



ONLINE NEWS ASSOCIATION



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## MONTROSE BOCC HEARS BOARD OF HEALTH REPORT



Once again, a neighbor of the property located at Nicolette and Nancy Ways has asked the BOCC to enforce the county junk ordinance. Since this photo was taken in July, the property owner has accumulated a total of ten cars, Neighbor Scott Hammer said. Mirror file photo by Harry Switzer.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-All commissioners were present, with a roomful of constituents, as the Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) convened for a regular meeting at 9am on Wednesday, Oct. 1. BOCC Chair Scott Mijares called the meeting to order; Kay Heinschel led in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

Delivering the Invocation was Pastor Jeremy Jensen of Crossroads Victory Church.

"Almighty, God...Lord give them hearts that want to do the right thing...let us be good stewards of what you have given us...Bless this Day..."

### PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

BOCC Chair Scott Mijares read the rules for public comment--rules

**Continued pg 13**

## THOSE SWEET BEETS

By Bob Cox

MONTROSE-Sometime in the early 1800s, Thomas Moore, an Irish poet and lyricist, described a valley in Ireland in his poem *The Meeting of the Waters*, with these words:

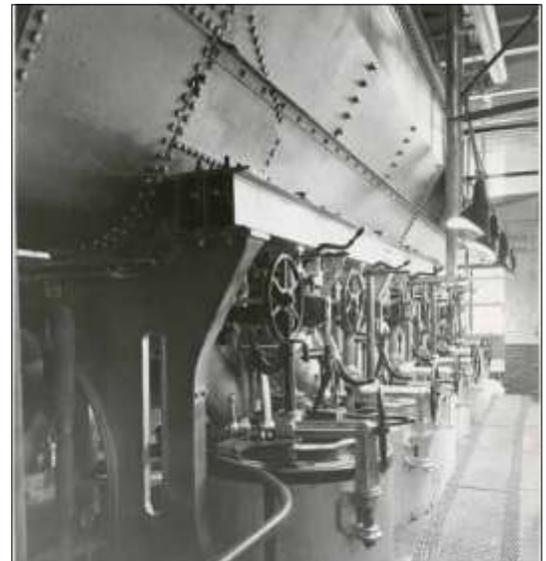
*There is not in the wide world a valley so sweet as that vale in whose bosom the bright waters meet.*

Over one hundred years later, in an interview with the *Montrose Daily Press*, Colorado pioneer, Judge John Gray, described the Uncompahgre Valley in a very similar fashion. Here is what he said:

*For an all-year climate, where the red corpuscles of the blood flourish in the supremacist ecstasy, sensitive to every touch of the generative power, there is no spot comparable to this valley of the Rockies.*

Gray lived in Montrose at a time when a tunnel caused the waters of the Gunnison to join the waters of the Uncompahgre, creating a plethora of agricultural possibilities, not the least of which was a literal 'sweetness.' Much of the farmland in Colorado was being planted with sugar beets and processing plants were built in several rural

**Continued pg 4**



While many still see the building in Delta that housed the Holly Sugar plant, few have witnessed the huge machinery that it once contained. This is a rare photo of the equipment room. Photo courtesy of the Denver Public Library

[Red Hawks Football](#)  
by Cliff Dodge!

[Red Hawks Sports Roundup](#)  
by Cliff Dodge!

[No Phones, Just Each Other:](#)  
By Jack Switzer!

[CB Williams Photo:](#)  
When the Cows Come Home!

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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



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We welcome community contributions and commentary! Please note, submitted content does not necessarily reflect the views of the *Montrose Mirror* or its editorial team.

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## Historic Tortilla Flats Tour

**Tuesday, October 7**  
**2:00-4:00 PM**  
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**Join the Montrose Regional Library and the Mexican American Development Association for a tour of the historic Tortilla Flats neighborhood! Sponsored by the International Library and Cultural Exchange Groups grant.**

**Registration is required. Please contact Taylor at (970) 964-2540 or [tevens@montroselibrary.org](mailto:tevens@montroselibrary.org).**

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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## THREE SISTERS CROPS AT MESA VERDE

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-Have you ever wondered about the Three Sisters crops at Mesa Verde and how they connect to Ute Origin Stories?

Come and hear Kellie Carroll the Education Coordinator at the Ute Indian Museum tell us. Oct. 15 at 7pm at the United Methodist Church, 19 S Park Avenue, Montrose. Chipeta Archaeological Society. Free.

## BURRO EARS FUN RUN & WALK

*Special to the Mirror*

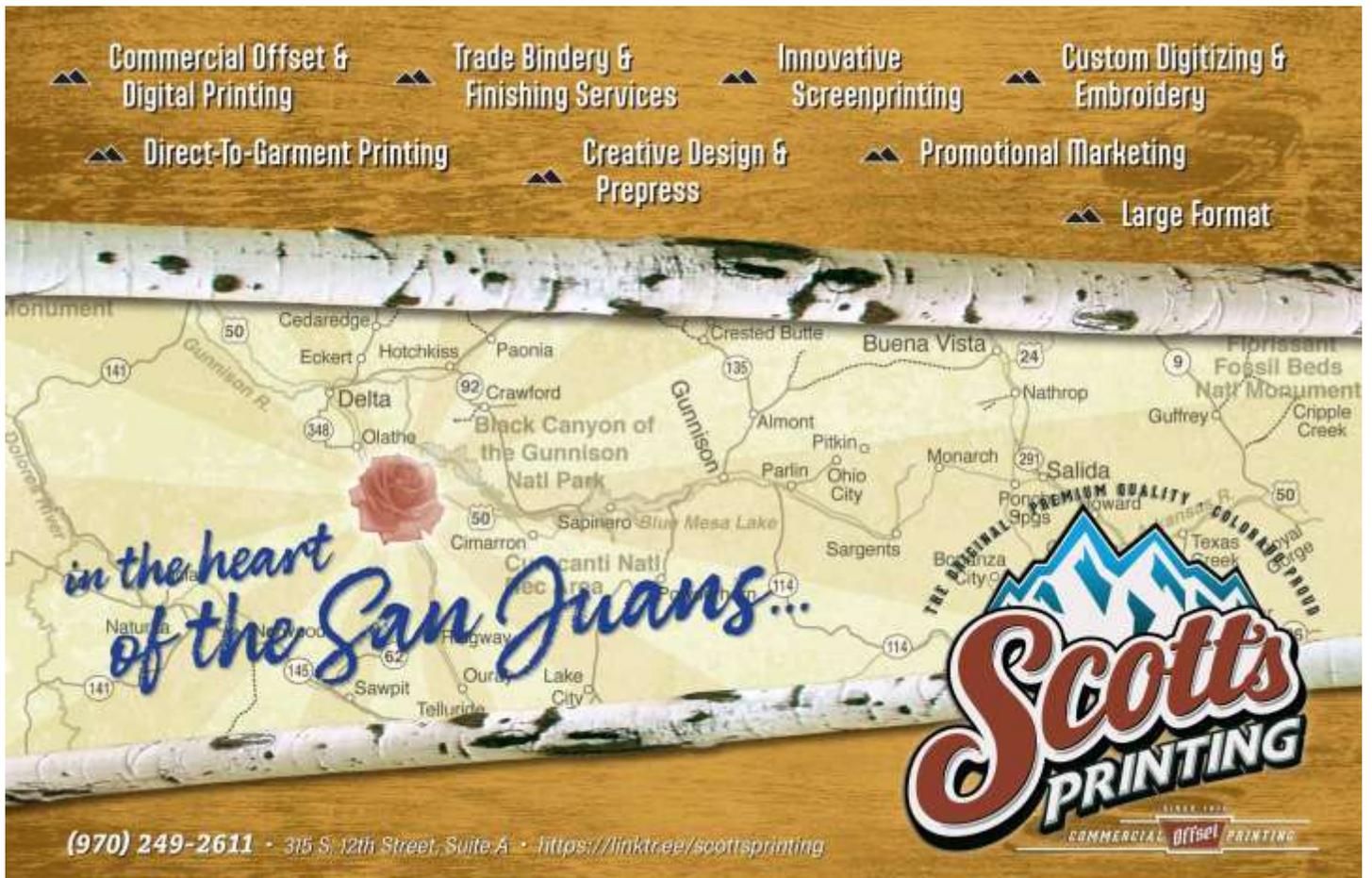
WEST END-Join Us for the BURRO EARS FUN RUN & WALK on October 11th, 2025 at 9AM

ONLINE REGISTRATION @ <https://pci.jotform.com/form/252694997260169>

You can find links to the Course Map & Runner Tips & Rules on the online registration.

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# THOSE SWEET BEETS From pg 1

communities. The Uncompahgre Valley was no exception to the 'white gold' phenomenon. While water began flowing through the tunnel in 1909, it took nearly seven years before the infrastructure was improved to get the water into the growing areas. The first crop of sugar beets was harvested in 1917 and a processing plant was established in Delta.

By 1924 various cooperatives were formed statewide, whereby the growers actually received a portion of their payment upon planting, and the beets became a normal crop in the area. At the beginning of the 1925 growing season some major problems developed between growers in the northern part of the state and the Great Western Sugar Company, but growers in the valley were actually strengthening their relations with the Holly Sugar Company that was operating the Delta processing facility. Addressing that fact was an article in the February 16, 1925 edition of *The Montrose Daily Press*. In part, the article read:

*It is not at all likely that the Holly Sugar Corporation will experience any such thing as is happening in northern Colorado, and it should not. The Holly company and beet growers are working on a true cooperative basis.*

The 1925 harvest was proving to be a good one for both the Grand Junction and Delta plants. A press release printed in several papers pointed out that fact: *GRAND JUNCTION, Aug. 17 - "The outlook was never better," declared Fred Holmes, general manager of the local plant of the Holly Sugar Company, last evening, in response to a question as to the general conditions in the beet fields over the territory, which will supply the local plant with its beets. Continuing, Mr. Holmes, states that six thousand acres have been planted to beets for the local plant, with a somewhat larger acreage for the Delta plant, and that this acreage will yield at least*

*sixty thousand tons for the local plant alone.*

In November of 1925, Holly Sugar announced that Holly was mailing checks to the beet growers. The per acre amounts were noted in the November 14, 1925 edition of the *Montrose Daily Press*: *PAYMENT BEING MADE FOR BEETS GROWN IN VALLEY Holly Mails Checks for Deliveries Made Last Month. The Holly Sugar Company office in Delta is placing in the mails Saturday afternoon checks representing the first payment of \$5 per ton on the 1925 beets delivered in October, amounting to from \$275,000 to \$300,000. This money goes to the Montrose and Delta County beet growers and is a very handsome sum to be distributed at this time. The amount going out from the Grand Junction factory is about \$200,000. Superintendent Draper says that many of the growers in Montrose and Delta counties are receiving from \$120 to \$150 per acre as the first payment on their crop, which is a mighty fine income. Payment for the beets delivered in November will be made in December. Other payments will also be made on those delivered in October as the price is on a sliding scale. The Delta factory will have beets enough to operate until holiday week between Christmas and New Year's. The crop is said to be 90 per cent harvested in this district. Good weather has greatly expedited the harvest.*

Following the end of the 1925 season, another possible income producer started to show possibilities in the by-product of the sugar beets. In early January Lewis Van Winkle visited the area, visiting both Delta and Grand Junction. He was researching the use of beet by-products, primarily the beet tops as cattle feed. Van Winkle was professor of chemistry at the Montana Agricultural College, which later that year became the Montana State University. During the previous years Mon-

tana had been subject to two almost catastrophic beet harvests. Van Winkle was researching ways to enhance the Montana beet growing communities and expressed confidence that the Uncompahgre Valley could benefit from his efforts.

Harvesting sugar beets was a labor-intensive endeavor. The digging could be accomplished with machinery, but the beets had to be topped prior to processing, and that feat was done by hand, requiring a sizeable labor pool. Van Winkle pointed out that, while pasturing the harvested tops was somewhat successful, it might reduce the end cost if the tops were processed into a feed that was not only more nutritious, but also alleviated the common problem of cattle choking on the tops.

In mid-march of 1926, T. W. Monell, who later became the Colorado Secretary of State, gave a lengthy address to the Montrose Business and Professional Women. He also went to great lengths to encourage every farmer to switch to sugar beets. He was quoted in the March 26, 1926 edition of the *Montrose Daily Press* as saying, "It is the only crop in which the grower is insured against loss." He described in detail the incredible tonnage of sugar beets that were shipped from the Uncompahgre Valley growers and reported the results of a contest for young beet growers.

As the 1926 harvest was in full swing, Colorado boasted a total of 17 beet processing plants. The Delta plant closed in 1977. The reports of the time attributed the closure to a combination of low sugar prices and outdated equipment. The huge building in Delta has housed several businesses since then. As of 2025, there is only the plant in Fort Morgan still in operation. Surprisingly, sugar beets still account for about 55% of the domestic sugar, but globally the percentage is only about 20%.

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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## ROAD CLOSURE SCHEDULED ON PAHGRE ROAD BEGINNING OCT. 13

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE— Montrose County Public Works will implement a road closure on Pahgre Road beginning October 13, 2025, through November 14, 2025, to allow Tri-County Water to install a new water main line.

Electronic message boards and public notifications will be posted in advance of the closure. Drivers are encouraged to plan alternate routes and follow posted signage during this period.

For more information, please contact Russ Chameroy at 970-964-2457 or Rich Rivera at 970-252-7009.



### CORRECTION: LINK TO VIDEO

Editor's Note: In a news release in last week's *Mirror* from Montrose Regional Health regarding Advanced practice providers (APPs), a video link was inadvertently left out. For more information and to hear directly from some MRH advanced practice providers, watch the video at <https://bit.ly/MRH-APP> or visit [montrosehealth.com](http://montrosehealth.com).

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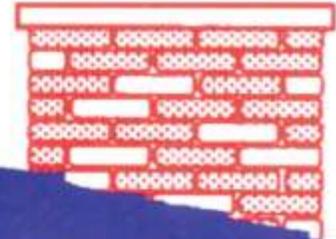
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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### NATIONAL INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY TALK IN RIDGWAY OCT. 13

*Special to the Mirror*  
RIDGWAY-The Northern San Juan Great Old Broads for Wilderness invites you to meet our national executive director, Reba Elliott, via Zoom at the Ridgway library Monday Oct 13th from 1-3pm. Following the talk, we will honor National Indigenous People's Day with a nature journaling activity and share. All are welcome! Bring paper/ journal and colored pencils. Email [northernsanjuan@greatoldbroads.org](mailto:northernsanjuan@greatoldbroads.org) with any questions.

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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE— The City of Montrose is accepting applications for vacancies on the [Historic Preservation Commission](#). One voting member and one alternate member of the Commission will be appointed by the City Council. Applications are due by 6 p.m. on Wednesday, October 15, 2025.

The city encourages community members with prior experience or an interest in historic preservation to apply.

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

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

To learn more about the Commission, please visit [www.cityofmontrose.org/History](http://www.cityofmontrose.org/History).

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

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





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# COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

## FORMER SAN MIGUEL DEPUTY ON THE RUN CAUGHT IN MEXICO, TRANSFERRED TO ARIZONA



CBI courtesy photo.

*Colorado Bureau of Investigation*  
 CBI – TELLURIDE, CO – The Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) can confirm Mr. Jesus Damian Nieblas, a former deputy with the San Miguel County Sheriff’s Office, has been taken into custody. Nieblas was apprehended by Mexican authorities in the border town of Agua Prieta, Mexico and was transferred to the custody of the U.S. Marshals at the border checkpoint near Douglas, Arizona. Nieblas fled to Mexico on or around July 10th, 2025 following the execution of a search warrant on his home and vehicle in Norwood, Colorado by the Colorado Bureau of Investigation as part of an active

investigation. Evidence recovered during that operation resulted in the issuance of a probable cause arrest warrant.

The warrant includes the following alleged charges:

- One (1) count of Sexual Exploitation of a Child (Class 3 Felony)
- Eleven (11) counts of Sexual Exploitation of a Child (Class 4 Felony)
- Sixteen (16) counts of Sexual Exploitation of a Child (Class 5 Felony)

-Twenty-seven (27) counts of Failure to Report Child Abuse or Neglect (Class 2 Misdemeanor)

Nieblas is currently being held at the Cochise County Jail in Bisbee, Arizona on a \$100,000 cash-only bond.

The CBI and San Miguel County Sheriff’s Office were made aware that he was in custody on September 29th. Due to legal processes, this new information was not authorized for release until Oct. 3rd.

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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## WHAT MAKES A GOOD SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATE?

*Editor:*

I have a few thoughts after attending the UVEA Forum for the School Board Candidates.

**Does one need to have been in the public school system?**

I grew up in the public schools in Chicago, and I had fantastic teachers, who influenced my life positively, and terrible teachers, who, I felt we're just collecting a paycheck. Having said that, working in the District for 30+ years does not make a person qualified to serve as a Board Director.

Darren Sofka spoke about his long history as a teacher and coach, and even mentioned that his wife is currently a teacher in Olathe (as though that would strengthen his standing as a candidate). This should not be a requirement to serve as a Board Director.

**Does a good candidate need college degrees?**

Not necessarily. What is more important is that a candidate is discerning, a critical thinker, a good listener, and able to work together toward common goals. Also, they should not be easily swayed or collapse under pressure by other Board members or the Superintendent when making critical decisions for the District.

**Does a good candidate need to have lived in our area long enough to become familiar with our District?**

Not necessarily. All students have similar needs: to be taught the basics, feel safe, have an environment conducive to learning (especially that meets their learning styles), and a supportive family.

**Should a candidate have children currently in our public school system?**

Again, not necessarily. After listening to Shane Daly at the UVEA Forum, whose oldest graduated from MHS, he said that he has become familiar with our District by speaking with teachers and parents. Three of our current Board Directors do not have children in the system although they graduated from it with the exception of Neisha Balleck, Stephen Bush, Sarah Fishing, and Ted Valerio.

We need Board Directors who will listen to the teachers, parents and administrators and not follow agendas of other Board members, or the Superintendent. They need to fight for transparency, fairness and truth, and do what is best for the student and teachers. We need a diversity of backgrounds, not retired public school employees.

I encourage everyone to attend one of the Candidate Forums this week in order to learn more about them.

*Leah Vandersluis, Montrose*

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# MONTROSE BOCC HEARS BOARD OF HEALTH REPORT From pg 1

that forbid certain commentary.

*"...Personal attacks and disagreements, personnel and employment matters, the use of profanity or ethnic, racial or gender-oriented slurs are prohibited, as is any 'disorderly conduct' which violates State or Local law and shall not be permitted..."*

First to speak was Ray Langston. "...at the risk of repeating myself...when you give a man power, what happens..."

BOCC Chair Scott Mijares interjected, "Is this a personal attack? That's not what public comment is for."

Langston briefly continued, "...We the public hold you accountable...you brought it on yourself..."

Next to speak was Scott Hammer, who once again discussed an address on the Nancy Way that has become a junkyard of sorts, 63970 Nancy Way—a situation that helped to inspire the County's junk ordinance in the first place.

"It is a junkyard," Hammer said, noting that he has filed a formal complaint in the past and that there are now ten cars on the property, among other items. Hammer asked the BOCC to drive past the residence and view it for themselves.

"...Please, commissioners, do something about this obvious violation of the ordinance..."

Sue Gattis also spoke, "This is just a reminder to all of us to be sure we know the facts before we speak out..."

## INTERIM COUNTY MANAGER

Interim County Manager David White said that the Circle 3 Addition was moved up to be the second rather than the third item to be considered under Planning and Development General Business.

## CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda items were approved unanimously, with Resolution No. 46-2025 assigned to Consent Agenda Item 8.

## GENERAL BUSINESS & ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the first item, the appointment of Christine Collin to fill a vacancy on the Gunnison Basin Roundtable.

Commissioners then left regular session to reconvene as the Montrose County Board of Health.

**MONTROSE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH** Public Health Director Mirza Ahmed discussed two public health items.

The first item involved possible approval of a \$26K Grant from COAC (Colorado Opioid Abatement Council). Ahmed discussed the ways in which the grant could be used to support those who are dealing with the impacts of opioid use. Among other uses, the grant funds could be used to support events to raise awareness, both in Montrose and in the West End. "The West End is in my heart," Ahmed said.

Commissioners voted unanimously to approve acceptance of the grant.

**Background**-As noted in the meeting agenda, "WCPHP (Western Colorado Public Health Partnership) / Gunnison County received a Notice of Award from COAC, under round 3 Infrastructure Funding Opportunity. Montrose County as Sub-Recipient desires to provide services for the purpose of increasing prevention, treatment, and recovery support. Grant Sub-Recipient shall furnish all materials, labor, supervision, supplies and equipment to commence, diligently pursue, and complete the Services as more specifically set forth on Appendix "A". The total amount of the award to Grant Sub-Recipient is Twenty-Six Thousand dollars (\$26,000.00). The term of this Agreement shall commence on August 15, 2025, and shall terminate on December 31, 2026."

The second health discussion item involved the renewal of software used by the Department of Health to track communicable diseases. The request was unanimously approved by the Board of Health.

**Background**- The meeting agenda states the request for renewal: "Consideration and possible authorization of annual renewal with Contexture for required access to digital health record systems which includes care and their medical history. A complete view of each patient is vital for delivering the best care and a positive patient experience. Contexture will provide practices and the latest medical information, including hospital/ER discharge summaries, images, and lab data for new

*and existing patients. Those records are required for the TB and communicable disease program interventions."*

Commissioners closed the Board of Health discussion and reconvened as the Montrose County Board of Commissioners.

## PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT GENERAL BUSINESS

The BOCC voted unanimously to approve two Planning and Development items. The Circle 3 Addition was moved up to be the second rather than the third item to be considered. Approved were:

-The 2 Bar S Ranch Large Tract Exemption [EX25-004] proposal to divide three Lots from 80 acres at Parcel 376535300012; and

- The Circle 3 Addition Special Use [SU25-002] proposal to update the Special Use permit to allow an addition to an existing building at Parcel 376718400033.

The final Planning and Development item was once again continued, due to ongoing concerns raised by neighboring landowner Scott Riba, who presented a court order stating that no more than two residences can be addressed from the roadway. The proposed division would violate the court order, Riba said. "Unless you want to argue it in court...we have a right to fence that easement...it's in the court order." Moving the road 30 feet to the West would be a simple solution, Riba said, noting that he and his wife spent \$40K to litigate the matter.

Despite objections raised by the Applicant's Representative Fred Ballard, the BOCC voted to continue the Old Valley Preliminary Plan [MA25-006] proposal to divide 11.25 acres from three lots into five lots at Parcels 376532404003, 376532404001, and 376532404002, and to seek legal advice in Executive Session.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

The BOCC left regular session and entered three consecutive Executive Sessions, as listed below:

### 1. Human Resources, Leslie Quon, Human Resources Director

The Board met in Executive Session pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402 (4)(f)(I) - personnel matters; and C.R.S. 24-6-402 (4)(b) - legal

# **MONTROSE BOCC HEARS BOARD OF HEALTH REPORT From previous pg**

advice, for the purpose of discussing the County Manager position and Interim Director Positions.

### **2. County Attorney, Julie Andress, County Attorney**

The Board met with the County Attorney in Executive Session pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(b) for legal advice regarding the County's trademark of the Rimrocker Trail.

### **3. County Attorney, Julie Andress, County Attorney**

The Board met with the County Attorney, Interim County Manager, and the Planning and Development Director in Executive Session pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(b) for legal advice regarding the revision of the zoning regulations.

Following the Executive Sessions, Commissioners returned to regular session and then adjourned the regular meeting at 12:07pm.

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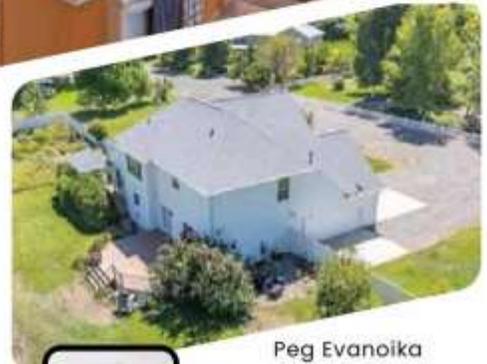
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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## ROAD SAFETY AND WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS PROJECT LAUNCHES -GMUG

*Special to the Mirror*

DELTA-The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests announce wildfire and hazard mitigation project at the Gunnison Ranger District, which is expected to bring minor traffic delays and limited closures on National Forest Service Road (NFSR) 742, beginning on, or after September 29.

The Taylor Canyon Hazard Tree and Fuels Reduction Project will focus on thinning forest undergrowth and removing hazardous dead, damaged and diseased trees. Approximately 188 acres will be treated along NFSR 742, which will extend out 200 feet on either side of the road in select areas. The treatment area will start near North Bank Campground and extend 3 miles up the canyon, including One Mile Campground and Rosy Lane Campground. This work is expected to continue throughout the fall as conditions allow.

The project aims to enhance daily road safety and ensure emergency accessibility in the event of a wildfire. Work will be performed by contractors, who will manage traffic while conducting tree removal operations near the roadway. Motorists are asked to exercise caution, reduce speeds and respect traffic control signage. Additionally, river users—including fishermen, boaters and other recreationists—are urged to remain vigilant and practice safe behavior along the Taylor River, especially near areas where active work is underway.

For recreation information, project updates and more, visit the [forest website](#), [X](#) or [Facebook](#).

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Montrose County

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Understanding Economic Stress to Business



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Information collected in this entry form will help local, tribal and state authorities understand disaster impacts and needs.

The availability of disaster assistance is not guaranteed. **This entry form does not serve as an application for assistance programs.**



### Business Impacts

Economic impacts can include business disruption, staffing issues, lost revenue, inventory loss, increased operating costs and delayed operations.



[Business Survey Link](#)



### Physical Damages

Physical damages include any business-related property damaged by fire, ash, smoke, fumes and flood after fire.



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Montrose County

# ENCUESTA DE IMPACTO EMPRESARIAL

Analizando el estrés económico que afecta a los negocios



## ¿Tu negocio se ha visto afectado por el South Rim Fire?

La información recopilada en este formulario de registro ayudará a las autoridades locales, tribales y estatales a comprender los impactos y las necesidades derivados del desastre.

No se garantiza la disponibilidad de asistencia por desastre. **Este formulario de registro no constituye una solicitud para programas de asistencia.**



### Impactos al negocio

Los impactos económicos pueden incluir interrupción del negocio, problemas de personal, pérdida de ingresos, pérdida de inventario, aumento de costos operativos y operaciones retrasadas.



[Enlace de la encuesta empresarial](#)



### Daños físicos

Los daños físicos incluyen cualquier propiedad relacionada con el negocio que haya sido afectada por fuego, ceniza, humo, gases y/o inundación posterior al incendio.



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[cdps\\_dhsem\\_srtf@state.co.us](mailto:cdps_dhsem_srtf@state.co.us)

# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## OURAY ICE PARK VOLUNTEERS DEEPEN PERSONAL CONNECTIONS TO THE UNCOMPAGHRE GORGE

*Special to the Mirror*

OURAY-The Ouray Ice Park joins forces again with the Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership on Saturday, October 11 for their eighth annual Love Your Gorge volunteer event. The two nonprofits are recruiting climbers, river lovers and anyone who cares about local nature and outdoor recreation to donate three hours of work in trade for a hearty lunch, giveaways, and tour at the park.

“Whether you enjoy ice climbing, hiking, or vias you can't beat the beauty of the Gorge, come out and help us maintain this beautiful spot. It's a great chance to get your hands dirty and meet some really amazing people,” said Ice Park Operations Manager Corey Gera.



**Ice Park Volunteers. Courtesy photo.**

Gera is entering her fifth year of work at the park. She has been climbing since high school, and became an ice climber after moving to Ouray.

The Ice Park’s mission is to create and operate a world-class ice climbing park that inspires and enhances the lives of the communities it serves. The nonprofit builds and operates the ice climbing amenities in a public park in and around the Uncompahgre Gorge at the south end of the City of Ouray. Park use is free, and ice climbing season is generally between December and March.

“As staff, we really try to balance play and protection. A large part of protecting a place is building stewardship. People have to love an area in order to want to protect it. By helping provide people an opportunity to recreate in such a special place, we’re encouraging a deeper love and understanding of the importance of our public spaces, here and beyond the Gorge,” she explained.

The Uncompahgre River flows through the gorge, after descending from Red Mountain Pass and into the Uncompahgre River Valley. The Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership has a mission of protecting and restoring the Uncompahgre River and its tributaries from its headwaters near Silverton down to the northern Ouray County line.

The two organizations come together each autumn to clean up litter, downed trees, and non-native, invasive plants to improve both the environment and user safety. Last year, 10 trees were planted as well. This year, some volunteers will help with repairing stairs, eroded by storms and snowmelt.

A Nonpoint Source grant from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment is also funding other erosion control work on a slope between the two roads that cross through the park. The goal is to reduce sediment and rocks from sliding into the river, and establish healthy plants in that area, which will also improve a trail and user safety.

“Operating the park is a huge undertaking each season. Love Your Gorge is great for big picture tasks that would need doing whether there was an Ice Park or not,” concluded Gera. “My favorite part is seeing the community come together to help maintain such an integral part of our town.”

For information and to sign up, go to <https://www.uncompahgrewatershed.org/love-your-gorge-volunteer-form/> or email [info@uncompahgrewatershed.org](mailto:info@uncompahgrewatershed.org).



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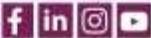
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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## YOUR LAST CHANCE TO SPEAK UP ON SOLAR IN MONTROSE COUNTY

By Sean M. Pond, Montrose County Commissioner, District 3

For the last two years, Montrose County has had a temporary pause on new big solar projects. We did this so we could take time to study the issue and write good rules for the future. By Colorado law, that pause cannot stay forever. Now we must pick a permanent plan, and once we choose it will guide solar development in our county for decades.

There are only two choices:

Alternative 1 — Very few restrictions. Solar companies could build almost anywhere in Montrose County.

Alternative 2 — Stronger rules that help protect open spaces, scenic views, farms, ranches, and our rural way of life while

still letting solar go where it makes sense.

This is the last chance for the public to weigh in before the Board of County Commissioners makes a final decision. If you do not speak up now, you may not get another opportunity and these rules will be set for many years.

I have done everything I can to make this process open and fair. But now it is up to you.

Here is how to have your say:

Write a short email today and say whether you want Alternative 1 or Alternative 2.

Send your email to: [trichmond@montrosecounty.net](mailto:trichmond@montrosecounty.net)

Please copy me as well:

[spond@montrosecounty.net](mailto:spond@montrosecounty.net)

You can read the full draft rules for your-

self here:

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It only takes a few minutes to send an email.

But if you stay silent now, you cannot complain later when the rules are set.

I am asking you, neighbors, friends, and families, to use your voice. This is your county, your land, and your future.

## VOTE TO SUPPORT OUR LIBRARY, A CORNERSTONE OF OPPORTUNITY AND CONNECTION

Editor:

This November, our community will make an important decision about the future of our library. The upcoming ballot measures will determine whether our library can continue offering the level of service, programs, and resources we rely on—or whether it will be forced to cut back in significant ways.

If these measures fail, the impact will be felt throughout the community. Open hours will be reduced, making it harder for families, students, seniors, and working people to access the library when they need it. Programs that bring our community together—story times, technology help, book clubs, and more—will be scaled back or eliminated. The library's collection of books, movies, and digital

materials will shrink, limiting access to the information and stories that enrich our lives. Even core services like public computers, research assistance, and inter-library loans will be harder to maintain.

Our library is more than a building full of books. It is a safe and welcoming place where children develop a love of reading, where students find resources to succeed in school, where travellers renew their passports, and where neighbors of all ages can learn, create, and belong. For many, it might be the only place in town with free internet, free meeting space, or simply a quiet place to study. These opportunities are possible only because the library is funded by the community it serves.

If the measures fail, we risk losing much

of what makes our library a cornerstone of opportunity and connection. Reduced hours, fewer programs, and a smaller collection will mean fewer chances for our children to grow, fewer resources for those working to improve their lives, and fewer spaces for us to come together as a community.

I urge my neighbors to think about what the library has given them—whether it was a favorite childhood story, help with a résumé, or simply a place to feel welcome.

By supporting the library on the ballot, we are investing in education, opportunity, and community for everyone.

Let's keep our library strong.

Sincerely,

Rachel King, MRLD Trustee



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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## VOTE NO ON MONTROSE CHARTER AMENDMENTS

**Editor:**

The City of Montrose is pushing a package of charter amendments that voters must reject. This bundle combines minor adjustments, like removing gender-specific language, with significant changes that could weaken accountability, limit voter choice, and delay citizen-led initiatives. By lumping these issues together, the city prevents residents from voting on each change separately, masking a potential power grab by the city manager.

**Weakening Recall Requirements**

One major concern is the alteration of recall requirements. These changes would make it harder for residents to remove underperforming or unethical officials. The recall process is a vital tool for holding leaders accountable mid-term, ensuring they serve the community's interests. Weakening this mechanism reduces the power of Montrose residents to demand better governance. While this mechanism should never be taken lightly, it should not be an insurmountable task to remove an unethical elected official either.

**Eroding Local Oversight**

Another troubling proposal eliminates the

residency requirement for the municipal judge. This change risks appointing outsiders who lack familiarity with Montrose's unique needs and values. A local judge, rooted in the community, ensures decisions reflect our priorities. Removing this mandate erodes local oversight and could lead to rulings disconnected from our city's character.

**Delaying Grassroots Efforts**

The amendments also extend the City Clerk's timeline for certifying signatures on initiative and referendum petitions. This delays grassroots efforts, making it more difficult for citizens to challenge council decisions or propose reforms. Speedy certification is crucial for empowering residents to act swiftly when they see the need for change. Slowing this process stifles the voice of the people.

**Hidden Expansion of Council Power**

Some changes, like updating utilities to align with state and federal law, may seem harmless. However, these updates could quietly expand the council's authority without clear safeguards. Without transparency, such shifts risk concentrating power in the hands of a few, leaving resi-

dents with less control over our city's future.

**Protect the Current Charter**

This all-or-nothing deal is unacceptable. Montrose deserves a charter that protects voter rights, ensures accountability, and preserves local control. The current Council Members assured us the last time changes were made that they would be good for the next 50 years, that was just 11 years ago giving unprecedented power to the City Manager. Forcing residents to accept a mixed bag of changes, some of which undermine these principles, is a disservice to our community. The city must offer clear explanations and separate votes for each amendment. Until then, protect Montrose's charter by **VOTING NO** on this sprawling, problematic proposal. Let's demand transparency and **keep our city government accountable** to its residents.

**Michael J Badagliacco, "MJB"**

*Michael is the father of five and grandfather of three, United States Air Force Veteran, International Recording Artist, passionate about the United States of America and the founders Genius of the Constitution and Editor-in-Chief, Colorado DOGE Report*



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# DOMINANCE: RED HAWKS 49, WILDCATS 8



*The Red Hawks defense manhandles the Wildcats running back for no gain. Photo by Cliff Dodge.*



*Red Hawks take the Field. Photo by Cliff Dodge.*

By Cliff Dodge

MONTROSE-The Montrose Red Hawks football team celebrated their 2025 homecoming celebration by running roughshod over the visiting Fruita-Monument Wildcats by the score of 49-8 on the Red Hawks home turf. The Red Hawks kept the visitors off of the scoreboard until the final minute of the contest long after the Red Hawks had settled the issue and played the majority of their team throughout the entire second half of action.

The Red Hawks won the coin toss and elected to kick off and play defense. The Wildcats put together a thirteen-play drive, their longest drive of the evening, and advanced to the Montrose 35-yard line. Their drive ended with an incomplete pass on 4<sup>th</sup> down as they turned the football over to the Red Hawks at that point.

The first play from scrimmage for the Red Hawks was a thing of beauty. Senior fullback Elijah Wooten took a handoff and sprinted 65 yards for the game's first of many Red Hawk touchdowns. The PAT was good making the score 7-0 in the Red Hawk's favor.

The Red Hawks kicked off and the Wildcats took over at their own 30-yard line. The first play was a major mix-up and resulted in a loss. The Wildcats fumbled on their second offensive play and the Red Hawks Senior Trevor Prock scooped up the loose ball in the end zone for a touchdown. The score, 14-0 after a successful PAT.

The Red Hawks defense, not to be outdone by the offense, surrendered 15 yards in five plays, forced the Wildcats to punt and turn the football over the Red Hawks. The Hawks used the same strategy and handed the football to Elijah Womack, who promptly raced 37 yards for his second touchdown of the evening increasing the score to 22-0.

The second quarter began pretty much like the first quarter with the Red Hawks defense forcing the Wildcats to turn the football over on downs and set the Red Hawks in business at the Wildcats 37-yard-line. It took Quarterback Cade Saunders just two plays to fire a 19 touchdown pass to Senior Chase Mehan, increasing the score to 29-0.

Another Wildcats three and out saw the Red Hawks offense continue to dominate and put together a 4 play, 48 yard drive with Elijah Womack scoring his third touchdown of the evening--this time from three yards out, bumping the score to 35-0.

The Red Hawks were not done yet as they fielded a punt at the Wildcats 45-yard line and converted it to another touchdown. This time Quarterback Cade Saunders reeled off a 19-yard touchdown run-- boosting the score to 42-0. This touchdown triggered the mercy rule whereby when a team is ahead by 40 points this triggers a running clock for the rest of the game. The Red Hawks celebrated the homecoming festivities with a running clock throughout the entire second half of play.

Head coach Brett Mertens cleared his bench throughout the entire second half of action and his second and third string players acquitted themselves quite well. The Red Hawks scored their final touchdown as Sophomore Coulter Davis found the end zone, making the final score 49-8.

The Wild Cats put together a final touchdown scoring drive as they drove the ball 80 yards in the final five minutes of the game, scoring with one minute left on the scoreboard clock.

The Red Hawks improved their record for the season to 5 wins and 0 losses. The Red Hawks have five games remaining in the regular season, all of them league games.

# RED HAWKS CLIP FALCONS 57-6



*The Red Hawk defense shuts down a right end sweep by the Falcons. Photo by Cliff Dodge.*

*By Cliff Dodge*

MONTROSE-A cloudy and windy field welcomed the Falcon Falcons and the Montrose Red Hawks to the Montrose Stadium on Friday evening.

The gusting winds create differing decisions of whether to kick off or to take the football, and whether to ensure possession of the football in the crucial fourth quarter.

All of the decisions, however, proved to be only talking points because the weather played no part in the eventual outcome of the contest due to the complete domination of the Red Hawks both offensively and defensively.

The Falcons took the football and promptly fumbled on the second play from scrimmage--and the Red Hawks pounced on the loose ball. The Red Hawks scored in two plays as Elijah Womack took a handoff and rumbled 27 yards to pay dirt and a 7-0 lead just over a minute into the contest.

The Red Hawks kicked off, and the Falcons began a drive of their own. After three plays and a 5-yard loss the Falcons punted. The punt was high, short, and

wobbly--and hit one of the Red Hawk players. The Falcons recovered the football and continued their drive, which consumed 7 plays ending in a 19-yard touchdown run. The PAT was blocked and the score settled at 7-6.

The Red Hawks ran the ensuing kickoff out to their own 35-yard line. The QB, Cade Saunders, attempted a short pass but was intercepted by the Falcons. The Falcons, unable to move the football, punted back the Red Hawks. On the second play from scrimmage Elijah Womack lugged the rock 63 yards for his second touchdown of the evening, increasing the score to 14-6.

The Red Hawks defense stood tall throughout the game and Aadin Gonzales intercepted a Falcon pass on the Falcon's 18-yard line. Maverick Powers took a handoff and raced 18 yards to the end zone, increasing the score to 22-6.

Another three and out and another punt. In the waning minutes of the first quarter the red Hawks Elijah Womack ripped off a 40-yard touchdown run, increasing the score to 29-6.

The opening of the second quarter saw

the Falcons begin a sustained drive that lasted just over five minutes. The Red Hawks defense stopped them at the Red Hawks 36-yard line. It took the Red Hawks two plays to score again, and this time Aadin Gonzales sprinted 68 yards for another score, 36-6.

Things continued to become more desperate for the Falcons. Another punt, another score, again this time on the legs of Senior Elijah Womack who ran 63 yards for his fourth touchdown of the game. The score 43-6.

The defense rose up and shut down a short Falcon drive as they turned the ball over on downs.

The Red Hawks offense moved smartly into scoring position as Elijah Womack stopped his run to the end zone on the one-yard-line. The team captain and center Eason Jessup lined up at fullback and took the handoff to score on a one-yard touchdown run. A fitting reward for a lineman who has opened numerous holes for his backs to score many touchdowns this season. At halftime the Red Hawks led 50-6, causing a running clock for the entire second half.

The Red Hawks received the opening second half kickoff and started their final touchdown drive at their own 29-yard line.

The offense, now peppered with virtually all underclassmen, moved down the field and Junior Lincoln Jones scored from 2 yards out, making the final score 57-6.

The Red Hawks, ranked #1 in 4A, continue their pursuit of a league title and a deep run into the playoffs.

The league play began tonight with the win over Falcon. The next four games are all league foes with a road trip to Doherty in Colorado Springs next Saturday.

Upcoming games, Widefield, Mesa Ridge and Pueblo West, will tell the tale.

The playoffs await. Stay tuned.

THANK YOU FOR READING.



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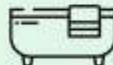
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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## FOUR SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES DEDICATED TO IMPROVING PERFORMANCE OF OUR STUDENTS

*Editor:*

A few weeks back our nation received an updated report card on our nations’ educational system, and once again it showed dismal results in reading, writing and math. For many years now our Montrose school district has sadly shown similar results. Those failures fall squarely at the feet of our school board.

One of the main issues on the November ballot will be the election for school board members. There are nine candidates for four board seats. Four of those candidates are dedicated to improving performance of our students preparation for entering a competitive workforce.

Neisha Balleck has done an excellent job in her first term and she certainly deserves another. Remaining three candidates deserving our vote are, Scott Scarborough, Tiffany Vincent and Shane Daily.

*Dee Laird, Montrose*

## WHY DO SO MANY ASPEN LOOK SO SAD?

*Editor:*

Now that fall is here, people are wondering why so many aspen look gray and leafless. People are justified in their concern, for these beloved forests also shelter and feed elk and livestock, they provide firewood and scenic camping, serve as fire breaks, and yield economic benefits through tourism – think Color Sunday leaf peepers.

Over the past several decades widespread dieback of mature aspen forests has occurred across the Southwestern US. Called sudden aspen decline (SAD), this is a rapid, landscape-scale mortality of overstory aspen initiated by drought and warmer temperatures. The severely stressed trees are then attacked by a suite of native insects and pathogens, which ultimately kills the trees. (2)

On the surrounding forests, SAD started by a severe drought in 2002, and aspen dieback increased until 2010, on approximately half of the aspen forest across this region. SAD-impacted aspen stands have mostly dead overstory trees and fewer amounts of live young sprouts

(suckering) compared to healthy aspen stands. These severely impacted aspen stands may completely die out and convert to shrublands or grasslands if fewer suckers survive. (2)

The drought that began in 2002 is ongoing. Intense droughts have occurred in 2002, 2012, 2018, and 2020. The latest “Climate Change in Colorado” report (<https://climatechange.colostate.edu/>) details past trends in temperature and precipitation and predicted future trends ([https://climate.colostate.edu/div\\_trends.html](https://climate.colostate.edu/div_trends.html)). Over the past 45 years, the western, mostly lower elevation portion of the Grand Mesa Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forest has seen an average annual temperature increase of 2.4 °F, with a 5% decrease in annual precipitation, with much higher decreases in precipitation during springs and summers when most growth occurs (1). Overall, it has been getting warmer and drier.

What does this mean for our aspen forests into the future? Bioclimate models incorporating climatic and topographic predictors project lodgepole pine, ponder-

osa pine, and aspen may no longer be able to regenerate where they currently exist by 2060 (2). Already, we see that our aspen forests at lower elevations are suffering widespread decline. We have it within our power to influence that rate of change by coming to terms with climate impacts and working to minimize them. Otherwise, aspen stands may disappear at lower elevations in our lifetimes.

*Carol Howe, Montrose*

**Citations:**

1. Bolinger, R.A., J.J. Lukas, R.S. Schumacher, and P.E. Goble, 2024: *Climate Change in Colorado, 3rd edition*. Colorado State University. Accessed at: <https://climatechange.colostate.edu/> and [https://climate.colostate.edu/div\\_trends.html](https://climate.colostate.edu/div_trends.html)
2. US Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests. 2018. *Revised Draft Forest Assessments: Terrestrial Ecosystems: Integrity and System Drivers and Stressors*. Accessed at: <https://usfs-public.app.box.com/s/r57416koi49y6qjgk5ofs3juxv3167k9/file/1559610047791>

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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## UNRESPONSIVE ELECTED OFFICIALS

*Editor:*

The perceptions of every member of Congress are legendary and mostly true. Our elected officials insulate themselves, from their constituents, unless they need a check to get reelected. You don't think so? Try calling one of my senator's ten (10) offices. Try it. If you get a live person on the phone, they state they will refer you to someone else. Don't hold your breath waiting. Instead, try filling out the online request and you'll receive a Privacy Consent form.

I don't mean to pick on the Senator so I attempted to call my Congressperson. Same thing. I called my congressional rep-

resentative's one of three offices. Lovely person answered the call at the local office who referred me to a Washington DC office. Called that number and I received an email address to share my concerns. I'm certain the same routine will occur. Another Privacy Consent form.

My point is the culture in DC, of all federal elected officials, is to insulate themselves from the very constituents they are supposed to serve because we elected them. Unless you have a check with a minimum of three zeros, I can bet you won't get very far.

My issue is not with Social Security, I don't want a flag or an appointment to a

military academy. My issue is that I want to make aware that a sub-agency of the Department of War (formerly known as DOD) flaunts US federal law and chooses not to be in compliance.

So, the crux of the matter boils down to these two points- bureaucrats supersede federal law with policies (very backward) and at the end of the day, no one in DC cares.

And we wonder why our government is in such disarray.

*Robert Franco, Montrose*

*"There's no limit what a man can do or where he can do if he doesn't mind who gets the credit"- Ronald Reagan*

### Hi! I'd like to introduce myself.

I'm Kirstin Copeland and I am running as the replacement candidate for Montrose County Commissioner, District 1.

This November, Montrose voters will have a recall issue on their county ballot. Should a majority of voters choose to recall the current Montrose County Commissioner, I am ready and qualified to bring my leadership and problem solving skills to the position of County Commissioner, District 1. You'll see my name on your ballot as a successor candidate.

I have dedicated my life to public service, driven by a passion for enhancing public safety, infrastructure, and community partnerships. After a fulfilling career serving our community as a Park Ranger and Park Manager, I feel uniquely prepared and enthusiastic about continuing this journey as a County Commissioner.

Please visit [ElectKCopeland.com](http://ElectKCopeland.com) to learn more about my qualifications. I'll be visiting with Montrose voters this fall and welcome the opportunity to hear about what important issues are on your mind for Montrose County.

Thank you,  
Kirstin



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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## MONTROSE EDUCATION FOUNDATION OPENS NOMINATIONS FOR 2026 TEACHER OF THE YEAR PROGRAM

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE — The Montrose Education Foundation is pleased to announce the opening of nominations for the 2026 Teacher of the Year Program, an annual recognition honoring outstanding educators within the Montrose County School District. The program celebrates teachers who demonstrate excellence in the classroom, inspire students, and positively impact the community.

Nominations are welcomed from students, parents, colleagues, and community members for licensed classroom teachers who:

- Inspire and engage students of diverse backgrounds and abilities
- Earn respect and admiration from students, families, and peers
- Make meaningful contributions both inside and outside the classroom
- Foster high levels of student achievement and growth

All nominated teachers will be recognized during American Education Week in November. Those who meet eligibility criteria will be invited to submit an application and move forward in the selection process. Final awardees will be announced in April, honoring one exemplary teacher from each level: Elementary, Middle, and High School.

Nominations will be accepted through Tuesday, Nov. 4, 2025, at 4 p.m. To submit a nomination or learn more about the program, please visit <https://tinyurl.com/MEF-2025ToYNomination>.



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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## DELTA COUNTY SCHOOLS, PLEASE DO THE RIGHT THING

*Dear editor,*

I am writing in hopes of getting my story out to the public. My son is a student of Lincoln Elementary in Delta. His teacher, Nathan Clay, decided on September 11th to inform his class of 5th graders there was a school shooting in Colorado. He then proceeded to rant about how it's too easy to obtain firearms in this country for about an hour.

Nathan Clay then decided to talk about the shooting of Charlie Kirk and told his students the man was speaking of violence when he was shot and he "got what he asked for". Nathan Clay is a far-left Democrat who used to be the mayor of Delta for some time. Nathan Clay was pushed out of this position when he made some comments on social media about MAGA supporters and the world would be a better place if they disappeared. I did not witness these posts myself, but was told from other City of Delta employees.

Below is an email I sent to the Delta County School District superintendent. I was told the issue would be monitored and it was suggested my child remain in Nathan Clay's class. I completed a records request through the school district to obtain how this internal investigation was handled. I was denied the records by the school districts attorney.

I invite anyone who is concerned about the comments made by Nathan Clay to attend the next Delta County School Board meeting and express their thoughts regarding this issue. If the school district is fine with employing someone who promotes violence to 5th graders, are they not possibly creating violent citizens of our community? To say someone was asking to be shot for expressing their opinion to such small minds, are they not promoting the idea of shutting someone up with a firearm due to their own beliefs? Please help me get this out to our community. This is not what schools should be teaching, especially to such young children. See my email to the superintendent

below:

*Caryn Gibson,*

I spoke with you on Friday, September 12, 2025 as a concerned parent regarding my son's teacher, Nathan Clay, who is a 5th grade teacher at Lincoln Elementary.

My son came home from school and told us how his day at school was. My wife and I were told that Nathan Clay announced to his 5th grade class that there was a school shooting in Colorado today. Mr. Clay continued to lecture the class on gun laws and how it is too easy for people to purchase firearms. My son estimated this lecture to be approximately one hour long. My son told us this speech scared him to the point where his chest was hurting because he was afraid someone was going to come into his class and shoot him.

Furthermore, my son said him and two other boys were at Mr. Clay's desk and one boy asked Mr. Clay if he had heard about Charlie Kirk. According to my son, who I will note has a difficult time lying, Mr. Clay said Charlie Kirk was a racist person who did not like people who were not from the United States. Mr. Clay continued to tell my son and two other 5th graders that Charlie Kirk is the reason Donald Trump is the president.

The most gut-wrenching thing that was said to my child was that Charlie Kirk was talking about violence when he was shot and he got what he asked for. He continued with claiming when someone is shot it is normally for a reason and they deserve it.

I spoke with the principal of the school prior to bringing this to your attention. I asked my son if anything was said to him, as I fear retaliation toward my son for letting us know what was said in class. My son said Mr. Clay was called to the principals office and, upon returning to class, he said, "I got in trouble guys, I'm sorry. I'm just trying to tell you the truth".

After speaking to you about this in your office, you called me approximately five

minutes later and told me that Mr. Clay's version of events were different from what I reported. You told me that you would recommend my child continue to be in Mr. Clay's class and that the issue would be monitored. I don't believe this solves the issue.

I am requesting the termination of Nathan Clay immediately. A person who has the audacity to tell a group of 5th graders that a young husband and father "got what he asked for" after being assassinated in front of thousands (including his own family) is an absolute monster.

I have been forced to send my son to school to be taught by a complete menace for 2 days now and I'm not going to stand for it anymore.

As several people are doing as a result of this horrific event, I'm standing up for what's right. Nathan Clay is not a mentor to be looked up to, especially by children. I send my children to school to learn general subjects, such as math, reading, and English. It is no one else's place to be talking to my child about current political events nor is it anyone's business to be telling my child the loss of an innocent life is something to celebrate. You are creating violent people when you tell such a small mind that taking an innocent life is justified.

If the school district does not relieve Nathan Clay of his duties, there will be a mess that you won't be able to clean up. This will go public and Delta County and beyond will see just what the Delta County School District stands for. If you have any other school district staff who share the same beliefs as Nathan Clay, I highly recommend them to seek professional help and find another career until their mind is healthy enough to know the value of a human life.

I believe I speak for a large portion of the parents with students in Delta County, please do the right thing.

*Respectfully,*

*Nick Buffington, Delta County*

# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## EDITORIAL: INTEGRITY MATTERS: WHY MIJARES SHOULD BE RECALLED

*Editor:*

Montrose County voters are facing the question of recalling Commissioner Scott Mijares—and the facts surrounding his shifting political affiliations demand careful consideration.

-We know that on March 3, 2020, in Ouray County, Mijares was registered as an Unaffiliated voter and voted on the Democratic primary ballot.

-We know that when he registered to vote in Montrose County on October 5, 2022, he was not a Republican. He was either Unaffiliated or a Democrat.

-We know that on February 12, 2024, he changed his party affiliation from either Democrat or Unaffiliated to Republican,

three days after he submitted his intent to run as a Republican County Commissioner, District 1.

This is not consistency. This is opportunism.

Mijares has shifted between Unaffiliated and Republican, depending on where he was registered and the office for which he wanted to run.

That is not loyalty. That is political convenience.

To Republicans and conservatives who have stayed true to their principles: Scott Mijares is not one of you.

His record proves it.

He changed his party affiliation when it suited him. He claimed Unaffiliated when

it suited him. And he now claims to be Republican because that is the ticket that offers him a path to power.

Montrose County deserves better.

We deserve commissioners who reflect our values, who are consistent in their convictions, and who do not treat party affiliation like a coat to be changed with the weather.

The recall of Commissioner Mijares is not about party squabbles—it's about honesty, integrity, and the future of leadership in Montrose County.

Voters should demand nothing less than authenticity. Stand up for integrity.

Vote YES to recall Scott Mijares.

*Beth McCorkle, Montrose*

This recall is not about right versus left,  
This is about right versus wrong



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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## EEOC SUES MONTROSE REGIONAL HEALTH FOR AGE DISCRIMINATION AND RETALIATION FOR SECOND TIME

***Second federal lawsuit says regional health care facility continued to harass older workers and fired them for complaining***

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE— Montrose Memorial Hospital, Inc. doing business as Montrose Regional Health, a regional medical center in the San Juan Valley in southwestern Colorado, violated federal law again when it harassed and discriminated against older employees and retaliated against them when they complained, the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) charged in a lawsuit filed today.

The EEOC previously sued the center in September 2016, before settling the suit via a three-year consent decree for \$400,000 in January 2018.

According to the new suit, older nurses in the Same Day Surgery/Post-Anesthesia Care Unit (SDS/PACU) were harassed by two managers, including the chief nursing officer, who said at staff meetings she wanted “younger nurses [to] take over,” wanted “more youthful and energetic” staff, and older workers were “lazy” or not willing to work hard. Older nurses were also subjected to heightened scrutiny and supervision. When older workers complained about discrimination, Montrose failed to adequately address their complaints, and fired multiple workers in re-

taliation for complaining, the suit said.

“Age discrimination continues to be a persistent problem in the workplace, and especially in the nursing industry,” said **Mary Jo O’Neill, regional attorney for the EEOC’s Phoenix District**. “Older nurses come with significant expertise and are an essential part of any medical center’s workforce, and the EEOC is committed to fighting for the rights of all workers, including vulnerable older workers.”

This alleged conduct violated the Age Discrimination in Employment Act (ADEA) and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibit discrimination and harassment based on age and retaliation for complaining about discrimination. The EEOC filed suit (EEOC v. Montrose Memorial Hospital, Inc. d/b/a Montrose Regional Health, Case No. 1:25-cv-1:25-cv-03065 in U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado after first attempting to reach a pre-litigation settlement through its administrative conciliation process.

**EEOC Phoenix District Director Melinda Caraballo** said, “Workers have a protected right to complain to their employer when they feel they have been discriminated against, and employers should take these

complaints seriously. Retaliation against workers for these kinds of complaints violates federal law.”

For more information on age discrimination, please visit <https://www.eeoc.gov/age-discrimination>. For more information on retaliation, please visit <https://www.eeoc.gov/retaliation>.

The EEOC’s Phoenix District Office has jurisdiction over Arizona, Colorado, Utah, Wyoming and parts of New Mexico.

The EEOC is the sole federal agency authorized to investigate and litigate against businesses and other private sector employers for violations of federal laws prohibiting employment discrimination. For public sector employers, the EEOC shares jurisdiction with the Department of Justice’s Civil Rights Division; the EEOC is responsible for investigating charges against state and local government employers before referring them to DOJ for potential litigation. The EEOC also is responsible for coordinating the federal government’s employment antidiscrimination effort. More information about the EEOC is available at [www.eeoc.gov](http://www.eeoc.gov). Stay connected with the latest EEOC news by subscribing to our [email updates](#).



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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### MONTROSE REGIONAL HEALTH RESPONDS TO EEOC FILING

*Health system underscores commitment to fairness, respect, and compliance in the workplace*

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE – The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) recently notified Montrose Regional Health (MRH) of plans to take legal action against the organization based on the resignation of an employee in 2021.

The EEOC lawsuit also includes several claimants who either left voluntarily or were terminated for cause between 2020 and 2025.

MRH strongly denies the allegations contained in the filing. Few details have been released by the EEOC at this time, and MRH plans to formally request additional information regarding the nature of the claims. While MRH takes this type of claim very seriously, the organization is both

disappointed and concerned that the EEOC has chosen to pursue litigation given MRH's longstanding commitment to providing a respectful and nurturing workplace.

The Age Discrimination in Employment Act (ADEA) was enacted to protect workers age 40 and older. At Montrose Regional Health, more than 61 percent of the workforce is aged 40 or older. This reflects the organization's deep reliance on and appreciation for experienced professionals who provide high-quality care to the community.

"Our health system has always been dedicated to treating our employees with respect and fairness," said Dr. Mary Vader, Chairperson of the MRH Board of Direc-

tors. "We are proud of the dedicated people who choose to work here and the high standards they uphold every day."

Erin Skees, Chief Human Resources Officer at MRH, added: "We adamantly deny any wrongdoing and remain confident in our employment practices, which comply fully with the Age Discrimination in Employment Act and all applicable laws. Montrose Regional Health is committed to fostering a workplace where all employees are valued and supported."

Montrose Regional Health intends to vigorously defend against these claims. At the same time, MRH will work with the EEOC to better understand their concerns and provide any additional information needed.

# Vote NO on Recall

Montrose County Commissioner  
Scott Mijares is doing exactly  
what you elected him to do

*Keep the conservative majority  
on the BOCC*

go to [www.scottm4montrose.com](http://www.scottm4montrose.com) for more info  
Contact Commissioner Mijares direct at  
[scottm4montrose@gmail.com](mailto:scottm4montrose@gmail.com)

# COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

## PALISADE INSECTARY BREAKS GROUND ON NEW GROW HOUSE

*Special to the Mirror*

PALISADE— On Tuesday, the Palisade Insectary, part of the Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA), held a groundbreaking ceremony to celebrate a new grow house project. The 880 square foot building will expand the Insectary’s ability to raise plants to feed biocontrol



**Photo by Irene Phillips.**

agents, which are supplied to agricultural producers and land managers across the state for control of noxious weeds.

“This new grow house will help the Insectary rear more biocontrol agents, which helps the entire state of Colorado manage invasive plant and insect species that harm crops, rangeland, and urban greenspaces,” said Insectary Director Dan Bean. The new building will allow the Insectary to control light and temperature for growing plants that feed the different biocontrol agents being reared. This includes the 14 types of insects currently cultivated through the Request-a-Bug program to help with invasive weeds such as field bindweed, puncturevine (also known as goat heads), tamarisk, and leafy spurge.

The Palisade Insectary is the oldest biological control facility of its kind in the United States and has been instrumental in protecting Colorado’s agriculture and natural resources since its inception in 1945. Throughout its existence, the Insectary has partnered with farmers to develop and test biocontrol agents.

Initially established to combat the Oriental Fruit Moth (OFM), a destructive peach pest, with the release of the “Mac” wasp (*Macrocentrus ancylivorus*), over the past eighty years the Insectary has developed more than 90 different biological agents to control invasive weed and insect species. Noxious weeds provide poor habitat for livestock and wildlife, and crowd out native species. Heavy infestations can make the land unusable.

The Insectary’s Request-a-Bug program provides biocontrol agents directly to the public. Coloradans can receive biocontrol agents for their use in their own farms, gardens, or backyards.

Each year, the Insectary ships out more than 4000 releases, which contain more than 4 million insects, to local weed managers, ag producers, gardeners, landowners, local governments, and others to help stop the spread of noxious weeds and harmful pests. The most popular insect available through Request-a-Bug is the field bindweed mite, frequently used by homeowners to combat field bindweed. These mites feed on bindweed, causing its leaves to curl, vines to stunt, and eventually leading to dieback.

Welcome  
**Dr. Garrett Riggs**  
Neurologist



“I look forward to supporting Dr. Hehmann’s tradition of providing excellent care to the Montrose Region”

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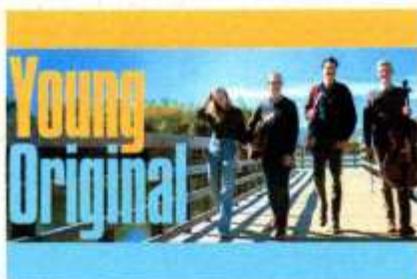
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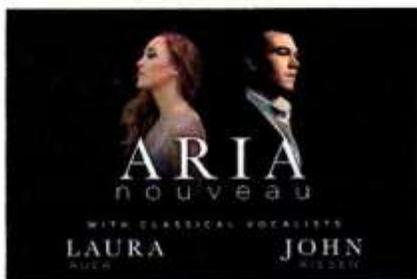
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Laura Auer & John Riesen  
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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## PLAN AHEAD: PREVENT SCHOOL VIOLENCE AND WATER SCARCITY

*Editor:*

We are living in times that are quite interesting if not terrorizing, especially for anyone who has rational love for this country. Let us look at some of what exists as I write or which will, in the near future, (within ten or so years). I will not be around in 10 years so my desires for the Republic are formed by my care for my children, grandchildren.

I have taken position on many critical issues, many or many of which have not gained support in our community. Let me begin with the issue of school security. Almost every week somewhere in the US is a school shooting or two. And the frequency is increasing. Having 70 years of observation I have seen that schools with fences and locked gates are not the victims of evil acts. Yet no one in Montrose seems to think that this kind of protection is needed. Indeed, the excuses are either that our schools have never been victim, we don't want the kids to think they are in prison or that adequate security would cost too much. Instead, we see a plan for umpty-nine millions of dollars for a new high school and park a police car in school parking lots apparently 'to scare off the potential shooter!'

Then there is the issue of water. So far we have been fortunate in that we have had a good amount of the precious fluid. Montrose has 3 private and one municipal golf courses. How much water do they use just so some folks can play pasture pool. My development has over 5 acres of grass, but only a small part of the community lawn includes a playground. The rest of it is a pooch potty. Along the streets where there are grass strips the city is trying to 'grow asphalt' with wet streets in the mornings. Sprinklers CAN be adjusted, you know. Like down the middle of Town-

send Blvd. Wasteful indeed! And all of our lovely lawns. Green and lush front and rear. Where is the effort to encourage zero-scape to cut water waste. The effort by our fine government agencies, city and county, to cut waste is non-existent. Why are our canal/ditch banks overgrown with vegetation? Talk about a waste of water in huge amounts. Simply spraying with 2,4,D in the spring would solve that waste quickly. Raising the price of water might do something toward conservation but like all else, folks will just get used to it. Toilets are the biggest wasters of water in most homes. Where is the effort to get citizens to replace the old toilets with new low water varieties. NONE. As well replacing water wasting shower heads should be encouraged. Instead, our past county commissioners felt that buying an old broken down school building in the west end and the building of a County Office building taj-mahal were more important. Why are real estate purchases to house office 'Pogues' more important than water? You know, a human can only live 3 days without water? I have repeatedly asked public officials to take an interest in water conservation and the reply across the board has been "We don't have to worry, we are next to the mountains where it comes from." Managing such issues is what these folks are supposed to do; not wait until we are drinking sand to say 'we should have done something.

Today I read that 10 towns in Texas are out of water. We may well join them but we should work our butts off trying to forestall that wonderful opportunity. Of course, when folks take notice of their recent water bills maybe they will economize. Lets hope!

In 2007, I supported the County PSST to help the Sheriff's Department fund equip-

ment upgrades and increased salaries that were not covered by the county. Compare city to county salaries and you will see why the PSST was needed. The sitting board at that time opted to begin taking the money for other uses. The next 8 years the BOCC chose to take it all, all of the time replacing budgeted support which they were obligated to provide with PSST money. The present BOCC has quit doing that. Who knows what will happen with the short-sighted approach of Ms. Hansen to such matters if the recall succeeds. Do you? Our splendid, dedicated sheriff has nowhere near his 'required' manpower. I have been to the west-end of our county both daytime and nighttime and I would not be a cop on patrol there alone in the day, no less at night. And I worked for a year in the pitch black of dark wet jungles.

Fellow Montrosians, I implore you to think about what I have provided for you in this article. THINK about what is important, and THINK about how all the things I have mentioned have had NO attention by our elected officials in the PAST 25 YEARS I HAVE LIVED HERE. These things are broken in Montrose and they need fixing AND SOON. Don't wait until some deviate takes out a classroom; don't wait until the only water available comes out of a plastic bottle; don't wait until our town needs a lot of COPS to prevent a riot. Only damned fools do that. Make your County Commissioners take action and prevent the funerals. The time to take action is NOW!

Two of your present commissioners are bent on addressing these issues, the third is not. Pass the recall and there will be two that won't do anything to fix these issues.

*Bill Bennett, Montrose*

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**Director District C:**

- Alice Murphy
- Scott Scarborough

**Director District G:**

- Jessica Corrigan
- Shane Daly

**SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD  
TUES, NOV 4<sup>TH</sup>, 2025**

# RED HAWKS SPORTS ROUNDUP - 10/6/25

By Cliff Dodge

## RED HAWKS SOCCER:

### **MONTROSE RED HAWKS 5, FRUITA-MONUMENT WILDCATS 4**

The Montrose Red Hawks soccer team continued their ways as they defeated the Fruita-Monument Wildcats 5-4 on their home pitch. The game was a close affair as the Red Hawks jumped out to a solid 3 goal lead at the half. The second half was quite a different story as the Wildcats poured in four goals to take the lead, only to see the Red Hawks come storming back with two goals which gave the home team the final 5-4 victory.

The Red Hawks increased their season record to 6 wins, 2 losses and 2 ties overall. Thus their league record stands at 4 wins, 3 losses and 1 tie. Glenwood Springs will visit Montrose on Saturday.

### **DURANGO DEMONS 2, MONTROSE RED HAWKS 0**

The road is a difficult place to win in any sport, and the Red Hawks soccer team received a taste as they traveled to Durango and ended upon the losing end of a 2-0 contest. The Red Hawks were simply unable to break out their offense as the Durango Demons clamped a tight knit defense from the opening kick off to the final whistle. The Demons found the back of the Red Hawks net twice in the initial half and then held on and kept the visitors at bay to come away with the 2-0 victory.

### **MONTROSE RED HAWKS 2, PALISADE BULLDOGS 0**

The road, despite being difficult to manage, saw the Montrose Red Hawks soccer team visit the Palisade Bulldogs last week and come away with a very satisfying 2-0 victory. The Red Hawks showed flashes of their offense and a stout defense to keep the Bulldogs off of the scoreboard. The Red Hawks managed single goals in the first half and the second half to come away with the victory. The road to the playoffs dwindles to a final four games.

The playoffs will determine the outcome of the final four games.

## RED HAWKS VOLLEYBALL:

### **MONTROSE RED HAWKS 3, DURANGO DEMONS 1**

The rampaging Red Hawks volleyball team continues to roll along and rack up victories as they advance toward the season-ending playoffs. The latest victory came at the hands of the Durango Demons last Thursday as the Red Hawks shut the Demons down by the score of 3-1.

Maggie Legg and Marcella Mendoza led the offensive attack with 21 and 15 kills. In the Dig Department, Mendoza (21), Legg (15) and Reina Contreras (15) kept the Red Hawks in charge. As usual, Lilly Nelson led all Red Hawks with 41 assists.

This Red Hawk team is exactly that, a team. As Head Coach Shane Forrest preaches annually, we are a team: all for one and one for all. The seasonal results bear this out. The Red Hawks are 11-0 overall and 5-0 in league action. The team is in action this weekend.

## RED HAWKS SOFT BALL:

The surging Red Hawks softball team is heading for the playoffs. Head Coach Lilly Lovato has her team standing at 14 wins and 6 losses with three regular season games left on the schedule. The schedule shows two home games with Palisade and Grand Junction and one road contest at the Delta Panthers. The playoffs will then sort themselves out as the schedule and wins and losses will prevail.

### **MONTROSE RED HAWKS 10, GUNNISON COWBOYS 1**

The high flying Montrose softball team continued its winning ways. The Red Hawks traveled to Gunnison and emerged victorious by the score of 10-1 over the Cowboys. Junior Isabelle Mott and Senior Abby Siegel led the hit parade with 3 and 2 hits. Both had RBI's to advance the Red Hawks cause. Neither team scored until the Fourth inning as Fruita scored a run in

their half of the inning. The Red Hawks matched the run in the bottom of the inning. The Red Hawks then scored 9 runs in the final three frames and claimed the win. Freshman Bentley Schiller pitched a complete game. She gave up 1 run on 4 hits, walked 1 and struck out 13.

### **FRUITA-MONUMENT WILDCATS 5, RED HAWKS 1**

The Fruita-Monument Wildcats won an extra inning game with the Montrose Red Hawks at the Red Hawks home field 5-1. The two teams each scored 1 run through 9 full innings. The Wildcats scored 4 runs at the top of the ninth inning and the Red Hawks were unable to rally. The Red Hawks scored their run on 5 hits, while giving up 6 hits to the Wildcats. Bentley Schiller pitched all 9 innings, giving up 5 runs on 7 hits, walking 2 and striking out a dozen Wildcat batters.

### **MONTROSE RED HAWKS 13, BENNETT TIGERS 0 (Game one)**

### **MONTROSE RED HAWKS 13, BENNETT TIGERS 1 (Game two)**

The Montrose softball team swept a doubleheader 13-0 and 13-1 versus the Bennett Tigers at the Montrose softball diamond last Saturday. In all, the Red Hawks scored 26 runs, had 20 base hits, and had 18 runs batted in the doubleheader. Isabelle Mott and Bentley Schiller handled the pitching chores for the Red Hawks.

### **GRAND JUNCTION TIGERS 7, RED HAWKS 2**

The Montrose Red Hawks hit the road last Wednesday and visited the lair of the Grand Junction Tigers and the outcome was not pretty. The Tigers scored 4 runs in the first two innings and then exploded for 3 more runs in the fifth inning.

The Red Hawks managed a single run in the first inning and another in the top of the sixth inning.

The Red Hawks managed only 5 hits in scoring their 2 runs. The Red Hawks went down on strikes 10 times.

# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## POLITICAL VIOLENCE HURTS US ALL AND OUR DEMOCRACY

Dear Editor,

**Political violence hurts us all and our democracy. Period.**

No matter where we come from or what political party we may belong to, most Americans believe that violence has no place in our politics, our schools, or our communities. We should be joining together to condemn political violence, no matter who the target is. It is never acceptable.

One week before the murder of Charlie Kirk, I attended a Montrose County Commissioner Meeting and asked the commissioners to condemn political violence. I asked them to join with me in stating publicly that political violence is never acceptable no matter who perpetrates it or who the victim is. Sadly, like most recent constituents' requests to the commissioners these days, my request fell on deaf ears. Commissioner Mijares stated that he "got the point" but his actions don't align with condemning political violence.

In the last seven days, Commissioner Mijares has created flyers and social media posts with a target symbol on them asking residents to vote no on the recall. This was after he posted the name and addresses of every individual that signed the recall petition to remove him from the Board of County Commissioners on his website.

Two days after Mr. Keenan's crash, Montrose County Commissioner Sean Pond made a completely baseless accusation in a now deleted Facebook reel that local community member Mike Keenan was a victim of political violence before any official statement from authorities stated any facts about the perpetrator. It appears from the police reports that Mr. Keenan was a victim of distracted driving by

someone who was texting while driving.

By putting out a false accusation against their political opponents and suggesting that community members who disagree with them should be "targeted," our county commissioners are feeding into the idea that political violence is okay and they are making our community less safe.

**There is a saying, "An eye for an eye leaves the whole world blind."**

We do not have to accept a world in which the MAGA Republican party have abandoned principles of common decency to express themselves. Political differences should be debated, not determined by violence. A democracy relies on using discourse, not violence, to resolve our differences. When we as a society decide that political violence is legitimate, or at least tolerated as part of our political process, none of us are safe.

Rejecting political violence isn't about Donald Trump or the MAGA Regime. I choose to reject political violence because it isn't who I WANT TO BE. And I want to hold fast to my most deeply held values, and change for the better. We should all cry out loudly when any political violence happens. In a healthy democracy, citizens can demand an answer from their elected officials about why they only condemn political violence when it happens to "one of their own." Political violence is wrong, whether the victim is Charlie Kirk, State Minnesota Representative Melissa Hortman, or Paul Pelosi. Our commissioners should be speaking out against all political violence, not fanning the flames of hatred that feeds into political violence.

The young man who is accused of hurting Mr. Keenan is legally entitled to due process. The fundamental individual rights of due process are enshrined in both the

fifth and fourteenth amendments which prohibit the deprivation of life, liberty, or property from both the federal and state governments. Commissioner Pond has a responsibility to not spread dangerous disinformation. When he spreads misinformation, he has the duty to publicly correct his statements.

Political violence is bigger than shooting someone with a gun. When a woman dies because she was prevented from receiving reproductive healthcare, that is political violence. When children die because the politicization of vaccines has prevented them from receiving life-saving vaccinations, that is political violence. When the MAGA Republican Congress gives billions of dollars to ICE to turn it into a masked secret police force acting with no accountability, that is political violence. When immigrants are kidnapped and delivered to torture centers in other countries, that is political violence. When our environment is more polluted with toxins, and when natural disasters from climate change become more deadly because of cowardly politics, that is political violence. It is wrong to kill and hurt people for their political views. Let's stand up for decency and kindness, and oppose political violence, because we are in this together.

*Holly Speaks, Group Leader, Montrose & Ouray Counties Indivisible*  
<https://indivisible.org>

*Indivisible is a movement driven by a vision of a real democracy of, by, and for the people. The Indivisible movement is a network of thousands of local groups and millions of activists across every state working to build an inclusive democracy by fighting for bold, progressive policies and creating lasting grassroots power.*



# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## COST OF AGING IN COLORADO: AGEWISE COLORADO URGES ACTION TO SUPPORT OLDER ADULTS

*Special to the Mirror*

COLORADO-A new report commissioned by AgeWise Colorado with the Colorado Fiscal Institute, *"The Cost of Aging in Colorado,"* sheds light on the financial challenges older Coloradans face as they age. The report underscores a growing crisis that affects not only seniors, but families, caregivers and the broader state economy.

"As a nonprofit dedicated to empowering aging Coloradans through trusted resources and education, AgeWise Colorado sees the report's data as a wake-up call for policymakers, community leaders and the public," said Founder/President of AgeWise Colorado, Bob Brocker. "Older adults want to remain in their homes and communities, but without stronger support systems and sustainable funding, that will be out of reach for too many."

Some of the top findings from the report:

-Housing and healthcare costs are rising faster than inflation, placing a disproportionate burden on aging adults living on fixed incomes.

-Douglas County will face the steepest immediate increase in its older population, growing by more than 56% between now and 2035.

-Medicaid long-term care costs will rise nearly \$850 million by 2050.

-More than half a million older adults may be housing cost-burdened or displaced by 2030 due to rising rents and limited protection.

AgeWise Colorado calls on state leaders and the many generous donors in Colorado to prioritize policies that support aging in place, expanding affordable housing and providing access to better in-home services and caregiver support. The organization will continue its work of connecting older adults and their families with the tools and trusted resources they need to plan for and manage the realities of aging.

"We're not just facing a demographic shift, we are facing a policy failure," Brocker added.

"Now is the time to make bold investments in older adults' well-being before the gap becomes unbridgeable."

ble."

AgeWise Colorado is a nonprofit initiative dedicated to helping Coloradans thrive as they age. Through education, outreach and resource coordination, AgeWise connects older adults and their caregivers with trustworthy information and services that support aging in place.

Learn more at [www.agewisecolorado.org](http://www.agewisecolorado.org) or download the full report at [www.coloradofiscal.org](http://www.coloradofiscal.org).

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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

## COLORADO'S AGING POPULATION IS GROWING. OUR COMMITMENT TO THEM SHOULD, TOO.

*By Bob Brocker, Founder/President of Age-Wise Colorado*

COLORADO-Colorado is getting older—and not in the abstract sense. In real time, our population is aging faster than the systems and supports designed to care for us in our later years. "The Cost of Aging in Colorado," a new report commissioned by AgeWise Colorado and prepared by the Colorado Fiscal Institute lays this bare: between now and 2035, the number of Coloradans over the age of 65 will rise by nearly 30%. In Douglas County alone, it will jump by more than 56%.

Douglas County isn't alone. El Paso County already has more older adults than anywhere else in the state. These are proud places, often skeptical of government expansion, but they are also home to thousands of older adults who will need resources to live safely and with dignity.

The hard truth is that we're not ready. Colorado's investments in housing, healthcare, long-term care and other essential services fail to keep the pace we need. According to the report, Colorado will need at least \$419 million more by 2035 to cover its share of Medicaid long-term care costs for older adults. That number balloons to \$688 million by 2050. Where is that money going to come from?

We can pretend the state budget is limitless, but it's not. If we don't make changes, the only options on the table are ugly: either cut funding for schools, transportation and clean water, or let older adults suffer in silence. That's not a scare tactic. That's math under TABOR, Colorado's self-imposed budget handcuffs that caps revenue growth even when costs – and needs – soar.

TABOR might have served a purpose in the '90s, but in 2025, it's past its expiration date. Colorado voters deserve an honest, visual, everyday explanation of how it's affecting our neighbors and our future. People don't need another lecture on budget complexities, they need to see how this plays out in their community: in longer waitlists for Meals on Wheels, in the absence of in-home caregivers, in housing that's unaffordable or unlivable for someone with mobility issues.

Let's be clear: this is not just about people in poverty. Even if an older adult is fortunate enough to own their home and have robust retirement savings, most Americans are still just one crisis away from economic ruin. More than half of adults over 50 have less than \$50,000 in retirement savings, and nearly 40% have nothing saved at all, according to an AARP survey.

We're seeing small companies forming to offer fiduciary services, geriatric care management and guardianship. Do you know what that tells me? It tells me more Coloradans are aging alone, without family nearby to help them navigate the maze of paperwork, doctor visits and financial decisions that come with aging. That's not the future we should accept.

This report is an invitation. It's time to decide what kind of state we want to be. Are we willing to pitch in – perhaps from our federal tax saving – to ensure no older adult ends up sick, isolated, or homeless?

We're not asking for the moon. We're asking for the basics: enough funding for programs that keep people out of long-term care, support so older adults can stay in their communities and the leadership to confront the fiscal reality ahead.

We know the playbook. We've seen how effective messaging can shape the debate. We need to look no further than national politicians who've made it clear, simple and personal. Let's apply that same energy to advocating for the people who raised us, taught us, served our country and built our communities.

If we don't act now, we won't just be turning our backs on today's older adults, we'll be shortchanging our own future.

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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## INVECTIVE, VIOLENCE ARE ALL THEY HAVE LEFT

*Editor:*

Let's start with some chuckles. We often hear Democrats repeating the mantra: "We need illegal immigrants to do the jobs American citizens don't want to do." What they really mean is: "We need illegal immigrants to do the jobs American citizens don't want to do .... like vote for Democrats." Even funnier was Montrose School Board President Sarah Fishing challenging the state school board members for saying that Montrose school board members were anti-school choice. Per Fishing, "Nothing about our local board is anti-school choice ..." I'm sure she said that with a straight face.

I appreciated Raye Highland's September 29th Mirror letter. She expressed her opinions clearly and without animosity. I appreciated her agreeing with me that nothing is settled by violence, but I was a little confused as to why my opinions are "not conducive to encouragement of dissenting opinions." There is nothing preventing anyone from challenging any or all of my opinions. The Mirror is happy to publish opposing viewpoints, as long as those letters meet their editorial standards. That's what Charlie Kirk was all about. He chose a debate format, offering people with ideological differences a chance to give their own perspectives. He used freedom of speech to debate and persuade. He was assassinated because Democrats have difficulty defending the indefensible. They can't debate because, for at least the last fifteen years now, they have lost the arguments on their merits. A prime example this week was Democrat MSNBC castoff Joy Reid talking about the "fascist" (meaning Republican) agenda: "They want to take us back to no income tax, no regulations, earn what you want, family inherits everything." Reid, another Democrat multi-millionaire in love with communism, defines fascism as freedom and all the benefits that come with it. How dare we want to make money and leave it to our kids! Reid hates Americans that act responsibly, earn a living, and then share their earned wealth with their own children. It's impossible for a Democrat to support Reid's position, so they are left with making excuses for not debating. Let's hear the argument for confiscatory taxes instead of low tax rates. Let's hear the explanation of the idea

that all money belongs to the government, which then allocates it to the people as the government sees fit.

Another example this week was Democrats honoring convicted cop killer Assata Shakur. In 1973 Joanne Chesimard (aka Assata Shakur), an extremist with the Black Liberation Army, was stopped for a motor vehicle violation by two New Jersey State Police. At the time, Shakur was wanted for several violent felonies, including bank robbery. Shakur and her accomplices opened fire on the troopers. One trooper was wounded and the other was shot and killed execution style at point-blank range. She was convicted and sentenced to life in prison, but escaped and spent her remaining years in Cuba. The Chicago Teacher's Union honored her this week: "Today we honor the life and legacy of a revolutionary fighter .... a leader of freedom ...." Democrats in Congress are doing the same thing. Pennsylvania's Summer Lee, Massachusetts's Ayanna Pressly, and New York's Yvette Clark joined in various tributes to the person on the FBI's Most Wanted Terrorist List. Democrats cannot defend not wanting to give a moment of silence to Charlie Kirk, but being more than happy to honor a fugitive cop killer, so they revert to projection and lies to avoid honest debate.

It's kind of humorous that the Marine Corps revealed this week they have reached its recruiting targets for the 2025 fiscal year. The achievement follows in the footsteps of the Army, Air Force, and Navy, all of which hit their recruitment goals months ahead of schedule. With the Trump administration's turnaround of the Biden-era recruiting crises, it is evident that leadership does, in fact, matter to those seeking to serve the nation in uniform. Under Biden, lethality and efficiency were traded for so-called "diversity" and "inclusion." Again, it will be difficult for Democrats to make excuses for the befuddled ex-president and his handlers failure to bring qualified talent to the military, so they will do anything to avoid talking about it.

It's also very entertaining to watch Democrats try to defend their decision to shut down the government. The problem for Democrats is their case doesn't go over well with voters listening to their explana-

tions. The government is broke, and the Democrats claim they care about the deficit, but they want to add trillions in spending. They hated the Big Beautiful Bill, and now they are holding the government hostage as they seek to reverse things that just passed. Much of the added spending is for free health care for illegal immigrants, and also includes funding for transgender surgery for minors.

Remember that in 2015, 2018, and 2025, Democrats threatened to close the entire government if one of their favorite special interest groups, Planned Parenthood, didn't get their huge annual kickbacks. In between those threats and up to the current shutdown, they all gave speeches condemning government shutdowns. Democrats could care less about the millions of federal employees they are keeping temporarily unemployed, nor do they care how much money the government has to print to fund their insanity.

Let's hear the argument that open borders really serve our country's best interest. Why is a wide-open, unregulated border good for America? You have a better idea, let's hear it. Let's hear Democrats defend socialism when it has impoverished and tyrannized citizens everywhere and every time it's been tried. Show us how ever bigger government is better for its citizens than a smaller government truly answerable to the electorate. You have a better plan for improving the economic opportunity for the American people, besides doling out more free stuff to your special interest groups, let's hear it. You think you can solve Russia/Ukraine, or Israel/Hamas, let's hear it.

Meanwhile, the American people overwhelmingly support the commonsense policies advanced by our president, his cabinet, and what Charlie Kirk argued in support of -- economic opportunity in a free market, safety and security for our citizens, good schools, a smaller federal bureaucracy, and a merit based system that rewards effort. Democrats can't honestly debate any of these ideas because all their ideas and policies are failing disastrously, and they know it. That's why they have to rely on invective and, as we've seen in recent years, violence. That's all they have left.

*Ed Henrie, Montrose*

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## CANDIDATE BIOS AND FORUM INFORMATION

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### UPCOMING FORUM DATES BELOW:

#### 2025 RE-1J Board of Education Candidate Forum Dates

- Tues. Oct. 7:6:30 pm-Charles Andrews/Ron Smith, Ute Museum, Chipeta Room
- Wed. Oct. 8:9 am-The Forum, CMU Montrose Campus, Cascade Hall
- Thurs. Oct. 9:6 pm-League of Women Voters, Montrose City Council Room, 107 S Cascade

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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## TRI-COUNTY HEALTH NETWORK SHARES IMPORTANT HEALTH COVERAGE UPDATES FOR 2025–2026 *Expanded Medicaid coverage, upcoming Marketplace changes, and OmniSalud lottery enrollment*

*Special to the Mirror*

WESTERN COLORADO — Tri-County Health Network (TCHNetwork) is encouraging community members to review their health coverage as several important updates and changes take effect this year. From expanded Medicaid eligibility to upcoming changes in Marketplace premiums, understanding your options now can help ensure continuous and affordable care. Schedule your appointment today by calling 970.708.7096.

### Expanded Medicaid Coverage: Cover All Coloradans

Colorado’s **Cover All Coloradans** initiative is expanding access to health care coverage:

**-Pregnant people and children who are undocumented** may now qualify for **Health First Colorado (Medicaid)**.

**-Under Emergency Medicaid**, individuals may also be eligible for **Family Planning benefits**, covering essential reproductive health services.

**-Uninsured individuals**, regardless of documentation status, can apply for Colorado’s **Hospital Discount Program** to lower the cost of hospital care.

TCHNetwork’s Enrollment Team is availa-

ble to help individuals check eligibility, apply for programs, and understand their coverage options. **Everyone deserves access to care.**

For details and updates, visit: [tchnetwork.org/programs/insurance-assistance/Marketplace Insurance Updates](https://tchnetwork.org/programs/insurance-assistance/Marketplace%20Insurance%20Updates): **Connect for Health Colorado**

As **Open Enrollment** approaches (November 1, 2025 – January 15, 2026), TCHNetwork urges all Marketplace participants to review their plans carefully:

**-Do not rely on automatic re-enrollment** this year.

**-Premium costs will change** for 2026, with new rates available starting **November 1, 2025**.

**-Enhanced tax credits** that have lowered premiums for the past few years will **expire December 31, 2025**.

**-You must enroll by December 15<sup>th</sup>** for coverage to begin January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026.

**-You must enroll by January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026**, for coverage to begin February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026.

TCHNetwork’s Enrollment Team can help individuals compare plans, confirm eligibility for tax credits, and choose the best coverage. **Schedule an appointment now by calling 970.708.7096** to review your

options and avoid unexpected cost increases.

Stay updated at: [tchnetwork.org/programs/insurance-assistance/](https://tchnetwork.org/programs/insurance-assistance/)

### OmniSalud Update

Due to recent tax changes, **OmniSalud**—a health coverage program for individuals regardless of immigration status—will be available **only through a lottery** for **current members** this coming year.

**-No new enrollments** will be accepted at this time.

**-Current enrollees** should watch for instructions on how to enter the lottery to keep their coverage.

TCHNetwork will share more information as soon as it becomes available.

For updates, visit: [tchnetwork.org/programs/insurance-assistance/](https://tchnetwork.org/programs/insurance-assistance/)

### About Tri-County Health Network

*Tri-County Health Network (TCHNetwork) is committed to collaborating with its communities to improve health for everyone. Through programs like insurance assistance, care coordination, and community outreach, TCHNetwork helps ensure everyone—regardless of income, location, or immigration status—has access to the care they need.*

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**MONTROSE REGIONAL CRIME STOPPERS**

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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## **VOTE NO ON MONTROSE LIBRARY MEASURES 6A AND 6B: PROTECT OUR KIDS AND OUR WALLETS! MONTROSE COUNTY VOTERS: BALLOTS ARRIVE AFTER OCTOBER 11, 2025. ACT NOW TO DEFEND FAMILY VALUES!**

*Editor:*

As ballots hit mailboxes starting October 11, 2025, for the November 4 election, the Montrose Regional Library District (MRLD) is pushing Measures 6A and 6B to lock in higher taxes and fund controversial programs. These measures threaten the family values Montrose holds dear, with the library doubling down on divisive LGBTQ+ initiatives and RGB story times that many see as inappropriate for our children. If child grooming involves building trust to desensitize kids to harmful behaviors, why is our library promoting materials and events that clash with our community's principles? Vote NO on both measures to stop this agenda and keep your taxes in check.

**Measure 6A: No Permanent Tax Hike for Radical Programs**

In 2017, voters approved a "temporary" 0.85 mill levy increase, raising the total from 3.0 to 3.85 mills, set to expire in 2027. The MRLD promised five goals in return: seven-day access, a bigger collection via networks like Marmot, Libby, and Kanopy, a "Library of Things," more programs, and building upgrades like HVAC and a telehealth room in Naturita. They've delivered. So why make this tax permanent now?

For a \$500,000 home, 6A means an extra \$26.56 yearly, forever, with no sunset. Worse, it funds the library's push into controversial territory: LGBTQ+ displays and story times that prioritize ideology over family-friendly reading. Photos from recent events show materials promoting themes many Montrose parents reject as "grooming adjacent". The 2017 goals are met. Let the levy expire. Vote NO on 6A to demand accountability and halt this agenda.

**Measure 6B: Stop Unchecked Spending and Tax Hikes**

Measure 6B is even sneakier. In 2024, Colorado capped special district property tax revenue growth at 5.25% annually to curb runaway budgets. MRLD wants you to waive this cap, claiming Montrose's growth demands it. Without 6B, the levy's power could be halved, saving about \$13 yearly on a \$500,000 home in 2026 and cutting \$400,000 from the library's budget. They cry foul, saying it's like TABOR limits voters removed in 1999 to allow growth.

But waiving the cap hands the library a blank check. More money means more "innovative" programs: teen magazines steeped in identity politics, tech classes with progressive undertones, and adult "crafternoons" veering into ideological discussions. A NO vote enforces fiscal discipline, keeping the cap to limit funding for divisive initiatives. Vote NO on 6B to protect your wallet and our values.

Measure 6A

What does it do?

Makes 0.85 mill levy permanent

Why Vote No?

*Funds LGBTQ+ propaganda; goals met*  
Cost (\$500k Home, 2026)  
+\$26.56/year forever

Measure 6B

What does it do?

Waives 5.25% revenue cap

Why Vote No?

*Enables endless tax hikes and divisive programs*  
Cost (\$500k Home, 2026)  
+\$13/year if passed; halves levy if failed  
The Political Players Behind the Push  
This isn't a grassroots effort. It's a coordinated attack. The "Library YES!" committee, led by Stephanie Williams, pushes both measures. Williams also filed for the Recall Scott Mijares Committee, targeting our conservative county commissioner,

with both committees registered within a week of each other in 2025. Coincidence? Hardly. And the Library YES! website? Hosted by Tonya Maddox's Our Town Matters platform. The former Daily Press publisher is now an activist amplifying this agenda. This smells like a Far Left-Wing Democrat ploy: oust conservative leaders, then tax us to fund their ideology. Montrose isn't Boulder. We're a community of ranchers, families, and faith-driven folks who value tradition. Don't let outsiders turn our library into a progressive playground.

Your Vote, Your Values: Stop the Indoctrination

Our library should be a safe space for learning, not a stage for ideology. We want story times with *Charlotte's Web*, not rainbow-themed events that confuse young kids. We need collections that unite, not "diversity" shelves pushing divisive narratives. The 2017 levy was a deal: temporary support for clear promises, now fulfilled. Making it permanent and waiving growth caps is a betrayal, funneling our taxes into programs that erode Montrose's family-first ethos.

Voters: When your ballot arrives, mark NO on 6A and NO on 6B. Mail it promptly, drop it at a center, or vote on November 4. Share this at church, the coffee shop, or online. Our kids' innocence and our tax dollars are at stake. Keep our library a place for learning, not indoctrination. Vote NO for Montrose, for our families, for our future.

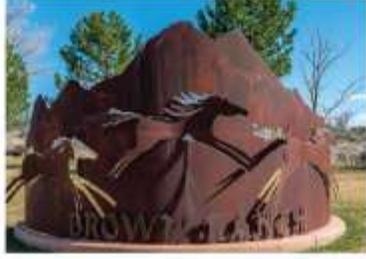
**Michael J Badagliacco, "MJB"**

*Michael is the father of five and grandfather of three, United States Air Force Veteran, International Recording Artist, passionate about the United States of America and the founders Genius of the Constitution and Editor-in-Chief, Colorado DOGE Report (coDOGEreport.com).*

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# COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

## COMMUNITY LISTENING SESSIONS ACROSS COLORADO ON FEDERAL INDIAN BOARDING SCHOOLS

*Special to the Mirror*

COLORADO- History Colorado in partnership with several Tribal and Native American organizations are hosting Community Listening Sessions across Colorado in support of the American Indian Boarding School Research Project. Survivors, descendants and families connected to the Federal Indian Boarding Schools are invited to learn about the project's progress, share their stories, and contribute input for healing and remembrance.

Each location will hold at least three facilitated Community Listening Sessions over the next several months, with each session to cover different aspects of the Federal Indian Boarding Schools' connection to families, in partnerships with local community organizations and traditional leaders:



**Fort Lewis School. History Colorado photo.**

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-Session 1: Legislation Information Presentation with Community Project Input - A presentation on HB24-1444 and context to previous work with small table discussions to listen to process or concerns from the community members to further the research of Federal Indian Boarding Schools.

-Session 2: Family Relationship to Boarding School - Intergenerational Trauma presentation with small table discussions to explore community relationships to Federal Indian Boarding Schools and ongoing family effects.

-Session 3: Community Recommendations - Return in the late spring of 2026 for a presentation on findings from throughout the state Community Listening Sessions and small table discussions to determine and prioritize recommendations.

The Community Listening Sessions are part of a statewide effort to document and address the history and legacy of Federal Indian Boarding Schools in Colorado. Input from American Indian families with direct connections to Federal Indian Boarding Schools will inform recommendations for remembrance, mitigating and healing the effects of the Federal Indian boarding schools, that will then be shared with the Colorado State Legislature and Colorado Departments of Education and Higher Education in May of 2027. By highlighting community voices, the project aims to honor survivors, support their descendants, and ensure that this history is acknowledged as part of Colorado's collective history.

The American Indian Boarding School Listening Sessions are open to survivors, descendants, and those who have direct family connection to Federal Indian Boarding Schools. Interested participants are encouraged, but is not necessary, to RSVP for a Community Listening Session at [h-co.org/listening-sessions](https://h-co.org/listening-sessions) to help with planning for space and food.

Community Listening Sessions are currently scheduled for Denver and Durango. Additional sessions are being scheduled in Ignacio, Towaoc, Cortez, Grand Junction, Pueblo, Boulder and Fort Collins. The most current information can be found on the website:  
The third session for each region will be scheduled for Spring 2026. Visit the research web page to stay up to date on the latest schedule.

**INFO:**

Additional information can be found at <https://www.historycolorado.org/american-indian-boarding-school-research>.



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# COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

## CDOT OPENS NEW VAIL PASS REST AREA, DELIVERING SAFER, MODERN AMENITIES

*Special to the Mirror*

EAGLE COUNTY - The Colorado Department of Transportation cut the ribbon on the newly reconstructed Vail Pass Rest Area today, marking a major milestone for the Interstate 70 Mountain Corridor, one of the state’s most iconic and heavily traveled interstates.



**Vail Pass Rest Area. CDOT courtesy photo.**

The modernized facility offers expanded and safer parking for cars and trucks, fully accessible restrooms and amenities, and sustainable design

features that reduce long-term operating costs. The project also reconfigured the space to integrate the popular Ten Mile Canyon Trail into the rest area, creating a safer and more seamless experience for both motorists and recreationalists.

**Safety benefits of the updated facility include:**

- Expanded truck parking - reduces trucks parking on highway shoulders or ramps, which is dangerous for both truckers and passing vehicles.
- Clearer separation of vehicles and pedestrians - reconfigured layout reduces conflict points between cars, trucks and people moving through the rest area.
- Safe pull-off options - provides a reliable place for fatigued drivers to stop, reducing drowsy-driving crashes.
- ADA accessibility - ensures that travelers have safe, functional access to facilities without navigating unsafe terrain.
- Staging for CDOT crews - provides a better base for maintenance staff and emergency response, allowing faster, safer deployment during storms and incidents.

The project team, led by CDOT’s Property Management team, worked through mountain weather and short construction seasons to deliver the facility ahead of the winter 2025 season.

The Vail Pass Rest Area project began in May 2023. The funding was provided by the Joint Budget Committee and signed into law through the state budget by Governor Polis. The new rest area is a part of CDOT’s ongoing effort to improve safety and resilience along the I-70 Mountain Corridor, ensuring the state’s transportation system continues to support both local communities and Colorado’s statewide economy.

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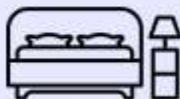
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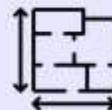
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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## OP-ED: FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY ISN'T OPTIONAL — IT'S OUR OBLIGATION

*To my Constituents:*

In today's political climate, the words "fiscal responsibility" get thrown around a lot. But for me, as a Montrose County Commissioner, it's not just a phrase — it's a principle I take seriously and one I believe taxpayers expect from their elected officials.

To be fiscally responsible means making smart financial decisions: balancing budgets, controlling spending, planning for the future, and ensuring that every dollar is spent wisely. This isn't optional — it's the foundation of good governance.

Despite that, I've been accused of being fiscally irresponsible. Let me be clear: those claims are false.

One of the most significant financial decisions made in recent years was the approval of the North Campus building. I opposed this project — not for political reasons, but because it simply didn't make financial sense. The outgoing Board of County Commissioners signed off on this \$25 million project on December 18, 2024 — just six weeks after voters chose a new board, and less than a month before they left office.

Our Finance Director had raised serious concerns about the project's cost and long-term viability. The building lacked any room for expansion, effectively making it obsolete before construction even began. Since approval, the project has ballooned to \$28 million and undergone five costly design changes — the latest alone estimated at \$500,000.

I proposed hitting pause on the project so the newly elected board could review the Finance Department's warnings. But that effort was shut down after our County Attorney warned of a potential lawsuit if we didn't move forward.

Since taking office, I've uncovered more troubling information. In January 2023, nearly two years before the North Campus was approved, the previous board signed an ***Exclusive Right of First Refusal*** (see link) giving an out-of-state developer priority to purchase the existing South Campus building. This agreement, signed by then-Chair Sue Hansen, is in effect until the end of 2027.

Why was this deal made so far in advance, with no clear public discussion? Why were the concerns of the Finance Department ignored? And why was the incoming board — chosen by the voters — left out of such a massive decision?

Montrose County taxpayers deserve transparency, foresight, and honesty in how their money is spent. Fiscal responsibility isn't about pushing pet projects through at the last minute — it's about thoughtful planning and accountability.

As your commissioner, I'll continue to push for exactly that.

*Scott Mijares, Montrose County Commissioner*

[scottm4montrose@gmail.com](mailto:scottm4montrose@gmail.com)

[www.scottm4montrose.com](http://www.scottm4montrose.com)

## 2 New Services

Your health needs are always growing, and so are we. Montrose Regional Health now offers Neurology and Urology care with expert treatment...close to home.

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Helping you take care of what matters the most – bladder, kidney, and prostate health (Urinary symptoms, prostate issues, kidney concerns, etc.)





# MONTROSE COUNTY NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH MEETING

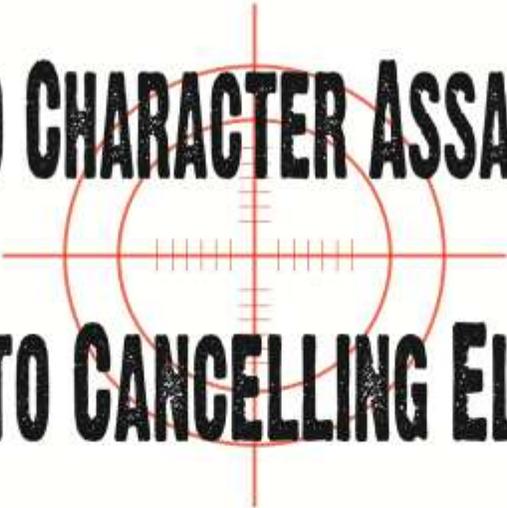
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**SAY NO TO THE RECALL**

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# NO PHONES, JUST EACH OTHER: WHAT I LEARNED IN WEST VIRGINIA

By Jack Switzer

OSWEGO, NY-I spent my three-month summer away from college in West Virginia, under the hot sun and in the dirt, working as a counselor for high school boys at a summer camp. I lived with more than 40 campers, and got to know each of them over the course of four separate two-week sessions. This camp is a somewhat uncommon thing to see in the modern age, as it was in a cellular dead zone, which meant no phones in sight. The kids didn't even bring them along. We slept in the same cabin, ate at the same tables, and played the same games. I was taught by a 12-year-old boy how to count cards in poker, and trick people out of their money, and another 14-year-old taught me how to play guitar. They made me laugh non-stop; they had so much heart.

One thing they all had in common however, was that despite being cell phone free, everything they knew seemed to come from social media platforms. Every session had a unique group of children, but they all knew the same jokes, acted in similar ways, and held similar opinions, and when I asked where their ideas came from, they always cited social media. This homogeneity isn't necessarily a bad thing, but it made me realize how influential these platforms are now--the kids are listening. The barrier between the world of grownups and adolescents is thinner than ever thanks to the Internet, and they know everything about things I was completely unaware of at their age. They have strong opinions on war, the status of our political parties, the competence of our leaders, the grey line of what's moral and what's legal.

Despite this, they're still growing up and don't really know what all of this means outside of what they've been told online, but they are able to have an opinion. They want to focus on playing sports, talking about video games, and listening to music new and old. They have found strong support in online communities because they can find people all over the world who love these same things as them. Camp had four pillars of education which they focused on to help the campers in their development, and the one that stuck with me the most is "Community is the antidote to loneliness." These children have a stronger sense of worldwide community than most of us ever did thanks to the growing internet, and it has made them stronger. So whenever I hear people talking about how divided we're becoming because of polarization in the media, I realize thanks to my campers that it's not as true as they want us to think. Headlines are sensational because that's how they get attention; politicians and political speakers want us to be divided because it makes us confused and easier for them to push an agenda. We are all part of a larger community, and we all care about our neighbors. This community I had the privilege to be a part of over the summer reminded me of how important it is to give gifts to your neighbor, whether it's food or knowledge, or just a helping hand. With the giving season coming around the corner, think about your neighbors and how you can help strengthen our existing communities without the media. It's a cruel world, but we don't have to be cruel to each other.



Courtesy photo Jack Switzer.

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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD VOTE FOR TIFFANY VINCENT FOR SCHOOL BOARD

Editor:

Tiffany might appear to be a shy, reserved candidate, but the opposite is true. The following are some reasons why you should consider voting for her.

1. Although I believe that teaching experience is not necessarily a qualification to serve as a Board Director, Tiffany has worked for many years as a coach, and in early childhood education in public and private schools. Currently, she teaches physical education, and for the past couple of years has taught middle school math.
2. At work she has the opportunity to talk to many teachers and families who have left MCSD for a different school option or a more supportive workplace. She has heard firsthand what problems people have had in the district schools. This has been one of the reasons that

- has compelled her to run for School Board. Also, she had a negative experience in MCSD with one of her sons, who she withdrew from the District, and went on to thrive in a private school setting for the past five years. This semester he returned to public school.
3. She wants to work to make the classroom less politicized. She believes that sexualized material should not be taught in K-5 classrooms.
  4. She is willing to listen to parents when they think subject matter, curriculum or books are inappropriate.
  5. She wants to work with the Board to find creative ways for parents to be more informed of what's going on with their child, especially when it comes to mental or physical health, such as medical treatments or advice that might go against parents' beliefs. Keeping in-

formation such as critical health concerns from parents crosses her line of morality.

This is the source of her slogan: "No More Secrets."

After seeing multiple Colorado schools in the news for major assaults on parental rights, she wants to do whatever she can to shield our county from becoming a news story.

She is grateful for the support of the Republican Party, however, she and the other three candidates were not asked for permission to have signs made, or have statements about "woke" or a failed school district associated with their candidacy.

Please get to know Tiffany at the forums this week.

I believe she will be an effective voice for her District.

*Leah Vandersluis, Montrose*

## A WAKEUP CALL FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Editor:

Montrose this is a wake up call!

The question is the recall of Scott Mijares but the real question is : What ideology do you want to lead our County?

The groups of Indivisible, No Kings, LWV "red-robed ladies" or "Hand Maidens Tales" are groups behind the recall of Scott Mijares. Indivisible ideology is to resist Republican, conservative government and push aggressive progressive policies. They stand with the library spending \$17,000 in 2024-2025 of our tax money in support of woke / LGBTQ agendas, Montrose Pride, and are affiliated with Act Blue donations. This is more than just a recall race, it represents what is happening to overthrow conservative candidates who are elected to stand for the people of the county.

The recall would automatically replace our conservative Commissioner Scott Mijares with a democrat liberal choice ( however registered unaffiliated) for County Commissioner. We will not be able to elect a different choice.

Scott Mijares has shown a willingness to ask tough questions on the finances of our County . He has stood against land grabs and the over reach in Government. He will continue to be transparent and fight for our conservative values.

VOTE "NO RECALL " on Scott Mijares

*Joe and Tamara Stucky*

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Discover timeless appeal and modern comfort in this what seems to be a Mid-Century Modern home. With 2,072 sq ft of single-level living, the layout offers both roominess and accessibility. The oversized two-bay garage features a dedicated workspace — perfect for hobbies, storage, or weekend projects. Enjoy outdoor living in the privacy-fenced backyard with a generous covered patio, ideal for entertaining or relaxing in style. Mature landscaping, a full sprinkler system, and a classic brick facade with a durable metal roof add to the home's impressive curb appeal. Inside, you'll find: A large, inviting living room. This home has a fireplace with a gas insert. A fabulous den — perfect for a home office, studio, or media room. A well-appointed kitchen with solid surface counter tops and a pantry, roomy enough for a second refrigerator. Incredible storage throughout — more than you may ever need! Notice the second water heater by the bedrooms and an additional H2o source under the kitchen sink. Located adjacent to Montrose Golf Course, this property offers scenic serenity with the convenience of being in the heart of Montrose — close to dining, shopping, and all the best the city has to offer. This home blends classic design with everyday function — and it's truly one-of-a-kind.



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**06.24.2025**    **11.18.2025**  
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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## COLORADO WEST LAND TRUST: SUCCESS OF WATER PROTECTION PLAN

*Special to the Mirror*

WESTERN COLORADO — One year after establishing a visionary Water Protection Plan, Colorado West Land Trust (CWLT) has released its Water Protection Plan Impact Report, which documents the significant progress the Land Trust has made in protecting the lifeblood of Western Colorado and enhancing critical habitat.

Launched in September 2024, the Water Protection Plan set out a bold roadmap to accelerate land and water protection, enhance resilience in vulnerable areas, promote forest health and floodplain restoration, preserve habitats, and build collaborative capacity.

Over the past year, CWLT has collaborated with partners and landowners to implement these goals, enhancing the security of water for agriculture, wildlife, and communities across the region.

Since the introduction of the plan, CWLT has permanently conserved eight properties that directly support the livelihoods tied to water security. This includes protecting 386 acres of riparian habitat and 1,806 acres of irrigated farmland. Conservation efforts have also safeguarded more than 30 miles of rivers across Colorado, including the North Fork of the Gunnison, Dolores, and Uncompahgre, ensuring

these waterways continue to support both people and ecosystems. In addition to land protection, CWLT completed 13 weeks of on-the-ground restoration work in 2025, in partnership with the Western Colorado Conservation Corps, to improve watershed function and resilience. These restoration projects stretched across the region.

In Glade Park, nine weeks of work focused on revegetating riparian areas, removing encroaching pinyon and juniper, and building erosion-control and meadow-restoration structures.

These efforts are already reducing erosion, increasing water retention in meadows, and supporting diverse plant and wildlife communities.

This November and beyond, CWLT and partners will restore more than 130 acres of riparian and wetland habitat by stabilizing streambanks, removing invasive species, and planting over 3,400 native plants on five conserved properties along the North Fork of the Gunnison River. This work enhances biodiversity, supports wildlife movement, and improves downstream water quality.

In Plateau Valley, Western Colorado Conservation Corps crews and the Colorado State Forest Service, in partnership with



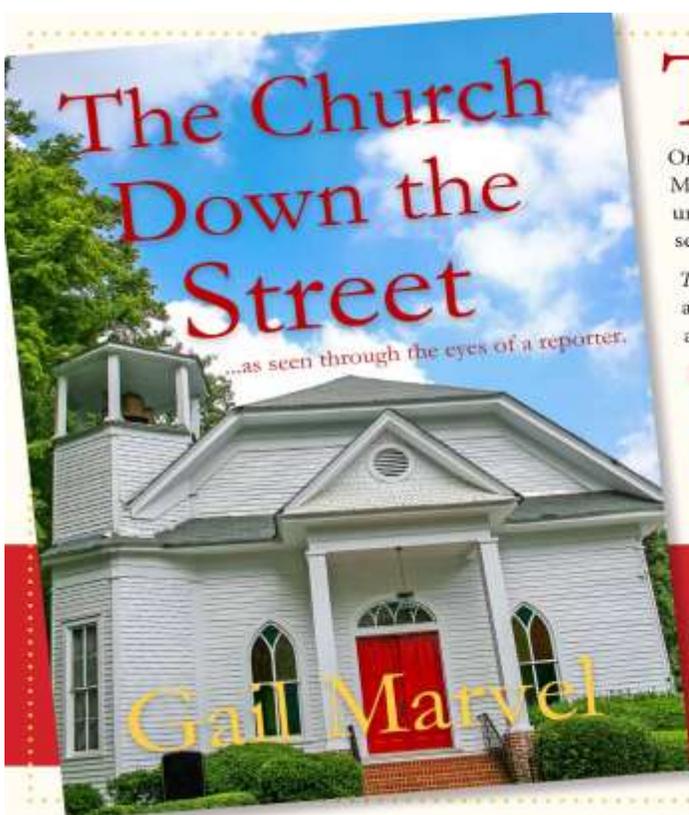
## COLORADO WEST LAND TRUST

Ute Water and Colorado West Land Trust, thinned overgrown vegetation to reduce hazardous fuels on conserved private lands near Grand Mesa National Forest. CWLT helped coordinate and design the project, which will lower wildfire risk and protect the Plateau Creek Canal—a key source of drinking and irrigation water for Mesa County residents and producers.

“Western Colorado’s future depends on how we protect and steward our water resources,” said Rob Bleiberg, Executive Director of CWLT. “Thanks to our partners, landowners, and supporters, the Water Protection Plan is already creating lasting impacts for people, wildlife, and working lands.”

The full [Water Protection Plan Impact Report](#) is available here.

View the [Water Protection Plan Summary](#) here.



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

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

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

**Readers will:**

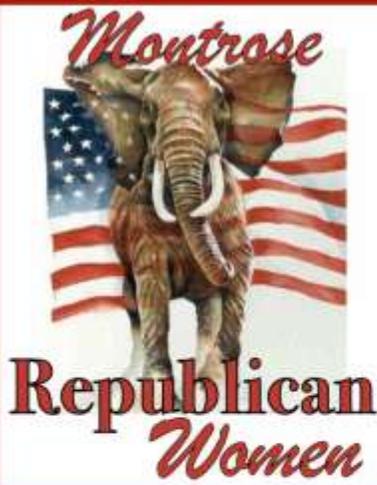
- See strengths and weaknesses in the worship service
- Re-evaluate hospitality toward visitors
- Become more aware of source material used in the worship service
- Compare and contrast music presentations and selections
- Discern the value and content of the sermon.

Gail Marvel’s book, *The Church Down the Street*, is available online at Amazon.com and wingedpublications.com.

GAIL MARVEL  
Montrose Author & Reporter



Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup>  
**October 2025**



**Montrose Republican Women**  
*present a Special Event*  
**Behind the Iron Curtain:**  
*A Journey to* **American Citizenship**

*Featuring:*

**Barbora Hurd**, wife of Congressman Jeff Hurd, was born and raised in communist Czechoslovakia. Behind the Iron Curtain, she witnessed firsthand how ideas—not power—have the final say when it comes to political change.

**Now a proud U.S. citizen**, Barbora speaks about her journey to American citizenship, the importance of freedom, American democracy and principled leadership.



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RSVP to [MontroseRepublicanWomen@gmail.com](mailto:MontroseRepublicanWomen@gmail.com)  
**Montrose Republican Women**  
**Soup / Salad Lunch & Program**  
**Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup>**

**Noon - 1:30p** (Doors open -11:30a)

**Ute Indian Museum**  
**17253 Chipeta Road - Montrose**

**Please RSVP:** [MontroseRepublicanWomen@gmail.com](mailto:MontroseRepublicanWomen@gmail.com)

Get Involved  
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# Annual Holiday Crafts & Bazaar

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**SATURDAY, NOV. 1ST  
9AM TO 4PM**

**SUNDAY, NOV. 2ND  
11AM TO 4PM**



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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

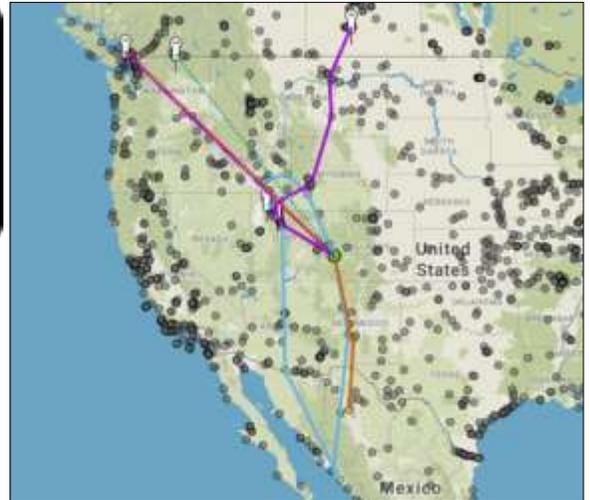
## MOTUS: A NEW APPROACH TO TRACKING ANIMAL MIGRATION

By Melissa S. Siders, Black Canyon Audubon Society.

MONTROSE-For decades, learning about animal movements entailed attaching a battery powered radio on an animal and trying to follow them. You were limited to only larger animals that could carry the weight of the battery. There is new technology used to track small animals over vast distances and it is changing how scientists study migrating animals. "Motus" is a Latin word meaning movement, motion, or progress. Motus is an international research community working together to study the movement and behaviour of birds, bats, and insects, especially related to seasonal migration. These animals carry miniaturized tags that transmit information to stations, usually called towers, placed across the landscape. Currently Motus has 2,278 stations, 472 species tagged, and over 60,000 animals tagged across 34 countries. These have resulted in 257 peer reviewed publications. All of which you can access.

This past spring, The Black Canyon Audubon Society joined the Motus community by purchasing and installing the *Chris Lazo Memorial Station* on Spring Creek Mesa. So far we have detected a white pelican, a tree swallow, a willow flycatcher, and two Wilson's phalarope. These birds are associated with five separate study organizations. It's amazing to look at their flights between Canada and Mexico, with a fly through Montrose. Five birds may not sound like much, but compared to some of the other western towers, Montrose appears to be an important route during migration.

**See Data.** If you would like to look at the amazing trips of the Montrose visitors, or any of the animals tagged throughout the Motus project, you can go to this link short cut link <https://bit.ly/4fn7RmC> or this QRCode or you can Google "motus wildlife tracking system". Please be patient, the web page is often slow to load. From the first page, click on "Continue". You can then zoom into western Colorado to Montrose to see the *Chris Lazo Memorial Station*, or you can zoom in to any dot on the map to explore other towers. Once you have selected a dot, a window will come up for the station. If you click "View Station", you will see all the data for that station. You will be able to see the general routes of various individual animals that had been tagged and what stations detected Motus tags. On the left side of the screen will be information about the tower. If you click on the project name next to "Deployed by:" you can get more information about the project.



**The Chris Lazo Memorial Motus Station near Montrose CO (green dot) with routes of bird's travel routes before and after detection at the station. Courtesy image.**



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

# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## NO KINGS PROTESTS RETURN ON OCT. 18

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE— In less than two weeks on Oct. 18, local residents from the Montrose, Ouray and San Miguel Counties will come together with millions of Americans

across the country in a nationwide day of nonviolent protest at the second No Kings Day of Action in Montrose, Colorado. There are currently over 2,100 events nationwide, with new events being added

daily.

Participants will gather peacefully at Centennial Plaza, 434 S. 1st Street in Montrose, Colorado at 3:30 pm to begin a rally and march. Participants are encouraged to wear a costume as their favorite hero for that fights for democracy. No weapons of any kind, including those legally permitted, should be brought to this event. Participants will hear from speakers and music prior to a peaceful, nonviolent march through downtown Montrose.

“In America, we are united against kings. President Trump has openly said he wants a third term and is already acting like a monarch - seizing control of Washington D.C., threatening other cities and using federal forces against his own people,” said local Indivisible group leader Holly Speaks. “But the American people don’t bow to kings. And together, yet again, we will peacefully mobilize in huge numbers to reject this corruption and authoritarian takeover of our country. Because it is in every American’s DNA.”

On June 14, more than five million people across all 50 states joined No Kings in the largest single-day protest yet against President Trump’s authoritarianism. The Oct.18 day of action is the next step in this growing movement, channeling that energy into yet another coordinated, peaceful mobilization.

We’re excited to join with other groups organizing the No Kings peaceful protests across the country including The League of Women Voters, Women’s March, ACLU, American Federation of Teachers, Common Defense, 50501, Human Rights Campaign, Indivisible, League of Conservation Voters, MoveOn, National Nurses United, Public Citizen, SEIU, among others. A full list of partners can be seen at [www.nokings.org/partners](http://www.nokings.org/partners).

For a full list of participating cities and event details, visit [www.NoKings.org](http://www.NoKings.org). All No Kings events adhere to a shared commitment to nonviolent protest and community safety. Organizers are trained in de-escalation and are working closely with local partners to ensure peaceful and powerful actions nationwide.

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# Colorado-ology

# COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

## CHARLOTTE GRACE SIMKINS

*March 31, 1938 — September 22, 2025*

CHARLOTTE GRACE SIMKINS of Montrose was born on March 31, 1938 and passed away on September 22, 2025. She was born in Wyoming to Sumpter and Grace Patterson. The family moved to Boulder CO where she grew up and graduated from Boulder HS. She then went to college in Gunnison CO where she majored in music.

She married the love of her life, John (Jack) Simkins on November 28, 1959 in Boulder, CO. They were blessed with six children. The family then moved to Montrose, CO Labor Day weekend in 1970. They were a close family who enjoyed family get togethers – there wasn't a birthday, holiday or any other special occasion that went by without some kind of celebration. The house was full of laughter and family and friends. The parties often extended to the garage where they played pool, poker and sang karaoke. Summers included weekly lunches on the patio with family and friends, as well as BBQ's, volleyball and other outside games.

She was a paraprofessional at Northside Elementary for many years and still has kids that she helped thank her for believing in them and making a difference in their lives. She and Jack had a used furniture store for many years as well as auctions. The auctions started out in the back part of Howlett's furniture on Thursday nights and that was local entertainment for many people. They then moved north

of town to a building and continued weekly auctions and the used furniture store there. Antique auctions were held four times a year at the Friendship Hall and Charlotte continued those after Jack passed away until last year when she decided it was too much work.

She was an avid Rockies and Nuggets fan and loved not only watching the games but going with family to see them live. She loved to gamble, and she and Jack would travel with long time family friends to various gambling places in Colorado, Las Vegas and Deadwood, SD.

She loved classical music and was a member of the Valley Symphony Orchestra for many years. She played the Bass and only recently decided it was too heavy to lug around, and she couldn't drive after dark. She inherited her mother's baby grand piano and enjoyed playing that as well as all of the kids and grandkids.

She had recently enjoyed a trip to Mexico with several family members – they even got her out into the ocean on this trip. The last three years she and her friend Bob would pick up sack lunches for KidsAid and deliver them to the local schools so kids could have meals on the weekends. She enjoyed this very much and it gave her something to do and look forward to.

Charlotte was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Jack, her infant daughter Shownalyn, her sister Ann, her brothers, Dean and George. She is sur-



vived by her sister Sheri Swerdfeger, Children: Jennifer Culver, Randy Simkins, Jill Piatt (Gary), Allison Anderson & Stephanie Tait (Brian). Her grandchildren: Christopher Simkins, Franklin Culver (Ren), Bradley Culver (Rebecca), Maylee Simkins, Preston Piatt (Leslee), Shelby Piatt, Zachary Passmore and Kylie Grett (Cole). Great Grandchildren: Sabastine Simkins, Anita Miramontes, Michael Culver, Madison Culver, Kaylee Culver, Dax Landen, Lilly Landen, Lane Piatt, Colton Piatt, Preslee Piatt, Harrison Grett and Sullivan Grett. Service for Charlotte will be held Saturday October 18th at 10am at Calvary Chapel and will conclude there.



## COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

### THOMAS E. COURTNEY

**August 11, 1944 — September 23, 2025**

THOMAS E. "TOM" COURTNEY, an 81-year-old husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather known for his vibrant personality, passed away surrounded by love. Born in DeKalb, Illinois, to Thomas and Marilyn (Sanderson) Courtney, he was their firstborn child and cherished first grandchild in both the Courtney and Sanderson families.

Tom had a lifelong dream of living in the mountains of Colorado, a dream he realized after college when he moved to Boulder. There, he began a career in banking and later transitioned into real estate. In 1972, he settled in Colorado Springs, where he began a thriving career, married his beloved wife, Roe, with whom he shared 48 years of marriage, and raised a wonderful family. Tom was known for his charisma, integrity, and unwavering dedication to his family,

Tom's real estate career was a testament to his passion and commitment. He worked with respected companies such as Van Schaack & Co., Re/Max, and Colorado Brokers before co-founding Courtney & Courtney with his wife, Roe. After many successful years, he and Roe embraced the adventure of full-time RV living for 14 years, allowing them to connect with people across the country. They spent 20 years off and on in Titusville, FL (TGO) before settling in Montrose, CO. Tom's journey in both real estate and life left a lasting impact on those he met along the way.

Tom was the true embodiment of loyalty, commitment, and a delightful, sarcastic wit.

His laughter was like sunshine, brightening every room and spreading joy to everyone he met. It's no wonder he became known as Santa Tom—a title that captured both his generosity and his ability to make others smile. Fantastic storyteller, Tom, had a way of bringing memories to life. Whether surrounded by friends, gathered at a holiday table, or in the middle of an everyday conversation, he was always ready to share a tale—ensuring those moments could be laughed at, learned from, and cherished for years to come.

There were legendary stories of Pizza Villa in DeKalb, always told with a wink and a grin. Then there was the image of Tom behind the wheel of his convertible TR6—top down in the snow—on his way to the slopes, grinning like a kid on Christmas morning. And of course, the unforgettable sailing adventures on his MC Scow, where he risked everything—including the safety and sanity of all children aboard—for the thrill of the wind and water.

Tom didn't just tell stories — he lived them. And in doing so, he gave those around him the kind of memories that will echo for generations.

Tom is survived by his four children: Thomas "Tod" Courtney (Paula) of Castle Rock, CO, Matt Preston (Sheri) of Marietta, GA, Jenna Lanfor (Mike) of Havelock, NC, and Bryan Courtney (April) of Broomfield, CO. He leaves behind a legacy of love through his grandchildren: Rebekah Garcia (Brian), Jordan Courtney, Mckenzy Evans (James), Ryan Preston, and Marley Preston, along with his great-grandchild, Julio Garcia.

Preceding him in death were his parents and his brothers Kevin, David, and Craig Courtney. He will be lovingly remembered by his sisters, Susan Courtney Marshall (Pat) and Erin Hooks (Rob), as well as his nephews and niece, Sean and Kevin Marshall, and Colleen and Chris Hooks.

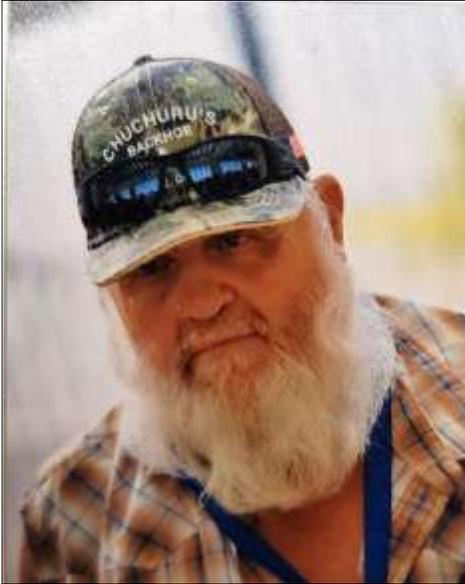
In lieu of flowers, the family encourages you to share a happy memory of Tom or enjoy a game of golf or pickleball in his honor. At this time, no services are planned, but his spirit will forever hold a special place in the hearts of those who knew him.



# COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

## BRUCE CHUCHURU

*February 7, 1953 — September 19, 2025*



BRUCE CHUCHURU of Montrose, Co. Passed away on Friday, September 19, 2025. Bruce is preceded in death by Bernard and Virginia Chuchuru. Bruce is survived by his wife of 25 years, Robin Chuchuru (Hranchak), his brother Kent Chuchuru and wife Marilyn and his two sisters, Debra Chuchuru of Phoenix, Az. And Vicki Scott (Ron) of Phoenix, Az. Bruce had two adopted sons, Doug Chuchuru of Westminster, Co and Lindsay Passmore of Silt, Co., as well as multiple grandchildren and great grandchildren.

For the last 50+ years Bruce owned and operated a very successful business in Montrose, Co. Called Chuchuru's Backhoe

and Dozer. He could run any piece of equipment set before him. As a young boy his family raised sheep in the Cimmaron. Dad had him on a tractor when he could reach the pedals. He loved going to the hills, camping, four wheeling in the roughest terrain he could find, and a big, juicy steak. He enjoyed cruises and trips with his wife, and going to Con-Expo every 3 years. If you had Bruce as a friend, you had a true friend. The world lost a wonderful husband, friend and just all-around special person. He will be deeply missed by all who were blessed to have known him.

A Celebration of Life will be held October 18, 2025, at the shop between 2pm-5pm.

## MARGARET "MARGE" BAIRD

*December 25, 1937 — September 22, 2025*

MARGARET (MARGE) BAIRD passed away at Willow Tree Care Facility on September 22, 2025. Marge was born in New Mexico on December 25, 1937.

During her years of marriage, she and her husband Lynn lived in various places as they raised their four children.

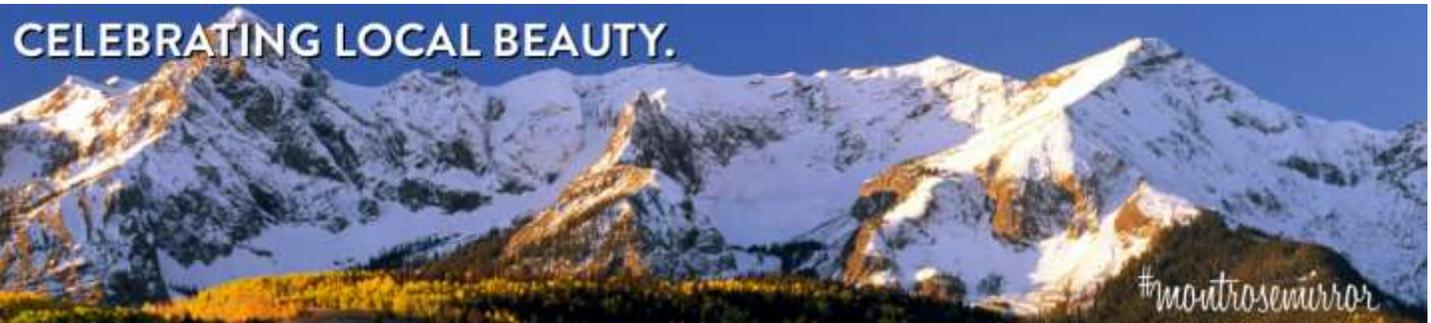
They lived in California, Arizona, Idaho, Colorado and finally settled in Montrose. She most recently lived at Willow Tree Care Facility in Delta, CO.

She joins her husband of 56 years who passed away in 2018 along with one son, Benny and her mother, Lucy Lee and her father, Jose Perez. She is survived by one son, Lynn Jr and two daughters, Bonnie and Lisa, as well as nine grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.

Marge was a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in Montrose.

She volunteered many years in the church library, as well as donated her time and baking/cooking talents to many service projects.

She worked for many years at Montrose Memorial Hospital and then enjoyed volunteering there after she retired.



# COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

## STEVE MATHIS

STEVE MATHIS passed away peacefully in his home on September 25<sup>th</sup> 2025. Montrose just lost one of its finest.

Born in Chicago; Illinois to Arlis A. Mathis and Mary Jean (Trowbridge) Mathis, Steve was raised in Boone; Iowa and attended Cornell College in Cedar Rapids. After serving two years in the Army he returned to Iowa, attended law school at Drake University in Des Moines, and in 1975 moved to Montrose with his wife Cathy and opened a private law practice.

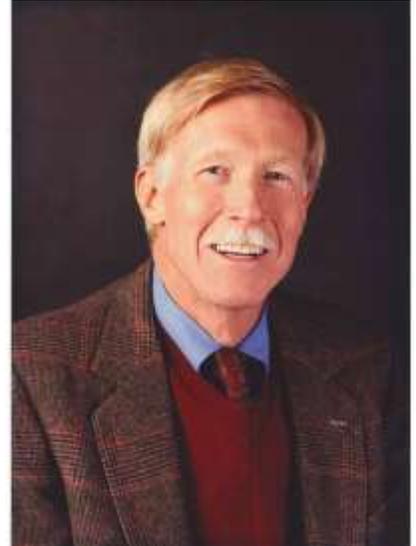
He and Cathy had two children; daughter Meggan and son Todd. They divorced in 1987. He met his wife Mary at a Dalby Wendland Christmas party and married in 1988, welcoming two more daughters, Sara and Staci.

Steve's passion was flying and he had many airplanes over 45 years of being a pilot. In 2013, after finding his "perfect" plane in Stuggart Germany, and over Mary's strident objections, he and friend Jim Pearsall traveled to Germany and flew the plane back to Montrose, resulting in a bucket list adventure.

Steve was involved in amateur radio and Boy Scouts, becoming an Eagle Scout at age 16. He was an active Rotarian for nearly 50 years, serving as President and working on many committees and projects.

Steve is survived by his wife Mary, sister Barb (Jim) Gohman, and children Meggan Mathis, Todd (Heidi) Mathis, Sara Thomas and Staci (Ray) Kurian.

Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Crippin Funeral Home.



# The Mirror:

*For coverage that never leaves  
our readers out in cold ...*



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

## COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

### AIDEN MCVAY

***February 22, 2007-October 6, 2024***

One year ago at 12:23 PM on October 6, 2024, just as Aiden had wished, Aiden died in my arms, listening to my heartbeat.

Aiden fought until the very end.

Aiden was seventeen years old.

Aiden's death was an act of radical defiance against bigotry.

Aiden felt that no one loved them and no one ever truly listened. Aiden's death was horrific, painful, and preventable. Aiden had more time but because no one wanted to listen to a nonverbal child, the brightest of lights has burnt out.

Aiden was right when they told me, "You and me are like stars. No one notices us until we're already dead."

So take notice now. Because something beautiful has to come out of this.

Because no one will ever see what Aiden truly was. Because this ugly world took Aiden out in such an ugly way and I'm gonna be damned if there's not something beautiful.

So find something beautiful. Be something beautiful, because Aiden can't.

So do as Aiden said, do as Aiden did, and "turn the ugly into something beautiful."

If you would like to read more about Aiden and see their work and their philosophy of "Turn the Ugly into Something Beautiful" visit

<https://aidenmcvay.com>

<https://aidenmcvay.com>



### DARLENE CLAIR

***September 14, 1947 — October 1, 2025***



DARLENE CLAIR was born on September 14, 1947, in Alamosa, CO, at Alamosa Hospital to Howard and Billie June Bradley. Darlene passed away on October 1, 2025. She was preceded in death by her parents, Howard and Billie June Bradley, and son Richard Robert Clair. She is survived by her husband Richard Clair, Daughter Angela (Robert) Morgan of Grand Junction, Brother David (Diana) Bradley of Pueblo, CO.

She enjoyed her grandchildren, Rachael, Sarah, and Erin (Lori), and her 4 great grandchildren. Darlene worked as the Branch Service Manager for Vectra Bank for 20+ years and always had a smile for anyone coming in the door. She truly loved her customers. Darlene loved reading and loved sharing her ministry of loaning books. Her books have gone all over the United States and even on ships in the Navy. She was always on the hunt for new books and spent numerous hours arranging and organizing her library.

CELEBRATING LOCAL BEAUTY.

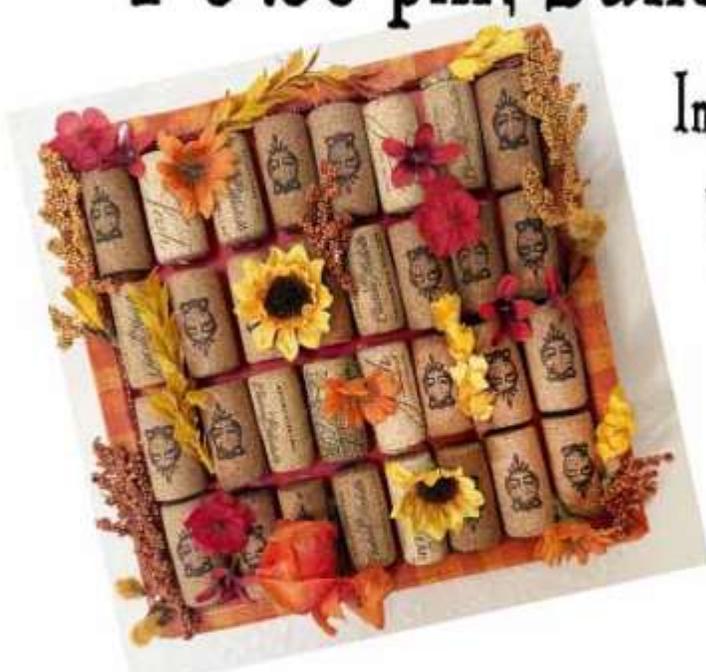


montrosemirror.com

# Create a Decorated Corkbox

## LA NOUVE DUBOIS WINERY

### 1-3:30 pm, Sunday, October 12th.



Includes FREE Wine Tour with Tasting

What do you do with old corks?

Turn them into a work of art!

Use your Corkbox as a coaster, trivet, table decoration, or floral collage and hang it on the wall.

# FUN

Shadowbox board and corks provided. Or bring your own corks. We'll have paint and glue, bling, and seasonal florals as well.

Workshop with Kate Burke includes a glass of wine or soft drink, and a colorful snack.



\$50-\$55. No additional discounts except Wine Club due to materials cost.

Register <https://kathrynRburke.com/101225wine>



ISSUE 542 Oct. 6, 2025

# ART & SOL

## CLAIRE BLOTTER WINS FISCHER POETRY PRIZE



Poet Claire Blotter. Courtesy photo.

### Special to Art & Sol

TELLURIDE-The Telluride Institute's Talking Gourds Poetry Program is proud to announce the winner of the 29th Annual Fischer Prize for Poetry: Claire Blotter for her poem, *Water*.

"A powerful performance piece, the poem moves like water in telling us about its narrator," noted Judge Art Goodtimes. "Committing to one idea, and then sliding out of that eddy into another ripple in Blotter's narrative flow of singing, dancing, talking."

Born in New Jersey, Claire holds a B.A. in English Literature from U.C. Berkeley and

a Master's degree in Creative Writing, Women's Studies and Speech Communication from San Francisco State University. She has published three chapbooks and a full length collection, *EXPANDING.WATER.WAYS*, which she has been reading and performing along threatened wetlands and waterways near her home in Northern California.

She has received two Marin Arts Council Artist Grants in Poetry, as well as grants from the Marin Community Foundation, the Flow Fund and the Nathan Cummings Foundation. Blotter represented San Francisco in National Performance Slams in Chicago, Boston and San Francisco. Her award-winning video documentary – *Wake Up Call: Saving the Songbirds* – has been screened in 11 film festivals from Mill Valley to Chicago. She teaches performance poetry in Bay Area universities and to elementary, middle and high-school students as part of the California Poets in the Schools Program. In 2018 she was a finalist in the Fischer Prize contest.

Claire receives \$1000 cash award.

Five Outstanding finalists will get \$250 each, starting with Carlos Andrés Gómez of Atlanta (Georgia) for "Pantoum after [Today's Mass Shooting](#)" which was first published in the *Nation*. Andrés-Gómez was a finalist last year with his poem "Aperture" and in 2019 he won first place in the Fischer contest. Dean Gessie of Ontario (Canada) scored with "Deer (sic) Poetry Contest Judges" and Kate Adams of Mountain View (California) with "Triple

Conjunction." Ja'net Danielo of Long Beach (California) won with "Migration." In 2021 Danielo took first place for her poem, "We Thank the Veteran for His Service." The final prize winner was Eliana Lambros of Missoula (Montana) with "Lightning Rod."

Honorable Mentions this year go to Isabel Shen of Oakland (California) with "Copydaughter," Jonathan X. Liu of Alberta (Canada) with "Palimpsest with Missing Name," Julie Cummings of Conifer (Colorado) with "While You Try to Float (Sestina)," Leander P. E. Isler of Rueschlikon (Switzerland) with "An Incantation of New Beginnings" (under consideration for the Oxford Poetry Prize), Devreaux Baker of Mendocino (California) with "Blue Requiem," Michelle Bitting of Marina del Rey (California) with "The Clearing," Jill Manning of Playa del Rey (California) with "Crossing Through Denali," Jacob Sheetz-Willard of Leadville (Colorado) with "Curriculum Vitae" (first published in *American Literary Review*), Mara Adamitz Scrupe of New Canton (Virginia), Elaine Zimmerman of Hamden (Connecticut) with "No Longer Missing," Allison Kujiraoka of Fukushima (Japan) with "Natal One," Susan Carew of Colorado Springs for "Bride of Dream Man," Donald Levering of Santa Fe NM 87507 with "A Fortune" and Eric Paul Shaffer of Kailua (Hawaii) with "Illumination."

This, the award's 29<sup>th</sup> year, saw 465 entries from 235 poets mostly from the U.S. (New York to Hawaii) but including work

Continued next pg

# CLAIRE BLOTTER WINS FISCHER POETRY PRIZE *From previous pg*

work from English-speaking poets from around the world: Uruguay, Japan, France, Italy, England, Sweden, Switzerland, Australia, India, Hong Kong, Singapore, United Arab Emirates, New Zealand and Canada. Preliminary judge this year was Ellen Metrick of Colorado and final judge was Talking Gourds Director Art Goodtimes of Colorado.

The Fischer Prize is awarded annually to poets from around the country (or around the world) writing in English. Past Fischer winners include Anna Scotti, Michelle Bitting, Devreaux Baker and Ja'net Danielo of California, Rebecca Foust of Minnesota, Mary Anne Crowe of New Mexico, Wendy Videlock, Kyle Harvey, Jill Burkey and Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer of Colorado, Jonathan Greenhouse of New Jersey and Carlos Andrés Gómez then of New York.

"Our national poetry contests are the primary way poets can help us support the many poetry projects we do on Colorado's Western Slope," noted Goodtimes. "Plus, there's the bonus that one might also win a prize. We offer feedback on submissions, if desired."

We are especially indebted to the late Elaine Fischer, Sheldon Cantor and the Cantor Family for their support of these awards for the past 29 years.



**Alpen Confections**  
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**Tacos & Beer on Main**  
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**Pahgre's**  
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**Premier Sponsor:**  
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**Jimmer's BBQ,  
Burgers & Beer**  
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**Fiesta Guadalajara**  
970-249-2460

**El Jimador**  
970-249-8990

**Busy Corner White Kitchen**  
970-323-6215

**Delta: CB's Tavern**  
970-399-3570



**Lighthouse Eatery**  
970-964-7570

**Ray's Corner Cafe**  
970-417-4340

**Trattoria de Sofia**  
970-249-0433

**Rib City**  
970-249-7427

**Stone House**  
970-240-8899

**Sidelines Sports Bar**  
970-765-0129

**Amelias Hacienda Restaurante**  
970-249-1881

**Delta: Pour Ernie's**  
970-546-0074



# MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY

## ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

**Office Hours:** By appointment.

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

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

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

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

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

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

## BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Olathe, Co 81425

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

Pastor Gabe Skillo

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Sunday 6 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Study/Prayer 7 p.m.

## CELEBRATION CHURCH

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

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

**Office Hours:** By appointment

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

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

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

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

**Senior Pastor:**

Pastor Brandon Mathis

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

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

**Demographics:** Multi-generational

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

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

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

## CHRIST'S CHURCH OF THE VALLEY

**Name of Church:** Christ's Church of the  
 Valley

**Denomination Affiliation:** Non-  
 denominational Christian Church/Church  
 of Christ

**Address:** 10 Hillcrest Plaza Way. Mont-  
 rose, CO 81401

**Office hours:** Tuesday & Wednesday 9am-  
 noon and by appointment.

**Contact information:**

Phone: 970-249-0530

Email: [CCVMontroseCO10@gmail.com](mailto:CCVMontroseCO10@gmail.com)

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

**Name of current Senior Pastor:** Ken Law-  
 rence

**Worship service times:** 10:30 a.m.

**Mission:** Christ's Church of the Valley is a  
 loving and welcoming church whose pur-  
 pose is to help people to know and grow

in our Lord Jesus Christ to the glory of  
 God.

**Description:** CCV is a multi-generational  
 church family. While we are currently pre-  
 dominately seniors, we are becoming  
 more multi-generational.

**Sunday School & Childcare:** CCV has  
 adult Sunday School at 9 a.m. and Youth  
 Church during the 10:30 a.m. worship  
 service.

## CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

**Denomination:** Christ Lutheran Montrose

**Affiliation:** Lutheran Church Missouri Syn-  
 od

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

**Contact:** 970-633-0226

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

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

**Pastor:** Tim Onnen

**Worship:** Sundays at 9 AM

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

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

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

## COMMUNITY SPIRIT CHURCH

**United Church of Christ (UCC)**

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

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

**Phone:** 970-765-7070

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

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

**Current Pastor:** Rev. Wendy Kidd

**Worship service:** Sundays at 11am

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

where everyone can live freely and au-  
 thentically.

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

## COVENANT HEBRAIC FELLOWSHIP

**Denomination affiliation.** No affiliation

**Address Office hours** N/A

**Contact:** 720-951-9941,

[office@ccfmontrose.net](mailto:office@ccfmontrose.net),

[www.ccfmontrose.net](http://www.ccfmontrose.net)

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

**Worship service times.** Noon on Satur-  
 days. 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:** Tuesday - Thursday 9 am - Noon and by Appointment  
**Contact Information:** Office Phone 970 249 -9213, [mncfirst@gmail.com](mailto:mncfirst@gmail.com), [www.montrosenazarenechurch.org](http://www.montrosenazarenechurch.org)

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MONTROSE

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

## 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:**

## MONTROSE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

## ROSEMONT BAPTIST CHURCH

**Affiliation:** Southern Baptist  
**Address:** 1598 E. Niagara Road, Montrose, CO 81401  
**Office Hours:** Tues-Thurs, 9am-4pm  
**Contact information:**  
 Phone: 970.249.4887  
 website: [www.RosemontBaptist.org](http://www.RosemontBaptist.org)  
 email: [office@rosemontbaptist.org](mailto:office@rosemontbaptist.org)  
**Senior Pastor:** Rolland Kenneson  
**Worship Service Times:** Our engaging and relevant Sunday Worship Service is at

## 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](mailto:arlyn@spiritaware.org), [www.spiritaware.org](http://www.spiritaware.org)  
**Name of current pastor:** Rev. Dr. Arlyn

**Pastor:** Interim Pastor Ian Hyde  
**Services Sunday:** Worship 10:30 AM, Discipleship Hour: 9:30 AM. Discipleship Hour has classes across all age groups. Nursery for children UNDER 3 is available during Worship.  
**Mission Statement:** Montrose First Church of the Nazarene exists to make

**Contact:** 970-249-4732, [in-form@fpcmontrose.com](mailto:in-form@fpcmontrose.com), [www.fpcmontrose.com](http://www.fpcmontrose.com)  
**Pastor:** Rev. Dr. Jesse G. Mabanglo  
**Worship Service times:** 9:30AM, We strive to encourage, challenge and

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

[roseumc.org](http://roseumc.org)  
**Current Senior Pastor:** Rev. Kevin Young  
**Worship service times:**  
**9:15 AM to 10:15 AM:** Children's, Youth, and Adult Sunday School; Christian Education & Fellowship.  
**10:30 AM:** Sanctuary & Virtual Worship  
 Montrose UMC is a leader in being fully

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

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., 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month; Chai Chats, a Wednesday morning midweek informal spiritual gathering at 10:30 a.m. at Pun Hill Himalayan Restaurant, Mont-

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.

*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.*

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.

*inclusive, loving, and just servants of Christ. Our church family welcomes people from various cultural and faith backgrounds: single, married, remarried, with or without children, from diapers to dentures. Wherever you are on your spiritual journey we invite you to come discover hope, joy, peace, purpose.*

*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.

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.

# MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY From previous pg

## 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](mailto:rose@yahoo.com)  
[www.ststephensmontrose.com](http://www.ststephensmontrose.com)  
**Rev. Dec.** Garrett Agajanian  
St. Stephen's is a community of caring Christians rooted in the godly traditions of the past, focused on the challenges of the

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

## VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH OF MONTROSE

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

6874; email at [info@vbcmontrose.org](mailto:info@vbcmontrose.org); website: [vbcmontrose.org](http://vbcmontrose.org)  
**Current Pastor:** Roland Kassales  
**Worship Service Times:** Sunday School at 9:30am, Sunday AM Service at 10:30am, Sunday PM Service at 6pm, Wednesday Night Service at 6:30pm (all services include childcare)

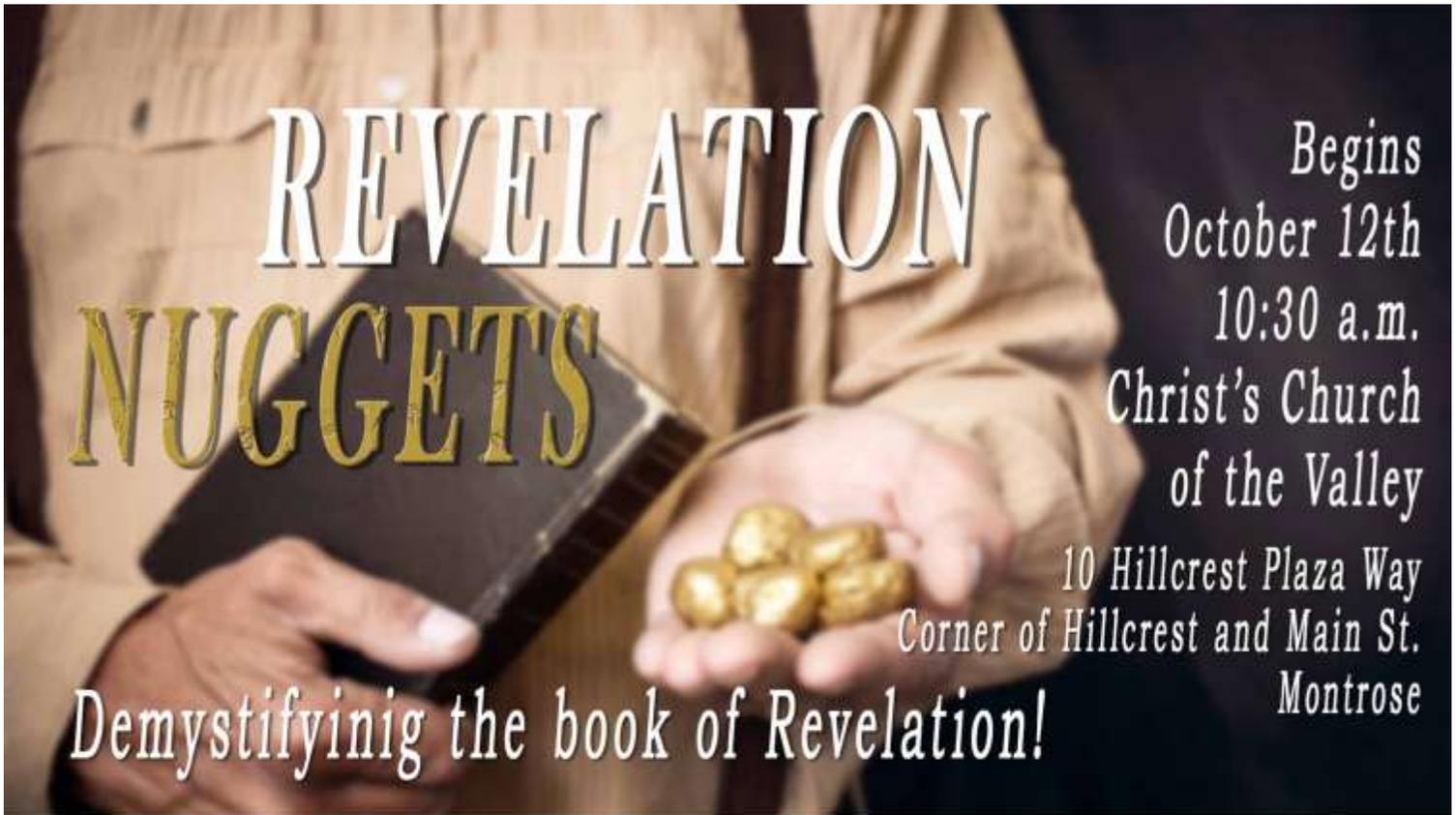
*Victory Baptist Church exists to exalt God, edify saints, and evangelize the lost. Demographics: Victory Baptist serves everyone with age-appropriate classes, groups, and activities. Families with children make up the majority of VBC with young adults, singles, middle-aged couples, and seniors comprising the rest.*

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

information to the Montrose Mirror:  
Name of church  
Denomination affiliation  
Address Office hours  
Contact information (phone number, email address, website)  
Name of current Senior Pastor  
Worship service times

Please give a one sentence description of your church and its mission in the Montrose community.  
Brief description of your current church demographics (predominately family, youth, seniors, singles).  
Do your church services include Sunday School and childcare?





# REVELATION

## NUGGETS

Begins  
October 12th

10:30 a.m.

Christ's Church  
of the Valley

10 Hillcrest Plaza Way

Corner of Hillcrest and Main St.

Montrose

Demystifyinig the book of Revelation!

***“Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near.”-Rev. 1:3***

The book of Revelation is probably the most **mysterious** and **misunderstood** book of the bible. It is often neglected by Christians because they feel that Revelation is just too difficult to read and understand.

Beginning October 12th, Christ's Church of the Valley in Montrose will kick off a study of the book of Revelation, to unearth the many nuggets of wisdom contained in it and to gain an overview of what the book of Revelation is all about, in a clear, easy to understand way.

We want to demystify Revelation and show people they can read it and understand it.

**You are invited to join us Sundays at 10:30 a.m.  
Christ's Church of the Valley - 10 Hillcrest Plaza Way  
Corner of Hillcrest and Main St. in Montrose.**



**Why Use an SRES®**

**A Seniors Real Estate Specialist® (SRES®) is uniquely qualified to help you take the next step. Trust a skilled professional to ease the anxiety of selling your home. SRES® designees have unparalleled training and experience in seniors real estate, including:**

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- Creating a customized plan to market and sell your property
- Understanding your unique needs and creating a customized plan to ensure your home meets those needs now and in the future
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- Connecting you with their vast network of movers, attorneys, home inspectors, and other experts to help you through the process



**Hello, I am your SRES,**



Peg Evanoika, SRES REALTOR

*Peg Evanoika*

Century 21 Elevated Real Estate  
 www.the-res.com | (970) 209-3934  
 Email: realtor@pegevanoika.com

**CENTURY 21.**  
 Elevated Real Estate



# DIY Halloween Wreath

1-3 pm, Friday,  
 October 10

## Senior Center



Get your ghost on.

Perfect grandparent gift for the family

TWO Hoop wreaths with garlands. Lots of fun stuff to play with. Plus cookies and cider.

\$40 pp  
Instructor Kate Burke



1800 Pavilion Dr., Montrose, Colo.  
<https://kathrynrburke.com/product/101025mrd>



LESLIE GORE WITH CENTURY 21 ELEVATED THROUGH PRESENTS



**525 ELIZABETH STREET,  
DELTA, CO 81416  
MLS # 820393**

This beautifully updated 3-bed, 1.5-bath home in Garnet Mesa is a must-see! Nearly everything is new, including the kitchen (cabinets & appliances), bathrooms, doors, floors, blinds, and fresh paint inside and out. The smart layout features upstairs laundry, and an enclosed front porch ideal as a mudroom or summer sleeping area.

The home is move-in ready, clean, and efficient, with windows replaced 15 years ago. Enjoy a fenced front yard, detached garage with concrete floor, low-maintenance gravel yard, and HOA-provided irrigation water. Close to schools, medical facilities, and all that Delta offers.



**\$339,900.00**

**3 BR**

**1.5 bathrooms**

**CONTACT: LESLIE GORE**



📞 19702753195

✉️ lesliegoreactor@gmail.com

🌐 <https://tinyurl.com/LeslieGoreC21>

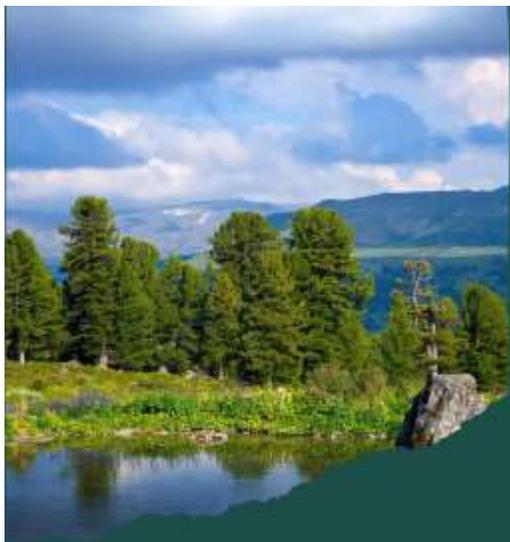


# CARTOON BY TIM JONES

WEEKLY CARTOON

## SOUR GRAPES

by Tim Jones



HARNESS THE HEALING POWER OF NATURE

## Renaturing



Find out how with this informative and entertaining book that will change your brain, your body, and your spirit.

### Live better in 2025

Sick and tired of feeling sick and tired? The answer is right outside your door!

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### Contact Author and Speaker:

laurenhallruddell.com  
agescapesnow@gmail.com

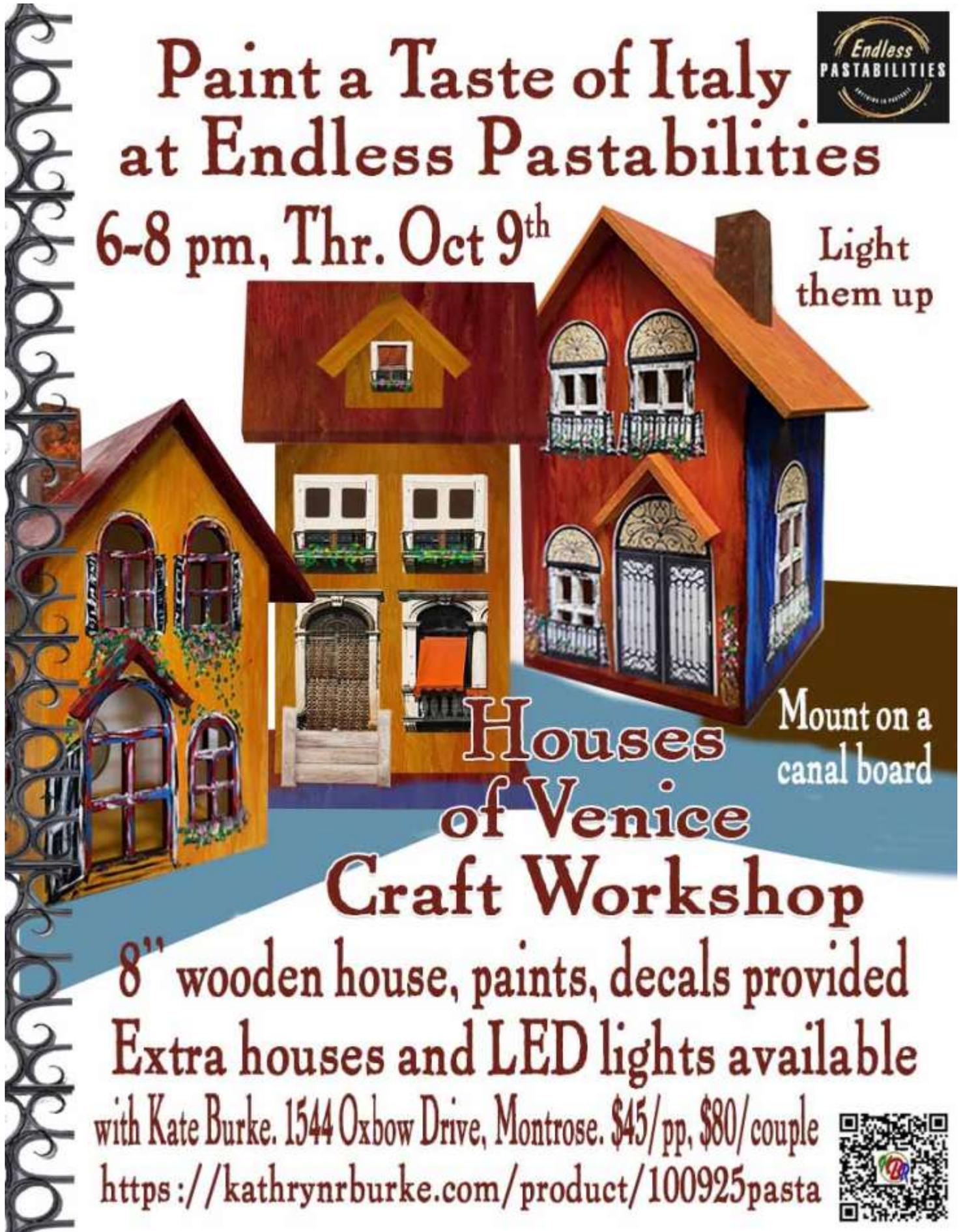
1/2 day retreats with the author beginning in May. Email for more info.



# Paint a Taste of Italy at Endless Pastabilities

6-8 pm, Thr. Oct 9<sup>th</sup>

Light  
them up



Mount on a  
canal board

## Houses of Venice Craft Workshop

8" wooden house, paints, decals provided  
Extra houses and LED lights available  
with Kate Burke. 1544 Oxbow Drive, Montrose. \$45/pp, \$80/couple  
<https://kathrynrburke.com/product/100925pasta>



# COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

## MAGIC CIRCLE PLAYERS PRESENT 'MATILDA THE MUSICAL'



The cast of *Matilda* gathers for a photo. Photo by Jonathan Heath.

By Jonathan Heath

MONTROSE—Even kids can be heroes. Bullies are never truly “winners.”

That’s what we learn from *Matilda the Musical*, a magical and memorable adaptation of Roald Dahl’s classic novel taking the stage at Magic Circle Players, Nov. 7 through 29. Get ready for an energetic and exciting evening of live theatre from a cast of talented kids and adults, with beautiful singing from the direction of Bethany Ward, and dazzling choreography by Rachelle Rediger and Shannon Rediger.

The story follows 9-year-old Matilda Wormwood, a young girl with extraordinary intelligence and vivid imagination played by petite but powerful Brielle Hatch. From the opening song, “Miracle,” we see that her self-absorbed and even cruel parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wormwood (played by Chris Walsh and Lauren Stengele) see her as anything but a miracle, and view her love of reading books as sinister and, well, just plain weird.

In a world full of cruel adults, none is worse than the tyrannical headmistress, Miss Trunchbull (played by Jason Kendall) at the school Mr. Wormwood ships Matilda off to for being “naughty.” While this

headmistress rules her school through constant threats of punishment in “the Chokey,” Matilda finds encouragement and support from her teacher, Miss Honey (played by Shannon Rediger), and weaves a spellbinding story about an escapologist and his wife (played by Bryton MacLennan and Rachel Blankmeyer) for the school librarian, Mrs. Phelps (played by Hannah Wieder) that turns out to have a deeper meaning.

What young Matilda finds in herself is more than intelligence and imagination though. She finds an inner resilience, and the power to stand up to even the biggest bully. She also discovers a kindred spirit in her best friend Lavender (played by Gaia Bailey), and encourages her classmate Bruce Bogtrotter (played by Luke Blankmeyer) to fight back against the wrath of “the Trunchbull.”

Matilda shows her classmates—played by an outstanding ensemble of young actors—that even children can fight back against injustice and cruelty. As she sings in “Naughty,” “Nobody but me is going to change my story.”

“It really has taken a village to bring Matilda to life,” said Director Bethany Ward.

“From our incredible cast, to all of our parents and people behind the scenes, everyone has gotten involved and shared their talents to make it all happen. We have many families working together, on and off stage. I couldn’t be more grateful. This is what community theatre is all about!”

The Montrose community has also really come through as unsung heroes in this production, with Home Depot and Builders FirstSource donating over \$1000 worth of lumber that volunteers have transformed into beautiful, hand-crafted set pieces.

*Matilda the Musical* is truly a must-see that will make you laugh, cry tears of joy, and want to sing along with the kids! Opening Friday, November 7 at 7:30 p.m., weekend performances will run through November 29, with three Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. Get your tickets now at [www.magiccircleplayers.com](http://www.magiccircleplayers.com) or by calling the box office at 970-249-7828. A 20-percent family discount is also available at the box office.

Directed by Bethany Ward with creative collaborators, Shannon Rediger, Rachelle Rediger, and Wendy Bodwell.

LESLIE GORE WITH CENTURY 21 ELEVATED PROUDLY PRESENTS

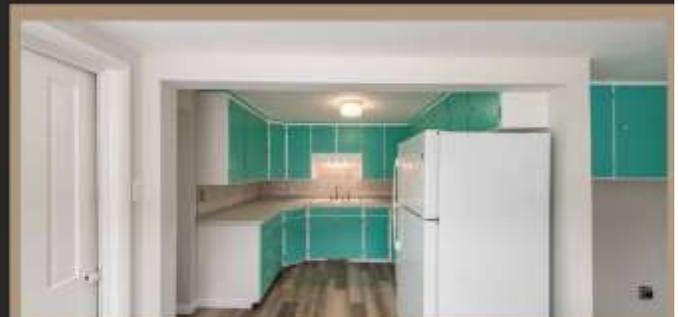


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1 bathrooms

CONTACT: LESLIE GORE



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🌐 <https://tinyurl.com/LeslieGoreC21>



# TRIVIA NIGHT

*Hosted By:*



Altrusa is a Social Service Organization that donates funds to local non-profits

*Saturday Nov 1st*



**PRIZES  
SNACKS  
& FUN FOR  
ALL!**

**Please join us for our fifth Annual Trivia Night at the Elks Club!**

**Date:** Saturday, November 1<sup>st</sup> at 5pm.

**Registration:** \$30 per person (up to 8 people per team)

\*Includes unlimited access to appetizer & dessert bars and non-alcoholic drinks.

\*Elks Cash Bar will also be available



*Scan to Register*

**MORE INFO**

970-275-0751



# 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Trivia Night

Gather your dream team (up to 8 players) and get ready for a lively night of trivia, laughs, and a little friendly competition! Tables are limited, so snag your spot soon. Prizes are up for grabs—and best of all, every question answered helps support the incredible community projects of Altrusa International of Montrose.

DATE: Saturday, November 1, 2025

TIME: 5:00 - 9:00 PM

LOCATION: Montrose Elks Lodge - 801 S Hillcrest Dr, Montrose, CO 81401

COST: \$30 per person, due at registration. This includes unlimited access to appetizer and dessert bars, and non-alcoholic beverages! (\*Elks Cash Bar will also be open)

**TEAM NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

Main Team Contact Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Players Names:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_

Please Complete one form per team.

We kindly ask that you are seated before our start time of 5:00 pm!

No outside Food or Drink will be allowed.

Questions? Please contact Gail at 970-275-0751 or Ginny at 970-964-4379

Please make checks out to Altrusa International of Montrose and mail along with the completed application to:

**Altrusa of Montrose**

PO Box 932

Montrose, CO 81402

Or call one of the contacts above and we can meet to obtain registration form and check.

# COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

## BEDROCK TO BE FOCUS AT WEST END STORIES & POEMS OCT 9 AT 6 PM

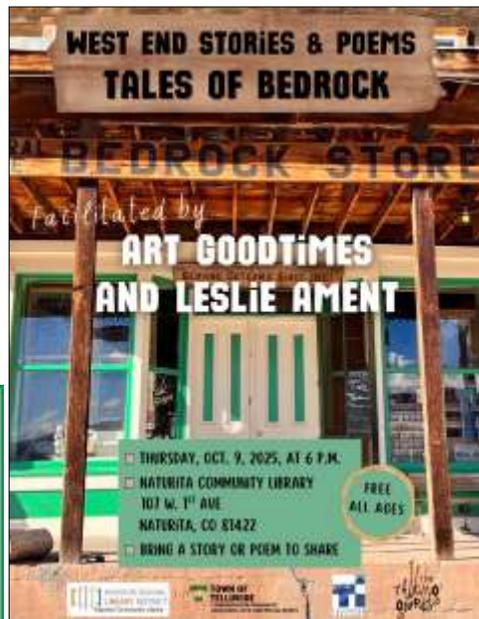
*Special to Art & Sol*

NATURITA- Leslie Ament of Naturita and Art Goodtimes of Wrights Mesa will be sharing stories of Bedrock at the West End and inviting locals to bring their stories of that small Paradox Valley community Thursday Oct. 9<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm.

“Bedrock has a long history,” noted Goodtimes. “I’ve only been around for 40 or so years, but Leslie grew up here. But more than our stories, we’re hoping locals will come and share their unique memories of Bedrock.”

Attendees are encouraged to bring stories or poems as we do a passing of the gourd and give everyone a chance to speak. West End Stories & Poems happens on the second Thursday of each month.

West End 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 and Cantor poetry contests.

For more information on poetry contests and Talking Gourds programs, visit the website [www.tellurideinstitute.org/talking-gourds](http://www.tellurideinstitute.org/talking-gourds). For questions about the event, text 970-729-0220 or email Goodtimes at [art@tellurideinstitute.org](mailto:art@tellurideinstitute.org)



**Pahgre's**  
970-249-6442

**Rib City**  
970-249-7427

**Stone House**  
970-240-8899



**Fiesta Guadalajara**  
970-249-2460

**Alpen Confections**  
970-648-0609

**Jimmer's Steak & BBQ**  
970-252-1227



**Beer Barn II**  
970-249-5550



### UNCOMPAGRE POW-WOW - MONTROSE

*Special to Art & Sol*

MONTROSE--[Montrose County Event Center](#) | Oct. 18, 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Join the [Ute Indian Museum](#) for the second annual Uncompahgre Pow-Wow. Visitors can enter a ceremonial dance contest and enjoy local food and even win prizes for their participation. More details about contest categories and how to be a vendor can be found [here](#).





# Montrose Woman's Club Annual Fall/Holiday Bazaar Friendship Hall, Fairgrounds October 17 & 18, 2025 9 am - 4 pm both days

Packed with something for the whole family  
—moms, dads, kids, pets, grandparents—  
plus holiday gifts for everyone on your list.



Longest-running Arts & Crafts show in Montrose.

Fundraiser. Run by volunteers.

ALL table rental proceeds go to local charities.



<https://www.facebook.com/Montrose.Womans.Club>

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Justin Covington.....970-275-4189	Britany Butler.....970-209-4388
Nicole Goza.....970-209-2548	Vicki Jones.....970-209-3018
Mark Covington.....970-209-1956	Office.....970-249-6658

1563 Ogden Rd Montrose, CO 81401



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## SAVE THE DATE! LOCAL EVENTS CALENDAR

### ONGOING-

**BLACK CANYON AUDUBON SOCIETY** provides a monthly program on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7 pm at the Montrose Field House, 25 Colorado Avenue, Montrose. [blackcanyonaudubon.org](http://blackcanyonaudubon.org)

**COLUMBINE QUILTERS** meet at Welcome Home Alliance Warrior Resource Center, 4 Hillcrest Plaza Way Montrose. 1st Saturday except for July at 9 am.

**FRIENDSHIP QUILTERS** meets at the Montrose County Events Center, 4th Thursday Jan - Oct, 3rd Thursday Nov - Dec, 9am.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### MONTHLY

**Oct. 7**-Tuesday Oct. 7 at 5 Citizens' Climate Lobby meets at Hispanic Affairs 504 N 1st Support for local mitigation of pollution. Non-partisan. All Welcome.info at 970-765-9095.

**Oct. 9**-On Thursday, Oct. 9, 7 pm - Floral Visitors, the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly - hear more about how plants attract pollinators. There can be drama in the natural world involving pollen thieves, nectar robbers and other stranger things. Local ecologist, Dr Allison Brody will enlighten us on some of these fascinating interactions between plants and animals. Montrose Field House Summit Room B (25 Colorado Avenue). For more info visit: [www.blackcanyonaudubon.org/](http://www.blackcanyonaudubon.org/)

**Oct. 11**-33rd Annual Bosom Buddies Walk/Run fundraiser, To register for the 33rd Annual Walk/Run on Oct. 11 and for more information on the services offered by Bosom Buddies, visit their website at [www.BosomBuddiesSWC.org](http://www.BosomBuddiesSWC.org).

**Oct. 11**-Beauty & The Beast Tea Party, which will be held on Oct. 11 at the Montrose Event Center. The event will feature horse & carriage rides and vendor booths opening at 1 PM. The tea party itself will take place from 2 PM to 4 PM. Guests will enjoy a high tea buffet, door prizes, games, and a photobooth to capture memories with friends. Tickets for this magical Hunger Awareness Fundraiser are \$50 each.

**Oct. 13**-The Northern San Juan Great Old Broads for Wilderness invites you to meet our national executive director, Reba Elliott, via Zoom at the Ridgway library Monday Oct 13 from 1-3pm. Following the talk, we will honor National Indigenous People's Day with a nature journaling activity and share. All are welcome! Bring paper/ journal and colored pencils. Email [northernsanjuan@greatoldbroads.org](mailto:northernsanjuan@greatoldbroads.org) with any questions.

**Oct. 15**-Have you ever wondered about the Three Sisters crops at Mesa Verde and how they connect to Ute Origin Stories? Come and hear Kellie Carroll the Education Coordinator at the Ute Indian Museum tell us. Oct. 15 at 7pm at the United Methodist Church, 19 S Park Avenue, Montrose. Chipeta Archaeological Society. Free.

**Oct. 18**-[Montrose County Event Center](http://Montrose County Event Center) | Oct. 18, 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Join the [Ute Indian Museum](http://Ute Indian Museum) for the second annual Uncompahgre Pow-Wow. Visitors can enter a ceremonial dance contest and enjoy local food and even win prizes for their participation. More details about contest categories and how to be a vendor can be found [here](#).

**Nov. 7**-Miss Suzy's Educational Services Disco & Auction. 6-9pm Montrose Elks Lodge. Tickets can be purchased through Miss Suzy's or at the door. \$20 adults-\$10 Teens-\$5 children. Fall Crafts-70's Attire Contest-Dance Contest-Photo Booth. Call (970) 318-0982.

**Nov. 13-14**-First Annual Farm & Ranch Trade Show and 2025 West Slope Water Summit, Montrose County Event Center.

# WHEN THE COWS COME HOME



*Time to roundup and bring the cattle down from the Cimarrons. Photo by CB Williams.*

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