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© Issue No. 610 Nov. 4, 2024



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the Montrose Mirror

RETROACTIVE CHANGE TO CONTRACT CRUSHES SMALL FARM

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-It was supposed to be a win-win situation. When the owners of a local farm installed low tunnel systems to reduce evapotranspiration on their fields, they expected to be paid back through a contract they had in place with the [Natural Resource Conservation Center \(NRCS\)](#).

Instead, they are losing everything.

"We are currently facing a severe financial crisis due to an unexpected change in payment terms by the USDA's Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), administered by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)," local grower Karson Wynne, 45, told the *Mirror* last week.

"In May of 2023, our farm entered into an EQIP contract with NRCS, agreeing to install low tunnel systems for sustainable agriculture practices," Wynne said. "Under the terms of our contract, NRCS committed to paying \$5.55 per square foot for each low tunnel under 1,000 square feet. Based on this, we installed 19,607.5 square feet of low tunnels, each under the specified threshold."

Upon completion of the project, Karson and his wife Samantha expected to be paid.



The Wynne family installed low tunnel systems to reduce evapotranspiration on their ag land. Courtesy photo.

Continued pg 13

LET'S TALK POLITICS! ELECTIONS, PRIORITIES AND PREDICTIONS



Your ballot includes a volley of important elections, amendments, and propositions. Photo Gunnison Clamp.

Op-Ed Analysis by Gunnison Clamp

MONTROSE-It's that time of year, and this time around, your ballot includes a volley of important elections, amendments, and propositions, many of which are likely bound to be close contests. I won't be going in depth on each candidate's priorities and top issues, nor will I be covering amendments and propositions. I'll rather be touching on the campaign issues which give the bigger picture of what could decide who will be in governing positions going forward. Let's get into the details of some of the races to follow closely this year! Note that all of this is my opinion, not a personal political opinion, but opinion on what could happen based on my observations of polling, public perception of candidates, and how they've run their campaigns.

US House - CO Congressional District 3

We'll cover the Presidential race at the end of this article, so let's begin by looking at the race for Colorado's Third District in the US

Continued pg 14

[Your Brain on Nature: Self Control: By Lauren Hall Ruddell, Ph.D.!](#)

[Lost? Found? Fact or Fiction? By Bob Cox!](#)

[Red Hawks 27- Cyclones 24 MHS Football by Cliff Dodge!](#)

[Letters to the Editor! Regional News Briefs!](#)

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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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Above, Luis practices tricks as Gabe films at the Montrose skate park in Riverbottom Park. Photo by Harry Switzer.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

DON'T LET DEMOCRATS DEPRIVE WESTERN COLORADO CITIZENS OF REPRESENTATION

Editor:

Democrats desire to have super majority resorts to untrue allegations and smear campaigns. All Together Colorado via Ashley Stevens has launched totally untrue propaganda against Marc Catlin. With defeat of Marc Catlin, Democrats would have a two-thirds majority in the State Senate, which would basically negate Re-

publican representation in the Senate.

Mr. Catlin has been appointed Vice-Chair of ag, water & natural resources by 2 different Democratic Speakers of the House. This is historic, never before in Colorado legislation. Mr. Catlin has been ranked the most bipartisan representative in his tenure at the State House.

Who is more qualified to represent the

5th District? A proven candidate who has years of experience and dedication to the Western Slope, or a man who operates a food truck? Don't let Democrats deprive Western Colorado citizens of representation.

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Ron Jenkins

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FOOTBALL: RED HAWKS 27, CYCLONES 24



The Montrose Red Hawks Cheerleaders set to welcome the Red Hawks football team. Photo by Cliff Dodge.

By Cliff Dodge

MONTROSE-The undefeated Montrose Red Hawks football machine continued their unblemished season with a hard fought victory over the previously undefeated Pueblo West Cyclones on Friday evening at the Montrose stadium. The Red Hawks won the league title with a 5-0 record and are now in line for a bye in the opening round of the Colorado High School Activities Association (CHSAA) 4A championship tournament. The top eight schools in the 4A ranking will be awarded a bye and the additional 16 qualifiers will compete for the right to take on the top dogs in the 4A realm.

The Cyclones kicked off to the Red Hawks to open the game. The Red Hawks started on their own 22-yard-line and moved up-field to the midfield stripe before turning the football over on downs to the Cyclones. The short field saw the visitors move into the red zone using an eight-play drive, overcoming two motion penalties in the process. The Cyclones then opened up their passing attack and completed a 16-yard touchdown pass to take a 7-0 lead.

The Red Hawks then kicked their offense into high gear and put together an 11-play drive that concluded the first quarter and spilled into the second stanza. The run-heavy Red Hawks attack saw Junior Full-

back Elijah Womack score his first touchdown of the game from five yards out, tying the score at 7-7.

The Cyclones received the ensuing kick-off and attempted to unleash their passing attack. Two penalties backed up the Cyclones to their 12-yard line as an errant pass was picked off by Chase Mehan for the Red Hawks who returned the ball to the Cyclones 25-yard line. The Red Hawk then ran the football into the red zone with senior Aiden Grijalva scoring from 4 yards out making the score 14-7 in favor of the Red Hawks.

The Cyclones then had 2 minutes and 37 seconds to get back into the ball game before half time. They moved the football from their own 17-yard line to the Red Hawks 10-yard line as time was running out. A series of penalties pushed the Cyclones back and with 4 seconds remaining in the half their attempted field goal from 40 yards out was good making the half time score 14-10 in favor of the Red Hawks.

Each team had one possession in the third quarter. The Cyclones moved the football from their own 25-yard line in 14 plays and scored a touchdown on a 5-yard pass play to re-take the lead 17-14. The Red Hawks then drove 80 yards in 19 plays with Elijah Womack scoring his second touchdown from three yards out. The PAT

was no good, making the score 20-17 in the Red Hawk favor.

The Cyclones would not be denied. They took over the football at their 37-yard line and moved 63 yards as Lockett, the full-back, scored on a 2-yard run to re-take the lead 24-20 with just over seven minutes to play.

The Red Hawks returned the kick-off out to their 40-yard line with about seven minutes showing on the stadium clock. Senior Quarterback Chris Mock then directed a clock-killing drive, 15 plays in all, that took the ball to the Cyclones 1 yard line with 14 seconds left to play.

Mock then scored the winner on a one-yard quarterback sneak to win the game 27-24.

The final 4A football rankings will not be out until Monday or Tuesday. If the seedings remain as they are the following teams would be awarded a bye in the first round of the playoffs.

They are: Pueblo West, Dakota Ridge, Palmer Ridge, Montrose, Broomfield, Mesa Ridge, Heritage and Durango. Depending on the outcome of these games this weekend there could be changes in the top eight seeds.

The Red Hawks seem solid in the rankings of the top eight teams that will qualify for a bye next Friday/Saturday.

Stay tuned.

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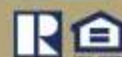
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE COUNTY CLERK AND RECORDER CONFIDENT IN ELECTION INTEGRITY AND PROCESS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— Montrose County Clerk and Recorder Tressa Guynes is aware of the security breach regarding Colorado counties' election equipment due to the Secretary of State inadvertently posting BIOS passwords online.

"I am here to reassure our voters that you can be confident in our local election process," said Clerk and Recorder Tressa Guynes. "There are only four elections officials with access to the Montrose County voting system—all four have completed thorough background checks, received extensive training, and there is 24/7 video surveillance to include motion and sound detectors. Our number one priority has been, and always will be, the utmost integrity of our elections and commitment to Democracy."

Montrose County Clerk and Recorder Guynes also reminds the public that in addition to these security protocols, every Colorado voter receives and votes a paper ballot, including all voters who vote on the electronic tablet. That means that there is a hard copy record of how each voter filled out their ballot. These original hard copy records are audited at the end of each election. Any discrepancies between the hard copy ballot and the electronic record would be uncovered during the audit.

Voters also have the option to sign up for [Ballot-Trax](#), a free service that enables Colorado voters to receive notifications by phone, email or text about the status of their mail ballots.

Learn more at the Montrose County Clerk and Recorder's [elections webpage](#).

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CONTINUED SPRING CREEK ROAD AND AREA CLOSURES DURING RECONSTRUCTION

Special to the Mirror

DELTA— The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests' Gunnison Ranger District announce the continuation of reconstruction of the Spring Creek Bridges #3 and #4. These bridges make passage through the Spring Creek Canyon possible via the National Forest System Road (NFSR) #744—Spring Creek road.

Routine inspections revealed structural deficiencies in the two bridges, last reconstructed in 1982 (#3) and 1964 (#4). To ensure long-term road safety, the Gunnison Ranger District began bridge reconstruction in August of this year.

NFSR #744—Spring Creek road will remain temporarily closed to all traffic from mile markers 4.5 to 6, from the intersection of NFSR #744—Spring Creek road and County Road #744. Please adhere to the construction closure area and follow all signage. The NFSR #748—Rocky Brook road provides access to the Spring Creek Reservoir and trails on the northern side of the closure area. Access to intersecting trails and roads across NFSR #744—Spring Creek road will remain open. All access through the Spring Creek Canyon at the project area will be closed.

"While much of the bridge work has been completed, the bridge railings and ap-

proach railings need to be installed to provide safe passage," said Dayle Funka, Gunnison District Ranger. "The bridges, roads and Spring Creek Canyon will be opened as soon as the bridges are safe and ready for traffic; we expect that opening to be no later than Nov. 21."

For more information, contact the Gunnison Ranger District at 970-641-0471.

For information and updates on current fire restrictions, conditions, and recreation opportunities on the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests, visit the [forest website](#).

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

WESTERN COLORADO FARM AND RANCH INNOVATION EXPO

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-On Nov. 15 and 16 the Shavano Conservation District Western Colorado Soil Health Committee and CSU Extension are pleased to invite the agricultural community to the first annual Western Colorado Farm and Ranch Innovation Expo. This two day event to be held at the Montrose Event Center will include live demonstrations, talks and many displays. Specialists will be available to discuss the innovations and answer questions.

Steve Hale, President, Shavano Conservation District, said "We are excited to bring this event to Western Colorado. Our goal is to educate and support Western Colorado and regional agricultural communities. The Montrose Event Center is a great facility that provides plenty of space for interaction between innovators and producers wanting to learn how they can improve their operations.

"The Expo will be a chance for large and small operators to learn how they can use new techniques in: livestock management, seed treatment, weed control, soil amendments, agrivoltaic options and benefits, water management, drone applications, intercropping, marketing opportunities, labor and cost savings and much more. Having all the information and demonstrations available in one place will allow operators to see how they may be able to integrate multiple changes to improve effective use of their resources."

The Expo at the Montrose County Event Center (1001 N 7th Street) will be FREE and open to the public on Friday Nov. 15 from noon to 5pm and Saturday November 16 from 9am to 5pm. More information is available at www.shavanocd.org.



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- Past Board Member CASA of the 7th Judicial District

More About Rick

- Associates Degree in Business Management
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RETROACTIVE CHANGE TO FEDERAL CONTRACT DESTROYS SMALL FARMERS

From pg 1

Instead, "NRCS informed us that our payment rate would be adjusted retroactively to \$1.47 per square foot—a rate generally meant for much larger-scale projects and not reflective of our small, labor-intensive setup," Wynne said. "This change has left us with a significant financial shortfall, putting us in debt to the USDA and threatening the future of our farm. Despite repeated appeals to NRCS, we have been unable to resolve the issue, and the financial strain is now at a critical level."

The initial letter from the NRCS' Denver office, was dated Sept. 6, 2024 and noted the change to the reimbursement rate. After expressing their concerns, the Wynnes received a response on Oct. 17, with several misspellings, stating that due to the rate correction they would not be paid, but would instead be receiving a bill for \$20,562.50 with interest accruing after 30 calendar days.

The Wynne's family farm, Freshies, focused on growing fresh flowers and vegetables. When the opportunity arose to participate in the EQIP program, they trusted that a contract with the Federal government would be solid.

"We were depending on it," Karson said. "Now we have to watch our crops die in the field."

Although they intend to go through the

appeals process, the couple has already spent their savings and taken out a loan against this year's crop.

"We have already taken a major loss; we don't have the money to sue," Wynne said.

As a participant in the beginning Farmer and Rancher program, Samantha Wynne has also worked for other producers and has come up with creative ideas for getting fresh, locally grown produce into the Montrose and Olathe schools. After two years in business, the future looked bright.

"We donated over 10,000 pounds of fresh vegetables to Christ's Kitchen the first year, and last year we donated to Haven House," Samantha said.

"This is the first year we haven't made a big donation."

Now though, the hits just keep coming. After learning about the change to the USDA reimbursement rate, losing the chance to provide produce in local schools, and losing their investment of money, time, and hard work, the Wynnes are being evicted from their land.

Contracts they had in place to provide food to the schools are now lost.

Samantha said that she knew from the start that farming would not be easy.

"People used to ask us, aren't you

scared?" she said.

Still, in the beginning, it seemed that with hard work, careful planning and some luck, even farming could turn a profit. The positive community response to Freshies made it seem, for a time, that they were not trying to achieve the impossible.

The Wynnes hoped to inspire other new producers, and to help the community embrace and benefit from locally grown foods.

After all, the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is the NRCS' flagship conservation program, and the web site states that the program helps farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners integrate conservation into working lands.

"We would have been a demonstration farm," Samantha said.

Now, instead of receiving the incentives they contracted for, Karson and Samantha are watching their dream of being small farmers become a nightmare.

"We should have been paid," Samantha said. "Now we can't even pay our kids, who worked their asses off in the fields all summer. We had to let our crops die when we should have been at the Farmers Market."

"We're losing our school contracts, we're losing our land," she said. "Shit, it really is that hard."



20 ★

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LET'S TALK POLITICS! ELECTIONS, PRIORITIES AND PREDICTIONS *From pg 1*

House of Representatives first. The two candidates are seemingly more moderate for their respective parties, Jeff Hurd(R) and Adam Frisch(D).

Hurd and Frisch have similar platforms on certain issues, such as immigration. Both candidates emphasize securing the southern border, Hurd's campaign website states it must be secured "immediately," Frisch's site states "desperately." Frisch's priorities go on to emphasize weaponization of the issue by both parties for political points.

Energy is a high priority for both candidates, as is water, which is one of the top issues for western Colorado voters. Sparring the details of other similarities, the issue Frisch seems to be most in line with the majority of Democrats on is abortion. Hurd's take is that he is "pro-life with exceptions", and emphasizes states' rights on the issue. [1]

So what will decide the fate of the CD3 seat, currently held by Lauren Boebert, who is moving to District 4? Looking back at 2022, projections had the seat as "Likely Republican" [2] but turned out to be inaccurate as Frisch lost by only 554 votes out of a total 327,285. This year's election looks very different, due to the GOP's choice in candidate. A much more moderate Hurd looks to be able to gain more of the independent vote, in a race where either candidate could reasonably gain a sizable share of undecideds. With this in mind, it seems reasonable that Hurd will top 50% by a few points.

Colorado State Senate District 5

Moving down to the State Senator race, Marc Catlin(R) and Cole Buerger(D) both eye a seat that holds the key to whether a Democrat supermajority in the Senate comes to be or not. The divide in the Senate is currently 23-12 D-R. The only two races projected to be close this time around are District 5 and District 6, both on the western slope. Both are ranked as "Tilt R." [3]

But let's look at the big picture. Incumbent Perry Will is vacating the seat to run for Garfield County Commissioner, and longtime State Representative Catlin is

taking the opportunity to move to the State's upper house. Serving as the Representative for District 58 in the State House since 2017, his opponent, Buerger, will be on a November ballot for the first time this year.

Laying out the endorsements, let's look at Buerger first. He has support from State Attorney General Weiser, State Treasurer Dave Young, and State Senator (SD8) Dylan Roberts, as well as over a dozen mayors and county commissioners across the state. Notable groups backing him are the Colorado Education Association, Colorado Professional Fire Fighters, Crested Butte News, and Planned Parenthood Colorado.

Catlin's endorsements include the Colorado Chamber of Commerce, Colorado Nurses Association, Colorado Dental Association, Colorado Medical Society, Colorado Association of Realtors, Colorado State Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police, and the Rocky Mountain Farmers Union Rural PAC. Other supporters include Farm Bureau Insurance of Colorado, Ski Country USA, Colorado Bankers Association, Healthier Colorado, and the Colorado Cattlemen's Association.

So how is this election looking to shape up? One thing to keep in mind is that this is the first SD5 race since redistricting took place following the 2020 census. Conservative-leaning Montrose and Olathe are part of the District this time, and the mountain towns of Salida and Buena Vista are now in District 4. The change also means the eastern boundary of the district has retreated from the Vail Valley, leaving much of the Democrat-leaning Eagle County in District 8.

Enough of the technical side there. Suffice it to say, the District is more red than it was in the last SD5 election in 2018. I'm predicting Catlin will win this race, although it could be another close one.

Colorado State House District 58

Next on your ballot is Colorado State House District 58. The race to take the outgoing Catlin's seat has candidates from opposite ends of the vast district. Larry Don Suckla(D) is a former Montezuma County Commissioner, and Kathleen Curry

(D) is a former State House member from the Gunnison Valley. The district has been consistently red, but a redistricting after the 2020 census cut Catlin's margins of victory from around 25 points to 13.

The district is ranked as a "Lean R" [4] and with the long-standing Catlin not in the race, it may be closer than years past, and one place to watch is Curry's home Gunnison County. There are over 14,000 votes which could be cast in Gunnison County, with the real number more likely around 10-12,000, making it the county with the second most registered voters in the district, behind Montrose County.

In a race won by a little more than 6,000 votes last time, any changes in the voter makeup of these two big counties will be interesting to follow. Suckla's home county of Montezuma cast 3,225 votes in this race in 2022 and was overwhelmingly Republican.

In this election, a Republican victory still seems likely in a bigger picture which involves a teetering balance of power in Denver. The 58th District's larger conservative counties such as Montrose, Delta, and Montezuma, are likely to take Suckla over the finish line. But watch for this to be a closer race than Catlin's victories in years past, an upset by Curry would not surprise me.

Montrose County Commissioner District 3

Next up is the Montrose County Commissioner election for the District 3 seat. Republican Rick Dunlap is contending with Unaffiliated candidate Trisha Murray, who has seen an unprecedented amount of support. Starting on street corners with a petition to make the ballot, her campaign has now turned into one of the most interesting to watch in recent local elections.

It doesn't take much more than a quick drive around town to find her campaign signs in the yards of Trump and Harris voters alike. Her "listening approach" to government, if you will, seems to appeal to voters across the political spectrum. In a race without polling or much past precedent, it seems unpredictable. Montrose County has not had a contested BOCC election since 2016. But let's take a look at

LET'S TALK POLITICS! ELECTIONS, PRIORITIES AND PREDICTIONS From previous pg

those contests. The deeper we dive, the more precedent there is.

In November eight years ago, Keith Caddy defeated Democratic candidate Derrick Ferguson by 47 points for the District 1 seat. Alongside him on the ballot was District 3 seat winner Roger Rash, who won by 43 points against Beatrice Lucero. But let's back up to 2012, the last time a Republican faced an unaffiliated candidate. In that election, Ronald D. Henderson beat Juli Messenger in an election with 18,594 votes cast. But looking at the winning margin, things get interesting. Messenger lost by only 9 points.

Two variables of voter makeup will matter here: One, many Democrats will likely vote for Murray, with no candidate from the party on the ticket. Two, a significant enough share of Republicans seem to support Murray to push her over 50%. Add to this that Murray has out-campaigned Dunlap at multiple Montrose community events, and it seems like a perfect storm. Only time will tell, but I would go as far to say that Trisha Murray may win by 5 points or more. If she loses, it's going to be a close one. Voter turnout will be a big decider in this contest.

THE PRESIDENTIAL RACE

At last, moving to the top of the ballot, the 47th President of the United States will be decided. 45th President Donald Trump(R) and 49th Vice President Kamala Harris(D) are nearly tied in national polls, with Harris holding a slight advantage, and remain close in the seven swing states which are almost certainly going to decide the next four years of Executive leadership in the US.

This election cycle has been charged with contention over immigration, abortion, foreign policy, and inflation more than most issues, although other issues such as crime and health care remain toward the top of voters' lists. [5]

With national polls split nearly 50/50, what are the states which are likely to decide the election? Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Nevada, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin have been identified as this year's swing states. I'd like to

throw out an eighth state to watch as well: New Hampshire. Incumbent President Joseph Biden won New Hampshire in 2020 by 7.4 points, about 4 points lower than a closing polling lead of about 11 points. If the margin of error is similar this time around, that would put Trump one point behind. Hillary Clinton won NH by only 0.3% in 2016. New Hampshire is a very unlikely win for Trump, but is not outside of the realm of possibility. [6]

But looking at the seven more realistic swing states, which candidates are likely to take which states? Starting with Arizona, the Grand Canyon State looks good for Trump. In 2020, he lost by a mere 0.3% after trailing by over 2 points in closing polls. [7] This time around, he leads by over 2 points as of November 1st. [8]

Going next door to Nevada, Biden won this battleground four years ago as well, by 2.4%, after closing polls put him over five points ahead. [9] Now, Trump leads the polling averages by half a point. [10] If polling averages mean much this time around, the southwest swing states look like a sweep for the Trump campaign. But nothing is set in stone until Tuesday, in a region where both candidates have campaigned tooth and nail for undecided voters.

Moving up to the Great Lakes, I'll spare the details on all the percentage points, but Trump underperformed in 2020 election polling there as well compared to the actual results. Michigan and Wisconsin have been hotly contested, as they are essentially the backyard of Democratic Vice Presidential candidate Tim Walz, the incumbent Governor of Minnesota. These two states are some of the most valuable, combining for 25 of the 270 electoral votes needed to win. These states look a little bit better for Harris in the closing days before the 5th.

Another intense battleground is Pennsylvania. Closing polls show Trump barely pulling ahead in the Keystone State. Mid-summer, the town of Butler, Pennsylvania was thrust into the spotlight as the location of an attempted assassination of Trump at one of his rallies, charging an

already electric political atmosphere in the state. Additionally, the Presidential Debate for the 2024 election was held in Philadelphia, a debate which was less than stellar for Trump. It's no secret Pennsylvania may very well be the golden ticket to the Presidency. Indeed, assuming no surprises happen in other states, if Harris lost every swing state except Michigan, Wisconsin, and Pennsylvania, she would win the election by two electoral votes. Similarly, if Trump only won Georgia, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania among those states, he would take the win by two electoral votes.

Pennsylvania is another state that could realistically go either way. It looks good for Trump, but polls are nearly dead even. [11] Watch Pennsylvania closely on election night.

Finally, we have Georgia and North Carolina. Both of these races were extremely close in 2020, with Trump taking NC and Biden taking GA. North Carolina was the only one of these seven states which went the way of the GOP four years ago. The state was worth 15 electoral votes then, following the census, it will carry 16 this year.

Recent polls have Trump ahead in Georgia [12] and have been back and forth in North Carolina. [13]

If this election cycle has taught us anything, it is that literally anything could happen. The race for the Presidency this year has been a roller coaster, and what the electoral map will look like Tuesday night is hard to predict. With that said, here are my projections for what I see likely to happen. The most likely outcome for a Trump victory has him taking AZ, NV, PA, GA, and NC, with Harris taking WI and MI. A likely path to victory for Harris would have her taking AZ, WI, MI, and PA, with Trump winning NV, NC, and GA.

These are just hypothetical, they're what I see as likely to happen based on polling, campaigning, and general attitude toward both candidates. But there is another surprise to look for here. Several possible outcomes would have Trump and Harris in a tie of 269 electoral votes each. What

LET'S TALK POLITICS! ELECTIONS, PRIORITIES AND PREDICTIONS *From previous pg*

What happens in this case? It's a very real possibility and one worth being ready for.

In the event of a tie, the vote for President goes to the House of Representatives. But, it is not as simple as the whole House taking a vote. Each state would have one vote in the election, decided by deliberation among House members from each state. Additionally, the vote is done by the incoming Congress, not the current

118th Congress. This would make contentious House of Representative contests across the country all the more important. In the unlikely case that the electoral map starts shaping up for a tie on election night, angst around races further down the ballot could increase. Find more information on the process here in a brief piece by NBC News.[\[14\]](#)

As we all wait for tomorrow, I would remind everyone this election cycle to be gracious to your neighbor with opposing viewpoints. Regardless of who wins, we will all share the good and bad of the next four years, and deal with the benefits and the consequences. Keep debates civil, being nasty to your opponent will not win them over. And finally, if you haven't already, get out and vote!



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

BLM SOUTHWEST RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL TO MEET NOV. 14

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— The Bureau of Land Management's Southwest Resource Advisory Council will hold a meeting on Nov. 14 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Tres Rios Field Office, 29211 State Highway CO-184, Dolores, CO 81323. The meeting is open to the public. Participants unable to attend in person can join via the Zoom platform.

To request virtual access, please register in advance: https://blm.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJlsfuGvqTksEseIOjUX8Qu1qU_Osf9gxI

"This will be our fourth and final Southwest Resource Advisory Council meeting of 2024," said District Manager Stephanie McCormick. "I truly appreciate our RAC

members, who remain consistently engaged in offering their informed insights and recommendations on the management and conservation of our public lands in southwest Colorado."

Planned agenda items include an overview of field office updates and a presentation and discussion on the Tres Rios Field Office Transportation and Access Plan for Travel Area 2, Dolores, Montrose, and San Miguel counties (TAP2) and a proposed trail interpreting the area's uranium-vanadium mining history. A public comment period is scheduled for 2 p.m. Individuals who want to make a statement during the public comment period are encouraged to submit a written copy of their statement for the administrative

record. The Resource Advisory Council will also attend a field trip on November 13.

The meeting agenda is available online at: <https://www.blm.gov/sites/default/files/docs/2024-10/AGENDA-SWRAC-Meeting-November-2024.pdf>

All 15-member Resource Advisory Councils in Colorado are forums for providing advice and recommendations to the BLM on various resource and land management issues.

The Southwest Resource Advisory Council advises the BLM Colorado Southwest District, consisting of the Gunnison, Tres Rios field, and Uncompahgre field offices.

For more information or to RSVP for the field trip, please contact Maggie Magee at (970) 240-5323 or dmagee@blm.gov.

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.



REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DELTA HEALTH STRENGTHENS COMMUNITY CARE WITH NEW CEDAREGE FAMILY MEDICINE CLINIC

Special to the Mirror

DELTA—Delta Health is excited to announce the expansion of its family medicine services with the addition of Dr. Terry S. Wade's Family Practice Clinic in Cedaredge. Located at 255 South Grand Mesa Drive, the Delta Health Cedaredge Family Medicine Clinic will open on Nov. 11.

As part of this transition, Dr. Michelle Reed, D.O., will be moving from the Delta Health Adult Primary Care Clinic to join the Cedaredge team.

Community members are invited to attend an Open House of the new clinic on Tuesday, Nov. 12 from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. There will be opportunities to tour the clinic and to meet providers and staff.

"Delta Health continues to look for ways to expand access to services for the communities of Delta County, and Dr. Wade

has fostered a trusting patient-provider relationship that we will continue for years to come," said Jonathan Cohee, MHA, OT, Chief Executive Officer for Delta Health. "We are confident that we can uphold the strong tradition of quality, compassionate, patient care that Dr. Wade's patients have come to expect."

During the transition period, Delta Health's goal is that the health needs of patients continue to be seamlessly met, and all of Dr. Wade's current patients will remain active.

There will *not* be an interruption in patient care, appointments can continue to be scheduled, and patients can access medical records as usual.

Joining the Delta Health System will also allow Dr. Wade to begin transitioning toward retirement.

"My wife and I, along with our staff would like to thank you, our patients and the town of Cedaredge for an amazing 30 years," said Dr. Wade. "Thank you for entrusting me with your healthcare all of these years. Leaving the Cedaredge Doctor's Office will be one of my greatest challenges. So to all of my patients and your families, my prayer for you is many years of happiness and good health."

Delta Health currently has primary care locations in Hotchkiss at the Delta Health West Elk Hotchkiss Clinic and in Delta at Delta Health Adult Primary Care, Delta Health Family Medicine and Delta Health Pediatrics.

For general information on the Delta Health Cedaredge Family Medicine Clinic, visit deltahealthco.org or call 970.874.7681.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

GMUG ANNOUNCES FOREST WIDE FALL AND WINTER PILE BURNING PROJECTS

Special to the Mirror

DELTA— The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests will be looking for an opportunity to initiate the burning of slash piles over the

next few months across all five ranger districts. The slash piles are the result of multiple timber sales, fuels reductions and hazardous tree removal projects. Pile burning will begin as early as late October,

when sufficient snow or rain is present to prevent fire spread, and will continue as long as conditions allow.

Slash piles have been created to remove debris and vegetation (fuels) to help reduce the risk of larger wildfires. The piles are burned in project areas where other means of disposal are not feasible. Forest thinning projects improve forest health and wildlife habitat and reduce wildfire risk near private residences and other infrastructure. Implementing slash pile burning is a critical part of reducing the risk of wildfire to communities and improving forest health conditions.

The public is reminded not to call 911 or emergency services if smoke is visible in specific burn areas. Slash pile areas and possible dates will be posted on the [GMUG Fire Info Facebook page](#).

Slash pile burning is only implemented under specific environmental conditions (e.g., wind speed, relative humidity, smoke dispersion). Trained fire managers conduct the burning of slash piles with a strong understanding of fire behavior and years of on-the-ground experience.

The safety of firefighters and the public are the most important factors considered when planning slash pile burning. Burning will only occur when all conditions of the state-issued smoke permit are met. Learn how smoke from wildfires, prescribed burns and pile burns may affect your health by visiting the Colorado Department of Public Health website <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/wood-smoke-and-health>.

For information on current fire restrictions, conditions and recreation opportunities, visit the forest website or www.westslopefireinformation.com. Connect with us or follow us on social media ([Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)).

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SOCCER, VOLLEYBALL SPORTS ROUNDUP

By Cliff Dodge

SOCCER:

RED HAWKS 6, GLENWOOD SPRINGS DEMONS 3

The ever-improving Montrose Red Hawks soccer team finished up their regular season on Thursday as they defeated the Glenwood Springs Demons by the score of 6-3. The Red Hawks finished their regular season by winning three of their last four matches and are now poised to make a run in the Colorado High School Activities Association state tournament which begins this week when the Red Hawks travel to Eagle Valley. The Red Hawks had their offense humming against Glenwood Springs as they scored 3 goals in each of the two halves. The Red Hawks defense stood up, allowing the Demons a single goal in the first half of action and another two goals in the second half. Senior Christopher Gonzalez-Muniz led all Red Hawk scorers with a hat trick, three goals, and an assist. Senior Tommy Montoya-Ornelas, Senior Bowden Vigil and Senior Aidan Erives all hit the scoreboard with single goals. Junior Jade Carlton, the Red Hawks keeper, saved 8 of the 11 shots the Demons put on the goal.

The post-season begins on Wednesday for the Red Hawks. They will travel to Gypsum and take on the Eagle Valley Devils.

The Devils sport a season record of 11-4-1 and were undefeated in league play with a record of 6-0. The Red Hawks were ranked 17th prior to the victory over Glenwood Springs.

Stay tuned.

VOLLEYBALL:

The Montrose volleyball team traveled to Discovery Canyon this past weekend and played four games, two on Friday and two more on Sunday to finish out their regular season schedule prior to participating in the Colorado High School Activities Association (CHSAA) state championships later this week. The Red Hawks took on some of the heavyweights and dropped three of the four matches but still are ranked in the top echelon of volleyball teams in 4A.

CHAPARRAL WOLVERINES 3, RED HAWKS 0

The Wolverines set the tone for the weekend by defeating the Montrose Red Hawks in straight games on Friday. The scores were as follows: 25-17, 25-18 and 25-16.

PALMER RIDGE BEARS 2, MONTROSE RED HAWKS 1

The Red Hawks fared a bit better as they took on the Palmer Ridge Bears in Friday's second match. The Red Hawks dropped the first match 25-22. The Hawks then saw both their offense and defense kick in and defeated the Bears 25-8. The third

and final game was won by the Bears 25-22.

EATON REDS 3, MONTROSE RED HAWKS 0

The Eaton Reds opened up the Saturday session with a shut out win over the Red Hawks. The scores for the three games were as follows: 25-22, 25-15 and 25-16. The Eaton Reds finished their season with a record of 21-2 overall and 11-1 in league play.

RED HAWKS 3, LUTHERAN LIONS 1

The Montrose Red Hawks salvaged the last match of the Discovery Canyon tournament with a 3-1 beating of the Lutheran Lions. The Lions won the first game 25-13 before the Red Hawks found their stride and then took the next three games from the Lions. The Red Hawks went overtime in the second game, winning 28-26. The Red Hawks then won 25-22 and 32-30 in a marathon.

THE PLAYOFFS:

The Red Hawks finished the regular season with a record of 15-8 overall and 8-2 in league play. The Red Hawks, currently ranked in the top-10 of teams in 4A, now await the pairings in the Colorado High School Activities Association state tournament. Those will be announced early this week. The Red Hawks are hoping for a home contest to kick off the post-season festivities. Stay tuned.



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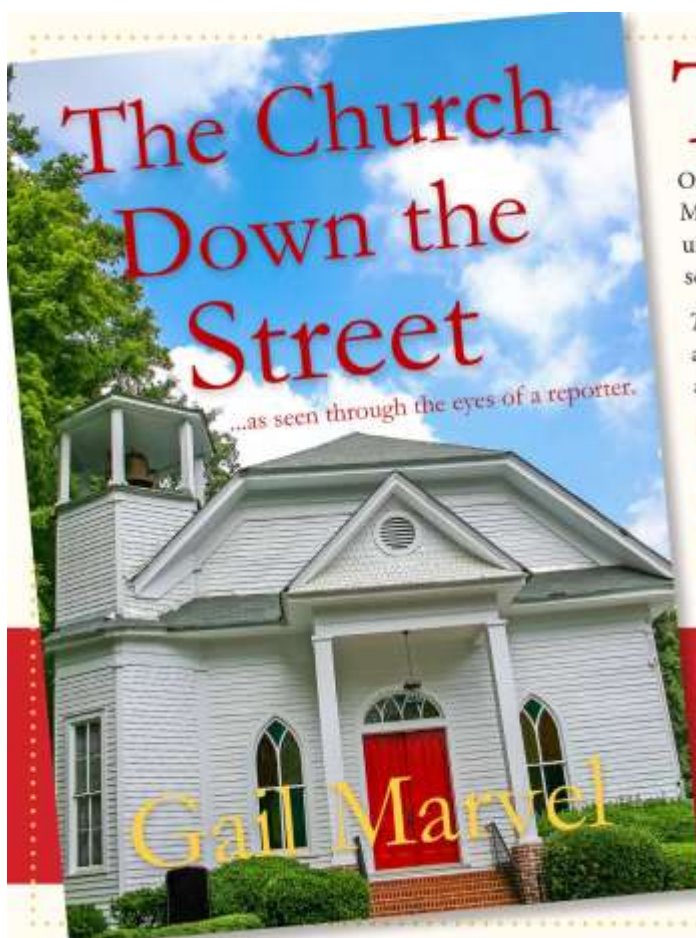
REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CHRISTMAS COMES EARLY FOR THE MONTROSE VETERANS MEMORIAL



Photo courtesy CB Williams

MONTROSE—Elks Lodge rep Bob Bell, center, presents a \$5,000 check to Montrose Veterans Memorial Coalition board members Amy Eifling, Tom Drake, J. Bob Brueske and Les Williams last week during a break in bingo action. BOD President Williams said the Elks' generous donation will go toward the purchase of a black granite panel at the memorial site depicting images from wars and conflicts of all eras. He also said the MVMC board will be meeting Monday, Nov. 4 with team members from the Montrose County Board of County Commissioners and City of Montrose to move forward on the memorial plans, and will release more information following the meeting.



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



REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

OPEN ENROLLMENT STARTS NOV. 1 - COMPARE OPTIONS AND FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN SAVE

Special to the Mirror

DENVER - Open enrollment for health insurance for the individual market - meaning for people that don't get their health insurance from an employer or a government program - starts Friday, November 1. The Colorado Division of Insurance encourages everyone to take the time to review the health insurance plans available for 2025 and determine what financial

assistance might be available to them.

Using the state's marketplace, [Connect for Health Colorado](#), people can shop, compare plans and determine what financial assistance will be available by using their [Quick Cost and Plan Finder Tool](#).

Coloradans who no longer receive healthcare coverage through Medicaid should review their coverage options during the open enrollment period.

Open Enrollment lasts until **January 15, 2025**.

However, to have health insurance coverage in place by January 1, 2025, people will need to be enrolled by **December 15, 2024**.

For people who complete their enrollment between December 16, 2024 and January 15, 2025, health insurance will start on February 1, 2025.

The collage features the following logos and text:

- COLORADO OUTFITTERS ASSOCIATION** (with a circular logo showing riders)
- FarmersUnionRural PAC** (with a yellow star logo)
- CoPRA CHAPTER OF NPRA** (with a globe logo)
- NFIB** (with a stylized 'N' logo)
- COUNCIL 18 AFSCME** (with a red and blue logo and the tagline "WE MAKE NEW MEXICO & COLORADO HAPPEN")
- CARE** (with a large red and blue logo and the tagline "COLORADO ADVOCATES FOR RURAL ELECTRIFICATION")
- CONSERVATION COLORADO** (with a blue and green logo)
- cobalt ADVOCATES** (with a blue geometric logo)
- GreenCO** (with a green tree logo and the tagline "Green Industries of Colorado")
- THE JOURNAL** (with a yellow sun logo)
- Crested Butte News** (with a "CHECK MATE & DRIVE" logo)
- COMMITTEE TO PROTECT HEALTH CARE** (with a red pharmacy logo)
- ACEC** (with a yellow arc logo and the tagline "AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES of Colorado")
- Planned Parenthood ENDORSED VOTES COLORADO** (with a pink seal logo)

Text overlays on the right side of the collage include: "Cortez || Mancos || Dolores" and "THE JOURNAL".

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT NO ONE WITH ACCESS TO THE MACHINES ALSO HAD ACCESS TO THE PASSWORD?

Dear Montrose County Election Officials and Montrose County Commissioners:

I won't reiterate the trending BIOS Password/SOS Griswold issue, or the Moffat or Mesa (and other) Counties' 'tip of the iceberg' issues, as I am sure you are hearing plenty about them. I will say.....so much for your "Gold Standard Elections". Anyone who bought in to that nonsense deserves any and all of the headaches that comes his way.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/161FCbprTdiydaLKfa-Zsg9vlf8r1jnrXLKBDage3cHI/edit?usp=drivesdk>

Linked (above), please find a letter I recently submitted to the Montrose Mirror, which includes a critique of how I believe my election integrity concerns have been responded to. I hope you will choose to read it, if only to reference links to esteemed experts in the field of election integrity, who express MAJOR concerns. I may understand and forgive your brushing off of my concerns, as I am 'just a small-town nobody, so what do I know about elections?', but your insistence on acting as the all-knowing authority, in spite of these giants' concerns, shows a lack of self awareness, at best. While I will concur, that I know scant little about the machines and/or the process, I will counter that you are in an equally indefensible position, as you have closed your mind to much of anything, beyond the talking points of Dominion, Secretary Griswold and other questionable actors, and you seem content to merely toe the company line. County Clerks of this State have been put in an unenviable position by the BIOS fiasco, but, while I regret that, they each had a choice of whom to align themselves with: the citizens of their respective counties, or the peddlers of these shenanigans and, with rare exception, they chose the latter. As Confucious might say, One who lies down with dogs, gets up with fleas.

Despite you having turned a deaf ear to the sources I have cited (Dougherty, Lenberg, Parikh, Halderman), while continuing to justify your position with the systems testing you perform, it appears the highly-esteemed and oft-referenced Halderman Report (Conclusion, 7.6) undermines your position regarding the validity of those very tests you rely so heavily upon to defend the integrity of your elections. Unfortunately, your insistence to dig in and even double down may be compromising the credibility of those elections that you work so earnestly to oversee.

While this is not an accusation of malice, it seems obvious to me that it is not your constituents' fair questions, but the air of infallibility of those in positions of authority, that are destroying trust in the minds of many, many voters.

Finally, and now back to the BIOS password issues:

- are the compromised machines being used today?
- will the impacted system be used in this election?
- with this compromise of system, how do you plan to secure the election?
- what will be the process of recertification, before the system may count votes?
- what will be the protocol if machines cannot be recertified prior to election day?
- ESPECIALLY, how do you know that no one with access to the machines also had access to the passwords, since those passwords were posted online?

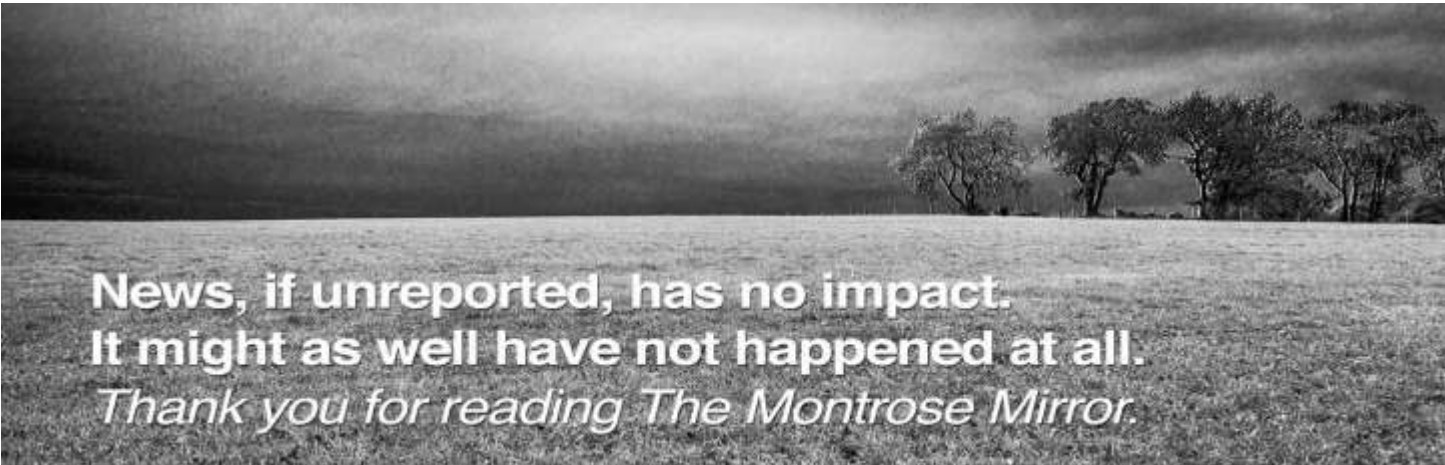
*This list of questions could go on and on.

I understand that both the Colorado Governor and the Secretary of State have issued statements, reassuring the citizenry that the problem has been rectified, and there is no further reason for concern.

I am NOT convinced.

Sincerely,

Joe Stucky, Montrose



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

OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

WESTERN COLORADO AND MONTROSE ARE IN FOR BIG CHANGES

Your Vote will be the Catalyst for these changes – Vote Wisely!

By David White

Tomorrow's election results will most likely bring significant changes to our part of the state whether you're ready for them or not.

Outside of whomever your selection is for President and Congress, the potential for the State Legislature to be under one party rule with "supermajority" control in the hands of the Democratic Party is a real possibility. If this happens, not even the Governor will be able to override the craziness that comes with the progressives in the legislature as his veto authority will be completely neutered. Beware you who haven't voted yet. It will be in your best interest to vote for anyone but the Democrat running for State Senate and the State House to stem the possibility that supermajority control falls to one political party.

As most Coloradans already know, the Colorado Secretary of State, Jena Griswold, has been sued by the Libertarian Party and asked to resign her office by the Colorado Republican Party due to the leak of passwords to the voting machines in 63 of the 64 counties in Colorado. While these are ostensibly non-starters due to other security measures, the fact of the matter is that the potential for a breach of our election results is a real possibility that she should have done everything in her power to keep secure. Failure to do so is a failure of her public duty. A resignation may very well be in order as more evidence is uncovered.

So, if there are proven breaches of election equipment resulting in tampering with the will of the people through their vote, the State Supreme Court will undoubtedly be put in a position of deciding cases brought before it related to these cases. Hence, the need to pay attention to who's up for election on the Supreme Court.

Specifically, Justice Marquez, who was a part of the 4-3 vote to remove President Trump from the ballot in Colorado last year should not be retained. The other two Justices on your ballot, Boatright and Berkenkotter, opposed the removal. They

were proven correct in their decision by the U.S. Supreme Court. Retaining them might be a good idea.

Constitutional questions are many. Abortion, school choice, changing election rules and others have the potential to take our state further to the left. Statutory changes to state law will have a similar impact to our lives. Ban hunting of mountain lions, lynx or bobcats? Like the reintroduction of wolves, get ready for the incremental taking away of your rights with the start of restricting hunting of these animals (which are predators like wolves and without some kind of population control – hunting being one of those) you'll see deer and elk herds along with sheep and cattle decimated along with other animals that hunters and families rely upon to feed their families.

Proposition KK sounds good on first read. \$39M to fund mental health services in the state for many folks as well as military veterans is seemingly needed. No doubt. That is UNTIL you get to the part of the ballot language about how they're going to fund this new batch of services. They will fund it by taxing guns. And not just guns. Taxes will be levied on gun manufacturers, ammunition sales and gun parts sold at retail at a sales tax rate of 6.5% over and above the combined state and local jurisdictional sales taxes. This is just another attempt at an end run around the 2nd Amendment. They really want our guns gone.

Proposition 131 would do away with our current system of electing individuals to public office. Ranked Choice Voting would basically give those with money or those receiving large amounts of money from political action committees, lobbyists and other groups a way to buy their place on the ballot in future elections. That's not the way we get grassroots candidates. The average citizen will be the loser when all is said and done.

Locally, two (2) tax measures are on the ballot. The City of Montrose wants a 66% increase in their lodging tax to pump more money into their general operating bud-

et for street maintenance (which we're already paying for, but which the local officials divert into pet projects they seem to come up with on a monthly basis). They also want to fund "affordable housing" projects with this tax increase. They have a terrible record in that area and yet they want us and our visitors to give them money to give to developers? Sounds like backroom deals are in the making. And it goes on and on. Enough is never enough when you have a socialistic local government in control of our tax dollars. A NO vote on this one is needed.

Of course, the largest and most detrimental of these two tax questions is the funding of a "new" Montrose High School. Property taxes will take a substantial jump for the next 25 years if passed yet the quality of the education that the students receive seems to be secondary to the goal of giving them a better "learning environment." With interest, \$395,000,000 is to be extracted from taxpayers. We can't afford this. A former school board member told me of other plans that haven't been disclosed to the public that would have been much more cost effective but without the glitz and glamour of the plan they chose to ask voters to approve. A big NO should be the vote to put this proposition away and for the school district to come up with a better alternative.

Lastly, two County Commissioner seats are up for election along with the District Attorney's position. Scott Mijares is running unopposed for the Commissioner District 1 seat and will replace outgoing Commissioner Keith Caddy. The District 3 Commissioner seat is currently held by Roger Rash. He is term limited like Caddy and will be leaving to be replaced by??? Two candidates are running for the seat... former Sheriff Rick Dunlap and political newcomer Trisha Murray.

Dunlap is well known in local political circles. Murray has made a name for herself as someone who listens and who will offer an independent's view of the challenges facing Montrose County. Dunlap, who has been in retirement for over 6 years, wishes to make a return to public

WESTERN COLORADO AND MONTROSE ARE IN FOR BIG CHANGES *From previous pg*

public office. Many see his challenge to Murray as a play to keep the status quo going in the County's executive wing. True or not, it is a hurdle that he'll need to overcome if he wants the seat. Murray seems to me to be the way to go on this one. No baggage. A working knowledge of the County (she has been employed in the County Attorney's Office for years) and has an excellent understanding of the issues facing the County today.

On the District Attorney front, Seth Ryan resigned from office, yet his name is still on the ballot. Since Ryan was running unopposed as a Republican, the GOP was to pick his replacement. Local attorney, Anna Cooling (who has experience working in the D.A.'s Office) was selected and will be our next D.A. as all votes for Seth

Ryan will be counted for her. Congratulations Anna. You'll make a fine D.A. In closing, last week I took outgoing County Com-

missioner Roger Rash to task regarding his efforts over the last almost 8 years that he's been in office to govern via an agenda that I suspect had its roots in a situation that occurred years ago with a family member. After receiving a call from a reader familiar with the situation, I was told that I shouldn't have gone there and should issue a public apology to Mr. Rash for expressing an opinion that, perhaps, should have been tempered in its tone. After thinking about it, all I can say is that we're all humans with traits that run the gamut from good to bad. Emotions run high sometimes, and words are said that shouldn't be. So, it has been with Mr. Rash and on that topic, evidently me. While my words were strong, Mr. Rash, as a public official, has most likely seen or heard worse. Let's hope he moves on and enjoys his time away from public office as he retires from government service.

At the end of tomorrow, the election will be over. I hope and pray that you have used your right as a citizen to vote and that your vote was based on objective research and an understanding of what is being asked of all of us. It's our duty and it should be seen as an honor bestowed upon us by all of those have gone before and those that sacrificed their lives to give us the privilege to live in these great United States.

Mr. White is an active citizen & community leader as well as a business owner, entrepreneur, former Colorado Springs City Councilor and Montrose City Councilor as well as Montrose Mayor. He was a two-term Montrose 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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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

COLLARED GRAY WOLF ACTIVITY OBSERVED SOUTH OF I-70 FOR FIRST TIME

Special to the Mirror

DENVER – Since the Collared Gray Wolf Activity Map was updated on Wednesday, Oct. 23, Colorado Parks and Wildlife biologists have noted GPS locations from a collared gray wolf to the south of Interstate 70. Although CPW does not publicly provide location information on Colorado's wolves outside of the map releases on the fourth Wednesday of every month, the agency is providing

this update because this is the first time GPS data points have been observed south of I-70. This kind of wildlife activity was anticipated.

The CPW website will be updated with this interim Wolf Activity Map in the coming days.

Please note, wolves need three things: food, connectivity with large wild landscapes, and space from/tolerance from humans. Translocated wolves are currently exploring the Colorado landscape and as wolf population numbers grow, some wolves will migrate to establish new territories. Wolves are habitat generalists, meaning they can thrive in a wide variety of environmental conditions and habitats. As long as prey is available, wolves can use a variety of areas. It is anticipated that wolves will expand widely over time.

CPW encourages anyone who believes they have seen a wolf to fill out the [wolf sighting form found on our website](#). In addition to the wolf sighting form, members of the public can also find information on [living and recreating in areas where wolves live](#).



CLIP & SAVE

**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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YOUR BRAIN ON NATURE- SELF CONTROL



By Lauren Hall Ruddell, Ph.D. Courtesy photo.

Greetings Mirrorites!

Recently I was listening to a podcast hosted by one of my favorite people in the world. Dave Powell hosts *Your Brain on Climate* and I am getting caught up on some past episodes now that I have fewer demands on me for summer activities and property maintenance. One episode I particularly enjoyed was on [Mindfulness](#). The guest recounted personal and professional experiences where the practice had assisted him with 'self-regulation'. As Dave puts it, restraining an unwise, 'stoppyp' retort to a comment or email until greater thought on the matter has been rendered. Self-control, self-regulation, other perspective taking, call it what you will, the ability to sit in an uncomfortable situation for a while without responding resonates with politics, police, park rangers, parents, podcasters, etc. In other words, people in all walks of life and with all sorts of responsibilities and philosophies tend to make fewer social gaffes that they would love to take back when they take a step back. Me included.

Even though this very thought-provoking podcast episode did not specifically mention how time in nature can enhance self-regulation, I wanted to explore how it might promote and enhance the benefits of mindfulness in guarding one's tongue.

Let's face it, we all get pissed sometimes. And we should, it's reasonable and adaptive and helps us to defend our emotional and physical boundaries. It's how we respond to that anger that enters the realm of self-regulation, or lack thereof. And



Anger is universal! So how can we be the bird on the left? Photo courtesy of David Clode.

there are various ways that we angry yet wise individuals can control our responses and reactions. For one, we can engage in cognitive reappraisal which involves reframing potentially emotion-eliciting situations in ways that lessen their emotional impact. Cognitive reappraisal, rather than expressive suppression (stuffing the feelings down), is associated with increased positive well-being and interpersonal outcomes. Positive reappraisal is therefore a critical component of meaning-based coping that enables individuals to adapt successfully to stressful life events. This leads to happiness and contentment, rather than a life of constant rage.

Mindfulness involves the [process of de-centering](#), a shifting of mindsets that enables alternate appraisals of life events. It allows us to 'not take it personally'. It permits us to reframe the perceived transgression or insult through a perspective that removes us from the center of the universe (in our usual estimation of ourselves) and permits compassion and empathy to sneak in.

What is mindfulness, exactly? Mindfulness is "paying attention in a particular way: on purpose, in the present moment, and non-judgmentally" as defined in the delightful read *Wherever You Go, There You Are* by mindfulness granddaddy Jon

Kabat-Zinn. It is a form of directed attention, directed internally. The health-promoting effects of mindfulness-based interventions (MBIs) have been extensively documented (over 20,000 studies) in recent decades and include reduction in symptoms of stress, anxiety, and depression, kinda like quality time spent in beautiful landscapes and nature. Although self-compassion and acceptance are crucial elements of a successful mindfulness regime, compassion for others emerges as a natural by-product, and this by-product is generated more readily by mindfulness in nature. And with compassion and understanding comes self-regulation in response.

Some studies have highlighted the significance of engagement with natural beauty as a crucial factor contributing to the well-being benefits associated with nature connectedness or nature contact. Three prominent studies demonstrated that triadic relationships among engagement with natural beauty, nature connectedness, and well-being were consistent with wellness outcomes. Collectively, these studies demonstrated that nature connectedness mediated the relationship between engagement with natural beauty and well-being. In these early studies, folks were not necessarily engaged in

YOUR BRAIN ON NATURE-SELF CONTROL From previous pg

mindfulness practices, nor was self-regulation examined. But the table was set for the feast to commence.

Later studies in the last three years have shown that forests/wild nature combined with informal mindfulness increase positive health outcomes. Parks, gardens, and formal mindfulness training sessions are helpful for self-regulation and other benefits, but participants seem to rate a wilder experience as more effective. And it makes sense, since these benefits also accrue individually be it strolling in restorative landscapes or mindfulness meditation in yoga studios, so why not even better when combined? Kinda like pumpkin pie with a huge dollop of whipped cream on top.

Back in 2022, I wrote a piece for The Mirror that examined the new and alarming trends in school violence. Kids isolated at home without outdoor activities returned to school with huge chips on their adoles-

cent shoulders and few skills for reining in the aggressive impulses aroused by renewed and often unpleasant interaction with classmates.

I am happy to report that schools are experiencing less violence and fewer mental health challenges than two years ago as kids get outside more, but still more than pre-pandemic levels. Unfortunately, the cohort that has moved on to college reports increased levels of stress, anxiety, and problems with self-regulation (in the form of toxic procrastination rather than physical aggression) at the first and second year levels. Bummer. Nature-based group mindfulness sessions have been shown to be helpful for all sorts of freshman ills, self-regulation included.

Adults can benefit from nature-based mindfulness experiences as well. Remember podcast host Dave? He recounts in the episode linked above that he almost lost it when a nasty email snarled its way to his

weary eyeballs at the end of a long day. He wanted to strike back immediately but controlled the understandable impulse with some masterful self-regulation and decided to sleep on his response.

Knowing him, he probably practiced his own form of informal mindfulness on a long bike ride in his very green London neighborhood and then enjoyed a cup of tea with his beloved cat to restore emotional balance. A bit of space for cognitive reappraisal to occur.

Any sort of mindfulness practice can help us maintain an even keel in these challenging times. Getting outside, the wilder the better, even in late fall, is the best thing to prevent unwise and hurtful retorts to the statements or opinions of the people in our lives, some of whom we might actually care about.

So be safe, be sane, and be mindful in nature this week. You will thank yourself for it later.



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GAIL MARVEL
Montrose Author & Reporter

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STATE REPUBLICAN PARTY SUPPORTS ALL EFFORTS THAT THE LA PLATA COUNTY GOP CALL FOR IMMEDIATE RESIGNATION OF DURANGO 9R SCHOOL BOARD AND WITHDRAWAL OF KATIE STEWART FROM HD 59 RACE

Special to the Mirror

DURANGO-The La Plata County community has been rocked by an unprecedented scandal involving Ben Smith, a former Escalante Middle School teacher in the Durango 9R School District, who now faces a federal indictment including 48 counts of Coercion and Enticement of a Minor, possession of child pornography, and contact with at least 30 juvenile victims. The Department of Homeland Security and FBI lead this investigation.

The Durango 9R School Board failed in their duty to protect children, allowing Smith to operate under the guise of "Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion" policies. We demand the immediate resignation of:

- Kristin Smith, President
- Erika Brown, Vice President
- Rick Peterson, Treasurer
- Andrea Parmenter, Secretary
- Katie Stewart, Board Member

The State Republican Party stands firmly for the protection of our children and fully supports the La Plata County GOP's call for Katie Stewart, a candidate for Colorado House District 59, to withdraw from the race due to her support of policies that compromised student safety. We also stand alongside the La Plata County GOP in urging the Durango 9R School Board to restore public trust by stepping down immediately.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

PROTECT NATIVE WILD CATS FROM STATE-SANCTIONED CRUELTY

By Julie Marshall

Walk with me.

I'll show you Proposition 127.

See that metal cage on public land, covered in snow. There's a bobcat inside.

A fur trapper used cat food as bait. She's cold, wet and terrorized by dogs.

She's one of an unlimited number of bobcats allowed to be bludgeoned or strangled to death in Colorado — of 965 in 2023, 98% were killed to sell their fur at auction, or for taxidermy.

We have no clue how many live here. I mean bobcats, not trappers, who number 700 or a tiny 0.01% of the human population.

There's much excitement over how to kill. Some say shoot 'em in the eye, but angled down into the throat to avoid blood splatter that ruins the Chinese market price for fur coats.

Others say hit her over the head. Copper pipe with a brass elbow is popular to crack her skull open.

Drowning has been used in Colorado, despite AVMA guidelines, because "a wet hide can make the fur slip." So has acetone, injected into the heart, for bobcats deemed a nuisance life.

Large cable ties around the neck pulled tight suffocates the cat who suffers for 3 minutes, veterinarians say.

Another option: shoot through the ear hole.

The problem: Fur trapping violates the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation in every way. It's disgusting, torturing and selling native wildlife, says Mark Elbroch, PhD, today's leading lion scientist.

Prop 127 is grassroots, borne of need, where a politically appointed agency pushed aside a petition signed by 208,000 citizens to end bobcat trapping.

Now drive with me.

A text alert from a trophy hunting guide paid \$8,500 says his dog pack contained a mountain lion in a tree.

As advertised, these guides will "take you to your trophy," where the dogs have "treed your trophy." Guaranteed 100%.

The client is driven offroad into remote forest, as a phone app tracks the GPS signal bouncing off the dogs' collars.

There's loud barking and dogs climbing trees. Some dogs get hurt, suffering broken backs and have even been abandoned. There's surplus dogs in case.

It's why 119 Colorado veterinarians say YES on Prop 127.

The client shoots, watching the lion fall. She doesn't die, he executes her on the ground as she's swarmed by dogs.

She's one of 500 lions killed yearly as recreation.

These activities blatantly violate the NAM tenet of fair chase. The lion has no chance.

About 250 of the 500 lions killed for trophies are females, which means kittens die of starvation without mothers, says Dr. Rick Hopkins, PhD, lion researcher of four decades.

Prop 127 remedies where the Legislature failed to pass a bill to protect mountain lions from unwarranted cruelty. Lynx are included as a pre-emptive measure.

The key is wildlife belongs to all citizens and majestic apex predators exist for the health and balance of nature. For this reason, Prop 127 puts the science first.

Voters can feel confident there's no research, no evidence for anyone to claim killing hundreds of wild cats solves any problem. It's not managing anything. It's recreation. This message comes from a majority of the outspoken CPW Commissioners, former Chair and current Vice Chair and the only Commissioner with a PhD in wildlife biology, plus dozens of the best mountain lion and bobcat scientists, former director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and former Chief of Biological Resources for the National Park Service who is a Durango resident and lion researcher.

There's evidence to show hunting creates problems by causing social chaos among nature.

Where lions are no longer hunted, predators exist with stability and among deer in natural balance. This is true in California

that has not hunted lions for a half-century and where an average 9 lions are killed yearly for conflict.

Prop 127 provides exceptions for professionals to manage rare individual cats posing risk as best proven practices.

Prop 127 is endorsed by more than 100 wildlife conservation groups including The Wild Animal Sanctuary, Colorado Sierra Club, Audubon Societies, lifelong hunters of Colorado, native ranchers, Indigenous voices, hunting organizations, bipartisan U.S. Senators and Congressmen, state lawmakers, newspaper endorsements, rural residents, El Paso and Jefferson County political bodies, the Working Families Party, Super Bowl Denver Bronco Mark Jackson, Dr. Jane Goodall and more.

It's past time for smart citizens to exercise their democratic freedom to protect native wild cats from state-sanctioned cruelty. And invest in ethical outdoor recreation, including hunting, for the true balance of nature for all of Colorado.

Julie Marshall is a former opinion editor at the Daily Camera and a native Coloradan who grew up in Pueblo and Denver and has reported on the science and ethics of Colorado mountain lions and bobcats for 35 years as a professional journalist. She won First Place for both her editorials and columns on mountain lions by the Colorado Press Association Network 2021 contest and worked as a Public Information Officer for Colorado Division of Wildlife working on the Leadership Team for Staff Communications under John Mumma after the citizens passed a similar ballot measure to protect bears from baiting, hounding and orphaning.

The main goal was to listen and hear more from citizens over ethical treatment of wildlife, because the Public Trust Doctrine says wildlife belongs to us all.

She volunteers for the Prop 127 campaign and works for the Center for a Humane Economy, one of more than 100 wildlife organizations endorsing Prop 127.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

REPUBLICANS HAVE IDENTIFIED THEMSELVES AS “WAR HAWKS” FOR YEARS!

Editor:

Alexei Navalny was jailed and released, poisoned and survived, warned to stay away from Russia and didn't, was arrested and imprisoned. He was consistently defiant in Putin's eyes. For years he faced the "might of one of the world's cruellest men. His promise was that he would outlive them and lead what he called the Beautiful Russia of the Future. On Friday, they killed him. He was forty-seven years old." The opposition leader, who died in prison, had been persecuted for years by the Russian State. He remained defiant, and consistently funny, to the very end. The New Yorker, February 16, 2024, <https://www.newyorker.com/news/postscript/the-death-of-alexey-navalny-putins-most-formidable-opponent>. This is how Vladimir Putin takes care of the "enemy from within."

A timeline of all the actions taken against him to keep him quiet can be found in this article. Protests, poisoning and prison: The life and death of Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny, AP, March 1, 2024, <https://apnews.com/article/russia-navalny-life-timeline-0722708e19e51b10699b2cc73ece0bae>.

Multiple times Trump has noted that Putin is a genius – smart – all terms of admiration. "They say, 'Trump said Putin's smart.' I mean, he's taking over a country for two dollars' worth of sanctions . . . I'd say that's pretty smart. He's taking over a country – really vast, vast location, a great

piece of land with a lot of people, and just walking right in." Fundraiser at Mar-a-Logo, 2/23/2022.

What is a War Hawk

Trump refers to Liz Cheney as a "war hawk." Per Wikipedia, the term "war hawk and hawk are used to describe a person who favours starting armed conflicts or escalating ongoing ones instead of attempting to solve problems through dialogue or other nonviolent methods." Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/War_hawk.

"Among the last 12 presidents, Republicans are generally more likely than Democrats to be classified as hawks on foreign policy . . . Among the last six Republican presidents, Donald Trump is the one most likely to be viewed as a hawk (55%) . . . " Hawks and doves: Changes in how Americans classify themselves and recent presidents, 12/19/2023, <https://today.yougov.com/politics/articles/48214-hawks-and-doves-foreign-policy-presidents-poll>

And those who avoid military service are called "chicken hawks." So, per this definition, is Trump a chicken hawk and a war hawk? Whose calling whom a hawk?

Trump's latest dialogue about the "enemy from within" follows . . .

"I don't blame him for sticking with his daughter. But his daughter's a very dumb individual. Very dumb. She's a radical war hawk. Let's put her with a rifle there with nine barrels shooting at her. Okay. Let's

see how she feels about it. You know when the guns are trained on her face." Trump says Liz Cheney might not be such a 'war hawk' if she had guns pointed at her." Glendale, AZ event, October 31, 2024

Look at Liz Cheney's voting record, one of many Republicans making decisions during her term, and determine for yourself if she is a "war hawk" . . . <https://justfacts.votesmart.org/candidate/key-votes/171319/liz-cheney/32/foreign-affairs>.

"We have a lot of bad people. But when you look at 'Shifty Schiff' and some of the others, yeah, they are to me, the enemy from within." Trump on Fox News

"I think Nancy Pelosi is an enemy from within." Trump on Fox News

"We got immunity at the Supreme Court. It's so easy. I would fire him (Jack Smith) within two seconds. He'll be one of the first things addressed." High Hewitt Show, Trump call in.

My question is, what else will it be so easy to do? Is this Putin or Trump speaking. Hard to tell the difference.

It is strange that in America I feel afraid when just expressing my opinion or quoting Trump's remarks!

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

IF YOU DON'T AGREE WITH THEIR CRAZY GOALS, YOU ARE A FASCIST, RACIST, SEXIST, DOMESTIC TERRORIST, NAZI...

Editor:

I enjoyed reading Jon Horn and John Baldus' letters in last week's Mirror. It is nice to have a forum like the Mirror where people can express differing opinions in a mostly civil manner. I disagree with everything they wrote. In a nicely worded sentence, Mr. Horn called "several of the regular Letters to the Editor contributors of the conservative persuasion" liars, and then added "the MAGA crowd" to his list of liars. As is typical with most liberal letter writers, Mr. Horn avoided actually challenging the specific opinions of conservative writers with facts of his own, but chose instead to resort to slander. In addition to not being very civil, that is not a very effective debate strategy --- but that is all Democrats have.

In the early stages of the Democrat's ill-conceived attempt to win the election with an incompetent and deeply unpopular candidate who never received a single primary vote, they hoped to hide everything about Kamala (her extremism, record, policies, lack of ability, personality, etc.) in a short, three-month campaign window. With their campaign of JOY failing, Kamala in desperation is now trying to revive her stagnant campaign by turning to the tired old "Trump is a fascist/Hitler" refrain. Mr. Horn further diminished the validity of his letter by repeating that nonsense. Unfortunately for Kamala, moderate Democrats and Independents can see the level of ridiculousness they are being asked to swallow. No one can point to anything remotely fascist or Hitler-like during Trump's first term -- maybe he was going to be Hitler, but he forgot? Fascists seek to change existing laws to illegally consolidate power. It is only the Democrats who seek to pack the Supreme Court, destroy the Electoral College, and end the Senate filibuster. Fascists arbitrarily nullify laws they feel do not aid their agendas. Biden-Harris destroyed immigration law in order to create an invasion of 12 million illegal aliens.

Mr. Horn mentions Trump's "convictions for illegal activities." Most Americans understand that the various legal cases against Trump are completely without merit. That's why "convicted felon" and all the rest of their silly phrases are not sticking. Unlike Democrats, Trump did not pursue his political enemies with the power of the DOJ. Americans remember the DOJ also going after parents upset at school boards, and pro-life activists being arrested at gunpoint in front of their families. They remember the Covid tyranny of Democrat

governors, including Tim Walz' official government snitch line. They remember the federal government working with big tech companies to keep Americans from finding out the truth about Hunter Biden's laptop and Joe Biden's corruption, and Covid studies that contradicted government approved positions.

In spite of the Biden-Harris administration creating the largest censorship system in history, Mr. Baldus writes that Trump will order newspapers to stop printing anything negative about him. Mr. Horn is concerned that "we are being told not to believe what used to be mainstream media sources." The Washington Post's billionaire owner Jeff Bezos just commented on the media's trust and reputation, indicating that "Our profession is now the least trusted of all," now even less trusted than Congress. "The hard truth. Americans don't trust the news media." That reputation is not there because someone told everyone not to believe the media --- the media earned every bit of that mistrust. The WaPo, like most media outlets like the Los Angeles Times and USA Today, are nothing more than Democrat propaganda outfits. Their content is viciously anti-Trump and blatantly pro-Kamala. CBS had to doctor Kamala's interview on 60 minutes and is refusing to release the full actual interview because they want to hide her incoherent non-answers from the public.

Mr Baldus indicates a vote for Trump will bring "a constant stream of lies," increase the federal deficit, and result in much higher prices. He also repeats the Democrat talking point that Trump's tax cuts favor billionaires and corporations, Where to begin. Trump's tax cuts actually resulted in the government collecting a huge amount of additional revenue. Increased revenues do not cause increased debt. Biden-Harris' vast unfunded spending increased the deficit and created out-of-control inflation. Everyone who pays taxes benefited from Trump's cuts. In fact, the middle class benefited the most. Corporate taxes -- which Trump cut from 35% to 21% and Democrats raised again -- are also just a tax on consumers. Tax increases are actually in Kamala's platform. She plans on the single largest tax increase in history by letting Trump's tax cuts expire, increasing individual and corporate tax rates, increasing capital gains taxes, implementing new taxes on unrealized capital gains, etc. I find it rather humorous that Mr. Baldus would even bring up higher prices given Trump's successes and Biden-Harris' abject failures on inflation and

the economy.

Meanwhile, as Harris in desperation abandons her run-out-the-clock smiley "joy" campaign and smears Trump as a fascist, our Democrat President writes off Trump supporters as "garbage". Those are the tens of millions of voters Biden previously labeled "semi-fascists", "MAGA extremists", and proponents of "Jim Crow 2.0," and Hillary called "deplorables." It's quite an election strategy. If you don't agree with their crazy goals, you are a fascist, racist, sexist, domestic terrorist, Nazi, or in Mr. Horn's words a liar. The contempt isn't working; it's alienating large segments of the country, including independents and key sections of the Democrat coalition. The working class is migrating to the GOP as blue-collar workers wake up to the disdain the left has for their values and their work. Most major unions are for the first time withholding their endorsements of Kamala. Minority voters are voting for Republicans at historic levels after realizing they have been used by Democrats for decades with nothing to show in return but continued servitude. When key Democrat propaganda outlets like the above mentioned WaPo, LA Times, and USA Today refrain from endorsing Harris, you know America is waking up.

This week's chuckle is Mr. Horn's concerns about VP candidate J. D. Vance because he is an unknown and he lies. Mr. Horn will vote for Harris/Walz because Walz is a known entity. We know, for example, that Walz called Republicans "weird" but mandated schools put tampons in boys' bathrooms. We know Walz has a lifelong pattern of dishonesty, including outright lies about his military service. Many of his fellow National Guard veterans revealed Walz embellished his military career and abandoned his National Guard battalion prior to its deployment to Iraq, calling him a coward. In spite of Walz's lies to the contrary, he never served in combat. We know he has dangerous ties to communist China. Per Walz, "one man's socialism is another person's neighborliness." We know that while Minneapolis burned, Walz stalled on deploying the national guard, and then tried to blame the riots on "white supremacists." We know he openly sympathized with the BLM rioters. A known entity.

Is it any wonder that when I hear a claim against a conservative by a Democrat, I instinctively assume that not only is the opposite true, but their accusation is probably more accurately applied to the left.

Ed Henrie, Montrose

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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

ASLEEP AT THE WHEEL: KNOW WHEN YOU'RE TOO TIRED TO DRIVE: COLORADO STATE PATROL FINDS FATIGUE CAUSED CRASHES CONTINUE TO RISE

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO—Whether caused by insomnia, a disrupted shift work schedule, or even the end of Daylight Savings, not getting enough sleep before driving is a dangerous idea. According to the [National Safety Council](#), drowsy driving is similar to driving under the influence of alcohol, impacting reaction times and the ability to stay focused on the road.

"Operating a vehicle safely requires a person's full attention and focus," stated Col. Matthew C. Packard, chief of the Colorado State Patrol. "Fatigue physically and mentally impacts the abilities of a driver – it has effects on a driver's attention span, judgment, coordination and reaction time."

Colorado State Troopers saw a concerning jump in lane violation fatal and injury crashes in 2024 that were attributed to driver fatigue and drivers asleep at the wheel. According to State Patrol crash data, there were 39 crashes in 2023 and 44 in 2024 (12% increase). While the hard numbers appear to suggest a small annual increase, looking historically, troopers have seen a significant year-over-year increase since 2020, when there were only 27 lane violation crashes due to fatigue or a driver falling asleep. The percentage increase from four years ago is 38.6%.

According to the [National Sleep Foundation](#), drowsy drivers may find themselves [weaving](#) back and forth between lanes, unable to maintain the right speed and keep an appropriate distance from other vehicles. They also may be unable to react in time to avoid an obstacle.

The Colorado State Patrol wants to send a message this Drowsy Driving Prevention Week (November 3 – 9, 2024) that drivers should never underestimate the importance of a good night's sleep. If you are sleep-deprived, put down the keys.

"We don't often talk about fatigue and drowsiness, but sleep-related issues aren't uncommon and there is an impact on a person's ability to drive safely," stated Col. Matthew C. Packard, Chief of the Colorado State Patrol. "Shift workers and commercial drivers are at extreme risk, but anyone who struggles with getting enough and regular sleep can be impacted."

If you do notice signs of drowsiness, pull over and take a 20-minute nap in a safe place. The [National Sleep Foundation](#) provided some of the top signs of drowsy driving that are similar to signs of drunk driving

- Heavy eyelids or frequent blinking
- Frequent yawning
- Daydreaming and trouble focusing
- Drifting back and forth between lanes
- Hitting a rumble strip
- Drooping head
- Poor recall of the last few miles
- Missing signs or exits
- Restlessness, irritability, and aggressiveness, including tailgating



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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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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

COLORADO STATE PATROL CONTINUES PROGRAM TO SUPPORT VICTIMS OF MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO— The Colorado State Patrol is pleased to announce the continued support of motor vehicle theft victims through their secondary cost assistance program. This unique grant-funded opportunity is in partnership with the Colorado Auto Theft Prevention Authority. Now, for the second consecutive year, the Colorado State Patrol Victim's Services Unit has secured grant funding to reduce the financial impact and stress for victims of auto theft crimes. No other state is currently offering a program of this kind in the country. Through an application process, Colorado residents in need who have been victims of auto theft may be eligible

to receive funding to offset specific costs associated with the crime of motor vehicle theft and get them back on the road. When a vehicle is stolen, community members want their property recovered. Thus far, in 2024, Colorado continues to recover more than 90% of all stolen vehicles. While the likelihood is very high that auto theft victims will see their property again, they are often shocked by some of the unknown or unexpected costs associated with this crime. The Colorado State Patrol wants to help secure financial support for these expenses to return the vehicle to an operable condition and/or minimize the impact an auto theft may have on a person's life. Some of the expenses

that victims may be eligible for are:

- Alternative transportation
- Public transportation
- Ride-share services
- Rental vehicle services
- Cleaning and sanitation fees
- Towing and storage fees
- Vehicle repair reimbursement
- Steering wheel locks and hardening devices

If you are a Colorado resident and your registered and insured vehicle was stolen, please visit lockdownyourcar.org to view a list of available resources and initiate the completion of the new online victim's assistance application to determine your eligibility for assistance.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE HIGH SCHOOL SPANISH CLUB FUNDRAISING FOR TRIP TO PERU



Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Montrose High School Spanish Club students will be seen about town as they raise funds for a June 3-12 trip to Peru. Catch them at the football playoff games and special events like the Christmas Parade of Lights Saturday, Dec. 7 at 5:30 p.m. selling their homemade goodies and serving hot chocolate and cider. Pictured are, from left, Yuliana Almanza, senior; Carissa Trask, junior; Kacy Stewart, junior; Delilah Day, freshman; Jordyn Simo, junior; Taylor Gibson, senior; with MHS Spanish teacher Lidia Bond. Not pictured, but joining the group are Evie Sherman, junior; Natalie Trask, freshman; and Olathe High School Spanish teacher Carla Hernandez. Courtesy photo.





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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DELTA COUNTY RELEASES RESULTS OF 2023 FINANCIAL AUDIT

Special to the Mirror

DELTA—Delta County has released the results of its 2023 financial audit and management's discussion and analysis, providing a comprehensive overview of the County's financial performance for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2023. The audit, conducted by Blair and Associates, P.C., was completed on August 17, 2024, and presented to the Board of County Commissioners on October 1, 2024. This audit report demonstrates that Delta County's financial performance in 2023, with balanced assets and liabilities, strategic use of resources, and positive net position growth, is strong.

Key Financial Highlights

-Assets and Liabilities: At the end of 2023, Delta County's assets exceeded its liabilities by \$188.3 million. Of this, \$27 million remains available for meeting ongoing obligations to citizens and creditors. \$158 million is invested in capital assets, and \$3.3 million is restricted by law.

-Revenues and Expenditures: Total revenues for 2023 were \$35.3 million, while expenditures amounted to \$33.5 million, resulting in an increase of \$1.79 million in the County's net position.

-Fund Balances: Fund balances increased in 13 of the County's 23 governmental and business-type activity funds, demonstrating continued financial health.

The audit notes the County's commitment to maintaining fund balances in key areas. The unreserved fund balances in both the General Fund and the Road and Bridge Fund exceeded the goal of maintaining at least 25% of operating expenditures. Additionally, despite a lower reserve in the Human Services Fund, 80% of its revenues are derived from federal and state sources, mitigating any potential risks.

Overview of Financial Statements

The audit report provides insights into Delta County's government-wide financial statements, fund financial statements, and accompanying notes. These components give a thorough analysis of the County's finances, including details on assets, liabilities, revenues, and expenditures across all governmental and business-type activities.

Capital Assets and Investments

Delta County's investment in capital assets rose to \$158 million, reflecting ongoing construction and improvement projects such as road reconstruction, the Detention Center remodel, and Miners Trail. Key purchases included \$2.9 million in heavy equipment and vehicles, demonstrating the County's commitment to maintaining and enhancing public infrastructure.

Long-Term Debt and Fiscal Responsibility

The County remains free of long-term gen-

eral obligation debt and lease-purchase agreements subject to statutory limitations, reflecting prudent fiscal management. Delta County continues to meet its financial obligations without exceeding the allowable debt capacity of \$6.5 million.

Looking Ahead

As Delta County moves into 2024, several key factors are expected to impact the County's financial position, including increasing mandates for federal and state programs, challenges related to an aging county jail, and the need to balance revenue constraints with the demand for services.

Commissioners' Statement

The Delta County Board of County Commissioners expressed their confidence in the audit results, stating, "Delta County remains financially sound, and we are committed to continuing our responsible stewardship of public funds. Our ability to invest in critical infrastructure and maintain healthy reserves demonstrates our dedication to meeting the needs of our community."

For more information or to view the entire audit and financial analysis, please visit: <https://cleargov.com/colorado/delta/county/dashboards/2331/delta-county>.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

LOW INCOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LEAP) NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE—Montrose County Human Services is now accepting Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP) applications now through April 30, 2025. LEAP is designed to help low-income households meet their winter home heating costs; it does not pay the entire cost of home heating. LEAP is a federally funded program through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and managed locally by Montrose County Human Services.

"Many people may not realize that LEAP funds can be used for variety of heating sources--whether it's propane, gas, electric, wood, or even coal--our goal is to help keep our community warm during the winter," said Mirian Mason, Montrose County Eligibility Program Manager. "We want to make sure that none of our residents are without heat in the cold winter months."

The amount of the energy assistance benefits varies depending on a variety of factors, including the primary heating fuel costs and income. The program does not provide financial assistance for any type of temporary or portable heating. In most cases the energy assistance benefit is paid directly to the household energy supplier.

In addition to home heating bill assistance, LEAP recipients may be eligible to receive furnace repair and replacement in heat-related emergencies in addition to weatherization services pending the results of a home energy audit. Currently, LEAP recipients are also eligible for a program that is part of the American Rescue Plan (ARP). The Utility Assistance Program provides funds to assist with paying down past-due accounts for a home's primary heating source and supportive fuel while funding is available.

To be eligible for benefits, households must pay heating costs directly to a utility company or fuel supplier or pay heating costs as part of their rent. The program counts your gross monthly income. Household gross income may not exceed 65 percent of the State Median Income--the maximum gross monthly income for a one person household for the 2024-2025 LEAP season is \$3,382.00

If you are interested in receiving LEAP benefits, you must fill out a LEAP application. Applications may be obtained through your local LEAP office at the Montrose County Human Service building at 1845 South Townsend Avenue. Applicants are required to submit a copy of their most recent heating bill or rent receipt (if heat is included in rent) and proof of income. For more information regarding LEAP, call human services at [970-252-5000](tel:970-252-5000), visit the [LEAP website](#), stop in to human services offices at 1845 South Townsend Avenue, or call the HEAT HELP Hotline at [1-866-432-8435](tel:1-866-432-8435).



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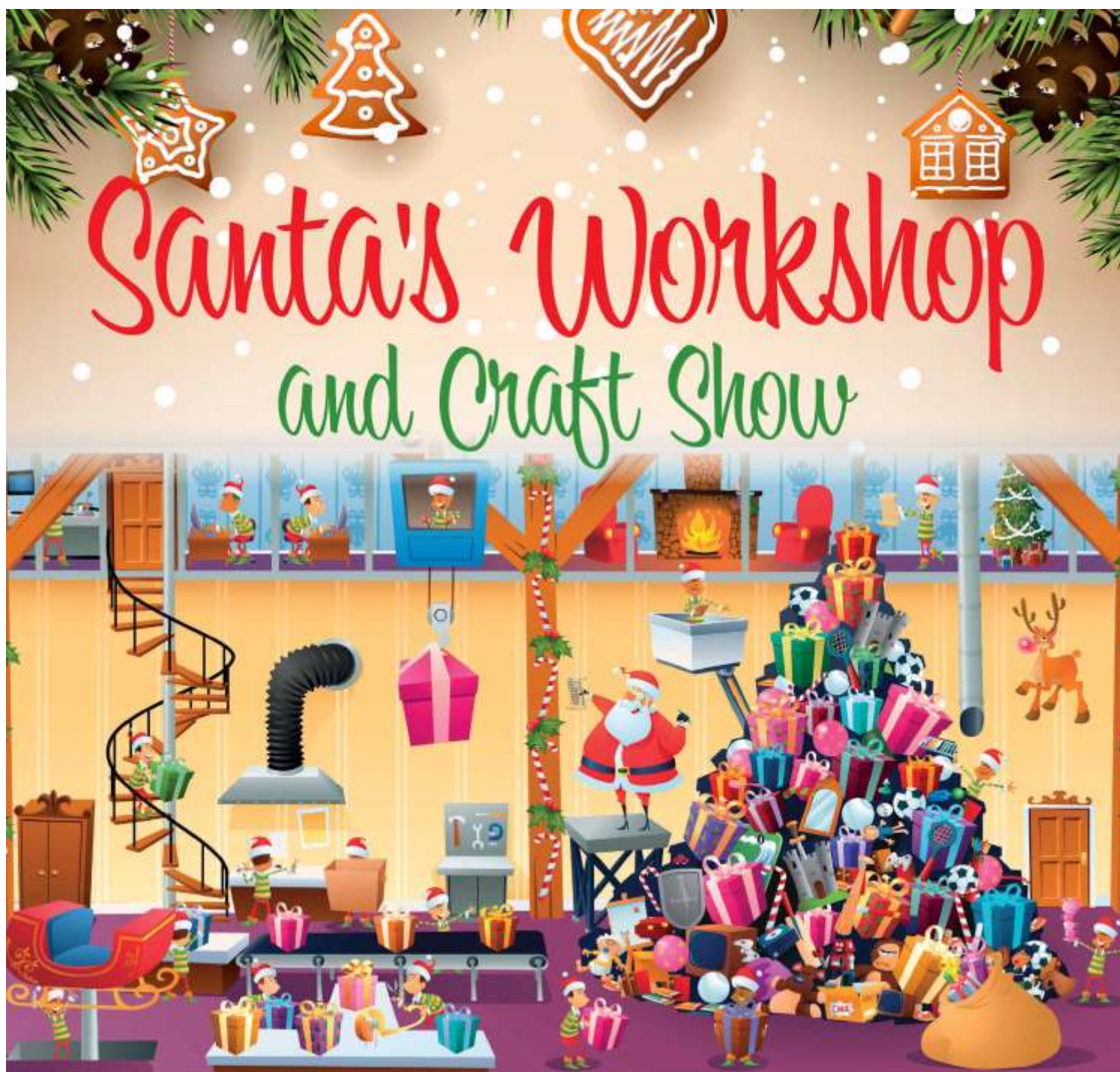
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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

A LESSON OR A BLESSING?

Editor:

This election will either be a lesson or a blessing. I'm hoping for the blessing since the last four years have definitely been a lesson on why we don't want four more years of democrats in charge of the federal and state government.

High inflation has raised the prices of everything. And democrats' solution is more of the same failed policies that led to this mess. I cannot understand the thinking of any voter that would think more of the same failed policies is what we need. The middle class and the working class have been decimated by these failed policies. And all we have to do to change this tra-

jectory is to turn out the conservative and Christian voters.

So why don't the conservatives turn out in high numbers? I think the main reason is the past four years of misguided conspiracy theories about the voting machines has a lot of voters setting at home saying why bother. And I believe the Christian voters are just saying "it's in God's hands so let him handle it". God will not do for us what we can do for ourselves. If you want change then be the change that you seek. Sitting at home and waiting on someone else to change things is how we get bad governance.

For the past year or more we voters have

been inundated with political advertisements that are disingenuous if not outright dishonest. The people running these ads are counting on voters not being well informed.

And I know that way too many voters do not take the time to be well informed. And that is very disappointing. With smart phones, computers, radios and 100+ channels on TV there is no excuse for not knowing which candidates support your values. And which ballot initiatives are not in your best interest.

So get off your duff do some research and then vote as if your life depended on it.

Ray Langston, Montrose



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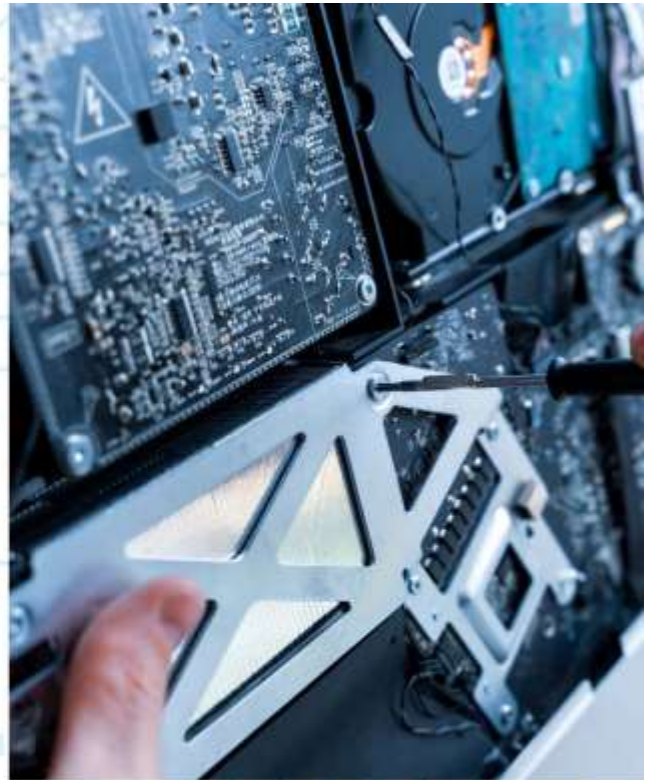
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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

STATEMENT FROM COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF STATE ON SYSTEMS PASSWORDS

Special to the Mirror

DENVER- The Colorado Department of State is aware that a spreadsheet located on the Department's website improperly included a hidden tab including partial passwords to certain components of Colorado voting systems. This does not pose an immediate security threat to Colorado's elections, nor will it impact how ballots are counted.

Colorado elections include many layers of security. There are two unique passwords for every election equipment component, which are kept in separate places and held by different parties. Passwords can only be used with physical in-person access to a voting system. Under Colorado law, voting equipment must be stored in secure rooms that require a secure ID badge to access. That ID badge creates an access log that tracks who enters a secure area and when. There is 24/7 video camera recording on all election equipment. Clerks are required to maintain restricted access to secure ballot areas, and may only share access information with background-checked individuals. No person may be present in a secure area unless they are authorized to do so or are supervised by an authorized and background-checked employee. There are also strict chain of custody requirements that track when a voting systems component has been accessed and by whom. It is a felony to access voting equipment without authorization.

Every Colorado voter votes on a paper ballot, which is then audited during the Risk Limiting Audit to verify that ballots were counted according to voter intent.

The Department took immediate action as soon as it was aware of this, and informed the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, which closely monitors and protects the county's essential security infrastructure. The Department is working to remedy this situation where necessary.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

DOGS ARE USED AND ABUSED IN TROPHY HUNTING OF MOUNTAIN LIONS AND BOBCATS

Editor:

As a Colorado veterinarians, we join 117 of our peers to write a letter to vote YES on Proposition 127.

Prop 127 is designed to protect native wildlife from unethical and unscientific trophy hunting and fur trapping.

There's another issue: the dogs used and abused, set out to fight to kill mountain lions and bobcats.

Colorado allows trophy hunting guides paid \$8,500 to send out a dog pack to contain a mountain lion in a tree.

As advertised, these guides will "take you to your trophy," where the dogs have "treed your trophy." Guaranteed 100%. The client is driven offroad into remote

forest, as a phone app tracks the GPS signal bouncing off the dogs' collars.

There's loud barking and dogs climbing trees. Some dogs get hurt, suffering broken backs and have even been abandoned. There's surplus dogs in case.

The client shoots, watching the lion fall. He executes her on the ground as she's swarmed by dogs.

Each is one of 500 lions killed yearly as recreation. Bobcats are chased by dogs.

These activities are not for Colorado. We do not allow dogs to chase wildlife. Except for wild cats.

Which makes no sense, when you see the incredible harm it causes both dogs and wild cats.

There is a terrible video of a dog pack tearing a cat apart and bloodied, in the so-called hunt on Facebook

Animals fight as cruel trophy hunters watch the horror show called animal fighting, and it's actually illegal. Trophy hunting, however, is legal.

This kind of disgusting activity has no place in our state where we protect our dogs, and can choose not to send them out to fight lions.

This vote is a no-brainer for dog lovers of Colorado, so vote YES on Prop 127.

Dr. Shari DePauw, veterinarian in Longmont

Dr. Christine Capaldo, veterinarian in southwestern Colorado

VOTE ELLEN ANGELES FOR CD3 STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Editor:

I am writing to express my concerns about Sherri Wright's actions as a board member, which show she is not the right candidate for CD3 State Board of Education. It was confirmed that Ms. Wright violated open meeting laws by colluding with other board members to push the sitting superintendent to resign, and she failed to ensure that an executive session was audio recorded, as required by law. This raises questions about her commitment to our

district's best interests, her integrity, and her transparency.

During the pandemic, when strong leadership was essential, Ms. Wright failed to offer guidance. She was unable to manage board meetings effectively, allowing agendas to be derailed and leaving board members and community members vulnerable to harassment and outright threats. Her actions showed an inability to maintain decorum, AND an inability or unwillingness to adapt to changing needs

and goals.

We need board members who will uphold trust and integrity—not undermine them, and we need state board members with an ability to adapt and prepare students for the future, not the past.

I encourage you to vote for Ellen Angeles, a candidate with a passion for public education and a commitment to putting students first.

*Thank you,
Cayce Hamerschlag, Cortez*

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COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

FLORA SISNEROS

October 6, 1930 — October 25, 2024

Our dear mother Flora Sisneros, passed away, peacefully on October 25th, 2024, at her home in Olathe, Colorado, surrounded by family.

Flora was born on October 6th, 1930, to parents Geronimo and Rufina Garcia in Ojo Caliente, New Mexico. Flora had six other siblings.

She lived her young life in Ojo Caliente, later married Cosme Sisneros on November 18th, 1950, in Elko, Nevada. They were married for 42 years, until Cosme's passing on March 27th, 1993.

Flora was a wonderful and loving mother

to her children; Tony Sisneros, Elizabeth Phipps (Scottie), Cosme Sisneros (Vivian), Mary Perez (Mike), Jerry Sisneros (Pat), and Peggy Velasquez (Larry).

She had 10 grandchildren, 21 great grandchildren, and one great great grandchild.

Flora enjoyed the company of her family, or anyone who would come by to visit. She possessed an incredible fighting spirit, a sharp mind, an unbelievable memory, and a great sense of humor, up until her passing.

She thoroughly enjoyed the simple pleasures

of life.

In particular she enjoyed the visiting of her family with grandkids, friends, cooking and working outdoors in her yard.

She will be very much missed by us all.



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COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

WILLIAM GARLAND LATHAM ***June 24, 1943 — October 23, 2024***



WILLIAM GARLAND LATHAM of Montrose, Colorado went to be with his Lord and Savior on Wednesday, October 23, 2024 at the age of 81.

Garland was born on June 24, 1943 to Otis and Verda Latham in Artesia, New Mexico where he lived until he was age eight. He and his family then moved to Grand Junction, Colorado where he started attending Riverside Elementary school

and it was there, he first met Rita Rae Castle, who would become the love of his life. They later became neighbors and grew up together. His Junior year, 1960, he took Rita on their first date to the Chief Drive-In movie theatre.

Garland and Rita were united in marriage on October 24, 1962 at the Assembly of God Church in Grand Junction, Colorado. They lived in several places around the Western Slope. In 1964 they were blessed with their first son, Troy and their second son, Greg was born in 1967. While living in Ellensburg, Washington it was there they had their daughter, Traci, in 1971. They returned to Colorado in 1977 and raised their family in Collbran.

Throughout Garland's life, he had many occupations but only a few he really made his passion. With welding being his biggest passion he created a cannon to be used during the Plateau Valley football games for touchdown celebrations. The cannon is legendary and still talked about to this day. He had a brilliant mind and loved working on the next big invention to make the world a better place. Everyone that knew Garland loved him and knew how much he loved the Lord. He was a light to

everyone he visited with and enjoyed sharing the Gospel of Jesus with them.

Dad, we know you are Home and finally heard the words you've longed to hear "Welcome home thou good and faithful servant."

Garland is survived by his wife of 62 years, Rita "Reed" Castle Latham. His children Troy (Karen) Latham of Delta, Colorado; Greg (Lori) Latham of Fruita, Colorado; Traci (Kenny) Douglas of Montrose, Colorado. Grandchildren, Katelyn (Levi) Noles, Cody Latham, Logan (Kiley) Douglas and Kersi Latham. Great Grandchildren Dayton and Saylor Noles; Brynlee and Laykyn Douglas. Also his two sisters-in-law, brother-in-law, and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents Otis and Verda Latham, sister Charlotte Morey, brother Dale Latham, sister-in-law Judy Latham, brother-in-law Jerry Rew, sister-in-law Glenda Charlesworth, niece Becki Smith and nephew Joshua Rew.

His Celebration of Life will be held at Crossroads Church in Montrose Colorado on November 16th at 11am. Arrangements are in the care of Crippin Funeral Home and Crematory, Montrose, Colorado.

LILLIAN "JODY" F. HADLEY ***May 4, 1945 — October 23, 2024***

MS. LILLIAN (JODY) F. HADLEY passed away Wednesday, October 23rd at 12:21 am. She was surrounded by her family and close friends during her departure. Her family will hold a Celebration of Life next year on Sunday, May 4, 2025, which would have been Jody's 80th Birthday. Celebration will either be in Montrose or Delta Colorado, exact location still to be determined.



ISSUE 493 Nov. 4, 2024

ART & SOL

LOST? FOUND? FACT OR FICTION?

By Bob Cox

COLORADO-Anyone who takes an interest in the history of mining, whether in Colorado or elsewhere, has likely heard stories of those "lost mines." Maybe, many of the stories were true, but a significant number of others were more legend or just outright lies, whereby some nefarious individual had his sights set on the hidden treasures in some gullible person's pocket rather than on that ever-evasive "Mother Lode."

One of the most famous of those so-called "lost mines" was the Lost Dutchman, which was supposed to be in the Superstition Mountains in the Arizona counties of Maricopa and Pinal. There are a plethora of articles and books written about the Lost Dutchman. Most tell the story of the Peralta brothers, Spanish prospectors who found some significant deposits of gold in the Superstitions. They supposedly worked their claims for several years, but were finally chased out of the area by some irate Apache Indians. As the story goes, Jacob Walz, known as "the Dutchman," found the old Peralta diggings and extracted a lot of gold, but he died in 1892 without sharing the location of the mine.

In the last years of the 1800s there existed several stories of a lost mine in the upper Cow Creek in Colorado's Ouray County. Heavy snow put a halt to those looking for the mine in 1899, but they seemed lined up and ready to go the next spring. Both the *Ouray Herald* and the *Populist* newspapers commented on the



The Oak Creek drainage, west of the Town of Ouray, was believed to have been the location of one of many "lost mines." Photo by Cynthia Cox.

efforts of those prospectors, with the June 1, 1900 *Populist* printing, "Prospectors are flocking into the Cow Creek country, presumably, to search for the Lost Mine but, it is yet too early to accomplish much in that region." Some claimed later that they found the source of the riches, others said it was never found.

As was the case in several of the lost mine stories, the claim that a mine had been "lost" in the Ouray area proved to be nothing more than some miners in the Mountain Top Mine just following the

wrong rock fault. The short story in the August 30, 1907 *Ouray Herald* explained the situation, but still used the "lost mine" scenario in its headline:

LOST MINE IS RELOCATED IN A OURAY MINE - About ten days ago the Mountain Top Mining company rediscovered a high grade vein lost three years ago, due to a fault. Because of the fault the drift had been off the vein and new exploration work located it in the hanging wall. The vein shows ten inches of high-grade ore running over 300 ounces silver and 25

Continued next pg

LOST? FOUND? FACT OR FICTION? From previous pg

percent lead. The find is next to the old stope, where something over \$150,000 was taken out, and the rediscovered vein, should it work out as well as it did in the old ground, should yield the company something over \$300,000.

Other information indicated that the location of the vein actually happened in mid-July, almost six weeks prior to the article.

In 1919, several newspapers, including the *Montrose Daily Press*, seemed to take a special interest in some lost mines in Mexico. According to the stories, several mines were lost as a result of the prospectors being driven from their diggings by bands of Yaqui Indians. The article pointed out another common part of many of the lost mine legends, that being some sort of map. Some of the maps were said to have been found, others were attributed to some relative or the result of being referred to by a dying miner. The story behind the 1919 article was particularly intriguing. Referring to the Yaqui, the article, in part, read:

They killed or drove prospectors from the country and obliterated marks of the workings. Thus, many mines, with great possibilities, were lost. One of the mines of the Estrella del Norte Mining company was lost for many years. The only clue to its location was found on an old Jesuit map, which said it could be seen by looking from a church door. The church was found and the land dug up as far as could be seen from the door, but no trace of the mine was found.

Another later article indicated that a man with field glasses stood in the doorway of the church and discovered the old mine. Nothing was found to verify that story.

One of Ouray's favorite lost mine legends also includes Indians. As the story goes, two prospectors ventured up Oak Creek in 1863, a decade before the Brunot Agreement was signed by the Utes. Prior to that agreement, prospecting and mining was not allowed. According to the legend, these men found a super-rich gold vein and took nearly 100 pounds of ore, crushed it on site and almost got stranded by winter storms. They returned to California with their story. Sometime in the early 1900s, one of them, on his death bed, divulged the location of the mine to a young man who headed for the ore-rich San Juan mountains, headed up Oak Creek just west of Ouray and began looking for the old mine. He never found it and the lost Oak Creek mine became, and still is, a legend. Several versions of the so-called map, supposedly drawn by the young man, surfaced for many years. Most of them had been purchased from someone.

According to an article in the August 24, 1921 of the *Montrose Daily Press*, Bud Cowan succeeded in finding one lost mine, this one in Nevada. Cowan's only tie to Montrose was that he was a brother to Montrose resident, Mrs. W. A. Hopkins and the former owner of a Montrose Cafe that burned down. He was also a well-known rodeo cowboy that worked in the famous Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show. That was enough to gain him some notoriety in the Montrose area. According to the article, Cowan was in Nevada seeking a venue for the show and heard of some prospectors looking for the "Lost Mine." He accidentally found the location and reportedly recovered silver that assayed at over 300 ounces per ton. The *Nucla Inde-*

pendent, whose editor was somehow related to Cowan, remarked, "All we have to say to Mr. Cowan is: that if he makes his million we hope he won't enjoy it until he divides up with us."

There are many stories of those lost mines, but one of the most fun-reading comes from the January 7, 1926 edition of the *Surface Creek Champion*. The story came with a New York byline and likely provided a smile or two from those who were reading the *Champion*. Here is the headline and part of the story:

MINE LOST 100 YEARS IS REVEALED BY COCKROACHES

New York. —An old Mexican gold mine, all trace of which had been lost for more than 100 years, has been rediscovered in a curious manner, says "Brief Stories." It was one of the many prolific sources of treasure worked by the Spanish adventurers in the days of Cortez and had been given the name of the Cockroach mine on account of the large numbers of these insects, which infested its immediate neighborhood. It was afterwards sealed up and its site forgotten. Recently, after the lapse of more than a century, a prospector in the district, noticing a rock swarming with cockroaches, remembered the story, followed the trail of the insects and found the mine, which is again being worked.

A note from Bob Cox: I have decided not to divulge the location of the Cockroach Mine. It is once again believed to be "lost." Therefore, I am planning a trip during which I will search for the mine during the night hours. Having learned that cockroaches give off heat, I will be armed with the latest in infrared light technology. I am sure I will strike it rich.



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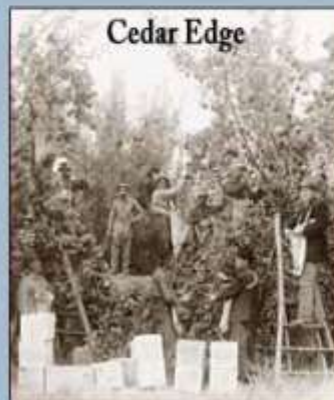
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Event Center, Montrose County Fairgrounds

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

NINA KOTHE AND KAREN BELLEROSE FEATURED FOR STORIES & POEMS NORWOOD NOV. 20

Special to the Mirror

NORWOOD ... Nina Kothe and Karen Bellerose are featured at the Talking Gourds' monthly Stories & Poems series at the Lone Cone Library in Norwood Wednesday Nov. 20th at 6 pm.

"Kothe, who worked for San Miguel County before taking job at the Lone Cone Library, will be talking about housing opportunities in the area," explained Talking Gourds Director Art Goodtimes. "And Bellerose will be performing her stories, essays and poems."

Nina has lived in the area for 38 years. She was educated to be a secondary level Social Studies teacher but wound up working for local governments for 26 years instead. One of her responsibilities was managing various grants and special projects. Part of her expertise in housing comes from having rented in the Ski Ranches, Town of Telluride, and Fall Creek, until finally settled in Norwood 16 years ago as a homeowner. Retired, she works part time at the Norwood Library.

"I have a passion for design and particularly housing and interior design," said Kothe. "I managed construction on the six Habitat for Humanity homes here in Norwood as well as my own home."

Originally from Central Illinois, Bellerose has lived and written in San Miguel County since the 1990s. She spent a decade in local and regional journalism, which included editing the *Norwood Post* between 2000 and 2004.

In January of this year, she launched *Spruce and Sagebrush*, a blog of essays



and poems influenced by living in and exploring the Colorado Plateau and the Southern Rocky Mountains.

Though rooted in place, her writing is raised in modern life and reflects the tension of trying to stay connected to both the natural world and the human one, "even as the two seem to grow further apart," she notes.

The Stories & Poems free series happens on the third Wednesday of each month. Our featured guests will give a 15-20 min. presentation each, followed by a short question and answer period after the presentation. Then there's a passing of



At left, Nina Kothe. At right Karen Bellerose. Courtesy photos.

the gourd, where community members are encouraged to share stories or poems.

For those who like prompts for stories or poems, this month's prompt is: "Home."

A collaboration of the Lone Cone Library and the Telluride Institute's Talking Gourds poetry program, *Stories & Poems* is free and open to all ages, thanks to the generosity of the library, a Town of Telluride CCAASE grant, private donors and Talking Gourds' Fischer & Cantor poetry contests.

For more information, text 970-729-0220 or email Goodtimes at art@tellurideinstitute.org. To visit the website: www.tellurideinstitute.org/talking-gourds



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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

ZOEY MCKENZIE & MILTON BLUEHOUSE, JR. FEATURED FOR BARDIC TRAILS ON ELECTION NIGHT



Left, Zoey McKenzie of Las Cruces (NM) and above, Milton Bluehouse, Jr. Courtesy photos.

Special to the Mirror

TELLURIDE- The Bardic Trails virtual poetry series is proud to welcome Zoey McKenzie of Las Cruces (NM) and Milton Bluehouse, Jr., of the Navajo Nation as our featured readers Tuesday Nov. 5 at 7 pm MT. Come join us for poetry from two fine *Diné* poets while we all wait election results.

Zoey McKenzie (formerly Benally) is a poet from Shiprock, who has recently moved to Las Cruces, New Mexico. She has worked for many years as a veterinarian in public health, enjoys watching fast zombie movies with her cat and hiking with her two dogs. Go

to saaniidotcom.blogspot.com to read more of Zoey's poems.

"Zoey and I have been friends and have read together for over two decades," said Talking Gourds Director Art Goodtimes. "Most recently at the *Writing for Resilience* celebration run by Lisa C. Taylor in the spring of 2022 and sponsored by the Mancos Public Library, Colorado Creative Industries and the National Endowment for the Arts. We are delighted to have her performing for us again."

studies in Federal Indian Law and Judaic Studies and pursued his MFA in Creative Writing from the Institute of American Indian Arts. Son of a former Navajo leader and Tribal Chair, Bluehouse has spent the last 28 years working in tribal, federal, and state inter-governmental relations, including facilitating and mediating multiple Indian Country issues, as well as providing government relations training for federal and state agencies, private corporations, and non-governmental organizations. He is an avid hunter, rancher, and poet.

Next month's featured poet will be our 2024 Fischer Cantor Judge Juan Morales of Colorado College. The Telluride Institute's Talking Gourds Poetry Program hosts the Bardic Trails virtual zoom series on the first Tuesday of each month. The Wilkinson Public Library continues as our collaboration partner and fiscal agent, with town support from Commission for Community Assistance, Arts & Special Events. This month current San Miguel County Poet Laureate Joanna Yonder recommends as prompt: "What Goes Up Must

Come Down" -- if any participant desires a prompt.

No longer needing to register with the library, participants are encouraged to visit <https://www.tellurideinstitute.org/western-slope-calendar> to get the zoom link each month, if they aren't already on our mailing list. Thanks to the Cantor Family, the Guttman Family Foundation, CCAASE and our Fischer and Cantor contest participants for supporting our program and projects.

Bardic Trails is a project of the Telluride Institute's Talking Gourds Poetry Program in collaboration with the Wilkinson Public Library. For more information, visit the website: <https://www.tellurideinstitute.org/western-slope-calendar>.

Other Talking Gourds projects include the Stories & Poems Norwood live reading series in collaboration with the Lone Cone Library on the third Wednesday of every month, the Stories & Poems Naturita in collaboration with the Naturita Community Library on the third Sunday of every month, the national Fischer Poetry Prize contest and the state/national Cantor Poetry Prize contest (both now closed until April), the Western Slope Poet Laureate award in collaboration with Grand Junction's Center of the Arts (given every two years), the San Miguel County Poet Laureate collaboration (given every two years), the annual Karen Chamberlain lifetime achievement award given in collaboration with the Mountain Words Festival of Crested Butte, and the Mycolicious MycoLuscious MycoLogical Poetry Show in conjunction with the annual Telluride Mushroom Festival.

THANK YOU FOR READING.



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ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

Office Hours: By appointment.

Contact Information: (970) 249-2451

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

Worship Service Times: Sundays 9AM,

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

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

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

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

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH

Independent Baptist

112 Main St.

P.O. Box 262

Olathe, Co 81425

Tuesday-Friday Phone: 970-808-1021

www.biblebaptistchurcholathe.com

Pastor Gabe Skillo

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Sunday 6 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Study/Prayer 7 p.m.

CELEBRATION CHURCH

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

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

Office Hours: By appointment

Phone: (970) 497-4925

Email: celebrationmontrose@gmail.com

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

celebrationmontrose.org/

Worship Service Times: 9am and 10:45am

Senior Pastor:

Pastor Brandon Mathis

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

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

Demographics: Multi-generational

Celebration Kids: (age birth to 5th grade)
programs offered both services.

Student (middle & high school) at 9am.

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

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

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

Contact: 970-633-0226

Website: www.montroselutheran.org

Email: montroselutheran@gmail.com

Pastor: Tim Onnen

Worship: Sundays at 9 AM

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

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

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

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 Spiritual and Interfaith Community
Address: Services 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., 2nd Sunday of each month; Chai Chats, a Wednesday morning midweek informal spiritual gathering at 10:30 a.m. at Pun Hill Himalayan Restaurant, Mont-

rose; 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. 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](mailto: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://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?

HIDDEN LAKE COMMUNITY FALL 2024

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Only \$1,000 down will hold a home for you!

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ground, zip line, pickle ball
court, dog parks, RV storage
and onsite management.



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62650 LaSalle Road, Montrose, CO (970) 615-9412

OPEN, MON-SAT, 8am-5pm CLOSED NOVEMBER 28TH & 29TH FOR THANKSGIVING

www.TheHiddenLakeCommunity.com





Paint Your Pet

Thr., Nov. 14, Mosaic
21 N. Cascade Ave.
5:30-7:30 pm



Take a picture of your pet. Send it to us. We will create a transfer for you to paint your pet on a canvas.

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Justin Covington.....970-275-4189	Cheryl Larsen.....970-596-8801
Nicole Goza.....970-209-2548	Vicki Jones.....970-209-3018
Mark Covington.....970-209-1956	Office.....970-249-6658

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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 westslopewater-summit.com Lunch is provided with an RSVP. Attendees can [register online](#) or call 970-964-8701. Local water information and resources are available [here](#).

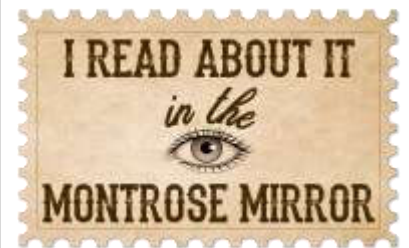
Nov. 15-16-On Nov. 15 and 16 the Shavano Conservation District Western Colorado Soil Health Committee and CSU Extension are pleased to invite the agricultural community to the first annual Western Colorado Farm and Ranch Innovation Expo. The Expo at the Montrose County Event Center (1001 N 7th Street) will be FREE and open to the public on Friday Nov. 15 from noon to 5pm and Saturday November 16 from 9am to 5pm. More information is available at www.shavanoccd.org.

Nov. 22-Black Canyon Boys & Girls Club Crab Crack fundraiser will be 6-9pm on Nov. 22. Doors open 5:30pm. [For information and tickets click here.](#)

VISTA CHARTER SCHOOL REQUEST TO BE CONSIDERED NOV. 12



Mirror Staff Report
MONTROSE-Vista Charter School officials have asked the RE-1J Board of Education for a release of authorization for the school so that they may partner with the Colorado Charter School Institute (CSI). The matter is set to come before the board of education at the regular RE-1J board meeting of Nov. 12. Photo by Harry Switzer.



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