he has already announced his resignation. Ryan cited a high attorney turnover rate and an unsustainable workload following the pandemic and "political aftermath."

Ryan has received heavy criticism from citizens in the 7th district for plea bargaining criminals into light sentences or no jail time whatsoever. He raised concerns about the caseload and shortage of qualified attorneys last year in his conversations with the Board of County Commissioners and the *Montrose Mirror*.

The Delta County Sheriff was present in the meeting at the BOCC with Seth Ryan last year and spoke about the lack of justice when the suspects caught by the police are given a slap on the wrist or no consequences at all. Culturally, this leads to a reduction in motivation for the police to catch criminals

that will be set free and causes victims to not report crimes that have occurred.

Between 2021 and 2022 there was a national decrease in violent crime, but statistics actually show a total increase of 44% in the number of violent crime victims nationally. The FBI had originally released statistics showing a 2.1% decrease in crime from 2021 to 2022, but has now updated the figures to show a total 4.5% increase. The original data failed to include large metro cities that have the highest rates of crime, including Los Angeles, Chicago, San Francisco, and New Orleans.

Policies

California is the most populous blue state and has voted for the Democratic party presidential candidate in every election since 1992. Colorado voted Republican in every election until 2008, with the exception of 1992. Since 2008, the state has voted blue in every election.

Rural Western Colorado citizens have strongly condemned the wolf reintroduction bill that notably affects ranchers and residents on the western slope. Colorado has a population nearing six million; still, the Western Slope only comprises 10% of the state's population despite accounting for 33% of the land in the state. A ballot proposal in Denver has farmers and ranchers worried about the impact it will have on Western Colorado ranchers, but it will also have a substantial impact nationwide. This is ballot initiative 309 to prohibit slaughterhouses, which would only shut down a single facility known as Superior Farms. This facility is responsible for 15-20% of the total processing capacity in the country. The Rocky Mountain Farmers Union has come out against this proposal that has been championed by Pro Animal Futures, which states on the website, "If you feel upset for the animals killed for fur or meat, you're in good company, and you are on the right side of history." Governor Jared Polis famously declared a "meat out" day, which triggered a story in the *NY Times* and outrage from ranchers in Colorado and neighboring states. The move to encourage reduced meat consumption for climate change and disease mitigation would have serious economic impacts in Colorado. Animal agriculture in Colorado accounted for \$9.5 million in economic output in 2021 along with \$2.1 billion in household earnings and over 47,000 jobs.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE K9 VOODOO HAS RECEIVED DONATION OF BODY ARMOR



Courtesy photo of K9 Voodoo and K9 Handler Deputy Mendisco.

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— Montrose County Sheriff's Office, CO, K9 Voodoo has received a bullet and stab protective vest thanks to a

charitable donation from non-profit organization Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. K9 Voodoo's vest was sponsored by Don and Misty Fike of Galesburg, IL and embroi-

dered with the sentiment "Born to Love-Trained to Serve-Loyal Always".

Vested Interest in K9s, Inc., established in 2009, is a 501(c)(3) charity whose mission is to provide bullet and stab protective vests and other assistance to dogs of law enforcement and related agencies throughout the United States.

This potentially lifesaving body armor for four-legged K9 officers is U.S. made, custom fitted, and NIJ certified. Since its inception, Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. has provided over 5,794 vests to K9s in all 50 states at a value of \$6.9 million, made possible by both private and corporate donations.

The program is open to U.S. dogs that are at least 20 months old and actively employed and certified with law enforcement or related agencies.

K9s with expired vests are also eligible to participate. There are an estimated 30,000 law enforcement K9s throughout the United States.

Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. accepts tax-deductible contributions in any amount, while a single donation of \$985 will sponsor one vest. Each vest has a value of \$1800.00, weighs an average of 4-5 lb., and comes with a five-year warranty.

For more information, or to learn about volunteer opportunities, please call 508-824-6978. Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. provides information, lists events, and accepts donations at www.vik9s.org, or you may mail your contribution to P.O. Box 9, East Taunton, MA 02718.



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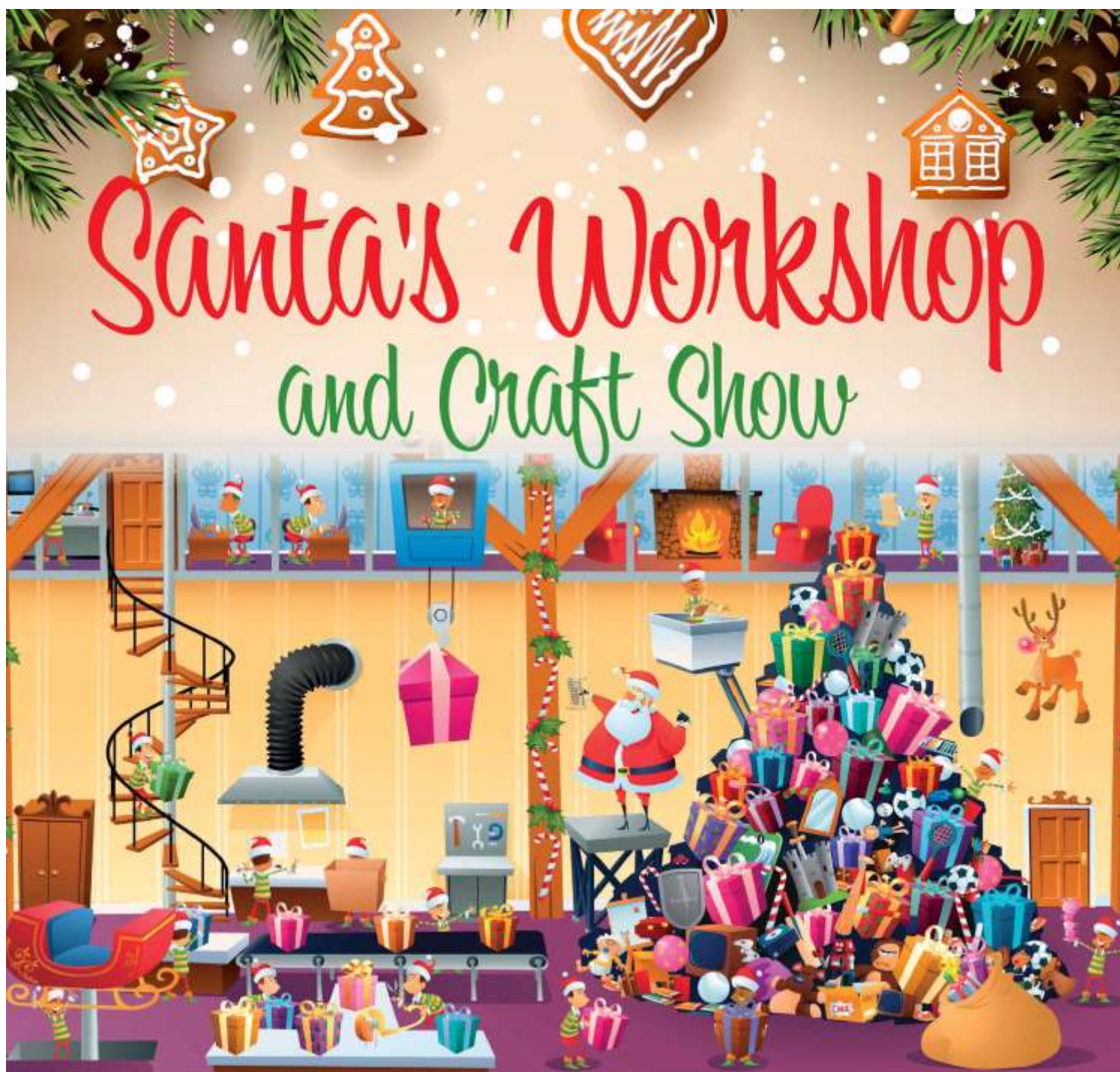
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CITY TO HOST LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE UPDATE OPEN HOUSE

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— The public is encouraged to attend an open house hosted by the City of Montrose to review proposed updates to the city's Land Development Code that could allow more types of housing to be developed in the community. The open house is scheduled for Monday, Nov. 4, at 5:30 p.m. in the Community Room of the Montrose Public Safety Building at 434 S.1st Street.

Following extensive community outreach and participation, in 2021 the City of Montrose adopted the Envision 2040 Comprehensive Plan, which developed a new vision, guiding principles, goals, and objectives to address community issues. One of the primary goals of the Envision 2040 Plan is to encourage a variety of housing types, tenure, and density to

meet the needs of the community.

After the Envision 2040 Plan was adopted, the City of Montrose completed a housing needs assessment to evaluate current housing conditions and needs, make projections of future housing needs, and provide recommendations for policies, practices, and regulatory changes that can be implemented to address gaps between housing needs and supply.

Over the past year, city staff has been working on a Land Development Code update that specifically focuses on housing initiatives based on recommendations from the housing assessment, as well as recommendations and goals outlined in the Envision 2040 Plan. Some of the proposed code amendments include the expanded allowance of Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs), allowance of more housing

types in residential zone districts, and other housing and non-housing related items. An initial open house was held earlier this year and city staff is hosting this final open house as the code update project wraps up to enable the public to learn more about the proposed code amendments and provide any final feedback. The proposed changes are expected to be presented to the City Council for adoption in December. To stay up to date on the code update process, a project website has been developed and can be found here.

For more information about the Land Development Code update process, contact Community Development Director, Jace Hochwalt at 970.240.1478 or at jhochwalt@cityofmontrose.org. For information about the City of Montrose visit CityofMontrose.org.



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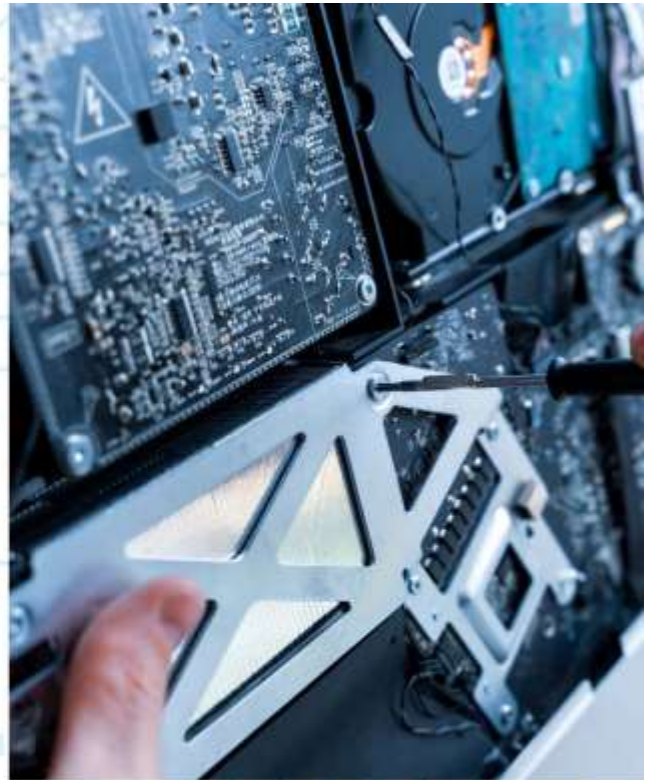
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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

VOTE MURRAY FOR MONTROSE

Editor:

Seven and a half years ago we were embraced in selecting two new county commissioners. Caddy and Rash both promised that they would undo the County Event Center and the hospital suit if elected. Well the hospital suit continued for another 3 years and cost the county millions to settle (out of your tax money) and a like number of millions out of the hospital income which just reduced what was spent on charity care. So much for the first 'fib' or rather promise. I was on the hospital board of directors at the time. We won the suit. This is why our precious hospital did not die an 'ignominious death' by being sold to private enterprise by the County Commissioners so that they could blow the proceeds on whatever did float their boat.

Onward and upward, the newly elected did not STOP the event center. It was the pet of Davis, the third commissioner. With his vast experience of two years on the BOCC he convinced the recent additions, Rash and Caddy, that they could not stop the Center as it was already in the planning stage. No one could tell them differently in spite of the fact that it could have been stopped immediately because it had not been funded.

So the promises of Rash and Caddy for naught they did not stop the travesty. I love cowboy games and rodeos (and was involved for 15 years in them at my last residence) but I believe just as the west was won year round out of doors, so should the games be played out of doors year round. That \$1.75M will be a 'LARIAT' around the neck of Montrose forever. The third commissioner at the time claimed that it would raise the income of Montrose business by \$4M per month just like in a town North of Dallas and South of Oklahoma City. (Ardmore?) I took the liberty of calling the City offices and was told that their arena makes about \$400 per week just like it did when Gene Autry and Will Rogers helped to fund it. The Commissioner/Promoter, Davis, literally called me a liar at a public meeting. So the suckers of Montrose believed him (a businessman who I've been told had been bankrupt) and voted for the Event Center.

NOW YOU HAVE THE BACKGROUND on those two issues, one of which cost Montrose \$16M in legal fees in a suit that the County lost and the second that will cost taxpayers between \$40M and \$120M over its 40 year loss-span all because of ignorance claiming to know it all. David White is right.

In his article in the Montrose Mirror last week, Mr. White hit the NAILS right on the head when

he said that we hired two men who had done nothing in their employed lifetimes but suck off the public tit. While that might be a caustic comment, it is most apropos. Plainly, neither one had ever made a Friday payroll or was responsible for one. And they never worried about it while in public office. Simply put they have spent, spent and SPENT.

It is difficult how Caddy can be so cheap with the Sheriff with both the general fund and the PSST money seeing as they both served on the City Police force together. Maybe there is just an inherent dislike, stemming from their service together on the Police Department, who knows? But we citizens who worked on passage of the PSST voted for a large percentage of the tax collection to go to the sheriff, not the General Fund. And we put the tax on ourselves because the County Commissioners would not, in our opinion, adequately fund items for the Deputies, like armored vests, modern weapons and training. No, no, just the minute he had the chance sheriff Dunlap showed the BOCC how to take it, or they just did it in spite of his objections, 'who knows' that either, but the money since 2008 of \$40M plus has gone to the General Fund to fund what? There is another "who knows" about our government. The Montrose City Police who were provided a PSST by their voters and used it for the purpose intended has been inundated with applications of erstwhile city cops while the Sheriff has lost a third of his force or half of its' patrol officers. The 'unnecessary' pay differential between the City and the County is about \$30,000 per year and a much better retirement system. Why? "Who Knows?" PSST has the bucks!

And Rash, who knows not S—t from Shinola about anything (well maybe he was ok as a 'pavement inspector' for the state) and has done even less for Montrose County except cash his paychecks and be rude in public meetings to his constituents just goes along to get along, hollering at anyone who dares to ask a question. Rash is like poison ivy, you catch it by being around it, it just itches like hell and is hard to get rid of. He leaves office in January. Hopefully others of his ignorance and rudeness will go the same way.

The Commissioners want Dunlap elected. In deference passed in 2018 not to interfere in BOCC elections, have permitted Hansen to do just that. Last week she was publicly electioneering for Dunlap. You have to wonder why, in violation of BOCC policy she sees it so important to get him in.

Dunlap's only motives to running is to have somewhere to snooze, collect the pay and if

needed, protect a relative's employment. I have heard of no such needs as he can sleep at home, collects retired pay (from his prior 'sheriff's stint' as 'meter maid' or was it the National Guard?) This relative of his, is from what I heard, an exemplary employee.

DUNLAP IS RUNNING WITHOUT ANY PLAT-FORM. No one knows what he stands for and therefore no apparent reason to run except to get paid for his snoozing. Hansen just wants a third of the commissioners to go along (with her) to get along and Dunlap fits that bill to a 'T'. In his mid-seventies one might ask him why he is running and be astounded that he does not know. Another "Who Knows?"

Rash and Caddy are trying to leave the county in ever-more hock than they inherited as commissioners with the Event Center. With the \$29.4M in a 'bureaucrat building' which at its inception will be begging to be filled (more staff) and likely to be named in their honor as the Montrose's version of 'Caddy Shack.' This building will be a huge waste of money, it will hang around our necks forever. (just like the Event Center) Then there is the North Campus in the budget for \$14M. If higher education needs this let higher education pay for it---it is in the county budget because the college cannot justify it. Maybe buy and use the candy factory. Reduce the need for new employees, hire three commissioners who will do work INSTEAD OF just pontificating, cashing their paychecks, driving county pickups, swiping PSST money, reducing the MCSO to a non-functioning manpower level.

The Montrose County Board of County Commissioners needs a cleansing. Its present condition is unhealthy. In medical circles such a procedure would be called an ENEMA. Maybe several. Let's give it to them on the fifth of November! It is overdue! Let's make it the last thing this triumvirate has to remember---being washed out and flushed.

This is our chance to clean up county government---ELECT Trisha Murray TO COMMISSION. She is truly an INDEPENDENT! A fine upstanding moral citizen with extensive knowledge and proven ability.

Trisha will in fact make the BOCC in January a truly efficient open polite governing body in Montrose County. One of which we citizens can be proud. A person her constituents will talk to.

MURRAY for MONTROSE. Now. It is time to act positively. Vote MURRAY for MONTROSE. As Larry the cable guy so often said, "GET HER DONE"

Bill Bennett, Montrose

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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

REFUSING CHEMICAL TESTING HAS CONSEQUENCES IN COLORADO

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO – Receiving a DUI comes with serious consequences due to the threat an impaired driver causes to other road-side users in a vehicle, bicycle, or on foot. While the penalties are significant for DUI, drivers can

make things even worse if they refuse or attempt to delay a chemical test when requested by an officer who suspects impairment.

"In Colorado, with the privilege of receiving a license to drive in this state, you have agreed to submit a chemical test when requested if the officer places you under arrest for driving under the influence," stated Col. Matthew C. Packard, chief of the Colorado State Patrol. "When a person refuses, this driver receives additional penalties, and your refusal could work against you even further as you go through the court process."

If a Colorado driver refuses a chemical test, one automatic consequence is a longer revocation of his license at the DMV. For a first offense, the driver's license revocation will increase from 9 months to one year. In addition, the driver will be classified as a Persistent Drunk Driver (PDD) and be required to use an ignition interlock device for a minimum of two-year period. This device will be required regardless of whether the driver is convicted of the impaired driving offense in criminal court.

Refusing a chemical test is compounding a driver's problems. Facing automatic consequences for refusal will make your life much more difficult than it needs to be.

The Colorado State Patrol is highlighting the consequences an average Colorado driver experiences after being convicted of DUI this holiday season as part of their "Don't Underestimate Impairment" campaign. Making a good decision "in the moment" while already intoxicated is unlikely. Don't underestimate the consequences of this choice, and plan ahead for a sober ride.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

BIDENOMICS HAS BEEN A COMPLETE DISASTER

Editor:

With our country on the brink of an all out nuclear War, this November presidential election is shaping up to be the most critical in the history of the United States.

Not since the Carter/Reagan election have the choices between the two leading candidates been so clear.

The Trump administration brought an unprecedented economic prosperity to every American citizen as well as a long overdue sense of national security. The Biden/ Harris administration opened up our borders to millions of illegal immigrants who are near freely feeding at the public trough. Bidenomics has been a complete disaster raising costs of all goods

and services for every American citizen.

After executing a perfect coup de grace against Biden the Democrat deep state unilaterally selected Harris as the Democrat candidate in spite of the fact that she had proven for four years that she was inapt and unable to string coherent sentences together.

Now suddenly the Democrat deep state wants you to believe that she is an entirely different person capable of leading the country. Sadly, far too many low IQ voters will buy into the propaganda being spewed about Harris.

A vote for Harris/Walz will certainly indicate the total loss of any sense of reality.

Put America first and make America great

once again by voting for Trump/Vance.

Down ballot decisions in Colorado are equally as important as is the presidential race.

Voters should certainly consider that every candidate dumb enough to run as a Democrat has supported all of the economic policies that have been detrimental to this country and have freely supported the influx of millions of illegal immigrants.

You can make Colorado great again by voting for Jeff Hurd for CD 3, Marc Catlin for SD 5, and Larry Don Suckla for HD 58.

You can also make Montrose county government great again by voting for Trisha Murray as commissioner in District 3.

Dee Laird, Montrose



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

The Shelly Boarding House, located in rural southeastern Colorado, was home to male pensioners and Social Security recipients who themselves were loners and had nowhere else to go.

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

GAIL MARVEL
Montrose Author & Reporter

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





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OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

WHERE ARE WE GOING MONTROSE COUNTY RESIDENTS?

Your cost of living is going to go up and you most likely won't have anything to say about it!

By David White

As if inflation wasn't taking more and more of our disposable income, we have found that our local governmental agencies are contributing to the problem in spades.

In last week's Montrose Mirror, Steve Middendorp wrote on Page 1 about the City of Montrose and Montrose County's sales tax on food. He accurately stated that ***"the extra strain on consumers is noticeable for the middle class, and especially those living at or around the poverty level"*** and that ***"Yahoo statistics show that food prices are 25% higher than they were at this time four years ago."***

On more than one occasion, I have gone to the City Council seeking a "tax holiday" on the sales tax on food only to be met with blank stares and unresponsive answers to questions posed to them. The City Manager, Bill Bell, tries to make the case that it would wreck the City's budget and that in reality, County residents, tourists and those coming from Ouray, Ridgway, Telluride, et al. pay a third of these taxes thereby lessening the burden on City residents. Hogwash I say! You're still paying your share at the 3.88% rate for the City's cut and 1.75% for the County or 5.63% on every dollar spent. Enough already.

Of course, not satisfied with what they're already receiving in tax revenue, the City Council has a proposed 66% increase in the lodging tax on the ballot for November 5th. Along with the Montrose RE-1J proposed property tax increase totaling hundreds, if not thousands of dollars in additional taxes per year per home, commercial property, etc. to build a new Montrose High School (sorry residents of northern Ouray County, Olathe, Pea Green, et al., you're not getting anything out of this one). And, if you're a renter, expect dramatically higher rents to come

your way if that measure passes. In my opinion, both should go down in flames.

This leads me to an article I wrote a few weeks ago about Project 7's plan to build a back-up water treatment plant that will, when all is said and done, cost hundreds of millions of dollars to build and finance over the next 40 years. As you may recall, Project 7 is the quasi-governmental agency that processes all of our drinking water and is governed by the City of Montrose, Town of Olathe, City of Delta, Menoken Water District, Chipeta Water District and the Tri County Water Conservancy District. Each entity appoints an individual to the Project 7 Board of Directors.

I attended their October 24th Board meeting and by all indications, it appears that this unelected board will proceed with plans to construct a second treatment facility just south of Colona, Colorado in Ouray County to process water from the Ridgway Reservoir and will build water transmission pipelines to transport the processed water north into Montrose in conjunction with the treatment plant. According to information presented to the Board, the cost of the project has ballooned from \$10-31 million in 2009 to a now estimated \$185 million not including \$300M+ in potential interest payments. They anticipate having a "Guaranteed Maximum Price – GMP" for this project by December when they will call a special meeting of the Board on December 19th to seek the go ahead for this project which dramatically increase our water rates for many years to come adding to the inflationary effects of governmental decision making. That meeting will be followed by meetings in January and February to get approval of the various City Councils and water district boards, as a whole, to build the facilities. All of this appears to be imminent.

While the cause is legitimate, the price tag isn't given that it will not come close

to producing enough water to satisfy all current and projected needs for all uses and is, in fact, simply a backup plant to the main water treatment plant east of Montrose.

Most concerning though was a statement made by Municipal Advisor Mr. Greg Swartz of D.A. Davidson & Company (they are the company that would arrange financing of this project) wherein Mr. Swartz stated that "Project 7 must evolve into a Regional Governance District" which would make them a political subdivision of the State of Colorado. There are certainly positives and negatives to this concept, however, such an entity would no doubt have taxing authority and would seemingly be able to finance more projects through property taxes or maybe a sales tax without having to go to member entities to raise water rates...or maybe, like the City of Montrose, they'll simply do one or both and double, triple and quadruple tax whatever exponential number of avenues are available to them (i.e. cell phone bills, utility bills, cable television, bills, etc.). Whatever can be done to apply their taxing authority to, they will. It's the nature of the beast. The last thing we need is another arm of State government to interfere in our lives.

And speaking of government and its inefficiencies as well as its elected leadership that should be serving the interests of the people and not themselves, hot-headed Montrose County Commissioner Roger Rash was at it again last week during a 2025 County budget meeting session wherein he disrespected and insulted soon to be elected Commissioner Scott Mijares as well as another member of the public that was present for the meetings. This man is an embarrassment to the citizens of Montrose County and should have been removed from office years ago.

For the record and by his own admission, Mr. Rash has carried a grudge against

WHERE ARE WE GOING MONTROSE COUNTY RESIDENTS? From previous pg

Montrose County due to the fact that his deceased wife, once a County employee, was let go by the County years ago for reasons that are known by him and others and which he and she never accepted. Mr. Rash's time in office was compromised with this "vendetta" as well as his wife's 5 ½ year illness during which time he missed dozens of meetings instead of doing the right thing by the taxpayers – resigning from his office. Take care of your family first, most folks would say. But no. A hefty paycheck and fellow Commissioners who turned a blind eye to his repeated absences as well as the grudge kept him going. Perhaps it's not too late. Resign Commissioner Rash. Move on and find happiness in something good. Park your mean-spirited attitude somewhere else. Find happiness but not at the expense of the taxpayers.

While all of this drama was being played out, pet projects that have and will cost the County and us all millions of dollars to cater to the bureaucrats are on deck and

moving full speed ahead. The restoration of the historic downtown old Montrose County Courthouse building and the construction of a new 50,000 square foot County Administration building will take upwards of \$50,000,000 to see through to the end unless stopped by the incoming Commissioners in January of 2025. Of course, there's more to discuss on this subject, but you get the idea. Yes...I'm anti-tax from the standpoint of asking what the taxpayers can bear in the way of a financial impact to their lives. Taxes at all levels are out of sight and yet we keep getting hit with more simply because of inflation and mismanagement by our gov-

ernment.

The chart below shows just how bad it is and can be found here: [Visualizing the Cost of the American Dream in 2024](#)

We must have good governance and elected officials who respect what it takes to make a living in this day and age. November 5th will be the day you can choose the path forward. Don't shirk your duty as a citizen. VOTE!

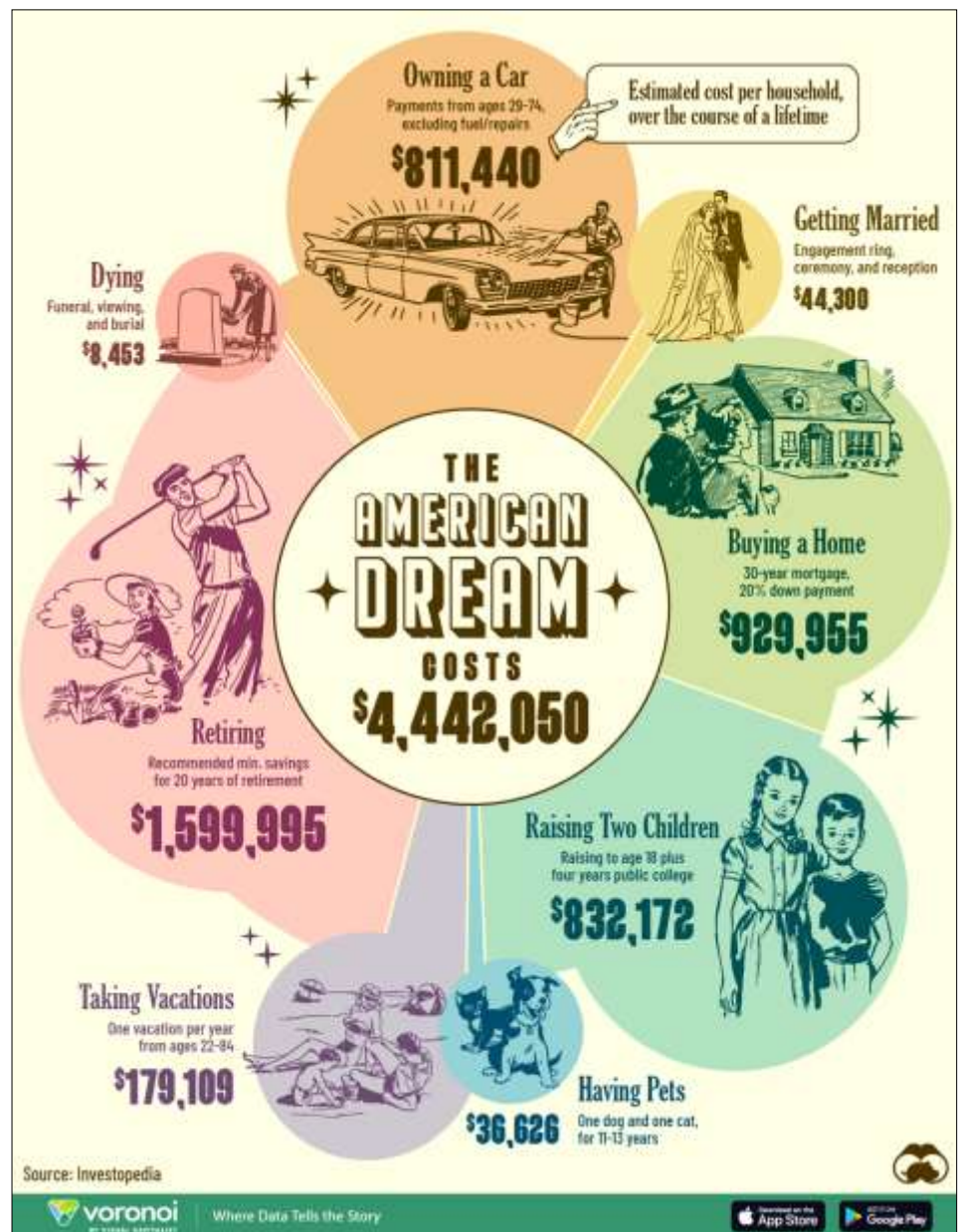
Mr. White is an active citizen & community leader as well as a business owner, entrepreneur, former Montrose City Councilmember and Mayor as well as a two term County Commissioner and has served on many boards and commissions during his career. He & his wife are the parents of six children and have 10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

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COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

DWAIN MERRITT KING

February 7, 1933 — October 18, 2024



DWAIN MERRITT KING of Montrose, CO, passed away on October 18, 2024, at Colowrow Care Center in Olathe Colorado. He was born to Merritt and Iris (Probasco) King February 7, 1933, in Montrose, CO. He attended the Menoken School through 8th grade and then attended Montrose High School, from which he graduated in 1951. He attended the Colorado State College of Agriculture and Mechanic arts, now known as Colorado State University, where he participated in ROTC. Upon graduation, he enlisted in the USAF as a 2nd Lieutenant. He became a pilot and flew the F100 as part of the 1st squadron of United States planes capable of obtain-

ing supersonic speeds in level flight. He flew The Iron Curtain carrying an atomic weapon. The plane was new and had numerous failures in the first year of its deployment; over half of his squadron chose to fly their malfunctioning planes into the ground rather than risk them crashing uncontrolled into densely populated areas of Europe. Once, he was called into his commander's office and was not allowed to leave until he wrote a letter to his mother telling her he was okay. He had neglected to write to her for such a long time that she had contacted the Red Cross who contacted his command! Although Dwain was a quiet man and didn't talk much about his time in the military, he did speak about a time that he accidentally flew into East German air space and ended up with enemy MIGs on his tail.

He served in the United States Air Force from 1955-1958 and was honorably discharged as a Captain. He returned home from his time in the military to work the family farm with his father. He married Marilyn Sigafus on January 23, 1959. They had three boys, John Merritt King, Thomas Dwain King, and Scott William King. In 1969, Dwain took over the operation from his father, later to be known as King's Farm and Feedlot. It was around 1980 that Dwain turned the feedlot into a commercial feedlot. During the 1980s, Dwain served on the Montrose County Airport Authority that was responsible for the

enhanced and expanded Montrose Regional Airport that was dedicated on Jun 25, 1988. He served his community in many ways, including as a board member of the Montrose Potato Growers and the Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association, among others.

Dwain would often speak of the time that he spent riding on the Lazy Y on the Uncompahgre Plateau with Pearl Cooper. He also spoke about a particular pack trip with his brothers-in-law and Ed's brother in the Cimarrons. Dwain enjoyed snowmobiling with many friends and family. He and Marilyn took several trips to Alaska and enjoyed many trips with family and friends in their fifth wheel trailer. He continued to travel for many years after Marilyn's death. He also enjoyed spending time at the family cabin on the Little Cimarron and especially enjoyed a good hot dog roasted over a fire. He will be greatly missed!

He is preceded in death by his wife Marilyn King and son John King. He is survived by his sisters, Karen (Ed) DeJulio, Joanne (Larry) Huff, and sons Thomas King, Scott (Susanne) King, grandchildren, Samantha Alsobrook, Levi Alsobrook, Kaylee (Steve) Vanden Hoek, Stephanie (Peter) Vanden Hoek, Brandon King, great grandchildren, Coralee, Jaina, Sarah, Micah, Marcus, Delaney, and Zane Vanden Hoek, Aland Stroud, and Makayla and Joseph Spangenberg.

CELEBRATING LOCAL BEAUTY.



COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

CHARLES ALVIN HUNTER

December 22, 1935-October 14, 2024

CHARLES ALVIN HUNTER (CHAS) passed away at Montrose Regional Health on October 14, 2024 with his family by his side. Chas was born in Sharon Spring, Kansas to Bryan and Toy (Starkey) Hunter in a family of three sisters and two brothers. The family moved to Hotchkiss, Colorado where Chas graduated from high school in 1954.

After high school Chas worked at various jobs and after one summer working on grain silos in Kansas in the heat and wind decided to go to barber school in Pueblo, Colorado. After Barber school, he worked for a while in Lamar, Colorado before he purchased a barber shop in Montrose. For a while Chas's brother Larry and Joe Con-dotti also worked at the shop. Between the three of them, they cut most of the high school boys' hair and their fathers and grandfathers. Chas enjoyed his profession and retired only after he couldn't physically do the work anymore. Chas couldn't go out anywhere without running into a customer or two. He often said that he missed his customers the most when he retired.

He married Marie Mitchell in 1955 and they had three children, Debra Marie,

Charles Scott and Donna Kay. They divorced some years later.

In 1968, Chas met Marcia Wilson and they were partners in life for 56 years and were married in 2015 much to the surprise of their children. Chas and Marcia raised and raced quarter horses with a fair amount of success. Chas enjoyed the foals that they raised and raced. Chas and Marcia crossed several things off their bucket list including a cruise to Alaska and attending the 2016 Kentucky Derby.

Chas was preceded in death by his parents, sisters Mary Matusic, Dorothy Brandfas and Hazel Pool. Brothers Harold Hunter and Leo Hunter (infant) and his beloved daughter Debra Marie (Hunter) Nelson.

Chas is survived by his wife Marcia Hunter of the family home in Montrose, his brother Larry Hunter of Montrose, his children Scott Hunter (Deb) and Donna Corona of Montrose and stepdaughters Monica Linsacum (Roy) and Melissa Ponce (Danny) also from Montrose. His grandchildren Terry Kyriss (Aimee), Corey Nelson (Jolene), Bryant Hunter (Lesly), Luke Hunter (Kristie), Amber Good (Tanner), Ashley McGee (Ben), Mallory Vess, Dalton



Vess (Kendra), Daylon Ponce, Adam Ochs (Jenifer) and Brandon Ochs (Liz). Chas had 19 great grandchildren whom he enjoyed very much.

Memorial services for Chas will be held October 28, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. at the Montrose Christian Church. Cremation has taken place, and the services will conclude at the church. Lunch will be served in the fellowship hall at the church following the service.

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COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

LAURA CATHERINE FLICK

June 26, 1932 — October 15, 2024

LAURA CATHERINE (MCCARRIER) FLICK, age 92, passed away on October 15, 2024 after a short illness. Laura was born on June 26, 1932 to Clarence and Lydia McCarrier in Silverton, Colorado. She spent her childhood in Silverton and attended college in Gunnison at Western State, graduating with a bachelor's degree. Following college, she taught home economics.

Laura met the love of her life, Lawrence Everett Flick, in Silverton. They celebrated nearly 59 years of marriage prior to his death in 2018. Laura gave up teaching to be a stay-at-home mom, using the home economics skills and her gentle nature to be the best mom ever.

Laura is survived by her three children Nancy (David) Weirich, Mary (Michael) Flick, and Dan Flick, as well as two grandchildren, Fallon (Tanner) Fetzner and Dexter (Hannah) Flick, and two great grandchildren. In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by both parents and her sister, Maxine.

Laura will be remembered by her family and friends as a joyous presence. At her request, no services will be held.

SAMUEL CODY COLWELL

April 6, 1973 — October 17, 2024

SAMUEL CODY COLWELL passed away at his home in Montrose, Colorado on October 17th, 2024. Sam was born in Palm Springs, California to William and Sandra Colwell in 1973. The family moved to Colorado in his teenage years. In 1991, Sam and Aubrie Landes had his oldest son, Daniel Colwell.

Sam started working in the golf course construction industry at a very early age and was mentored by his uncle, Byron Coker.

Working over 25 years as a Golf Course Shaper, Sam thoroughly enjoyed what he did and had a gift for taking plans off of paper and putting them into place skillfully.

Sam met his wife, Rachael while working in Gardiner, Montana and they married in 2012. The couple were blessed with three children; Grace, Caleb and Elizabeth. The family recently moved back to Montrose in 2023.

He passionately read and studied the Bible on a daily basis. He had a strong faith, loved his family, shaping, fly-fishing and acting like one of the kids. Sam was a devoted Christian, husband, father, brother, son, friend and mentor.

Sam is survived by his father, William Colwell; mother, Sandra Colwell; sister, Kelly Colwell; wife, Rachael Colwell; and four children Daniel Colwell, Grace Colwell, Caleb Colwell and Elizabeth Colwell.

Service will be held at Crippin Funeral Home at 802 E. Main Street Montrose, Colorado 81401 on Monday October 28th, 2024 at 10am. Burial to follow at Grand View Cemetery ~ 16300 6465 Court Montrose, Colorado 81403.



Thank you for reading

THE MONTROSE MIRROR

ISSUE 492 Oct. 28, 2024

ART & SOL

GRAND VALLEY AGRICULTURE, EARLY 1900S

By Joe Zeni and Kathryn R. Burke

MONTROSE—In the early 20th century, across the entire Western Slope of Colorado, nothing was more important than agriculture. Railroads, real estate, commercial businesses, and mining all contributed to the local economies, but most people made their livelihoods from growing and selling agricultural products.

The Grand Valley offered the right combination for agricultural prosperity. A warm summer climate, long growing season, rich fertile soil, an abundance of labor, and railroads to transport harvested fruits and vegetables to markets near and far. With a couple of hiccups like insect control and temperature adjustments to address, the towns of Grand Junction, Fruita, and Palisade began to make the best of what the area had to offer. But they still needed water.

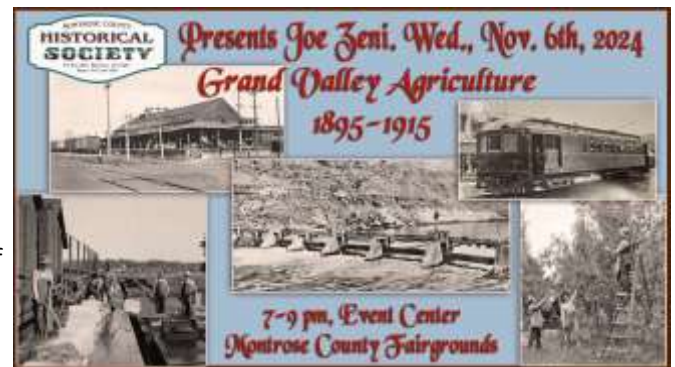
Getting irrigation into the Valley was a primary focus of early farmers. Canals were dug off the Grand (later, Colorado) River, sometimes by hand, and served early fruit growers in Palisade. As larger and larger canals were needed for orchards down-river, private groups invested in the equipment needed to build more extensive irrigation systems throughout the Valley. Ultimately, the Federal Government funded the building of a massive dam in DeBeque Canyon and the creation of a Government Highline Canal that provided water to orchards all the way west of Fruita.

As the water flowed into the Valley, hundreds of thousands of fruit trees, predom-

inantly apples, were planted. Fruit was grown, picked, packaged, and shipped to market. Family income increased and the future looked bright. But farming is like the lottery, you never know if you'll win or lose. Periodic spring freezes and the codling moth proved to be serious threats. Enterprising locals addressed the issues with a new invention: the smudge pot.

And began to use increasingly toxic insect sprays. Both efforts saw only moderate success. In a few years a half million healthy fruit trees were pulled out of the ground in favor of more lucrative field crops like corn, beans, potatoes, grapes, wheat, oats, and hay. In the east Valley, a new fruit tree, peaches replaced the apples.

As the agriculture of the Valley began to diversify, so did the communities. Like-minded growers formed cooperatives and other groups that met their needs. Newer mechanical equipment made farming easier and more productive. Reduced freight rates made shipping products to market more economically viable. Iced refrigerator railway cars kept produce stable so it could travel farther without spoiling. Larger industrial enterprises like canning factories, flour mills, and fruit exchanges soon appeared. In more rural areas of the county, cattle and sheep operations flourished, the animals fed by local farmers in



the winter and high mountain open range in the summer.

Although industrialization, and eventually tourism, became economic mainstays throughout Western Colorado, agriculture continues to play an important role in its prosperity even today. Many small farmers have eschewed toxic chemical sprays in favor of companion planting and heirloom seed growing. Grand Junction and the surrounding region host numerous festivals celebrating harvest, wine growing, corn, apples, peaches, lavender—yes, it's edible—and more. From early spring through the end of the pumpkin latte season, local farmers' markets supply fresh food to suit every palate. Restaurants support farmers with locally sourced farm-to-table meals for their customers. And the really good news is: Growing and eating fresh food grown on local farms and ranches is not governed by AI (Artificial intelligence); it takes real people doing real work, shoveling, mucking, haying, hoeing, mowing, irrigating, harvesting and getting their ranch and farm boots muddy.

MIRROR IMAGES: COLORADO OUTDOORS BLOCK PARTY!



Mirror staff photos

MONTROSE-The Colorado Outdoors Block Party last week drew enthusiastic crowds to the development beside the Uncompahgre River. Clockwise from top left, a beautiful afternoon to walk the river trail; Tonya Maddox and Lisette Riviere enjoy the chance to mingle with the community; "Zebras" were part of the excitement; Food trucks and family fun; Friends of Youth & Nature share information about the non-profit with attendees. Mirror staff photos.

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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

VANCE COUTURIER RECEIVES PHI KAPPA PHI GATHRIGHT/DEAN'S EXCELLENCE AWARD

Special to the Mirror

BATON ROUGE, LA -- Vance Couturier, of Montrose, CO, was recently selected as the recipient of the Gathright Phi Kappa Phi Dean's Excellence Award from The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi Texas A&M Chapter.

The Phi Kappa Phi Gathright/Dean's Excellence awards were created to recognize top freshman and sophomore students in each college who display exceptional promise. The award is administered in partnership with the TAMU chapter of Phi Kappa Phi. The goal of the Dean's Excellence awards is to identify and honor those students who exemplify the Phi Kappa Phi motto to "let the love of learning rule humanity."

Couturier is currently studying at the College of Arts and Sciences at Texas A&M University and will graduate in 2027.

The TAMU chapter was chartered in 1949. Phi Kappa Phi recognizes academic excellence across all disciplines. Membership in Phi Kappa Phi is extended to the top 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors. Graduate students in the top 10 percent of the number of candidates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction.



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Email: celebrationmontrose@gmail.com

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

celebrationmontrose.org/

Worship Service Times: 9am and 10:45am

Senior Pastor:

Pastor Brandon Mathis

Church Description/Mission: Celebration
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Affiliation: Lutheran Church Missouri Syn-
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Contact: 970-633-0226

Website: www.montroselutheran.org

Email: montroselutheran@gmail.com

Pastor: Tim Onnen

Worship: Sundays at 9 AM

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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

Website: 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,
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, 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, 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

Website: montroseucc.org

Current Pastor: Rev. Wendy Kidd

Worship service times: Sunday, 10 a.m.

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

on life's journey.

Church demographics: HCUCC welcomes all ages to worship with

us. (predominately family, youth, seniors, singles)

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

MONTROSE 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, [mont-](http://montroseumc.org)

montroseumc.org

Current Senior Pastor: Rev. Kevin Young

Worship service times:

8:30 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual

9:45 a.m. Christian Education & Fellowship

11 a.m. Sanctuary

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

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

email: office@rosemontbaptist.org

Senior Pastor: Rolland Kenneson

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

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

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

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

matter what stage of life they are in.

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

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

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,

www.spiritaware.org

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

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

ST. STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

Denomination: Anglican-Reformed Episcopal Church (REC)

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

Contact: [ststephensmont-](mailto:ststephensmontrose@yahoo.com)

rose@yahoo.com

www.ststephensmontrose.com

Rev. Dec. Garrett Agajanian

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

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

Sunday: Holy Communion 10 am.

Fellowship following service.

Children's nursery available (unstaffed).

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

website:

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 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;

website: vbcmontrose.org

Current Pastor: Roland Kassales

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

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

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

Church Directory

Mirror Editorial Staff

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

information to the Montrose Mirror:

Name of church

Denomination affiliation

Address Office hours

Contact information (phone number, email address, website)

Name of current Senior Pastor

Worship service times

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

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

Do your church services include Sunday School and childcare?

WEDNESDAY, October 23 • 5:30 - 7:30 pm



Alcohol Ink at Mosaic • Scenic Fall Paintings
Everything included plus adult beverage or soft drink.

21 N. Cascade Ave., Montrose

With Kate Burke
\$45/pp. \$40/pp Welcome Back Sign up in store or online
<https://kathrynburke.com/product/102324M>

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Holiday Wine Basket at LaNoue DuBois
Sat. Nov. 23, 1-3:30 pm

Everything provided plus glass of wine, discount on wine for basket, and free winery tour at end of class. With Kate Burke.



Choose November or December holiday.

Select materials to fit your holiday theme

Register <https://kathrynburke.com/product/112324In/>

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MOSAIC

Fall Wreaths
Wednesday
Oct. 30th
5:30-7:30 pm



Everything included plus snack and adult beverage or soft drink.

21 N. Cascade Ave., Downtown Montrose

<https://kathrynburke.com/product/103024m>

Alcohol Ink Ornaments

Come with friends
Make it a party!

ART CLASS

Brilliant Colors
Pet-proof Ornaments

with Kate Burke

Sat., Dec. 14. 1:00 pm.
LaNoue DuBois Winery
67289 Trout Rd., Montrose
include winery tour

Th., Dec. 5. 5:30 pm.
Mosaic Montrose
21 N. Cascade, downtown

<https://kathrynburke.com/education>

Mosaic Montrose
21 N. Cascade Ave.
Th., Nov. 14th
Paint Your Pet



Detailed instructions & lots of help. Everything included plus a snack and adult beverage or soft drink. Class. \$45. Welcome Back \$40. Group rate available.

With Kate Burke
Sign up in store or online
<https://kathrynburke.com/111424M>

<https://kathrynburke.com/product/111424m>

Kate's Fall
Creative Classes
& Workshops

Everything provided plus a drink.



Info, details, registrations
<https://kathrynburke.com/education>

Private group classes, contact me for details
<https://kathrynburke.com/calendar/>

MASTERING SELF-CARE



THE POWER IS IN YOUR HEART AND HANDS

A 5-week course designed to help busy women
nourish themselves while caring for others.

Led by Dr. Sharon Montes

Do you struggle with:

- Taking care of yourself while caring for others
- Being so focused on caring for family (or others) that you forget yourself
- Knowing that you should devote more time/energy/focus on self-care, but not allowing yourself to do it
- Knowing mentally, spiritually, and physically what to do for self-care, but emotionally not allowing yourself to do it

Would you like to learn how to:

- Balance your body and relax your mind by activating your vagus nerve
- Access your innate wisdom that allows you to be productive, healthy, and happy by re-wiring your nervous system
- Return to inner peace and balance through daily self-care practices that nourish you anytime and anywhere.

**In this course, you will powerfully
connect with your mind, body, and soul.**

**Learn and master a handful of tips
to rebalance and reconnect with your
inner wisdom and nourish yourself.**



COURSE DATES:

November 11 - December 9, 2024

Weekly Meetings on Zoom - 7- 8 pm MT

COURSE PRICE: \$497 Payment plan available

REGISTER BY: NOVEMBER 6, 2024

Scan QR code here for more info and to register



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Mark Covington.....970-209-1956	Office.....970-249-6658

1563 Ogden Rd Montrose, CO 81401



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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. 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

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

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

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

Nov. 6- 7th Annual MEDC Business Showcase on Wednesday, Nov. 6, at the Montrose County Event Center. This event highlights our manufacturing companies and brings community awareness about what they do and the economic value they bring. In addition, it fosters workforce development and employment and career opportunities. There are networking opportunities throughout the event. STEM students will be there demonstrating their knowledge and abilities. An MHS Student Group will be selling lunch and snacks as a fundraiser throughout this event.

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.

Nov 14—Join Montrose County, the Colorado River District, and UVWUA for the sixth annual West Slope Water Summit on Nov. 14 from 8:30am to 2pm at the Montrose County Event Center (1036 North 7th Street). Doors open at 8 a.m. The West Slope Water Summit is free, open to the public, and includes lunch—registration is required. A livestream will also be available at westslopewatersummit.com Lunch is provided with an RSVP. Attendees can [register online](#) or call 970-964-8701. Local water information and resources are available [here](#).



Montrose Skate Park. Photo by Harry Switzer.



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