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## DMEA BOARD MEMBER SLAMS BOCC WOLF ORDINANCE *Commissioners vote unanimously to extend term of Interim County Manager*



DMEA Board Member Ryan Sedgley spoke to the BOCC during the time for public comment on Oct. 15. Meeting screenshot.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-Chad Dunlap led in saying the Pledge of Allegiance as the Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) convened for a regular meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 15.

All commissioners were present.

Delivering the invocation was Pastor Curt Mudgett of Cedar Creek Church. Mudgett shared some selections from *Romans 12*. "Let Love be genuine, abhor what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with brotherly affection, outdo one another in showing honor; rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.

"Live in harmony with one another; never be wise in your own sight. Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to what is honorable in the sight of all.

"If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all."

**Continued pg 18**

## RED HAWKS SPORTS ROUND UP – 10/20/2025 RED HAWKS VOLLEYBALL: *Red Hawks 3, Grand Junction Central Warriors 0*

By Cliff Dodge

MONTROSE-It was Parents' Night last Tuesday at the Montrose Lloyd McMillan Field House on the campus of the Red Hawks. Head Coach Shane Forrest thanked the parents of the players, the coaching staffs, the administration and their legion of fans who come out for every game to support this highly talented group of athletes.

Then the Red Hawks got down to business. The first game did not go as many had hoped as the Warriors basically played the Red Hawks even throughout the initial game. Coach Shane Forrest said, "The first set I was a little worried as those guys were playing really well. Once we kind of settled in and started playing together and really turned our game around."

Coach Forrest was asked exactly what does the coach of an undefeated team say to her players? "Honestly, we are not focusing on our record. We have some important team values that we have established and we are trying to focus on those every single day at practice and with every game we play. It's exciting, it's fun, it's great that we are 15-0 and ranked number one



The Red Hawks Marcella Mendoza and Shiloh Warthen rise up to block an enemy shot. Photo by Cliff Dodge.

**Continued pg 16**

# UPDATED GUIDELINES FOR LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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### Dear Readers:

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

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

**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,*

# the Montrose Mirror



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*Editor:* Caitlin Switzer  
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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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B12 Emery Sandoval, 644 S 6th St, Montrose Co  
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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## DMEA'S CHRIS COHICK HONORED WITH INDUSTRY LEADERSHIP AWARD

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE—Delta-Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) proudly announces that Chris Cohick, Engineering Design & Geographic Information System Manager, has been recognized with the 2025 Industry Leadership Award from the Alltricity Network. The award was presented at the organization’s fall convention in late September in Kansas City, Missouri.

The Industry Leadership Award celebrates individuals with over a decade of experience whose leadership and professional excellence have positively influenced their organization and the broader electric utility industry.

“Chris embodies what cooperative leadership is all about—commitment, innovation, and a deep sense of community,” said DMEA Chief Executive Officer Jack Johnston. “His technical expertise and genuine approach to collaboration have strengthened our systems and our people. Chris’s leadership has been instrumental to DMEA’s success and Elevate Internet’s continued growth.”

Cohick has been a driving force at DMEA for over a decade, bringing a wealth of knowledge in GIS, system design, and electric systems. Known for his approachable leadership style, he is respected among peers and colleagues for his professionalism and dedication to serving members and the Western Slope community.

DMEA extends heartfelt congratulations to Chris and to all 2025 Alltricity Network Award recipients for their outstanding contributions to the industry.



*Chris Cohick. DMEA courtesy photo.*

## CORRECTIONS:

### **CORRECTION-to letter in mm659**

Last week the Montrose Mirror published a letter that I wrote Two Years Ago on 30 November 2023 without noting that it was a re-run. It was therefore contextually incoherent. If you would like to give it another look with that in mind it is on page 30 of MM 659, under an off-the-point headline.

*regards,*

*Charlie Zimmerman*

**Editor’s Note:** Last week a letter writer re-sent a previously published letter asking that it be included. We neglected to mark it as a reprint. The Mirror has now added a sentence to our Dead Horse Rule ([See pg 2, Updated Guidelines for Letters to the Editor](#)) stating, “This rule now includes requests to re-print letters that have previously run.”

### **CORRECTION-to Article on Jake Jabs in MM659**

AFW has 18 stores in Colorado, Arizona and Utah. He has six grandchildren and his parents are from Russia.



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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## KIRSTIN COPELAND IS HIGHLY QUALIFIED TO STEP INTO THE OFFICE OF COUNTY COMMISSIONER

*Editor:*

As co-chair of the Recall Scott Mijares Committee, I was recently asked an important question, one that deserves a public response. "The question was (is) not whether Mijares deserves to be recalled, because he does, but whether the successor will be any better?"

That is a fair and thoughtful question. The Recall Scott Mijares committee was formed in late February of this year. As part of the recall process, we were required to select a demand successor candidate, one who resides in District 1. For those unfamiliar, District 1 generally encompasses the downtown area of Montrose, extending northeast to include English Gardens, essentially the core of the city.

Five highly qualified individuals all residing in District 1, stepped forward and expressed their willingness to serve as the successor candidate should Commissioner Mijares be successfully recalled. The five

represented a balanced perspective: two Republicans, two Democrats, and one Unaffiliated. A committee of 30 Montrose County residents, male and female, evenly divided among Republicans, Democrats and Unaffiliated interviewed each candidate being asked the same set of questions. After careful discussion and thoughtful consideration this diverse group selected Kirstin Copeland, registered Unaffiliated, as the replacement candidate.

Kirstin Copeland is highly qualified to step into the office of County Commissioner, District 1. She has lived in Montrose County for 25 years. She has leadership experience, serving 17 years as the Park Manager at Ridgway State Park. She has managed budgets and personnel. She is a trained peace officer and EMT. She serves on the Montrose County Sheriff's Posse, as well as other local boards. She helped with communication during the South Rim Fire at Black Canyon this summer. She will

come to this office with no agenda, only to focus on the mission of Montrose County which is to "provide services that enhance the safety, well-being, and quality of life for its residents and visitors through efficient and effective delivery of public services"

Let me be clear, this is not an attempt by a small group of individuals to overthrow local government. In just 33 days, our 120+ volunteers turned in over 5000+ signatures, 600 more than the required 4,550 to put this question on the November ballot. Will the successor be any better?

Clearly the answer is YES. Vote YES to recall Scott Mijares and elect Kirstin Copeland as the successor candidate.

For more information on the recall: RecallScottMijares.com  
For Kirstin Copeland: electkcopeland.com  
*Respectfully submitted,*  
*Phoebe Benziger, Montrose Co-Chair RSM Committee*

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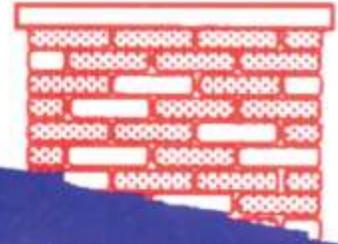
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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## RECALL ELECTION IS A CHOICE ON GOVERNANCE STYLE AND LEADERSHIP CAPABILITY

*Editor:*

We are coming to an end to a turbulent year in Montrose County government. It has been deeply concerning as new leadership has emerged, and messaging has been shared that does not remotely resemble the Montrose County that I have lived and worked in for over 40 years.

Upon moving to Montrose in 1984 I worked diligently to strengthen agriculture, engage with the multiple uses on our public lands, and join in on community efforts (with a specific emphasis on the community forestry, economic development for both ag producers and sawmills, joining efforts to bring community corrections to town and a new the county jail, volunteered to develop a community leadership program, and served eight years on school board).

I have always loved the sense of community that was woven throughout each of those efforts.

The recent editorials and attacks in our papers and social media do not do justice to the character of our community.

In November of 2024 we had an election that was well within the 'Montrose way' of discussing and analyzing issues and tackling projects. (Remember past efforts:

Pavilion and Senior Center, school bonds and new library, new pool then new rec center, new high school gym, new track and recreation fields for kids, Cerro Summit, new judicial center, new crops for ag, saving a sawmill, new Riverbottom park, event center, historic preservation efforts, new outdoor pavilion, new community forum, Montrose veteran center and new memorial park, hospital additions, impressive airport and on-and-on). After the 2024 election our leadership consisted of a proven two term+ commissioner, a long-term citizen leader new to the commission and the inclusion of a newcomer to join the ranks.

Somehow the tenor of leadership and the tone of discussion abruptly changed after our newly elected commissioner suddenly deceased.

The portrayal of Montrose was under attack, and our proven leadership was undermined and overruled. The narrative became driven by national and many different highly political agendas. There was no community discussion, no acknowledgement of the past successes, no community orientation of newcoming elected officials. Somehow the past was no longer valued, and the historic leader-

ship, and community commitment was disavowed. Finger pointing and angry social media rants replaced engagement. Division and fragmentation led to talking **about** our neighbors and not talking **with** our neighbors. Our local politics devolved into camps, parties, and us- vs -them. This is not and was not the key to historic Montrose success. The 'Montrose Way' was to discuss issues IN the community and NOT in board rooms. We embraced a bottom-up vs top-down style of engagement and continuous improvement.

Last week I read in the media that some thought that a 'cabal' was engaged, and that folks in town were staging a 'political stunt' to recall a commissioner. Some thought that political parties were driving dissent. From my viewpoint, I saw the COMMUNITY and many fellow volunteers rise up to say that we embrace bottom-up, very transparent community processes! We resist being stereotyped. We choose to maintain our sense of community, and we'll problem-solve, engage, and adapt as we have for decades. The recall election is a choice on governance style and leadership capability.

*With Respect,  
Nancy Fishing, Montrose*



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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## FREE WOLF CONFLICT MITIGATION TRAININGS OFFERED IN WESTERN COLORADO

*Special to the Mirror*

GUNNISON AND MONTROSE— The Colorado Department of Agriculture is joining Colorado Parks and Wildlife, APHIS Wildlife Services and Colorado State University Extension for an upcoming interagency training session.

The Gunnison training will provide updates on the status of the wolf restoration program and discuss the tools and programs available for conflict mitigation.

The Montrose training will focus on effectively handling encounters with wolves. The training will discuss the tools and programs available as wolves begin to inhabit the Southwestern part of Colorado.

Both sessions will show how we can all work together to mitigate potential wolf attacks on livestock.

Anyone can attend these free, community training sessions. To reserve a spot, please contact Dustin Shiflett at [Dustin.Shiflett@state.co.us](mailto:Dustin.Shiflett@state.co.us) or 720-902-1222.

## HEALTHY SCHOOL MEALS FOR ALL DRIVES ATTENDANCE GAINS AT VISTA CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE – Since 1984, Vista Charter High School has offered students a flexible, supportive and alternative path to earning their diplomas. Today, Vista serves students in grades 9–12 with self-paced credits and schedules that allow students to work while attending school. For Vista’s learners —

many of whom face trauma and economic challenges — Colorado’s Healthy School Meals for All (HSMA) program has become the foundation that makes it possible for them to show up, engage, and succeed.

Before HSMA, 40–60 students ate school lunch daily. That number has remained steady, but access to free breakfast and lunch has changed the student experience. “Breakfast is always cleared out — students eat breakfast here daily,” said Luke Siebert, Executive Director. “Most of our students come hungry on Monday mornings.”

The impact is reflected in improved attendance. According to a recent survey by the Colorado League of Charter Schools, Vista’s average attendance rate rose from 60% before HSMA to 72% after the program began. Students are also calmer and more focused throughout the day, with consistent access to meals ensuring hunger is no longer a barrier to learning.

At Vista, where students often come from low-income families and have endured significant hardships, the program reduces stress for both learners and families. Siebert was clear about the stakes if HSMA were discontinued: “It would be devastating.” He added that losing the program would also have “a huge financial impact” on the school itself.

For an alternative high school like Vista, where every percentage point of attendance and engagement matters, Healthy School Meals for All is more than a program — it’s a lifeline.

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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## ANIMAL CRUELTY CHARGES FILED AGAINST MONTROSE COUNTY RESIDENT

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE—On Aug. 11, 2025, the Montrose County Sheriff's Office issued a summons to Scott Flores, 61 yoa for 84 misdemeanor counts of Cruelty to Animals related to animals under his care.

*Background:*

The Montrose County Sheriff's Office contacted the Bureau of Animal Protection (BAP), the investigative division of the Colorado Department of Agriculture, for

assistance in the investigation. Following field evaluations, 79 horses, 4 dogs, and 1 goat were removed from the property and taken to a BAP facility for further health assessments. Based on veterinary findings and Colorado law, Flores was subsequently charged.

The case was then referred to the 7th Judicial District Attorney's Office for review and consideration of prosecution. After evaluation and due to a previous

offense, the District Attorney's Office elevated the charges to 84 felony counts of Cruelty to Animals, in violation of Colorado Revised Statutes (C.R.S.) §18-9-202(1)(a)(2)(b).

Flores is scheduled to appear in Montrose County Court on Tuesday, Oct. 21, 2025, at 1:30 p.m. for advisement of the charges.

*Anna Cooling*

*District Attorney*

*Office of the District Attorney for the 7th Judicial District*

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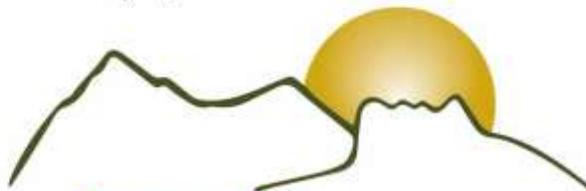
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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## JUSTIN MCNEIL FILES LAWSUIT AGAINST MCSO DEPUTIES

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE COUNTY-The law firm of NEWMAN | MCNULTY, LLC, has filed a lawsuit on behalf of Justin McNeil, to hold Montrose County and Sheriff’s Deputies Michael Taylor and Daniel Lewis accountable for Deputy Taylor’s brutal and unnecessary assault of him while Mr. McNeil was under their care at Montrose County Jail (“MCJ”).

On July 3, 2024, as Mr. McNeil was about to be escorted to his attorney visit at MCJ, he asked Defendants Taylor and Lewis for a wheelchair to get to the visit. At the time, Mr. McNeil was suffering from a recent gunshot wound to the lower back and pelvic area, as well as ankle injuries. Mr. McNeil did not think he could get to the visit without a wheelchair. But rather than provide him with a wheelchair, Deputy Taylor ridiculed Mr. McNeil, telling him “if you think you are such a tough guy, so gangster, why don’t you just walk?”

Mr. McNeil was forced to walk to his attorney visit. As he was walking, Mr. McNeil complained to Defendant Taylor about his baseless accommodation rejection and inappropriate remark. As Mr. McNeil was speaking, he became weak and stumbled. Apparently angry at Mr. McNeil for his complaints, Deputy Taylor grabbed Mr. McNeil, slammed him into a wall, and then punched him in the face. Deputy Lewis stood by and did nothing to intervene to prevent this blatantly unconstitutional assault.

Attorney Madeline Leibin stated “Such a brazen assault by a guard — after being mocked for seeking a wheelchair when in need — should be unimaginable. But instead, it is yet another example of Coloradan sheriff’s deputies abusing the people in their care. This kind of cruelty will not be tolerated.”

*Justin McNeil is represented by attorneys Madeline Leibin, Mari Newman, and Andy McNulty of Newman | McNulty, LLC (<https://newman-mcnulty.com>)*

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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## PUBLIC INVITED TO ATTEND BUDGET OPEN HOUSE ON NOV. 4

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE— The public will have an opportunity to receive information and provide feedback regarding the City of Montrose's 2026 budget at an open house planned for Thursday, November 4, in the City Council Chambers located at 107 S. Cascade Avenue. The event will begin at 4:30 p.m. with an overview of the budget, followed by informal, one-on-one discussions with city officials who will receive comments and provide additional information.

The city budgets annually for a fiscal year that begins January 1. The City Charter (Article V - Finance, Appropriations, and Taxation) outlines the basic procedure that is used to create, approve, and implement the annual budget.

The city manager is required to prepare a recommended annual budget for the upcoming fiscal year and provide it to the City Council in mid-October. The budget development process begins in early summer with each department preparing a preliminary budget estimate based on an analysis of its operational needs for the coming year. Departmental budget estimates are carefully reviewed and adjusted by the city manager and are then combined into a draft budget for the entire city organization. The draft budget is then provided to the City Council for review.

Following the open house, the budget is drafted into a city ordinance and placed before the City Council for a formal vote of adoption. As with any city ordinance, the council must vote on a first and second reading of the ordinance after conducting a public hearing and taking public comment. Consideration of the budget and appropriation ordinances is scheduled for the regular City Council meetings on Tuesday, November 4, and Tuesday, November 18.

Residents who are unable to attend the open house are encouraged to view the proposed budget at [CityofMontrose.org/Budget](http://CityofMontrose.org/Budget). Printed copies of the proposed budget are also available at City Hall (400 East Main Street) from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Thursday. All interested citizens are encouraged to provide written and verbal comments.

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



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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## ‘KEEPING KIDS IN THE GAME’ EVENT AT MONTROSE PAVILION THURSDAY, OCT. 23

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE— The Montrose Pavilion will host Keeping Kids In the Game, with two FREE educational sessions on Thursday, October 23, 2025, focused on preventing overuse injuries, reducing burnout, and improving the overall youth sports experience. The event will feature national expert John O’Sullivan, founder of the Changing the Game Project, along with regional healthcare providers and youth sports leaders.

*About the Event*

Keeping Kids In the Game is a collaborative effort between the Montrose Recreation District (MRD) and Montrose Regional Health (MRH) with support from community partners and sponsors. The event aims to equip professionals and families alike with the knowledge and tools to foster sustainable, developmentally appropriate youth sports participation across the region. The day’s programming will include two free sessions designed to reach different audiences across the Western Slope. The evening program will take place in the Montrose Pavilion auditorium and is open to the public.

*Event Summary*

Thursday, Oct. 23, Montrose Pavilion Morning Session: 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Evening Session: 6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Keynote Speaker: John O’Sullivan, Founder, Changing the Game Project

To register for the event (no fee) go to <https://forms.gle/LCmAkBEscnJMfo5U8> or contact Justin Mashburn, at Montrose Recreation District at 970-497-8571 or [justin@montroserec.com](mailto:justin@montroserec.com)



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**MONTROSE PAVILION**  
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# RED HAWKS SPORTS ROUND UP – 10/20/2025 From pg 1

in the state and that is the cherry on top of our season. If we work hard every day and get better every day and respect our values and play together as a team then the outcome will take care of itself.”

The Red Hawks shrugged off the slow start and scored 50 points while surrendering only 16 points to the opposition in the 3-0 sweep. Forrest commented, “Offensively we were taking care of the ball, and defensively we weren’t letting anything drop as we improve on our blocking. It was a really clean game once we got through that first set. Our outside hitters were outstanding. Both Maggie Legg and Marcella Mendoza are the meat of our offense. They are classy, and they hit hard.

“It’s fun but everybody on the court needs to do their job so these ladies can do their job. The defense is scrappy and they create opportunities for our offense. They create plays for our hitters to hit their kill shots and charge up the offense as this team keeps on winning.”

**RED HAWKS 3, PALISADE BULLDOGS 0**

It was Senior Night at the volleyball game last evening at the Montrose Gym. The

large crowd thanked the six seniors for their years of dedicated hard work and every success they brought to the Red Hawks volleyball program. Each senior was introduced and was photographed with their parents at center court.

The volleyball game with the Palisade Bulldogs was the crowning achievement as the Red Hawks swept the match by the score of 3-0 to cap off an undefeated season. The Red Hawks piled up 17 wins without any losses. Their league record was also unblemished at 8-0.

Midway through the third game the proceedings were halted and Senior Maggie Legg was introduced and honored as having just scored her 1,000<sup>th</sup> point with a kill shot in the far corner of the court. Achieving 1,000 points is akin to unbreakable records in football, baseball, basketball, and hockey, a great achievement and a record that will stand the test of time here in Montrose.

The Red Hawks will travel to Discovery Canyon for a two-day tournament on Friday and Saturday. After the tournament the Red Hawks will await the CHSAA 4A Regionals with an eye toward the State

Championship just down the road. Stay tuned.

**RED HAWKS SOCCER:  
MONTROSE RED HAWKS 5, PALISADE BULLDOGS 0**

The fall soccer schedule is quickly drawing to a close for the Montrose Red Hawks. The Red Hawks took the measure of the Palisade Bulldogs on Thursday as they ran roughshod over the Bulldogs 5-0. The Red Hawks cranked up their offense in the first 40 minutes by scoring 2 goals, and they doubled down in the second 40 minutes by pumping 3 more scores past the Bulldogs goaltender.

The victory gave the Red Hawks an overall record of 9 wins, 2 losses and 2 ties. Their league record stands at 6 wins, 2 losses and 2 ties. The Red Hawks will visit the Roaring Fork Rams and host the Durango Demons in their final two regular season games before the Regionals are upon them.

The Red Hawks are currently ranked in 8<sup>th</sup> position in the Colorado High School Activities Association. The state 4A semi-finals and finals will be held at Trailblazer Stadium in Lakewood.



Our  
aim  
is  
true

the montrose mirror

# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU!

Dear Editor,

Ten years ago, in 2015, the Montrose Regional Library was forced to close its doors on Fridays and Saturdays. This was due to the state not maintaining the necessary mil levee for staying open seven days a week. It affected staffing and staffing salaries, new book purchases, popular programs for all ages and infuriated much of the public who consistently used the library for checking out books, using computers free of charge, scheduling meetings in the conference and smaller rooms, and

many other activities.

My husband and I have experienced some health issues the last couple of years which have affected our ability to frequent the library as often as we'd like. The library, with the help of a donation from the Friends of the Library, will deliver books to your doorstep. The Book Mobile will likely have some of its routes suspended, and folks without transportation or those who are homebound rely on that service weekly.

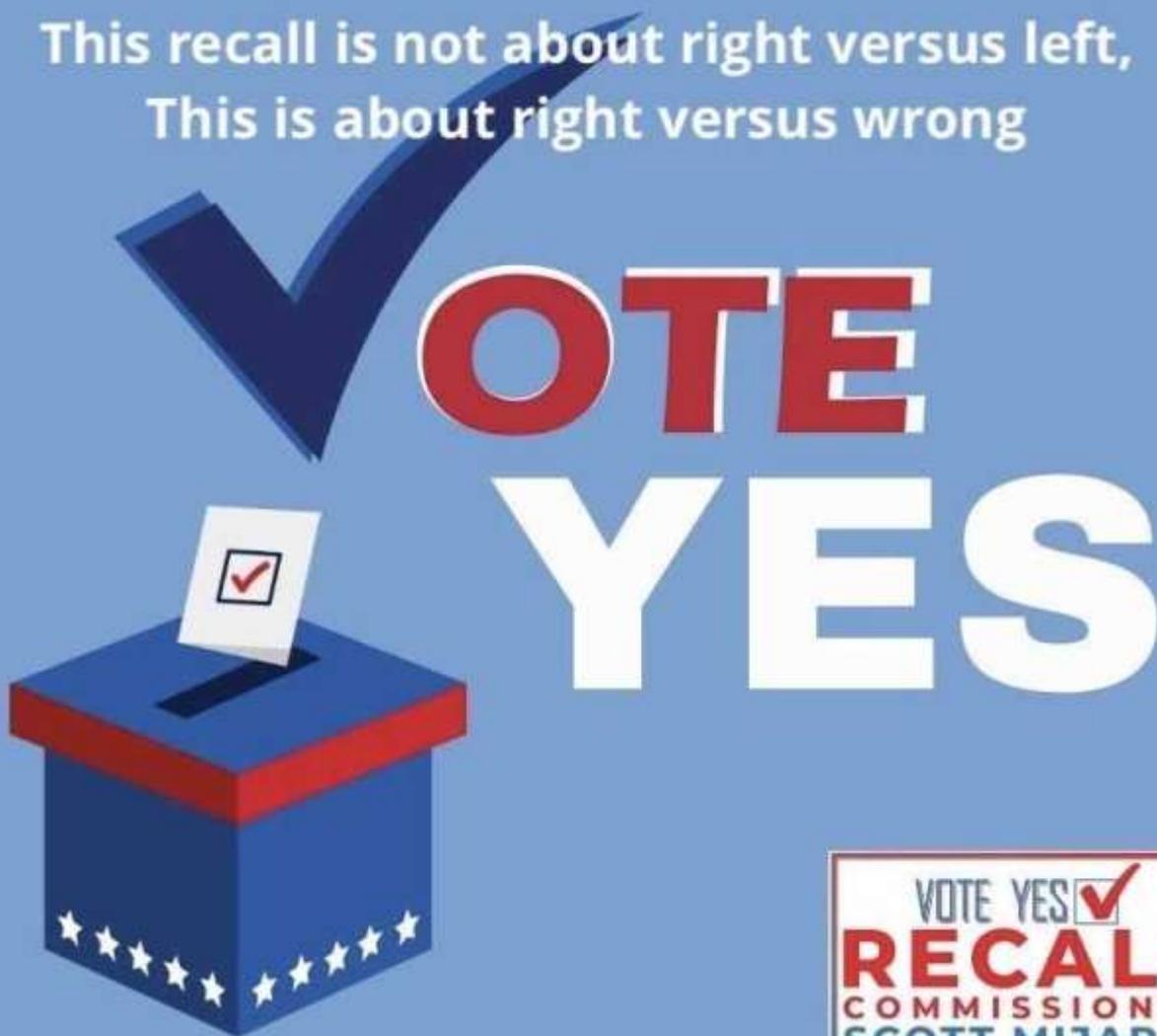
The library is the hub of so much in our

town. The management and the board of trustees have decided to put the issue of the mil levee on the ballot for the fall election. They are requesting that the mil levee not change but stay at its current level.

If the library is an important and necessary element for your lifestyle, then, by all means support it by voting in favor of keeping the mil levee at its current level. We're counting on you!

*Holly von Helms, Montrose  
Secretary of Friends of the Library*

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



Paid for by Recall Scott Mijares registered agent Jim Haugsness

# COMMISSIONERS VOTE UNANIMOUSLY TO EXTEND TERM OF INTERIM COUNTY MANAGER

**From pg 1**

Mudgett said, "...Dear Heavenly Father, we're grateful we can approach you confidently through Jesus Christ, and convey to you our need for your wisdom today. You created us and so we are accountable to you, and so we ask you for your guidance that we might honor you today in our personal lives and in matters involving the leadership of the County of Montrose...we pray for our county, that we would be an exemplary place for unity and a safe place for people to live, work, and raise their families..."

## CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Barbara Hulet spoke, "...I am opposed to turning our agricultural land into solar panels...I want to thank Scott Mijares for not letting the MEDC die, because that is not a past conversation, that is present, and I would not want any one of my commissioners sitting on that board because I feel like it is a conflict of interest...back in the day we were able to as citizens talk to the past commissioner board and have them look very closely at the money that is expended to MEDC, and I would like that to happen again. I would like to thank both Sean and Scott for defending our land and our water."

Next to speak was Ryan Sedgley. Though Sedgley is a present DMEA board member, he said that he was speaking as the Southern Rockies Representative for the Endangered Species Coalition. "My comments today are about the proposed Ordinance 2025-01...on its face this ordinance is unconstitutional, and contrary to both federal and state law. If passed this is... dead on arrival, and unenforceable. It is full of factually incorrect statements and is an astounding display of constitutional cherry picking and legal gymnastics."

Sedgley said, "I would love to provide a lesson in civics, the simple nuts and bolts of how at least in theory our system of governance is supposed to work. And a lesson in Constitutional law, because sadly, the person who wrote, this needs one. "Sadly, this isn't the first time that the resources of our county and your healthy salaries, being paid to you out of tax dollars have been squandered by pageantry. "It also isn't the first time that Montrose County has been made a laughing stock because of the antics of this room.

"But here we are again--this time, the brilliant beacon of embarrassment is about wolves," Sedgley said. "It's pretty clear this is a product of someone or some entity in the livestock industry. It represents a scorched earth, zero sum approach to how wildlife and livestock are going to interact out there. While this isn't going to hurt the rich folks that move to the country to play cowboy, it does hurt the small operators who are made fearful to take advantage of the incredible amount of resources that have been made available to them so they can adequately protect their valuable goods from all predators including humans that like to steal unprotected livestock.

"If you all really want to help folks who raise livestock in this county, then dig in and take this serious," he said. "I get it, the vote didn't go the way you wanted to, it made folks mad and that's been expressed loud and clear.

"But it happened, and wolves are here to stay. So lean into all the resources that are out there. Get the money, the tools, and the trainers with experience doing this to Montrose County. If you can get ahead of this, the people raising livestock are going to be far better off than the folks who wait around until after the fact. The methods work but they have to be done right, and they have to be done before the conflict has a chance to happen."

BOCC Chair Scott Mijares said, "Thank you Ryan."

## INTERIM COUNTY MANAGER

Interim County Manager David White had no changes to the meeting agenda.

## CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda items were unanimously approved, with Resolution No. 47-2025 assigned to Item 3; Resolution No. 48-2025 assigned to Item 4; Resolution No. 49-2-25 assigned to Item 8; Resolution 50 assigned to Item 13; Resolution No. 51 assigned to Item 14; and Resolution 52 assigned to Item 15.

## MONTROSE COUNTY LOCAL LIQUOR LICENSING AUTHORITY

Commissioners closed the regular session and reconvened as the Montrose County Local Liquor Licensing Authority, voting to approve the renewal of the Tavern Liquor License for Cedar Bowl Three Coins in Nu-

cla and the renewal of the Lodging and Entertainment Liquor License for Camp V LLC in Naturita.

## GENERAL BUSINESS AND ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Commissioners considered on First Reading proposed Ordinance 2025-01, prohibiting the introduction, support, facilitation, or habitat establishment of non-native animal species, including migratory arrivals, into Montrose County, Colorado.

Commissioner Sue Hansen said that enforcement is problematic, and the language of the proposed ordinance should be tightened and reworked to specifically speak to wolves.

BOCC Chair Scott Mijares noted that the Canadian Gray Wolf doesn't fit with federally protected species subject to endangerment, and its release here would be introducing an apex predator into the environment.

Following the discussion the Board voted two to one--with Hansen voting no--to approve Ordinance 2025-01.

The second General Business item was unanimously approved, authorization of the Chair's signature on the contract to extend the Interim County Manager's employment term to ensure continuity of leadership and County operations.

## PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT GENERAL BUSINESS

Commissioners considered 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. Planning and Development Director Tallmadge Richmond gave an update on what has occurred since the matter was continued at the previous meeting.

Ultimately the proposal was approved in a two to one vote, with Mijares voting No. The Nickolaus Minor Subdivision [MI25-013] Proposal to divide one lot from 50.06 acres at Parcel 376517102002, 12363 Shavano Valley Rd was unanimously approved. Also approved unanimously was the Brown Resubdivision Preliminary Plan [MA25-008] Proposal to divide eight acres into two lots at Parcel 349335101002.

With no executive session and no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:41am.

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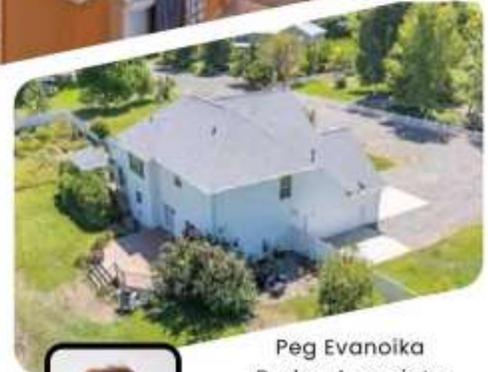
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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## VOTE YES TO RECALL COMMISSIONER SCOTT MIJARES

Dear Editor,

Good leaders listen. I attended Montrose County's BOCC October 1st meeting and witnessed Commissioner Scott Mijares silence a citizen trying to give public comment. Mijares claimed the public comment was a personal attack and not an item of interest to the board because the citizen mentioned Mijares' name and questioned the commissioner's behavior during a work session meeting. The speaker couldn't even deliver his entire message due to Mijares' rude interruptions, loud pounding of his gavel, and announcing the speaker was out of order. It was not the speaker but Commissioner Mijares who was out of order.

Commissioner Scott Mijares is a public servant for Montrose County, and this is no way to behave and speak to a citizen he represents. Public comment is a time to bring areas of concern and interest to the board. County residents should be treated with respect and not be bullied when making public comment. Commissioner Mijares has cancelled public comment at meetings, hijacked, and abused public comment, and thrown temper tantrums at meetings when speaking for his own benefit with no consequences under the guise that he is the Chairman of the Board and runs the meetings.

Good leaders listen carefully and think before they speak. Good leaders don't quiet those they represent. Behind Commissioner Scott Mijares' Chairman's gavel is a public servant that was elected to represent ALL people of Montrose County, not a bully on a power trip trying to control the BOCC board and the citizens he represents. It is not his job to be labeling his constituents as red or blue while trying to divide our county because he serves us all. This has been mentioned to him time and time again during public comment by those he represents but he really hasn't listened and just doesn't seem to get it. His "you're either with me or you're against me" mentality is not productive. Montrose County deserves better leadership. This is not partisan; it is about performance. Vote YES to Recall Commissioner Scott Mijares.

Julie Yarnell, Montrose

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# VOTE



**Hollie Mundell**  
**— for —**  
**School Board**

*Information/Información*



Paid for by Committee for Hollee Mundell for MCSD School Board

# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## MONTROSE COUNTY INTRODUCES ORDINANCE TO PROHIBIT NON-NATIVE ANIMAL SPECIES, INCLUDING GRAY WOLVES

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE - Montrose County formally introduced Ordinance No. 2025-01 at the October 15, 2025 BOCC meeting. Ordinance No. 2025-01, formally titled the Non-Native Species Ordinance, prohibits the introduction, transport, release, support, facilitation, or habitat establishment of non-native animal species within unincorporated Montrose County. The ordinance explicitly covers migratory arrivals and species not historically native to this region, including the Canadian gray wolf lineage.

This action is grounded in Colorado law that empowers counties to legislate in matters of local concern, protect property rights, and regulate land use. The ordinance cites:

C.R.S. 30-11-101 and C.R.S. 30-11-107, granting county powers and the authority of the board of county commissioners; The Local Government Land Use Control Enabling Act, C.R.S. 29-20-101 et seq., which authorizes local governments to regulate land use in their jurisdictions; C.R.S. 30-15-405, governing the adoption, record, publication, and effective date of county ordinances.

The ordinance is designed to safeguard private property, agriculture, public safety, and locally guided wildlife management from the introduction or support of species that are not native to the local ecosystem.

Recent wolf introduction efforts in Colorado have centered on gray wolves sourced from northern Rocky Mountain and Canadian populations, often referred to as "Canadian gray wolves." These wolves were never native to Colorado. The state's original native subspecies, the Southern Rocky Mountain wolf, was eradicated prior to the mid-20th century and is now considered extinct. For additional information, refer to Colorado Parks & Wildlife's resources on wolf history and the "Bringing Wolves Back" program. Commissioner Sean Pond, Vice-Chair of the Board, stated: "We respect wildlife, but we also have a duty to protect our way of life, our economy, and our property rights. This ordinance is about local control, responsible stewardship, and common sense."

"I'm deeply concerned that the Canadian gray wolf, as an apex predator, poses a serious threat to federally protected endangered species that are native to Montrose County," said Montrose County Board Chair Scott Mijares.

The first reading of Ordinance 2025-01 was held on October 15, 2025, with authorization to publish. It is listed on the BOCC agenda page under "NonNative Species Ordinance." If adopted in the second reading, it will become effective 30 days after adoption, consistent with C.R.S. 30-15-405.

The full proposed ordinance and related meeting materials can be viewed on the Montrose County website at <https://www.montrosecounty.net/390/Agendas-Minutes-Upcoming-Board-Meetings>

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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## WE NEED CANDIDATES THAT ARE OR HAVE BEEN IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Editor:

I want to start off by thanking all that have supported me over the last 7 plus years. Everyone has always been courteous even when we didn't always agree. There have always been a few keyboard warriors that I have dismissed because they were stating non-facts or not willing to talk face to face. I was very touched by all of you that had talked to me and wanted me to run for one more term.

There is again a heated school board election. There are the candidates that are being supported just because of their political views. School boards and public education should not be about politics. One candidate is running on "No more Secrets". The secret is, Montrose County Schools are not failing. Yes test scores in total are below average on state mandated testing. But you have to look beyond the totals. The subgroups that tend to always test below average are slowly improving and closing the gap. These subgroups make up a large portion of the students of MCSD. The work being done is being seen in the trending scores. We need candidates that are or have been in the public schools and in the classrooms with these students. What better choice of a candidate than one that knows the students, knows the family dynamics, and has relations with ones putting in the work, our wonderful teachers.

I am asking anyone that has supported me in the past to support the following candidates, Darren Sofka in District A, Alice Murphy in District C, Kris Besler in District E, and Jessica Corrigan in District G.

In my opinion these candidates will be the best choice to continue the forward movement the district is experiencing.

*Stephen Bush, Montrose*

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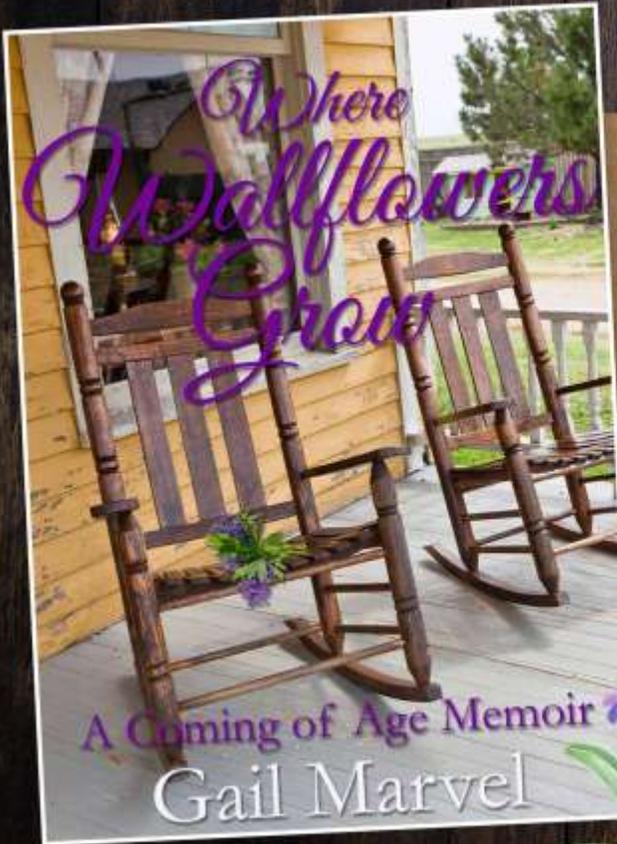
I'm Kirstin Copeland and I am running as the replacement candidate for Montrose County Commissioner, District 1.



- 1** I have been registered as an unaffiliated voter for over 20 years.
- 2** I was a state certified law enforcement officer and EMT for over 20 years.
- 3** I've lived in Montrose for almost 30 years.
- 4** I'm a proud mom to four adults, the youngest of whom serves in the US Marine Corps.
- 5** I grew up on a rural farm on Colorado's eastern plain.

**Kirstin**  
**copeland**  
FOR MONTROSE COUNTY COMMISSIONER  
[electkcopeland.com](http://electkcopeland.com)

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**GAIL MARVEL**  
*Montrose Author & Reporter*

*Where Wallflowers Grow* is available online at [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) and [wingedpublications.com](http://wingedpublications.com).





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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## SUPPORT KRIS BESSLER FOR SCHOOL BOARD

Dear Editor,

Now that ballots have gone out, we wanted to give our input on the Montrose County School Board Election. If I were to only ask one question of all the new candidates, I would ask them this, "What is the role of a School Board Member, and what have you done to prepare yourself for this position?" It's more than just throwing your hat into the ring. It's about research, attendance and advocacy. A large majority of the candidates want change, so I ask them this, what have you done to start this change before you announced your candidacy? You can't expect change or force change if don't get involved at the school level or attend board

meetings. How many times have they gone to a school board meeting? How have you let your voice be heard, rather than just griping on social media? I'd say very few have done much of anything, yet they think by going straight to the top will allow them to enact change. I have some very said news for you; it doesn't work that way.

The school board is, and should be, a non-partisan group of people working for those that elected them to make appropriate financial decisions for the taxpayers and advocating for parents, kids and teachers. Their primary job is to hire and evaluate the superintendent in how that person is managing the school districts affairs, especially in the decisions they make for parents, students and staff.

I spent eight years on the Montrose County School District Board of Education, and my wife was a 30 year educator, so this makes us uniquely qualified to make these comments. My predecessor once told me that the best board members are made up of parents and teachers. While I generally agree with this statement, parents ABSOLUTELY should be making up the board.

As you get ready to fill out your ballot, get to know these candidates intimately. Research these candidates and see who has best prepared themselves for this job. While there is no perfect candidate, we feel Kris Bessler has best prepared herself to take on this role. She is parent of four children in the district, she is in the schools, she attends meetings, and she is a strong advocate for children's education, and we strongly support her for school board. Thank you for your time.

*Mark and Shanda Bray, Montrose, CO*

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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## MONTROSE VETERANS MEMORIAL HAS A LOT HAPPENING IN THE MONTHS OF OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER!



### *Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-The Montrose Veterans Memorial Coalition continues with a focus on fundraising for the Huey helicopter and Freedom bronze eagle sculpture pedestals.

Since the Tribute to Colorado Aviation in September, we have sold more than 150 Huey helicopter t-shirts and numerous veteran and active duty tribute bricks. We also just received a \$2,000 cash donation which will go a long way toward one of these pedestals.

We now have many local businesses who have donated toward Patriot Bricks, which will be placed around the walkway of the Montrose Veterans Memorial.

### **Thank you to these local businesses and families:**

NuVista Federal, The Cooling Family, Colorado West Ophthalmology, Clearnetworx LLC/Deeply Digital LLC,

Elderado Financial, Top Notch Fence LLC, Team Valerie Meyers of Coldwell Banker, Citizens State Bank, Montrose Ford-Nissan, The Abbott Family, **Adrian Alvarez and Christine Cox** with the Sidelines Sports Bar, Chow Down Pet Supplies, Alpine Bank, Renzelman Family, Timberline Bank, D'Medici Footwear, The Lund Family, The Blanchard Family, Flairmont Furniture, and Horsefly Brewing Company

If you are interested in joining these local businesses in supporting our veterans, please visit <https://www.montrosevmc.us> or stop by the Welcome Home Alliance for Veterans, 4 Hillcrest Plaza Way, Montrose CO 81401. Ask for Amy and she will be happy to help you fill out a form. Remember, also, to patronize those who support our veterans.

Speaking of the Welcome Home Alliance for Veterans, their annual Blue Jean Ball will be Friday, Nov. 7 from 5:30-11 p.m. at the Montrose Events Center. Tickets are \$100 per person or \$175 per couple. They will also have tables for eight available for \$700. Stop by the Warrior Center to pick up tickets.

The Montrose Veterans Memorial Coalition will be selling t-shirts in their ongoing fundraising efforts, and there also will be a quilt silent auction going on. It's a 50s and 60s sock hop and should be a great time!

**AND please stop by the Montrose Veterans Memorial site at 1800 Pavilion Dr on Tuesday, Nov. 4 at 0700.**

The Montrose Veterans Memorial has received a significant in-kind donation from The Home Depot of Montrose. This donation will be the first effort to improve the memorial site. The Home Depot employees and local veterans will begin taking down invasive non-native trees that would hinder construction. The final design plan includes Colorado blue spruce trees as replacements.

We are grateful to The Home Depot for this incredible donation of equipment and time.

On behalf of the veterans and active duty military and the MVMC board of directors,

Les Williams, MVMC BOD President

J. Bob Brueske, MVMC BOD Chairman

Donate to the Montrose Veterans Memorial anytime online at <https://www.montrosevmc.us>

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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## SUPPORTING OUR STUDENTS: JESSICA CORRIGAN, BOARD CANDIDATE DISTRICT G

Dear Readers,

I'm Jessica, and I'm running for the seat in District G. I'm grateful to introduce myself and clear up some misconceptions.

I am running for the board because I believe deeply in the power of public education. I grew up in a farming and auto working family. My great-grandfather farmed soybeans and seed corn in Indiana. My grandma still lives on and manages the farming of their land. My grandpa was a lifelong autoworker, as was my father. My mom was a stay-at-home-mom for years, then a medical billing coder. From the time I started school the dream of my family was for me to go to college. I became a first-generation college graduate and lifelong learner and I have my teachers and great public schools to thank for that. I am committed to demanding transparency and accountability while supporting the adults who provide the same opportunities to our children here.

As a mental health therapist, I recognized the importance of education early. After receiving my bachelor's degree from Purdue University and my Master's in Social Work from Indiana University, I began my career doing school-based therapy. My husband Patrick and I moved here 14 years ago so I could work at the Northside Child Health Center, and since that time my relationship with the district has grown with my kids, district students since preschool. I started out as a volunteer on the Policy Council at Early Childhood Center, I am in my 3rd year on the District Accountability Committee, I participate on the PAC at my children's school, and I am in my 3rd year of substitute teaching.

When I say our district is far from failing, it's for a couple of reasons. Education experts agree that the success of a district is not just measured by standardized tests. Our district has done some great things since I've been here; things that teachers and families love: The robust system of counseling support at the high school level; The "Pride of Montrose" Band; innovative programs such as outdoor education and the TLA Model, and

the district-wide safety teams. We have community partnerships like Career Pathways at CMU, and parents love the streamlined communication through the Talking Points app. Over the past 14 years I have spent many hours in classrooms and with parents. I know our district is full of compassionate educators and hard-working families. The culture in our schools is better than ever because of these folks.

The second reason I say our district is far from failing is right in the actual CMAS data at <https://www.cde.state.co.us/schoolview/explore/cmasela/2180/ALL>. Using English as an example, 37.7% of MCSD students met their goal and only 44.8% of students statewide met their goals. In MCSD several subgroups of students scored better than average while low-income students chronically underperform. I have said consistently: there is plenty of room for growth. A dive into the data highlights the importance of a comprehensive needs assessment for every student to close achievement gaps and elevate test scores.

There is some speculation that I am not supportive of other educational options, particularly Montrose Classical Academy. On the contrary, in November 2024 as a DAC member I voted to recommend that the board approve the MCA charter - the documents are on my website, at [jessica4mcsd.com/mca-documents](https://jessica4mcsd.com/mca-documents). It hasn't seemed necessary to say that I will of course support MCA; as I said at the UVEA forum my personal opinion is irrelevant and that I look forward to seeing what MCA can accomplish. While I have expressed questions and concerns about MCA previously it was clear that approving the charter with conditions was the right thing to do. I have a track record of professional decision making free of interference and this situation is no different.

My commitment to my strictly-regulated professional field has been conflated with a disrespect for parents' rights. As a law-abiding citizen, I intend to continue to follow therapy-related laws as is required of me. And while folks hear that

parents' rights are under fire, most families and students don't believe they are here in Montrose. Board policies are available to the public; lots of them address procedures for sensitive situations, require documentation of parent involvement, and some have opt in/out requirements. All cite the state law that informs those policies (<https://www.mcsd.org/BoardMinutesandPolicies.aspx>). While almost all parents are pleased with these policies, I'm grateful parents can choose an alternate education if needed.

We have many areas where growth is essential:

- Improvement of communication and engagement at all levels. If we're not clear, forthcoming, respectful and engaged with each family, they won't be either and student achievement will not improve.

- Improvement of test scores. We need to look at consistent curriculum use, staff professional development and closing achievement gaps.

- Addressing deferred maintenance costs and big expenditures by collecting information from other districts to use every penny wisely (Grand Junction's impressive cost saving on their high school project, for example).

- Adding more paraprofessionals to support higher-needs students so educators can focus on teaching.

- Intentional support of our high schoolers by identifying their post-graduation goals early and helping them check the necessary boxes to achieve them - students don't always know how to get to where they want to be.

I have been clear and consistent about how my professional experience has given me the gifts of respect, listening, collaborating, confronting tough discussions and problem solving under pressure. I think the biggest benefit to electing me is that I am passionate about and engaged in MCSD and our community's children. I have invested my career and personal time in supporting children, as I was invested in.

I have not let ideological or political frameworks distract me from the things

# **SUPPORTING OUR STUDENTS: JESSICA CORRIGAN, BOARD CANDIDATE DISTRICT G**

**From previous pg**

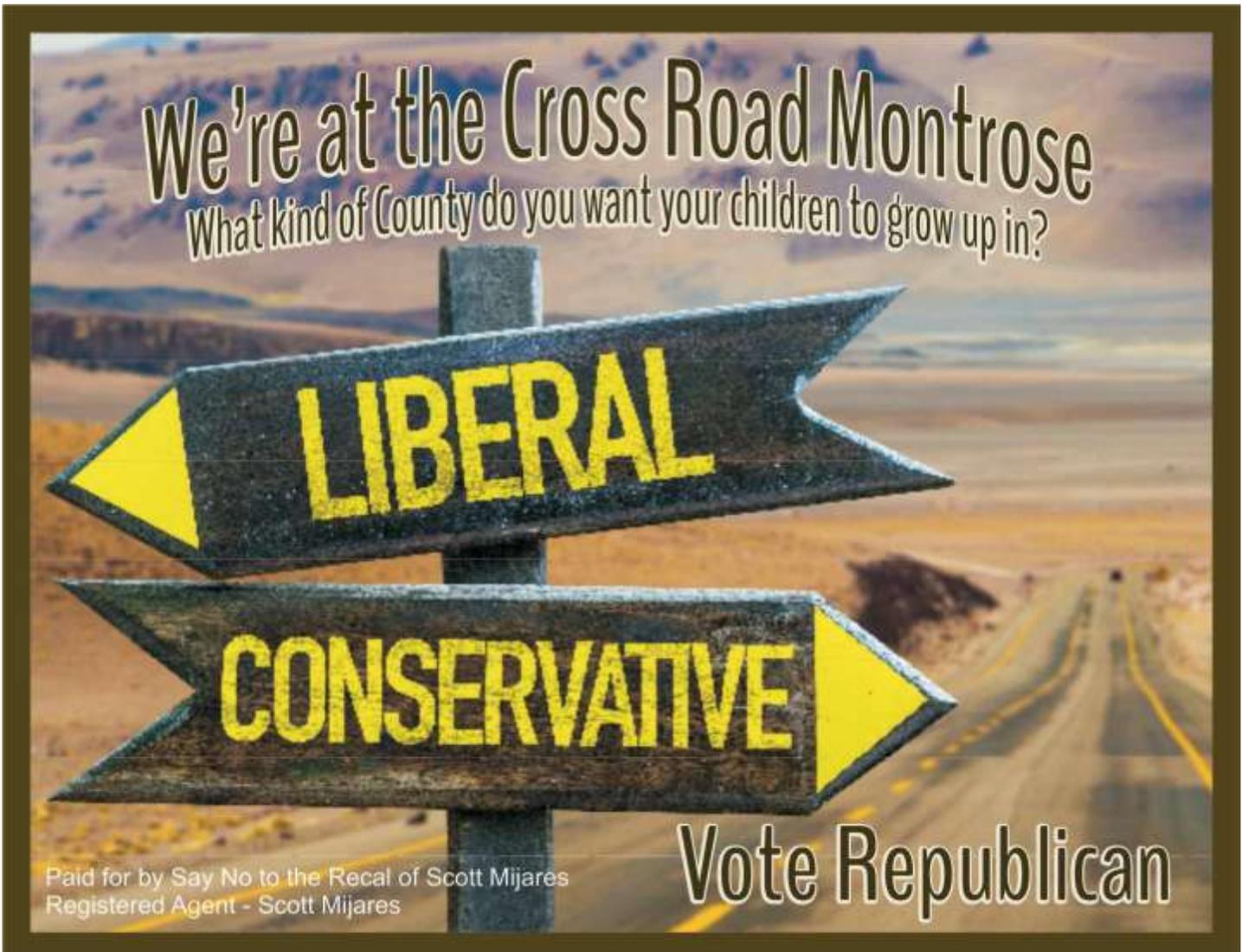
that have real impacts on student success: I have declined political donations and offers from partisan groups to pay for advertising, and I have refused money from the front range. My donations are local and like other candidates, the belief systems of my donors have zero bearing on my hopeful governance. I will focus on

the things that matter without imposing my wants or beliefs on the process. It's just the person I am.

I look forward to working as a team with the rest of the board to make evidence-based, fiscally-responsible decisions that will set our students up for every success no matter their post graduation

plans. If there is any question about my thoughts on the issues I hope you will reach out to me. Email me at [jessica4mcsd@gmail.com](mailto:jessica4mcsd@gmail.com) and I'd be happy to visit with you. It's the best way to get an impression of who a candidate really is.

*Jessica Corrigan,  
Board Candidate District G*



# RED HAWKS HAMMER GRIZZLIES 54-22

## MONTROSE RED HAWKS 54, MESA RIDGE GRIZZLIES 22



**Junior quarterback Cade Saunders (# 8) hands off to fullback Elijah Womack as the Red Hawks drive for a touchdown. Photo by Cliff Dodge.**

*By Cliff Dodge*

MONTROSE-The fall football season is heading for a spectacular finish as the Southwestern League has but two games left for each of the teams as they battle for the league title and the best possible positioning for playoff football and a shot at the 4A state championship game which will be contested at Canvass Stadium on the CSU campus.

The Mesa Ridge Grizzlies invaded the Montrose stadium turf sporting a 3-4 record while the Red Hawks have an unblemished 7-0 record.

The Grizzlies won the opening coin toss and elected to defer their possession to the second half. The Red Hawks, after several Mesa Ridge kick-off penalties, took possession of the football at their own 35-yard-line. On the fourth play from scrimmage Elijah Womack took a handoff and raced 49 yards for the Red Hawks first touchdown to lead 8-0.

The Grizzlies went three plays and were forced to punt. The Red Hawks converted this opportunity into another score as

Senior Chase Mehan ran 5 yards for the Red Hawks second touchdown, making the score 16-0.

The Grizzlies then put together their first of two sustained drives of the game and marched 80 yards, the final three yards for their touchdown to narrow the score to 16-6 at the end of the first quarter of play.

The second quarter began in similar fashion as the first quarter with the Red Hawks scoring in four plays. Once again Elijah Womack scored, this time from a yard out, to make the score 24-6

The Grizzlies took possession of the football but bad luck continued to follow as they fumbled and a very stout defense recovered the bouncing football. Cade Saunders promptly handed off to Elijah Womack who ran 10 yards for his third touchdown of the night, improving the score to 32-6.

More bad luck continued to dog the Grizzlies as the Red Hawks' Owen Evans intercepted a pass over the middle and the Red Hawks were in business once again.

Enter Senior Fullback Elijah Womack with a 13-yard run for his fourth touchdown of the evening, pushing the score to 38-6.

The Grizzlies' second sustained drive came in the waning moments of the second quarter, as the Grizzlies took over the football at their own 20-yard line, moved down the field, and scored their second touchdown from the 20-yard line. The successful 2-point conversion tightened the score to 38-14.

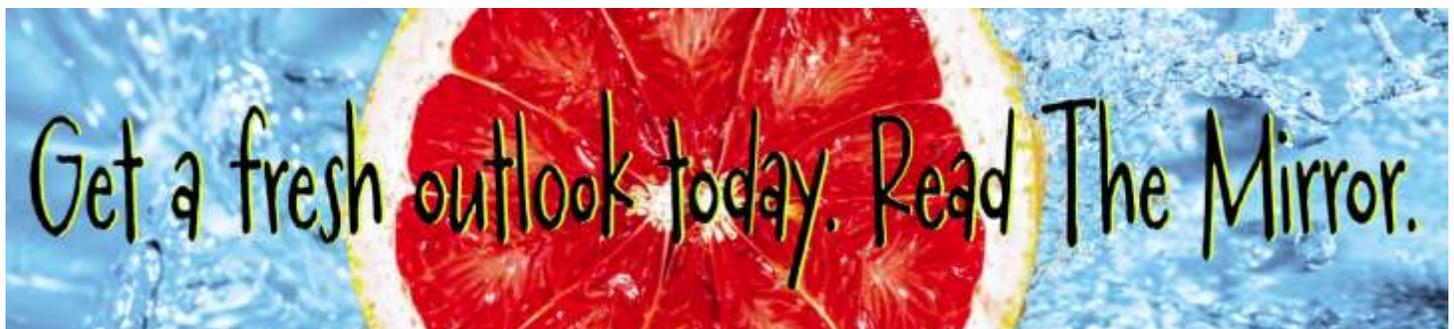
The Red Hawks took over with just under four minutes left in the second quarter. Another long drive saw the Red Hawks face a fourth down at the 3-yard line with 10 seconds left in the half. Junior Quarterback Cade Saunders handed the ball off to Senior Chase Mehan who converted the three yards into another Red Hawks touchdown. The score at the half stood at 46-14.

The third quarter saw a running clock for the entire second half due to the mercy rule, a spread of over 40 points and the clock continues to run. More bad luck for the Grizzlies as the Red Hawks' Maverick Powers jumped on another fumble and converted it to points. This time Cade Saunders fired a 28-yard touchdown pass to Chase Mehan, to close out the scoring for the Red Hawks at 54-14.

The Grizzlies tacked on a meaningless late touchdown pass with about four minutes left in the contest to improve the score to 54-22.

Only two regular season league games remain for the Red Hawks. Next Friday evening the Widefield Gladiators come to Montrose with the kick-off scheduled for 6 PM.

The final game will be on the road at Pueblo West on Halloween, Oct. 31 with the kick-off set for 6 P|M. The playoffs await. Stay tuned.



# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## JUST VOTE NO! (Unless You Want More Taxes!)

Editor:

**Propositions LL and MM** sound good; they would support bringing monies for school lunch programs around the state. There is no mention of TABOR (Taxpayers Bill of Rights) in the wording of them, but that is intentional, as many outside entities have been pouring funds into Colorado to bring more progressive policies, and guess what they need? Money! Our money!

TABOR is all about refunding excess monies to the taxpayers of Colorado. The wording is deceptive. The first words in Proposition LL states "Without raising taxes..." That is to put us off guard. Second, it states this only affects people/families with incomes of \$300,000 or more. Who is to say that can change to people with incomes greater than \$200,000 or \$100,000? Hopefully, you see my point. Notice that a "yes" vote allows the state to "KEEP AND SPEND \$12,400,000 IN TAX REVENUE..." That is our TABOR money!

Proposition MM is more of the same, only this one states that there would be a \$95,000,000 increase in taxes to families who make \$300,000+ annually in order to fund the Healthy School Meals for All Program and support the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP). Let me remind you that those who are earning that kind of money are many who have businesses and are employing Montrosians. This could affect our economy in the long run. On page 14 of your blue book, it states that Prop MM "raises up to an additional \$95 million in tax year 2026 and similar amounts in future years

by increasing income taxes on households..."

The Healthy School Meals is already funded by Prop FF which we passed in 2022. The SNAP "program is primarily federally funded" according to the blue book.

**Montrose Library Measures 6a and 6b** are another tax grab to support our library that does not share the values of most of Montrose city residents. There is no cap on the increase of our property taxes. I don't know about you, but my property taxes have skyrocketed, and I am sure I am not alone. I am concerned that our library spent over \$17,000 this past year on LGBTQ+ events and materials. If 6a passes, it states "all revenues received by the district from such an increase be collected and spent **WITHOUT LIMITATION OR CONDITION.**" This means the library Board can do whatever it wants with the monies regardless of community input/concerns.

Measure 6b would waive the 5.25% property tax limit, which means that there would be no cap, and our property taxes could increase more and more every year.

**The City of Montrose Amended Charter Measure** is also problematic. Our City Council has already proven that they do not listen to its constituents no matter how many times people speak on the same topic at their meetings. There are many "control" points in the changes. First, clarification of Council Member terms and election years and the number of Councilors required to enter into executive session. Why isn't this clarified in the wording of the measure? Second, re-

moving the residency requirements for the municipal judge opens up a whole can of worms. Do we want progressive judges from the Front Range or others who are not in sync with Montrose culture? There are additional concerns pertaining to using gender-appropriate language. Are we in Boulder, CO?

Last, the **recall of County Commissioner Scott Mijares** has been a sham from before he even took a seat after the election. This has been a planned "hit" by Ray Langston, Commissioner Sue Hansen, Indivisible members, League of Women Voters, Dennis Anderson of *The Montrose Press*, and miscellaneous progressives in our county. These folks do NOT want a Conservative Constitutionalist sitting on the BOCC because he will not be manipulated.

If you look at Scott's record, he has held the County accountable fiscally. Due to poorly made decisions right before his term began, Scott had valid questions about the North Campus project funding, the County manager and the Health Director.

He has been fighting to fully fund our Sheriff's Department so we can have more boots on the ground. He has exposed waste and abuse in the County budget.

He supports rural values and has been fighting to stop the GORP Act that would devastate The Western Slope's economy, particularly our ranchers and farmers. **VOTE NO on all Propositions, Measures and the Recall!**

*Leah Vandersluis  
Concerned Citizen*



# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## WE DESERVE BETTER. VOTE YES TO RECALL SCOTT MIJARES

*Editor:*

County Commissioner Scott Mijares is running his anti-recall campaign much like he runs county commissioner meetings—poorly. His inexperience and unwillingness to do the work expected of a county commissioner are an insult to the residents he was elected to serve.

That’s why I’ve filed complaints with the Colorado Secretary of State’s office, alleging that Mr. Mijares has violated Colorado’s campaign and political finance laws, specifically section 1-45-111.7 of the Colorado Revised Statutes and Rule 23 of the Secretary’s Rules Concerning Campaign Finance. These complaints have been accepted for review and are public record.

Rather than taking responsibility, Mr. Mijares often argues that the rules shouldn’t apply to him. He did this when he failed to file a required campaign finance report, and he’s demonstrated this same attitude during county commissioner meetings. But following the law isn’t optional—it’s the bare minimum we should expect from our elected officials.

Ultimately, Montrose voters will decide whether Scott Mijares is meeting the standards of his office. I believe we deserve better. Vote **YES** to recall Scott Mijares.

*Barbara Bynum, Montrose*

**Vote No To**  
"City of Montrose - Amend City Charter"  
**Ballot Measure**  
**It:**  
\* Increases Term Limits for City Councilor  
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**Vote No on**  
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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## THE HIDDEN TAX DODGE: HOW H-2A VISAS LET EMPLOYERS SKIRT PAYROLL RESPONSIBILITIES

*Editor:*

A recent *Montrose Business Times* editorial by Nancy Kelso and Karen Nicholson focused on local farmer John Harold hiring immigrant workers through the H-2A visa program, highlighted the diversity they bring to our community, and quoted Harold saying, "I think that if migrants weren't working, our shelves would be empty within a week." The article goes on to say that "...Neither workers nor employers pay into Social Security or Medicare." While these workers work and enrich our culture, the editorial highlights a critical detail: H-2A workers and their employers are exempt from Social Security and Medicare taxes. This tax break reveals a deeper issue: some employers may prioritize profits over fairness by exploiting this loophole.

### What Is the H-2A Program?

The H-2A program, run by the U.S. Department of Labor, lets farmers hire temporary foreign workers when they can't find enough local labor. Employers must provide housing, transportation, and a minimum wage (often higher than the federal minimum) to avoid undercutting local workers. However, H-2A workers are considered non-resident aliens, so neither they nor their employers pay the 7.65% FICA taxes (totaling 15.3%) that fund Social Security and Medicare.

### Why This Matters for Employers

This exemption saves employers significant money. For example, a Montrose

farmer like John Harold, hiring a dozen H-2A workers earning \$30,000 each per season, saves about \$2,295 per worker in FICA taxes. That's over \$27,000 in total, money that could go toward equipment or bonuses. Hiring American workers, who require full FICA contributions, costs more, making foreign labor appear cheaper not because of wages but due to tax savings.

### A National Problem with Local Impact

This isn't just a Montrose issue; it's a nationwide loophole. *IRS rules confirm that H-2A wages are exempt from Social Security, Medicare, and often Federal Unemployment taxes.* While some argue this keeps food prices low, it strains Social Security and Medicare, which may run out of funds by 2032. In Montrose, where many rely on these programs, this tax dodge shifts the burden onto local workers and retirees.

### Distorting the Job Market

John Harold claims Americans won't do tough farm work, but the H-2A program discourages hiring locals. If employers paid full taxes, they might offer better wages or improve working conditions to attract American workers. Instead, the program creates reliance on foreign labor, often under poor conditions like substandard housing or long hours, while employers pocket tax savings. This divides the workforce, with locals paying into the system and H-2A workers exempt.

### The Real Cost of "Diversity"

The *Business Times* celebrated the cultural contributions of H-2A workers, like festivals and shared meals. But why not hire immigrants through pathways like green cards, which require full tax contributions? The H-2A tax break acts like a subsidy for cheap labor, undermining trust in the system and fueling resentment toward workers who are just trying to make a living.

### Time for Change

The H-2A program contributes to wage stagnation in rural areas like Montrose, where farming is key. Requiring employers to pay FICA taxes could encourage fairer wages and attract local workers. As our population ages, we need more contributions to Social Security, not fewer. Policymakers could reform H-2A by mandating FICA payments or capping the program to push farmers toward innovation, like mechanization. **John Harold isn't breaking the law; he's following the rules.** But those rules favor profits over fairness. Montrose deserves a system where diversity strengthens everyone, not just a few. It's time to close this loophole and ensure our community's 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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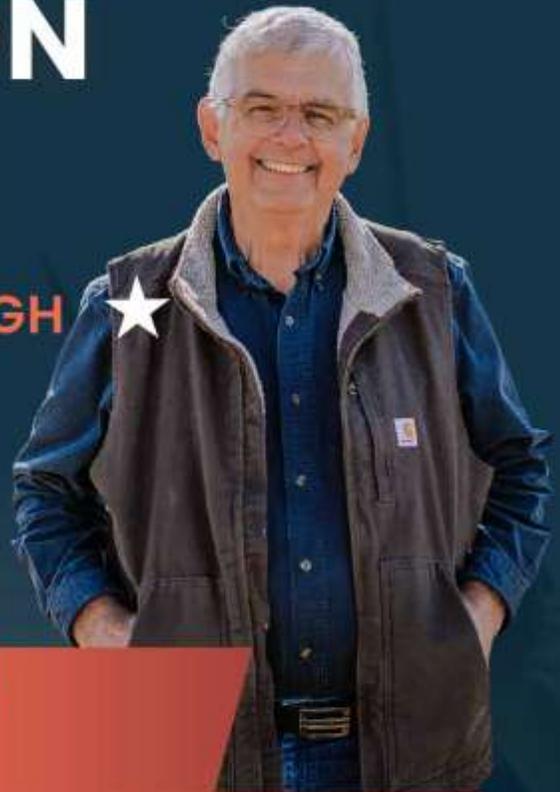
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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## COLORADO WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME ANNOUNCES CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR 2027 INDUCTEES *Celebrate Recognizing Trailblazing Women Across All Regions of the State*

*Special to the Mirror*

DENVER – The Colorado Women’s Hall of Fame (CWHF) is proud to announce the official call for nominations for its 2027 Class of Inductees. In alignment with Colorado’s upcoming “Colorado 150” sesquicentennial celebrations the Hall is expanding its efforts to highlight extraordinary women from across all eight regions of the state, ensuring that the 2027 class represents the breadth and diversity of Colorado’s history, talent and leadership. Reaffirming its mission to honor the past,

inspire the present and shape a future where women’s achievements are recognized, honored and remembered, the Hall exists to inspire by celebrating and sharing the stories of women who have made significant, enduring contributions. Inductees have excelled in areas such as business, education, science, public service, the arts, sports and community leadership. Their vision, courage and perseverance have advanced opportunities for others on a local, state, national or international level.

### A Statewide Spotlight During a Historic Year

As Colorado prepares to celebrate its 150th year of statehood and the nation’s 250th anniversary in 2026, the Hall recognizes the importance of telling a complete and inclusive story of Colorado’s greatness. This includes honoring women whose legacies are rooted in every corner of the state – from the Eastern Plains to the San Luis Valley, and from the Western Slope to the urban Front Range.

“Colorado’s sesquicentennial is a special, once-in-a-generation opportunity to recognize women who have shaped our state’s history and continue to inspire our future,” said Barb Beckner, Colorado Women’s Hall of Fame Board Chair.

“Through this nomination process, we are intentionally looking across all eight regions of Colorado to ensure the stories of women everywhere are lifted up and remembered.”

The Class of 2027 will be announced in the summer of 2026 as part of statewide commemorations, and honored at the Class of 2027 Induction Gala in March of 2027.

### Nomination Details

The Colorado Women’s Hall of Fame invites the public to nominate contemporary and historical figures who have made outstanding contributions to Colorado while making a positive impact on a wide-ranging audience. Submissions should demonstrate exemplary achievement, a legacy of impact and inspiration for future generations.

- **Nomination Deadline:** February 1, 2026
- **Nomination Forms and Guidelines:** [www.cogreatwomen.org/inductees/nominate](http://www.cogreatwomen.org/inductees/nominate)
- **Contact:** [nominate@cogreatwomen.org](mailto:nominate@cogreatwomen.org)

**COMMUNITY CANDIDATE FORUM**  
**Montrose County School Board Election 2025**

Join us for a community-led forum featuring all candidates running for Districts A, C, E, and G in the Montrose County School Board election. This forum is solely for parents, students and community members to have the opportunity to ask questions directly to the candidates and learn more on their views on key issues.

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 20<sup>TH</sup> 2025**  
FROM 6:30 PM - 8 PM  
AT OLATHE FIREMAN'S HALL  
512 S HORTON AVE, OLATHE, CO 81425

**Format for the forum:**

- Each candidate will have equal time to introduce themselves and to respond to audience questions.
- All attendees are asked to maintain respect and refrain from debate or interruptions during the forum.

Admission: Free and open to the public  
Hosted by: Local Community Volunteers

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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## HOPE AND HEALING: RIVER VALLEY EXPANDS INTEGRATED OPIOID ADDICTION TREATMENT

*With financial support from the Southwest Colorado Opioid Regional Council, River Valley brings together medical and behavioral health*

*Special to the Mirror*

DELTA—River Valley Family Health Centers (RVFHC) is proud to announce the expansion of their Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) clinic, expanding access to evidence-based treatment for individuals impacted by the opioid crisis in Delta and Montrose Counties. The new clinic is supported in part by funding from the Southwest Colorado Opioid Regional Council (SWCORC).

River Valley’s MOUD program is built on a team-based model of care, where medical and behavioral health professionals work side by side to support long-term recovery. The approach combines medical care with behavioral health services and practical support—such as food, clothing, and transportation—ensuring patients have the resources they need to move forward in recovery.

“Opioid addiction continues to devastate families across our region, and we are committed to providing compassionate, evidence-based solutions,” said Kaye Hotsenpiller, River Valley Family Health Centers CEO. What makes our program effective is that we do not treat addiction in isolation. We’ve created a place where

patients can access both behavioral health and medical services under one roof, ensuring the whole person is supported.”

Supervising the medical portion of the program in Delta is David Nord, PA-C, who recently joined River Valley’s Delta clinic. His position was made possible in part through funding from the Southwest Opioid Regional Council, which supports regional efforts to expand access to treatment and recovery services. Nord earned his Master of Physician Assistant Studies from Colorado Mesa University and brings

a strong background in serving underserved populations. His early clinical experience in addiction medicine sparked a lasting passion for helping individuals affected by substance use. Fluent in Spanish, Nord also strengthens River Valley’s ability to serve the area’s Spanish-speaking community.

“My role is one piece of a larger, coordinated approach,” Nord said. “When we combine medication treatment with behavioral health care, we give patients the best chance at lasting recovery.”



**FORO DE CANDIDATOS DE LA COMUNIDAD**

**Elecciones a la Junta Escolar del Condado de Montrose 2025**

Acompáñenos en un foro comunitario en el que participarán todos los candidatos que se presentan a las elecciones del Consejo Escolar del Condado de Montrose por los distritos A, C, E y G. Este foro está dirigido exclusivamente a padres, estudiantes y miembros de la comunidad, quienes tendrán la oportunidad de formular preguntas directamente a los candidatos y conocer mejor sus opiniones sobre cuestiones clave.

**LUNES, 20 DE OCTUBRE DE 2025**  
 DE 6:30 PM A 8 PM  
 EN EL OLATHE FIREMAN'S HALL  
 (SALÓN DE BOMBEROS DE OLATHE)  
 512 S HORTON AVE, OLATHE, CO 81425

**Formato del foro:**

- Cada candidato dispondrá del mismo tiempo para presentarse y responder a las preguntas del público.
- Se ruega a todos los asistentes que mantengan el respeto y se abstengan de debatir o interrumpir durante el foro.

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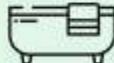
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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## THE FAR-LEFT'S ATTEMPTED TAKEOVER OF MONTROSE COUNTY

*Editor:*

As the election heats up in Montrose County, voters face a critical juncture. What appears on the surface as a routine ballot hides a calculated push by far-left forces to reshape our community. This is not just about local governance. It is an orchestrated effort by the far-left to dismantle conservative leadership and impose a radical agenda. From the recall of a dedicated county commissioner to deceptive city charter amendments and school board races, the stakes could not be higher. *Conservatives of all flavors, Republican, Independent and Democrats alike* must recognize this for what it is: an attempted takeover that threatens the values we hold dear. If we fail to act, Montrose County risks sliding into the same far-left policies that have plagued other parts of the state.

### **The Recall, A Baseless Attack on Conservative Leadership**

**The recall effort, targeting a duly elected county commissioner,** is a cornerstone of the far-left's strategy. Driven by left-wing activists and a handful of former disgruntled Republicans, this initiative claims to address grievances. Yet, no legitimate, substantive issues are presented. The petition is filled with rhetoric and unsubstantiated allegations, lacking any factual basis. It is a personality conflict, nothing more. All one need do is an ounce of research to understand that the allegations within the petition are a red-herring with zero substance. The real goal is to oust a conservative voice and replace that voice a far left-wing environmentalist (Kirsten Copeland), hand-picked by Commissioner Sue Hansen. Hansen, who is in lock-step with figures like far-Left Senators Michael Bennett and John Hickenlooper, Governor Jared Polis, and Jeff Hurd, envisions a Montrose County molded by a far-left agenda. Commissioners like Scott Mijares and Sean Pond have been vital roadblocks against

this agenda, standing firm for fiscal responsibility, limited government, and traditional values. Removing them would open the floodgates to policies prioritizing extreme environmentalism over local jobs, property rights, and economic growth.

### **Voting NO on the recall is essential to preserve our county's independence. The City Charter Amendment, A "Woke" Power Grab**

The Montrose City Charter Amendment is **Billed** as a harmless tweak to streamline city council operations. Nothing could be further from the truth. City officials deliberately placed it on this ballot instead of the next municipal election to capitalize on the ideological fervor of off-year elections. The recall, rooted in animosity toward conservative principles, is mobilizing left-leaning voters who will likely support these changes. The ballot language reveals the true intent: **"Remove gender-specific language."** This push for gender neutrality is a hallmark of far-left ideology, clashing with Montrose's Western traditions and common sense. Further provisions could consolidate power among insiders, shielding them from accountability. This is not about efficiency but about entrenching far-left ideals under the guise of modernization. Conservatives must reject this by **VOTING NO** on the amendments.

### **The School Board, Reclaiming Our Classrooms**

The school board race is another battleground where the left has previously succeeded through conservative complacency. Four years ago, Republicans sat out, allowing progressive candidates like Sarah Fishing to secure seats, thanks to a counter-campaign led by Don Coram, a key figure behind the recall. This time, conservative candidates **Neisha Balleck, Scott Scarborough, Tiffany Vincent, and Shane Daly** are stepping up. Balleck emphasizes transparency and community involvement, Scarborough focuses on fis-

cal oversight, Vincent advocates for values-based environments, and Daly pushes back against educational overreach. Supporting them means reclaiming our schools from divisive ideologies and ensuring they prioritize academic excellence and parental rights.

### **A Broader Threat, Measures 6A, 6B, LL, and MM**

Beyond these, the ballot includes measures like 6A, 6B, LL, and MM, often cloaked in neutral language but aligned with far-left priorities. Whether they involve tax hikes, regulatory expansions, or environmental mandates, they fit the left's broader agenda. A blanket **NO** on these measures is a stand for limited government and personal freedom.

### **The Left's Strategy and its Ramifications**

The left's strategy is clear: exploit divisions, mobilize their base through recalls and amendments, and flip institutions like the school board. If successful, we will see higher taxes, eroded liberties, and a cultural shift away from self-reliance.

But we have the power to stop it. **Conservatives, independents, and anyone who values Montrose's heritage must vote:**

**No on the recall, no on 6A and 6B, no on the city charter, no on LL and MM. Vote for Neisha Balleck, Scott Scarborough, Tiffany Vincent, and Shane Daly for school board.**

This election is about safeguarding our home from external agendas. By standing united, we can keep Montrose County strong, free, and true to its roots. The time to act is now!

**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).*

# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## SAFETY AND SECURITY IN MONTROSE COUNTY

*Editor:*

Let's be honest—county government doesn't always get it right. That's exactly why you elected me: to speak up, to challenge insiders, and to make sure your voice is heard. I don't sugarcoat things, and I don't back down from doing what's right—even when it's unpopular among the vocal minority.

Since day one, I've fought to bring accountability, honesty, and common sense to our county government. I believe in law and order, and keeping our communities safe. That's why I strongly support our Sheriff's Department, our first responders, and the District Attorney's Office.

Lately, I've been particularly concerned by what appears to be a rise in criminality among our youths within our community. **Let me be clear:** Public Safety is the cornerstone of a civil society and requires the highest priority. Criminal activity, regardless of age, threatens us all. That is why we must equip our law enforcement and prosecutors with the tools they need to keep Montrose County safe and secure.

**SAY NO** to letting the bad guys roam free in our neighborhoods—and **SAY NO** to the recall of me, Commissioner Scott Mijares. Keep me working for you by voting **NO** on the recall.

*Thank You,*

*Scott Mijares*

*Montrose County Commissioner*

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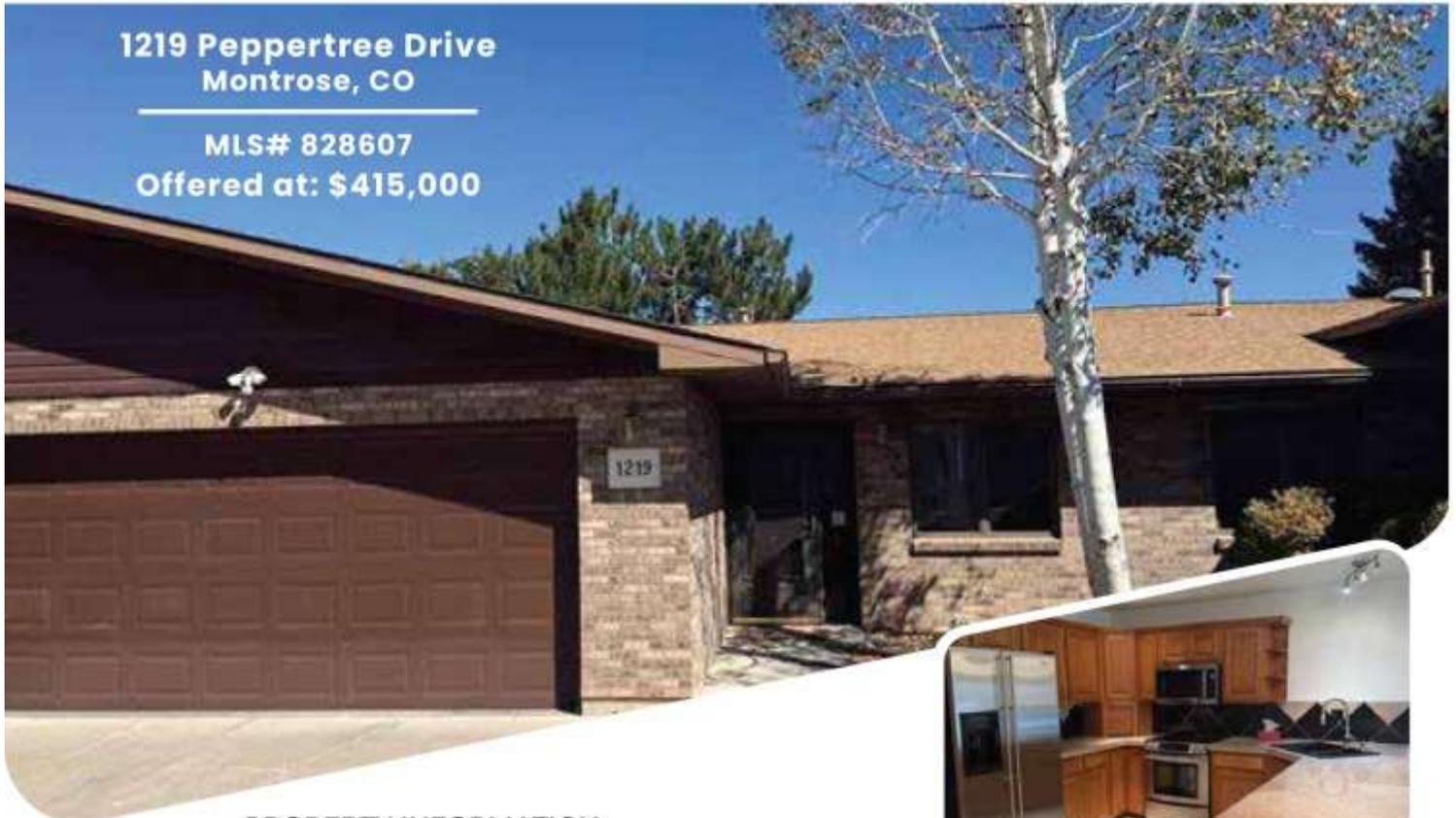
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# NEW CAMERAS DON'T WORK, SCHOOL BUS DRIVER SAYS



Re-1J Board of Education meeting Oct. 14. Meeting Screenshot.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE- The Montrose County School District RE-1J Board of Education held a regular meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 14. Present for the meeting were Board President Sarah Fishering (District E); Board Vice President Steve Bush (District G); District A Director Neisha Balleck; District C Director Alice Murphy; District D Director Tom West; and District F Director Jody Hovde. District B Director Ted Valerio was absent. The Board said the Pledge of Allegiance and voted to approve the meeting agenda.

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

RE-1J Public Information Officer Mikayla Unruh presented the Student Spotlight and Donations. The Board recognized the Montrose High School Pride of Montrose Marching Band and the Olathe High School Pirate Pride Marching Band. At their recent competition, MHS earned 1st place in Class 4A and swept the top awards, including High Visual, High Music, High General Effect, and 1st place overall. OHS earned 1st place in Class 1A, showcasing their dedication and musical excellence. "Congratulations to both bands for representing our schools with pride and passion!" Unruh said.

Students from both Montrose and Olathe marching bands and the color guards were present to share their experiences with the board.

Recent donations include:

-Montrose High School received a \$1000 donation from the Montrose Association of Realtors to support students who need assistance with athletic fees or other

school-related fees;

-Pomona Elementary School received a donation of \$600 for six teachers and six boxes of school supplies for students and staff as part of the Subaru Loves Learning partnership with Adopt-a-Classroom;

-Olathe Elementary, Olathe Middle, and Olathe High School each received a donation of \$2,000 from the Olathe Rebekah Lodge to support instructional and academic needs;

## BOARD ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATES

Reporting on the District Accountability Committee (DAC) were District A Director Neisha Balleck and District C Director Alice Murphy. There was a presentation on family engagement, Balleck said. There was a strategic plan update, Murphy said. Food Service Contractor Sodexo may do a presentation at the next DAC meeting, Murphy said.

## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

RE-1J Superintendent Carrie Stephenson said that the Music Department has collaborated and accomplished a five-year plan and has identified a high-quality resource they feel will best meet their needs. Members of the music team gave a presentation. Presenting information on the proposed resource were Monica Phillips of Johnson Elementary School and Casey Gerczynski of Pomona Elementary School and Montrose High School. The five-year plan and proposal are included in the meeting packet.

## COMMUNITY INPUT

Fishering read the rules for community input. Addressing the board was Chad Huffman. "I am one of your bus drivers. Every day I have roughly 50 kids from elementary school, including the SPED kids, all the way up to high school. You guys spent a lot of money to buy a camera sys-

tem in the buses. We're at this two-month milestone of the school year...and those cameras still do not work, from a perspective that satisfies or helps the drivers in any way. To give you some idea, when driving our bus, we spend about 75 percent of our attention driving, paying attention to other cars, 25 percent paying attention on what's going on behind us...we depend on those cameras, at least the old camera system worked in a way that worked for us...if there's an incident on the bus...we depend upon those cameras to see what really did happen. At this point we can't view any of that video. We've heard some word that maybe the IT Department can, but we can't on an ongoing basis...There's been promises, but it's not happening.

"And so that's why I'm here in front of you guys. The other piece of the safety-- besides the bullying, the potential physical stuff that does go on on the bus, because they're long, and there's 50 kids there, and we're driving--is the other cars. "So one of the cameras you guys chose to put on the bus is a dash cam that looks forward. And we've wanted one of those for years. Because on a daily basis we have between two and six people...who, when we are stopped, our red lights are flashing, the stop sign is out, happily just drive right on by...red light runners is what we call 'em. The police department and the state patrol have expressed support, but they really want those cameras. They really want that video, so they can truly enforce that red light running. Two to six every single day is, in my opinion, unacceptable...we need those cameras just to help to better control what's going on on the bus, and know what's really going on on the bus, so we can address the kids that need some special attention...Thank you so much."

## OLD BUSINESS

The Board considered approving 17 Revised Board Policies on Second Reading. The Board spent time in discussion. Of particular concern was "Policy J1C1, Student Use of Cell Phones and Other Personal Technology Devices - House Bill 25-1135 requires that on or before July 1, 2026, local boards of

Continued next pg

# ***NEW CAMERAS DON'T WORK, SCHOOL BUS DRIVER SAYS***

## ***From previous pg***

*of education adopt and implement a policy that defines the prohibitions, if any, regarding student communication device use and possession. This leaves each Board with significant discretion on what parameters they feel best fit their school communities..."*

Principals from several local schools were present to discuss how the policy works on their campuses.

Following some discussion, the Board voted to approve the revised board policies on Second Reading.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Board Vice President Steve Bush asked to remove Consent Agenda Item Three for further discussion, "Adoption and purchase of a one-year license for QuaverED K-5 music resource in the amount of \$10,800," as he had a question; the Board voted unanimously to approve the remaining Consent Agenda items, including Personnel Report.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Following a discussion, the Board voted to approve Consent Agenda Item Three as well.

### **ENROLLMENT REPORT**

Finance Director Emily Imus delivered the October Enrollment Report. Current district Enrollment is 5,888 students, which is nine students lower than last month, and 55 students fewer than May of last year. The numbers do not represent the October Funded Pupil Count, which is expected to come in close to budget time, Imus said.

With no further business, the Board voted to adjourn the meeting.

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## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

# DEMOCRATS HAVE CHANGED THE TERMS OF THE DEBATE

*Editor:*

Liberals continue to totally crack me up. Are there no sane Democrats out there that have any semblance of self-awareness? The pseudo-journalist who made "fake news" a household name, Dan Rather, is lashing out at CBS News for hiring Bari Weiss as their editor in chief. Weiss describes herself as "a liberal uncomfortable with the excesses of left-wing culture," and may not go along with all the idiocy common at CBS News. Rather says the hiring of Weiss signals a "dark day" for the network. Perhaps Weiss lacks Rather's high journalistic standards? Rather was fired from CBS after getting busted for pushing a totally fake story about Bush faking his National Guard duty. Rather lied and then lied about lying until he was forced out in disgrace. Letitia James, the Attorney General of New York, is now claiming she is a victim of lawfare, which is totally hilarious given the fact she built her entire political career on the promise that she would somehow get Trump. She didn't know how at the time, but she promised that if elected she would put him in jail. She wasn't able to do that of course, but she did manage to harass him, try to bankrupt him, and temporarily win a bogus court case against him. As she blatantly engaged in the weaponization of the legal system, she would taunt Republicans that "no one is above the law." This is the same Letitia James who is now facing federal investigation and indictments alleging multiple mortgage frauds. Not only did she lie on a legal form to secure a better mortgage rate, every single mortgage document she signed over the last 42 years had "falsified information," so her fraud was not just a "one off." The information about the tenants she housed in her ill-gotten property is also revealing. Her felon fugitive niece was living in the home in question. She was wanted for grand larceny, burglary, and abuse of a child. So, while James was constantly on the news calling Trump a criminal, it appears New York's top law enforcement official might have been aiding and abetting fugitive family members?

The world's attention this week was focused on the release of the remaining Jewish hostages still alive after being taken by Islamic Hamas degenerates. Trump's Middle Eastern success was based to some extent on one guiding principle: Don't do what Democrats did. Trump spent his first and second terms working on weakening Iran by destroying their finances because Iran was the main terrorist financier. He and his son-in-law Jared

Kushner worked to implement the Abraham Accords across the region during Trump's first term. Trump took out a top Iranian terrorist. He imposed severe sanctions on Iranian oil. He bombed Iran's nuclear reactors. Early in his second term Trump began meeting with Middle Eastern leaders to negotiate business deals and improve relations. He earned the trust of Western and Arab leaders in the region. He did everything he could to keep oil prices low, which hurt Iran. Trump unambiguously supported Israel in its efforts to defend itself and take out its enemies. Incredibly, Obama shipped Iranian leaders billions in cash and dictatorially shut down a long investigation into Hezbollah's billion-dollar drug running operations. Biden lifted Trump's terrorist designation of the Houthis, who immediately began destroying shipping in the Red Sea. Biden refused to enforce Trump's sanctions, allowing Iran to go back to funding its terrorist organizations. Biden set out to destroy low-priced oil and succeeded in jacking up prices -- to the detriment of US citizens while allowing Iran to finance more terrorism. Biden and his handlers continually tried to limit how Israel responded to Hamas and other terrorist organizations. The contrast is clear. Trump's been back in office all of nine months and the Israel / Hamas cease fire is his eighth peace deal. Trump's policy has been to benefit this country and the Western world. Obama and Biden were in office twelve years and it is clear their goal was anything but protecting this nation.

With all the attention on the release of the Israeli hostages, California Governor Newsom showed his radical credentials by signing a bill into law that would make it easy for strangers to kidnap children from that state's schools. In typical Democrat fashion, Newsom had the hubris to tout the bill (AB 495) as "a bill to protect parents' rights and children." That's right up there with Biden's "Inflation Reduction Act" which had nothing to do with inflation and in fact greatly accelerated inflation, and Obama's "Affordable Care Act," which made health insurance totally unaffordable. The bill was passed by Democrats to hide kids illegally in the country from immigration authorities but in reality allows any adult, without verification, and without even notifying parents, to take your child and act as that child's unapproved "guardian." The bill is so bad religious leaders in the state are urging their congregants with underage kids to flee the state. Like the gun control laws passed in Colorado by Polis and Democrats, the Califor-

nia law is obviously unconstitutional and will be appropriately legally challenged and struck down --- but, again, Democrats don't seem to care.

You would think that with the unpopularity of Democrat policies, they would moderate their positions, but they are not. Writer Andrea Widburg believes the reason they don't moderate is because their positions are so extreme that they can't back off. One example is immigration. The debate in America used to be how many immigrants could best serve American interests. Democrats have changed the terms of the debate. The new theory is that borders are inherently evil. They changed the debate from how many people we should bring to America to the claim that America should not exist as a nation with borders. It's no longer about having a homogeneous nation built on a unified American culture; it's about a homogeneous world. It is irrelevant that in the real-world conquering cultures like Islam and China will exploit such an approach to the detriment of the rest of the world.

Once Democrats got to a policy that says that both borders and America are inherently evil, there is no going back to a more moderate, sane policy.

On race, Americans long ago embraced a core moral truth: people should be judged by the content of their character, not by the color of their skin. Today's Democrat extremists, though, now proclaim that skin color defines character. If you are black, you are a victim. If you are white, you are the oppressor. That's another extremist idea that cannot be moderated. On Israel, both Democrats and Republicans have historically strongly supported the nation of Israel. That was the American norm. Now, leftists, including the Democrat party, have become hostile to Israel, going so far as identifying it as a nation "worse than Hitler." That is total lunacy, but once you define Israel that way, the left has nowhere to go. Democrats have boxed themselves into insane corners from which there is no return. Given Democrats positions, all of which are unacceptable to the majority of the American people, and all of which they are apparently unable to moderate, the only thing left for them to maintain power is violence and subterfuge. It is now more important than ever for the rest of the country to keep Democrats out of office. Otherwise, what we see happening in Portland, Chicago, and other Democrat controlled cities (Denver?) will be coming soon to your own neighborhood.

*Ed Henrie, Montrose*

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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## KEEP SCOTT MIJARES AS YOUR COUNTY COMMISSIONER

*Editor:*

**I Saw It Coming.**

At this week’s Public Budget Meeting, the Board of County Commissioners received an unexpected update from Interim County Manager David White regarding the timeline for the North Campus Project.

Originally slated for completion in August 2026, the project is now projected to be finished in the **first quarter of 2027**—a delay of approximately four to seven months.

No clear explanation for the delay was provided during the meeting, and it remains uncertain how this change will im-

act the overall budget. However, such delays typically carry financial implications, potentially requiring additional taxpayer funding.

Further details are expected in the coming weeks.

*I sounded the alarm months ago*—calling for a **45-day pause** to review the project approved by the outgoing board less than one month before leaving office. That pause was dismissed by our then county attorney, Martha Whitmore.

“This is exactly why I asked for a review. We need transparency, accountability, and smart planning—not surprises.”

**Fiscal Responsibility Matters.**

Despite propaganda spread by the Recall Scott Mijares Committee I have always stood for **responsible government, honest leadership, and protecting your tax dollars.**

While others rubber-stamp costly projects, I **ask the tough questions**—even when it’s not popular.

**Vote No on the Recall Scott Mijares. Common Sense. Fiscal Discipline. Leadership You Can Trust.**

*Thank You,  
Scott Mijares  
Montrose County Commissioner*

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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WAC. ESTIMATED PAYMENT, RATES AND TERMS MAY VARY BASED ON CREDIT HISTORY. NOT ALL APPLICANTS WILL QUALIFY. SUBJECT TO LENDER TERMS & CONDITIONS. ACTUAL TERM, RATE, APR, AND LOAN AMOUNT MAY VARY.



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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## MRH TO HOST OPEN HOUSE AND COMMUNITY HEALTH UPDATE AT NEW SAN JUAN CANCER CENTER *Public invited to tour the new facility and hear progress on local health priorities*

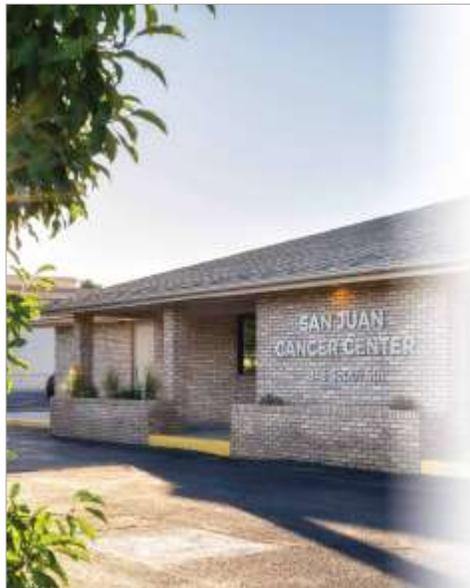
*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE— Montrose Regional Health (MRH) will host a community open house at the new San Juan Cancer Center (SJCC), located at 816 S. Fifth St., on Tuesday, Nov. 11, 2025, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. The event invites the public to tour the new oncology facility and hear updates on MRH’s ongoing Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) initiatives.

The new SJCC building was designed to strengthen access to cancer care in Montrose, offering advanced medical oncology services in a setting focused on comfort and healing. It features the Francie Smiles Infusion Center, named in honor of a local breast cancer survivor and advocate for cancer care in the community. During the open house, guests can tour the center, meet members of the oncology team, enjoy refreshments, and learn more about available services.

“This new facility allows us to care for patients more efficiently and comfortably,” said Eric Koval, director of the San Juan Cancer Center. “We have expanded our physician team from three to four doctors, increased infusion chair capacity from ten to fifteen, and added on-site lab processing for many of the routine tests our patients need. None of this would have been possible without the support of MRH leadership, the San Juan Healthcare Foundation, and the generosity of Francie Smiles.”

In addition to celebrating the new facility, MRH will share progress updates on its 2023-2025 Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA). Conducted every three years, the CHNA identifies key health needs across the region and helps guide MRH’s priorities for improving access and outcomes.



### OPEN HOUSE

Please join us as we celebrate the new San Juan Cancer Center (Medical Oncology) and the Francie Smiles Infusion Center!

Tour the new building and learn about MRH’s latest progress with the CHNA (Community Health Needs Assessment).

**Tuesday, November 11**

**5:30 PM - 7:00 PM**

San Juan Cancer Center and the Francie Smiles Infusion Center  
816 S. 5th Street

Hot chocolate & cookies provided.

Current CHNA efforts center on:

- Expanding access to mental and behavioral health services
  - Strengthening access to primary and specialty care
  - Promoting affordable care and reducing health disparities among specific populations
  - Enhancing support and services for the aging population
  - Increasing prevention, education, and services to address chronic disease, preventable conditions, and unhealthy lifestyles.
- Community members can view the full CHNA plan online at [montrose-health.com/community-health-needs-assessment](http://montrose-health.com/community-health-needs-assessment). MRH also recently completed a new survey to establish priorities for the 2026–2028 CHNA, with progress updates expected in late 2026.

For more information about the open house or CHNA presentation, contact the San Juan Cancer Center at (970) 497-8001. ###

### About Montrose Regional Health (montrosehealth.com)

Montrose Regional Health (MRH) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) healthcare system serving Montrose, San Miguel, Ouray, Gunnison, Delta, Hinsdale, and San Juan counties. Licensed for 75 beds, MRH offers a wide range of inpatient and outpatient services, including cardiology, oncology, minimally invasive surgery, laboratory services, medical imaging, Mountain View Therapy, a Level III Trauma Center, an Acute Rehabilitation Unit, a Spine and Pain Center, advanced respiratory and pulmonary care, and a family birthing center. Known for adopting advanced technologies such as robotic-assisted surgery and UVC disinfection, MRH is the second-largest employer in Montrose County, with more than 950 employees and over 188 providers representing 32 medical specialties. MRH is recognized for its warm, personalized care and lives its tagline: “Caring for you like family.”

# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## MONTROSE REGIONAL HEALTH ANNOUNCES CHANGE TO HUMANA MEDICARE ADVANTAGE PARTICIPATION

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE – Montrose Regional Health (MRH) will end its contract with Humana Medicare Advantage plans effective January 1, 2026. The change will make MRH an out-of-network provider for patients covered by Humana Medicare Advantage plans beginning next year.

The decision follows ongoing challenges that have affected both patient care and hospital operations, including long waits for authorizations, denials of medically necessary services, and significant delays in payment for care already provided. In many cases, these denials occurred after services were approved and delivered, leaving the hospital with minimal reimbursement for complex inpatient care. Over the past several years, MRH has absorbed more than \$1.5 million in unpaid or underpaid claims tied to Medicare Advantage plans. While MRH has worked persistently through each appeal process, continuing to subsidize these costs is not sustainable.

Hospitals and health systems across the country are facing similar issues, and many are making comparable changes to ensure financial stability and consistent access to care for their patients.

### Communication and support for patients

MRH began communicating this change earlier this year, sending letters to all patients with Humana Medicare Advantage coverage in April. The hospital also hosted several community education sessions in partnership with Region 10's Medicare Counseling program, which provides free, unbiased help to people comparing Medicare plans.

"We know coverage changes can cause concern, and our goal has been to keep patients informed well ahead of time," said Paul Perrotti, chief financial officer. "While we cannot advise anyone on what plan to select, we want our community to have the tools and information they need to make the best decisions for their care."

### What patients should know

**-Effective Jan. 1, 2026:** MRH will no longer contract with Humana Medicare Advantage plans.

**-Coverage:** MRH will continue to accept Original Medicare and all Medicare Advantage PPO plans, including Humana PPO.

**-Out-of-network access:** PPO (Preferred Provider Organization) plans allow patients to receive care from almost any doctor or hospital, though out-of-pocket costs may vary depending on the individual plan.

### Guidance for patients reviewing coverage

MRH urges patients to use neutral and trusted sources when exploring their Medicare options. Some local brokers may promote plans that sound appealing but could limit access to certain hospitals, services, and/or providers in the region. Patients are encouraged to:

- Contact their existing, trusted insurance agent who understands local coverage;
- Call Region 10 Area Agency on Aging at (970) 765-3129 for free, unbiased Medicare counseling; or
- Visit [Medicare.gov](https://www.medicare.gov) or call 1-800-MEDICARE for official program information.

For additional details and FAQs, visit [montrosehealth.com/insurance](https://montrosehealth.com/insurance).

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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## JOIN AUDUBON'S CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT FOR WEST SLOPE COLORADO

*Special to the Mirror*

REGIONAL-The Audubon Christmas Bird Count (CBC) occurs Dec. 14 to Jan. 5 every season. Between those dates local hawk-eyed volunteers will join fellow birders across the country to brave various weather conditions to count birds during the annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count.

Birders and nature enthusiasts will take part in this tradition, many rising before dawn to participate in the longest running wildlife census on the planet.

From feeder-watchers and field observers to count compilers and regional editors, everyone who takes part in the Christmas Bird Count does it for love of birds and the excitement of friendly competition -- and with the knowledge that their efforts are making a difference for science and bird conservation.

The count takes place within Count Circles, which focus on specific geographical areas and each circle is overseen by a Count Compiler. Count circles will be divided and areas assigned to participants at the meeting time and place below. If you are a beginning birder, you will be able to join a group that includes at least one experienced birdwatcher.

In addition, if your home is within the

boundaries of a Count Circle, you can stay home and report the birds that visit your feeder.

### Western Slope Christmas Bird Count

All levels of birding experience are welcome. We'll be birding most of the day. Bring: warm clothes (dress for expected weather), boots, snack and/or lunch, water, sunscreen, binoculars, spotting scope (if you have), bird books. Clip boards are very helpful. Provided: Map of birding areas, checklist of birds which might be seen, instructions. For more information about CBC participation, visit Audubon's website at <https://www.audubon.org/conservation/science/christmas-bird-count>. For additional information on local efforts call the numbers listed above or contact Black Canyon Audubon Society at [black.canyon.audubon.society@gmail.com](mailto:black.canyon.audubon.society@gmail.com)

**Sunday Dec. 14 - Gunnison.** This group will meet at 7:30 am at Hurst Hall, Room 130 on the Western Colorado University campus to get organized. Everyone is encouraged to dress appropriately for the weather (which can be a little chilly in Gunnison) and bring lunch, water and sunscreen. Afterward we will have a Chili potluck to compile results. Please contact organizer Arden Anderson (*arden at gun-*

*nison dot com*) for additional information and to let him know you are planning to attend. Folks at all levels of birding experience are welcome.

**Saturday Dec. 20- Montrose.** Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the N 2nd St. and N Cascade Ave. parking lot, Downtown Montrose. We will break into teams and you will be given maps and data sheets to complete the field count. All experience levels are welcome and encouraged. Please contact Missy Siders at (*black.canyon.audubon.fieldtrips at gmail dot com*) at least 5 days before the count so she can inform you of any last minute changes to the count.

**Saturday Dec. 27 - Delta.** Meet at the Delta City Market parking lot at 8:30 am. We will break into teams and you will be given maps and data sheets to complete the field count. Please contact (*amy dot seglund at state dot co dot us*) if you have any questions.

**Saturday, Jan. 3 - Hotchkiss.** Meet at the Hotchkiss City Market parking lot at 8:00 am. All experience levels are welcome and encouraged. A catered lunch get together will be held at Andrea Robinsong's. Please contact Adam Petry at (*petry at western-biology dot com*) with questions or to RSVP.



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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## TIMBERLINE BANK LAUNCHES FEDERAL EMPLOYEE LOAN PROGRAM TO SUPPORT WORKERS IMPACTED BY GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE- Timberline Bank has announced the launch of its Federal Employee Loan Program, designed to support federal workers impacted by the government shutdown and facing a temporary loss of income. The program offers short-term financial relief with no interest and no required payments for the first six months, giving affected employees time to get back on their feet.

After that period, standard Timberline Bank Consumer Reserve Overdraft Protection Line of Credit terms apply.

“Timberline Bank has always believed in stepping up for our communities when times are uncertain,” said Scott Wittman, Montrose Branch President of Timberline Bank. “Just as we supported small businesses during COVID with PPP loans,

we’re proud to once again stand beside our neighbors by helping federal employees bridge the gap until paychecks resume.” The Federal Employee Loan Program gives qualified applicants access to funds based on their current income, with fast, local decision-making and no fees.

The goal is to ease financial strain for federal employees and their families throughout Western Colorado, including those living in Mesa, Pitkin, Montrose, and neighboring counties.

The Federal Employee Loan Program is available beginning Friday, Oct. 17, 2025, at all Timberline Bank locations in Grand Junction, Aspen, and Montrose.

As a locally owned community bank, Timberline remains committed to helping Western Colorado families navigate life’s challenges with financial solutions that

put people first. For more information or to apply, stop by any Timberline Bank location.

**\*All loans subject to credit approval. Program terms may change without notice. Available to qualifying federal employees living in Mesa, Pitkin, Montrose, and neighboring counties.**

*About Timberline Bank:*

*Timberline Bank is a full-service, independent, and locally owned bank.*

*The bank was chartered in October of 2004 by its employees and local investors from Grand Junction, Aspen, and Montrose. Each of their markets have their own leadership and President. This allows Timberline Bank to better serve its communities because decisions are made at the local level. To learn more, visit [www.TimberlineBank.com](http://www.TimberlineBank.com)*

# MONTROSE COUNTY BUDGET TIMELINE

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-A Special Meeting of the Board of County Commissioners was held last week to start reviewing the proposed 2026 County Budget. The following is an outline of the budget timeline:

October 15-23: BOCC Departmental Budget Review Meetings

November 3-21: Final Review of Proposed Budget

December 5: Final Certification of Assessed Property Values

December 10: Public Hearing for the BOCC to Adopt 2026 Budget

December 22: Certification of all Property Tax Levies due to the State of Colorado

January 31, 2026: Balanced Budget due to DOLA



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# COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

## **B WILD INVESTMENTS, LLC EXPANDS QDOBA FOOTPRINT WITH 20-RESTAURANT DEAL ACQUISITION BUILDS ON RECENT 50-RESTAURANT DEVELOPMENT COMMITMENT, ACCELERATING BRAND GROWTH ACROSS MULTIPLE MARKETS**

*Special to the Mirror*

SAN DIEGO, CA – [QDOBA](#), America's rapidly growing #2 Mexican fast-casual restaurant brand, today announced [B Wild Investments, LLC](#) via affiliate 7 Star Restaurants, LLC, has acquired 20 QDOBA restaurants from one of the brand's long-time franchise groups. With this strategic transaction, B Wild Investments will become one of QDOBA's largest U.S. franchise groups, on track to operate 70 restaurants across Alaska, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, and Utah.

The acquisition includes 20 restaurants – 16 across Colorado and four in Alaska. The Colorado locations span the Western Slope, including Vail, Glenwood Springs, Carbondale, Grand Junction, Montrose, and Steamboat Springs, as well as all Colorado Springs restaurants. All of the Alaska locations surround Anchorage. This milestone follows B Wild Investments' recent 50-unit development agreement to bring new QDOBA restaurants to various cities throughout Utah, Nevada, Colorado, New Mexico, and Alaska.

"Finalizing this deal marks a defining moment for me and my team," said Barry Dubin, Founder and CEO of B Wild Investments, LLC. "I'm very excited to join Qdoba given the strength and momentum of the brand as well as the very attractive opportunity to expand within existing and into new markets. Our strategy is to grow our footprint via new unit development and acquisitions of existing units while also honoring the strong operational foundation built by the former franchise owner. We look forward to investing in all the communities we serve and continuing to elevate QDOBA as an industry leader."

A seasoned leader in multi-unit growth and operations, Dubin co-founded KBP Brands – which grew to more than 1,000

restaurant units nationwide – and currently serves as Executive Chairman of the largest Tide Laundromat franchisee in the U.S, US Laundry, LLC. His expansion with QDOBA underscores his continued commitment to building scalable, people-focused restaurant businesses.

"We are thrilled to have Barry expand his business portfolio with us and continue building on QDOBA's strong growth trajectory," said Jeremy Vitaro, Chief Development Officer at QDOBA. "As one of the fastest-growing brands in the space, QDOBA continues to attract some of the best operators from QSR and casual dining, and Barry is no exception. Since joining the QDOBA family earlier this year, he's already proven to be a stellar operator. We can't wait to see what he does with these restaurants and the 50 more to come."

With nearly 600 future restaurants in its development pipeline, QDOBA continues to target expansion across Florida, Texas, California, Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana, and Tennessee. The brand currently operates in 45 states, with growth spanning both traditional restaurants and non-traditional venues, including airports, universities, and military bases.

For additional information about the QDOBA franchise opportunity and available territories, prospective franchise owners can visit [www.qdobafanchise.com](http://www.qdobafanchise.com).

### **About QDOBA Mexican Eats**

QDOBA is a fast-casual Mexican restaurant with over 820 locations in the U.S., Canada, Puerto Rico, Japan and South Korea. Committed to bringing flavor to people's lives, QDOBA uses ingredients freshly prepared in-house by hand throughout the day to create a variety of flavorful menu options. Guests can experience QDOBA's delicious offerings by customizing their own burritos, bowls, tacos,

quesadillas, nachos and salads to suit their personal tastes and cravings. Premium toppings can always be added to entrées at no extra charge, including signature 3-cheese queso and hand-crafted guacamole.

For seven consecutive years, QDOBA has ranked among the top fast-casual restaurants in the *USA TODAY* 10Best Readers' Choice Awards – including six years at #1. QDOBA was also recently named one of *Yelp's* Most Loved Airport Brands, a distinction based on extensive analysis of ratings and reviews from travelers.

Discover more at [QDOBA.com](http://QDOBA.com) or on the QDOBA app, which is available for download on the [iTunes App Store](#) or [Google Play](#). Fans can also connect with QDOBA on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), [X](#) and [TikTok](#).

### **About B Wild Investments, LLC**

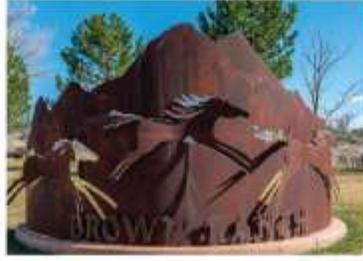
B Wild is the private investment office of Barry W. Dubin. Our firm is exclusively focused on acquiring and building exceptional multi-unit consumer businesses. B Wild employs an active approach investing in a select number of companies seeking to achieve excellence with integrity. We identify our investment opportunities proactively via our expansive network and are attracted to opportunities where our experience and relationships are likely to provide tailwinds in building extraordinary businesses.

Key to our investment thesis is partnering with strong management and structuring compensation such that success leads to life changing financial outcomes for our teams. We have completed two platform investments to date including US Laundry, LLC a Tide laundromat franchisee, and 7 Star Restaurants, LLC, a QDOBA franchisee. Please visit [www.bwildinvestments.com](http://www.bwildinvestments.com) to learn more about our firm.

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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## SIENNA ROBINSON AND HER HORSE GOLDEN VIPERS PISTOL, AKA PISTOL

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-Sienna Robinson and her horse Golden Vipers Pistol, aka Pistol, have earned a spot in the US Dressage Federation Finals taking place in Ohio. What makes this especially impressive is that Pistol is a nine-year-old horse bred to do untrained farm work, not to be a dancing dressage horse.

"Going into Regionals, I had no expectations, only hope," Sienna explained on GoFundMe. "You see, typical horse breeds at Regionals are Warmbloods, the really tall horses that jump and appear to dance in the Olympics, thus making me and Pistol an underdog because normally the judges in dressage have personal preferences to Warmbloods, making it especially hard to get good scores in dressage."

Still, the duo from Montrose defied the odds and won their division. Sienna will now need to drive for three days with



*GoFundMe Courtesy photo.*

Pistol in a trailer in order to get to the competition in Ohio. She started a GoFundMe to help with these costs. Here is

the fundraiser link: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-pistol-and-sienna-get-to-finals>

## WESTERN COLORADO FRIENDS OF THE HIMALAYAS PRESENTS CULTURAL EVENING WITH OUR SHERPA FRIENDS

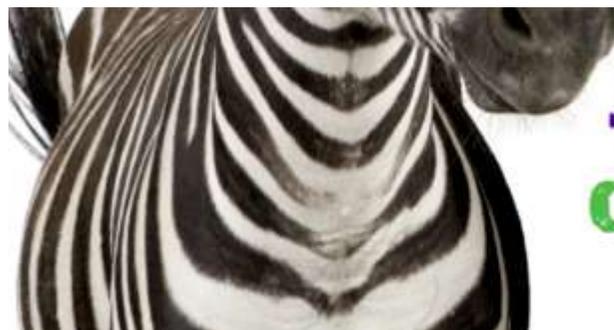
*Special to the Mirror*

COLORADO-Western Colorado Friends of the Himalayas is pleased to invite the community to a cultural evening with our Sherpa friends on Saturday, October 25, from 6-8 pm at the Ute Indian Museum. Nima Sherpa will present a special slide program, "Dumji Festival", with Ang Danu Sherpa, tracing a recent family journey from Montrose to their Himalayan village of Khumjung, high in the Everest region of Nepal, for a multi-generational celebration of colorful, traditional Sherpa customs, against a splendid background of magnificent Himalayan peaks.

Our Friends of the Himalayas organization is a local humanitarian 501(c)3 nonprofit that serves the needs of several impoverished rural communities in the Himalayan region that are without resources, thanks to support from kind donors. Projects have included rebuilding a rural school destroyed in a recent earthquake, providing essential facilities for an adult disabled center, constructing toilets and solar showers for a remote school and village, furnishing clean water resources for a community and numerous other services outlined in our website: [www.himalayanfriends.com](http://www.himalayanfriends.com)

An additional highlight will be our annual Community Service Awards which we are honored to present to local individuals who have provided outstanding service to our own community.

The event is free and family-friendly with refreshments. Donations are appreciated. Himalayan crafts are offered for sale with proceeds benefitting the Center for Disabled Adults in Kathmandu. For more information contact 970-275-3671 or 970-209-1395.



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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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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### TRI-COUNTY HEALTH NETWORK HOSTS MARKETPLACE PASSWORD RESET EVENTS AHEAD OF OPEN ENROLLMENT

*Special to the Mirror*

REGIONAL-Tri-County Health Network (TCHNetwork) is helping community members get ready for Open Enrollment with Connect for Health Colorado Marketplace Password Reset Events this month. Certified Health Coverage Guides will be available to assist residents in updating or resetting their Connect for Health Colorado Marketplace account passwords — ensuring they are ready to enroll when the Marketplace opens on November 1st.

Events will take place from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the following locations:

-Montrose – *Tuesday, October 21st* at MADA

-Delta – *Wednesday, October 22nd* at the Delta Public Library

-Telluride – *Thursday, October 23rd* at the Wilkinson Public Library

“These events make it easier for residents to get a head start on open enrollment,” Amy Rowan, CO-Executive Director of Community Programs at TCHNetwork. “We know that passwords can be a barrier for many people, and we want everyone to have easy access to affordable health coverage.”

TCHNetwork reminds residents that premiums and plan options are changing this year, and auto-enrollment may not guarantee the best coverage or price. Individuals and families are encouraged to review their plans carefully to make sure they have the right coverage for their health needs and budgets in 2026.

For your coverage to begin January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026, you must enroll by December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025. And for your coverage to start on February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026, you must complete enrollment by January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

Certified Health Coverage Guides will also answer questions about financial assistance, coverage options, and steps to complete enrollment when the Marketplace opens. TCHNetwork is accepting calls now for appointments after November 1<sup>st</sup> to assist with your 2026 enrollment.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (970)708-7096.

### DAVID WHITE’S TERM EXTENDED AS INTERIM COUNTY MANAGER

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE - The Montrose Board of County Commissioners has renewed David White’s contract as Interim County Manager for an additional three months at the October 15 Board of County Commissioner meeting.

White, a former Montrose County Commissioner and City of Montrose Mayor, brings decades of public service and institutional knowledge to the role.

“David’s steady leadership has been a tremendous asset,” said BOCC Chair Scott Mijares. “As we continue the 2026 budget process and fill key leadership positions, his experience will help keep the County on track.”

Commissioner Sean Pond added, “There are few people who understand Montrose County like David. We’re fortunate to have someone with his background guiding us through this transition.”

“I’m honored to continue serving the residents of Montrose County,” White said.



# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## THE 2025 HDSA TEAM HOPE 5K - GRAND JUNCTION TAKES PLACE SATURDAY, OCT. 25 AT IMONDI WAKE ZONE

*Special to the Mirror*

GRAND JUNCTION-The Rocky Mountain Chapter of the Huntington’s Disease Society of America (HDSA) will host the 2025 Team Hope 5K - Grand Junction, on Saturday, October 25th at Imondi Wake Zone, 1583 Cipolla Road, Fruita, Colorado, 81521. Registration starts at 9:45 AM and the event starts at 10:00 AM. All proceeds support HDSA’s mission to improve the lives of people affected by Huntington’s disease (HD) and their families.

Team Hope is HDSA’s largest national grassroots fundraising event, which takes place in over 100 cities across the U.S. and has raised more than \$28 million for HD since its inception in 2007. Thousands of families, friends, co-workers, neighbors, and communities walk together each year to support HDSA’s mission to improve the lives of people affected by HD and their families.

For more information about the event, please contact Monica Mayerle ([mayerlemonica@gmail.com](mailto:mayerlemonica@gmail.com)).

Online registration and donation information can be found [HERE](#)

HDSA’s Team Hope Walk Program is nationally sponsored by Neurocrine Biosciences and Teva Pharmaceuticals.

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## PROPERTY FEATURES



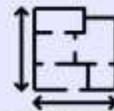
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# Hidden Lake

\*WAC. Estimated payment, rates and terms may vary based on credit history. Not all applicants will qualify. Subject to lender terms & conditions. Actual term, rate, APR, and loan amount may vary.\*

# READER PHOTO SPOTLIGHT: CHARLIE KIRK RALLY & NO KINGS MARCH



*Charlie Kirk Rally Photo (above) is by Bill Davis*



*Photos from Saturday's No Kings Day protest (top left and below) are by B. Slate.*

# Annual Holiday Crafts & Bazaar

**FRIDAY, OCT. 31ST  
9AM TO 4PM**

**SATURDAY, NOV. 1ST  
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**SUNDAY, NOV. 2ND  
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# COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

## GLEN AHLBERG

**September 17, 1947-September 24, 2025**

GLEN AHLBERG, 78, passed away on September 24, 2025, under hospice care in Montrose, CO. Born on September 17, 1947, to Barton and Darlene Ahlberg. Glen was the oldest of seven.

Growing up in the Montrose area and graduating from Montrose High School in 1965, Glen was drafted into the U.S. Army on January 25, 1967, and served honorably in Vietnam. Following his military service, he married Sue Hamblin in 1969 and had two children together. They later divorced in 1989. He built a respected career in construction in the Ridgway and Telluride area, where his dedication and craftsmanship left a lasting mark.

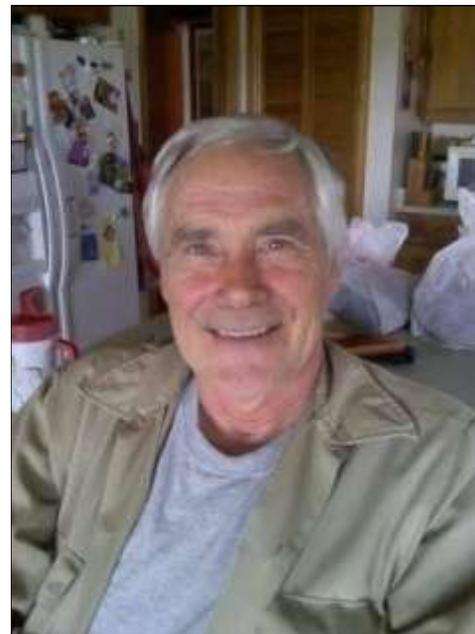
He is survived by his wife of 34 years, Sheila Ahlberg (Married in 1991); his four children, Bill (Stephanie) Youngs, Jeri (Mike) Main, Trina (Steve) Dzelzgalvis, and

Kris Ahlberg; his mother, Darlene Pittser; two brothers, and two sisters and a large loving family.

He was preceded in death by his father, Barton Ahlberg; his brother, Tommy Ahlberg, killed in action in Vietnam; and his sister, Patty Nicholas.

During his retirement years he was a familiar face at the Montrose Farmers Market. Glen found joy in community gatherings and was an active member of the Beekeepers Club and in past years with the Woodworkers Guild among others. His joyful spirit and kindness touched everyone he met. Known for being of help to others, Glen brought light and laughter wherever he went.

Glen was truly one in a million. May his memory bring comfort to those who knew him



## PETER G. MANESS

**April 30, 1945 — July 25, 2025**



PETER G. MANESS passed away on July 25th in Bend, Oregon. Born and raised in Montrose, Peter graduated from Montrose High School in 1963, where he formed lifelong friendships, notably with his classmate and close friend Bob Moore. Their shared memories include good times at the old Fox Theater—a beloved local landmark once owned by Ed Nelson and still standing today.

In 1967, Peter was drafted into the U.S. Army and served honorably in Vietnam as part of the 1st of the 10th cavalry, B-Troup attached to the 4th infantry division. During his 19-month tour, he earned two Purple Hearts in recognition of his bravery and commitment, along with commendations that reflected his dedication to his fellow soldiers and his country.

After returning from military service, Peter continued his education and graduated from Colorado State University (CSU). He established himself as a respected land surveyor in the Norwood and Montrose area, dedicating himself to his profession until his retirement in 2007. Peter's commitment reached beyond his career; he supported his sister through her high school years and served as the VFW president in Norwood, always seeking ways to give back to his community.

Peter leaves behind his son, Logan Maness, and his half-brother, Gene Daguerre. He was the son of Roxilea Daguerre (also known as Pete) and Woodrow Wilson Maness, originally from Southern California, and his half-sister Nancy Kunze, all of whom have preceded him in death. Many of Peter's cherished friends and family, including the Cox brothers—Dwayne and Darrell, Steve Youngblood and Tom Kolz—have also passed on. Bob Moore, his longtime friend, remains living near Wellington and pens this heartfelt tribute in Peter's honor.

Peter's life was a testament to service, enduring friendship, and unwavering dedication to his family and community. He will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege to know him and whose lives he touched.

# COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

## LESLIE C. HERR

*May 27, 1950 — October 13, 2025*



LESLIE C. HERR, loving mother, grandmother, daughter, sister and friend passed away on October 13th, 2025, at the age of 75.

Leslie, or Grandma Leslie, as her adoring grandchildren referred to her, was forever on a journey to better herself and the world around her. She was the brightest light.

She was born to Betty B. and Robert Z. Chew in Evanston, Illinois on May 27th, 1950. She often reminisced fondly of her high school days at New Trier and her senior year in Cleveland, Ohio when her family relocated. She cherished her childhood with brothers Bob and David.

Leslie used her Master's degree from the University of Denver to begin her career as a speech therapist in Delta, Colorado, before settling in Montrose and helping thousands of children and adults communicate with the world around them. She was deeply passionate about the work she did, and many looked up to her. She modeled choosing a career you love to her four children: Heidi, Krista, Jenny, and Robert.

Leslie was determinedly kind and big-hearted, generous with her time and

thoughtfulness – something many of us found inspiring and hard to match. She constantly examined the world, always looking to see how she could better understand those around her. Her ability to listen deeply with empathy was a gift to everyone she encountered.

The strength and bond of her friendships were very important in Leslie's life. She found camaraderie within many groups of people including: her Bible study, hiking and skiing friends, neighbors, meditation and chanting groups, pickleball teams, dance friends, and of course her many wonderful colleagues at the schools, hospitals, and care facilities she worked at throughout her 47-year-long career. She found family in the company of her high school and Pi Phi friends with whom she adored spending hours on the phone.

Leslie had a lust for life and a free spirit. She was a trend setter and effortlessly cool. Meeting Janis Joplin before she struck it big and the Beatles when they had just jumped the pond. She had the best stories.

She moved to her beloved Western Slope in 1975, where she took up skiing, biking, hiking, and raised her family. With the father of her children, Bruce, they moved "south of town" and with humor and grit tried their hand at a country life raising pigs, chickens, rabbits, a slew of cats, and homeschooling the kids. Because of her devotion to that life, her children each have a deep reverence for the land they grew up on and for living a life close to nature.

Leslie was an avid learner and explorer, from getting scuba certified at 70 years old to learning how to play the harmonium to keeping up with the new technology and research of her field. She even visited Uzbekistan in recent years. As a lover of writing and books, her library of knowledge was vast, and she could hold a conversation with anyone on just about

any topic.

Leslie held deep faith in Christianity and a spiritual practice through the Self Realization Fellowship and Zen Buddhism. Her humble practice led her to live a simple life with gratitude and love for all beings. She never judged or failed to give her generous heart to someone because of politics, religion, or a difference in beliefs. She was a healer and modeled the ways of Jesus in the care she gave to others. Many have called her the most forgiving person they have ever met.

Leslie will be remembered as magnetic, exceptionally sharp, fun, full of energy, beautiful, resilient, and absolutely hilarious.

Leslie is survived by her daughters: Heidi (Chad) Bassett of Parker, CO; Krista (Eric) Tarantino of Carmel, CA; Jennifer Herr of San Francisco, CA; and Robert Herr of Santa Barbara, CA. Her brothers: Robert Z. Chew III and David Chew. Her nieces: Courtney and Christy Chew. Her mother, Betty B. Chew. Her four grandchildren: Conner, Evelyn, and Cole Bassett and Lennon Lucille Herr. The father of her children, Bruce Herr.

She is preceded in death by her father, Robert Z. Chew Jr.

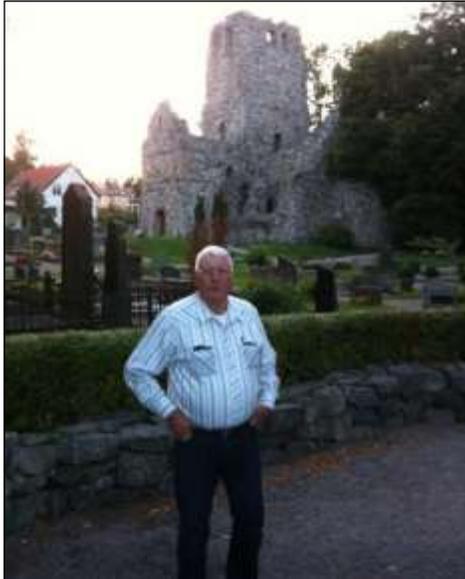
Leslie's life ended at the height of her enjoying it, with her heart wide open, and for that we are thankful. True to her spirit, she handled her illness with grace, a learner's mind, and determination. Though her passing has left an emptiness in the hearts of many, the outpouring of love from her community has been overwhelming. In her last weeks she mentioned how celebrated she felt by her friends and family on this journey.

In lieu of flowers, friends are encouraged to make a donation to the Crestone Mountain Zen Center or do something kind for a neighbor. While Leslie felt that a celebration of life might be "a bit dramatic," services will be held in the spring.

# COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

## CHARLES EDWARD RAY

*December 3, 1939 — October 11, 2025*



CHARLES EDWARD RAY, a beloved husband, father, grandfather, and great-

grandfather, passed away peacefully on October 11, 2025, at the age of 85.

Born on December 3, 1939, in Olathe, Colorado, to Jasper and Anna Ray, Charles—affectionately known as Charlie or Chuck—lived a full and meaningful life rooted in love, family, and quiet strength.

He is survived by his devoted wife, Shelia Brown; his sister Kathleen Alexander (Kirk Alexander); and his children: Terry Ray (Amy Ray), Shanua Crombie (Ken Crombie), and Danette Pryor (Roy Pryor). He is also lovingly remembered by his stepchildren: Kenny Brown (Tracy Brown), Keith Brown (Casey Brown), and Kris Brown (Robyn Brown). Charlie’s legacy continues through his 18 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren, each of whom brought him great pride and joy.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his stillborn brother also named Charles,

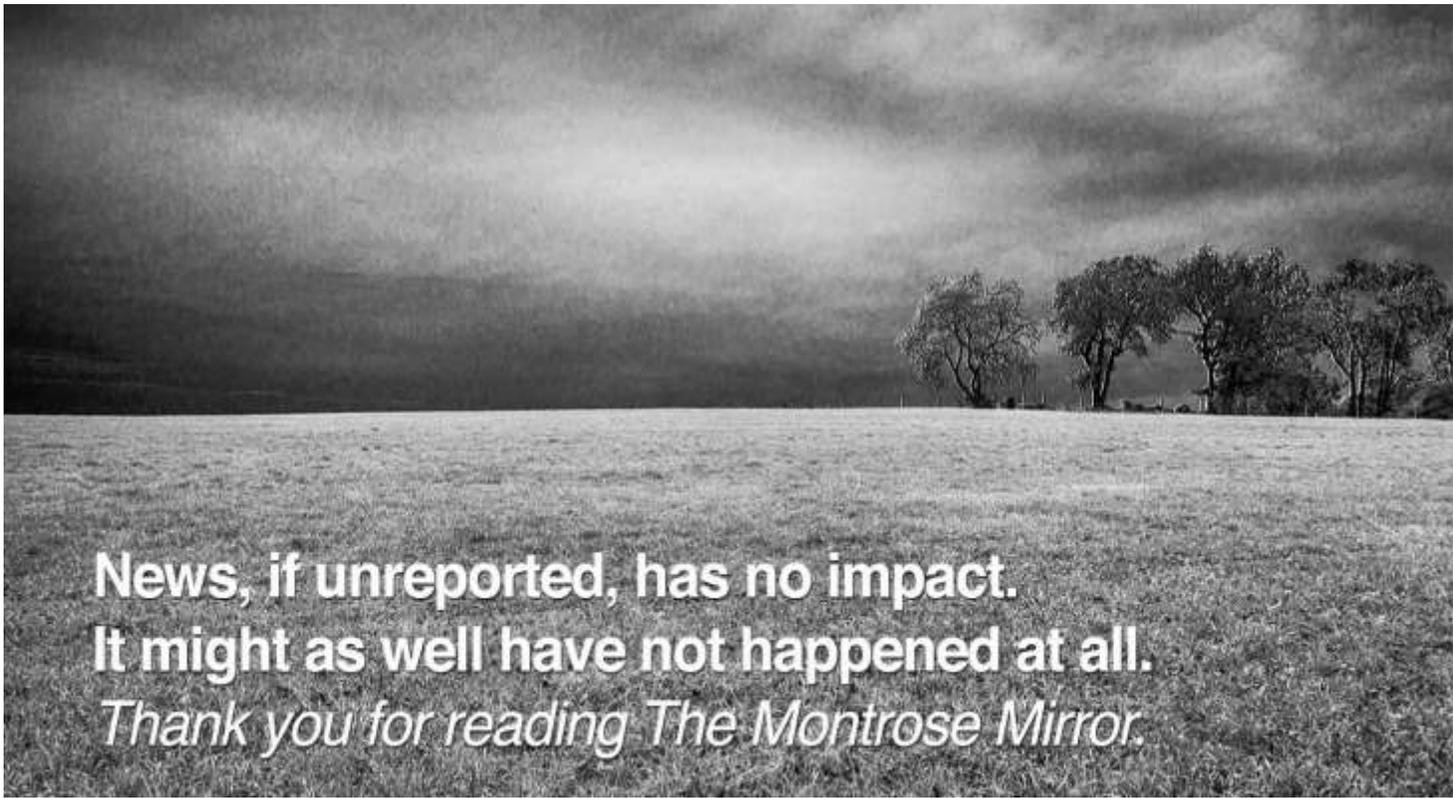
his stepson Kelly Brown, and his granddaughter Rachel Brown.

Charlie will be remembered for his steady presence, kind heart, and deep commitment to his family. His stories, laughter, and quiet wisdom will be missed dearly by all who knew and loved him.

A viewing will be held October 24th 2025 from 5pm to 7pm at Crippin Funeral Home 802 East Main Street Montrose Colorado 81401

A service to honor Charlie’s life will be held October 25th 2025 at 10am at Olathe Cemetery 1171 S Hwy 50 Business Loop Olathe Colorado 81425.

A celebration of life with be held October 25th, 2025 immediately following the service at Superior Sod Farm 57518 Ida Road Montrose Colorado 81403. Please bring your favorite dish, Coffee, tea and lemonade will be provided.



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

# COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

## HEIDI K. SEELHOFF

**March 19, 1932 — October 4, 2025**

HEIDI K. SEELHOFF passed away peacefully in her home on October 4, 2025. Born in Weiherhammer, Germany, to Adolf and Margareta (Rothascher) Gebhard, she grew up in Amberg, Germany during WWII, moved to Switzerland after the war where she worked as an au pair and physician assistant. Heidi had to often ski or hike to see her patients in the Alps, which developed a life-long love for skiing and the mountains. She came to the United States on the USS America in 1954. She settled in Chicago, IL and began work as a medical technologist. Heidi met her husband, Guenther Seelhoff, and they married in Chicago in 1955. They lived in the Chicago area to raise their children, and she continued to work in the medical field. She remained an avid skier and joined the National Ski Patrol. Heidi became a naturalized citizen in 1976.

In 1987, Heidi and Guenther moved to Montrose, CO and designed, built, and operated the Spring Creek Chalet Retirement Residence. Heidi took great pride in providing compassionate, loving, and personal care to the residents. In 1999, they built Heidi's Chateau Assisted Living, named in honor of her dedication to the senior community of Montrose. She continued to successfully run the Spring Creek Chalet after Guenther's death, until she sold the business in 2023.

Heidi's love and devotion to her family was not only her first passion in life, it was infinite. She was an avid gardener and

could be often seen working in the gardens at the Chalet, alongside her son, Reiner. Every year she loved foraging for wild mushrooms in the mountains, a skill she learned from her father. Heidi also continued her skiing in the mountains of Colorado. She loved to travel and went back home to Germany often. She also travelled extensively in the United States and Europe.

Heidi was passionate about music and was an accomplished zither player. She learned to play the harp in her 80's. She joined in many concerts and competitions with her musical achievements. She loved to host gatherings and was well known for her hospitality. Heidi was a member of St. Mary's Church and a devout Catholic.

Heidi is survived by her sister Christiane Hawkins of Montrose, as well as her five children:

Edith Seelhoff of Montrose, Eric (Martha) Seelhoff of Loveland, CO, Sieglind (Dieter) Preuschl of Montrose, Reiner (Natasha) Seelhoff of Montrose, and Birgitt (Christopher) Schmalz of Montrose. Her gentle heart and loving spirit live on in her grandchildren: Michelle Stair, Jessica Seelhoff, Amanda Boots, Joe Seelhoff, Ryan Seelhoff, Markus Seelhoff, Anneliese Schmalz, Andreas Schmalz, Tristan Schmalz, and Maximillian Preuschl, as well as 11 great grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Preceding her in death were her parents, her husband Guenther, her brothers Sieg-



fried and Rainer, and her sisters Hedi and Hanni.

Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Crippin Funeral Home. Cremation has taken place. A vigil will be held on Tuesday, October 21, 2025, from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the Crippin Chapel. The funeral mass will take place at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Montrose on October 22, 2025, at 10:00 a.m., followed by Interment at Grandview Cemetery, Montrose. A celebration of life will continue at St. Mary's beginning at 1:00 p.m. with "Kaffe and Kuchen" provided.

In lieu of flowers, the families request donations be made to Hope West Hospice, 725 S. 5th St., Montrose, CO 81401.



ISSUE 544 Oct. 20, 2025

# ART & SOL

## YOUR BRAIN ON NATURE - INSIGHTS



By Dr. Lauren Hall Ruddell, PhD

### Greetings Mirrorites!

OLATHE-A few weeks ago, a guest experienced a classic restorative moment. For three days she had been trying to decompress from caregiving and city life. It was finally on the fourth day, gazing out over a green lawn dotted with meandering chickens and rolling hills in the distance, that her eyes lost focus and her forehead relaxed. I stayed completely still and silent, like a hiker afraid of startling a shy deer. After several minutes, she heaved a deep sigh and turned to me.

"You just had a restorative experience. How do you feel?" I queried.

"Relaxed. And oddly, I suddenly have a new thought about how to tackle all of the crap in my spare bedroom."

This ah-ha moment was an insight into a problem and a way around the 'analysis



paralysis' that was proving to be a solid barrier to effective action. To be sure, the amount of stuff she referred to, literally stacked to the ceiling in no particular order, would intimidate most people. However, during her brief moment of rest in pleasant, natural surroundings, a spontaneous cognition was sparked through engagement with her default mode network (DMN).

This is a common phenomenon among humans and even other animals. One explanation...the internal mental activity hypothesis, also known as spontaneous cognition, which is a theory that describes the role of the DMN in the generation and

manipulation of internal thoughts during periods of rest and introspection. This hypothesis was first proposed by Canadian researcher [Kalina Christoff and others in 2004](#). According to this theory, when individuals are not engaged in externally directed tasks, the DMN becomes active. Reflection on the self begins to occur, which can be good or bad depending upon the person's tendency to ruminate. However, in the case of my guest, Christoff and associates would suggest that her experience of her DMN in that moment was of... "the mental simulation of past and future events, as well as the planning of imaginary scenarios." This hypothesis

Continued next pg

## YOUR BRAIN ON NATURE - INSIGHTS From previous pg

highlights the importance of the DMN in facilitating spontaneous cognition. During a mind-wandering, internally focused, calm, and reflective but unstructured moment in nature, a simple and doable way to begin the task presented itself.

I like to think of these sorts of revelations as insights, but some researchers would disagree. They would quibble that spontaneous cognition refers to “thoughts, memories, or sensations that emerge without external stimulus or active control, often resembling memory replay and serving functions like consolidating memories and *facilitating creative problem-solving*. Insight is a sudden realization or understanding *that solves a problem*, often appearing after a period of subconscious processing and contributing to creative thought.” Ummm, and the difference here is? So I’m sticking with DMN driven insights as being pretty synonymous with spontaneous cognition. This is a very important function of time spent in restorative natural environments because, as Sigmund Freud said...”When making a decision of minor importance, I have always found it advantageous to consider all the pros and cons. In vital matters, however, the decision should come from the unconscious, from some-

where within ourselves.” Well said, Siggy. I mentioned how cross-species this experience can be. I have seen something resembling insights in my goats, and dog owners would certainly claim that their pooch made an astonishing connection at some time in the past. Scientists like to refer to a pivotal study with a chimp named Sultan. I will share this fun excerpt from one of my books on understanding animal behavior.

“In the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Dr. Wolfgang Köhler was experimenting with primate intelligence. He had come to believe in inspired behaviors in apes that went beyond even observational learning. Dr. Köhler placed a chimpanzee named Sultan inside a cage. Sultan grew hungry and wanted a banana that was placed outside the cage, well out of reach. Sultan was provided two bamboo sticks of different sizes that could be joined together, but were presented to him separately. Initially, Sultan showed all the usual techniques to use each stick in turn to scoop the banana over to him. Individually, both sticks were too short. After numerous ‘fruitless’ efforts, Sultan nearly gave up, but as he was playing with the sticks, he managed to finally touch the banana by pushing one stick with the other stick.

Sultan was observed having the sudden insight about how to create a longer tool. He inserted one stick *inside* the other, and then pulled the food item within reach, thus supporting Dr. Köhler’s theory of insightful learning.” [Hall Ruddell, 2021](#). Although not in a natural setting, it was nevertheless when Sultan stopped focusing attention on the external goal and started playing, and likely entering a mind-wandering state in his own DMN, that insight occurred.

Will the insight gained by this person lead to action? Hard to be sure, and we all know how insights gained on vacation evaporate upon returning home. We humans have the capacity to act on insights if we place importance on the outcomes. As one researcher on this topic stated, effective use of insights requires “*giving ideas some legs*” or even, vice versa, “*giving legs some ideas*,” [Tocci et al. \(2022\)](#)

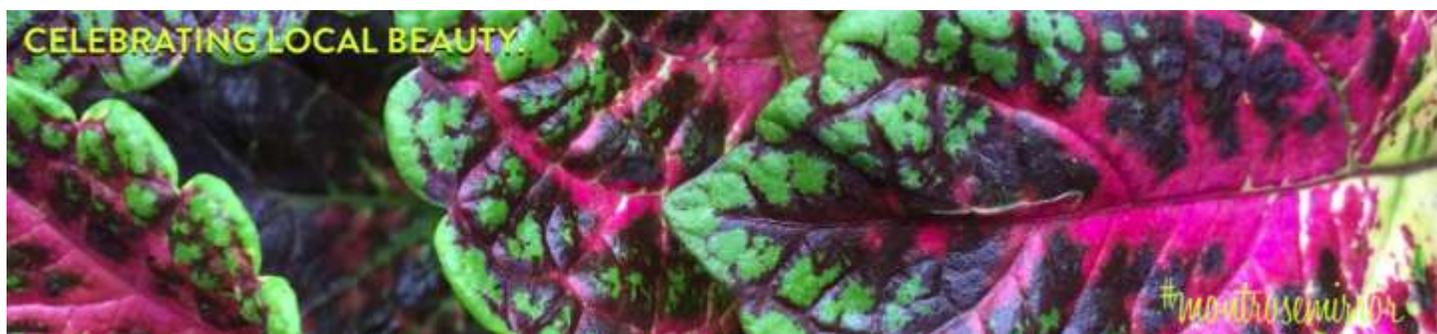
If you feel stuck on a project and buried in analysis paralysis, try playing outdoors in nature this fall and let the remaining autumn colors tickle your DMN in a mindless fashion and see what insights emerge. You’ve got nothing to lose!  
*Happy Insighting,*  
*The Mindful Naturalist*

## COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

### SAN JUAN WEAVERS GUILD 47<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SHOW & SALE

*Special to Art & Sol*

MONTROSE-The San Juan Weavers Guild 47<sup>th</sup> annual Show & Sale is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 22, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Ute Indian Museum, 17253 Chipeta Rd., Montrose. The event is free to the public and will feature educational exhibits, demonstrations and hands-on activities. A vast selection of handwoven, handspun, and related fiber items made by guild members will be for sale. The facility is wheelchair accessible and provides on-site parking.



# THE BAREFOOT LAUREATE: WITH WENDY VIDELOCK

## WHAT DO WE REALLY MEAN BY AUTHENTICITY?

By Western Slope Poet Laureate  
Wendy Videlock

PALISADE-Authenticity is one of those words that's been so overused and commodified, it's sadly fallen into the camp of advertisers, influencers and politicians.

It has become a buzzword for saying whatever one feels like saying about themselves or others, regardless of the consequences. We might think people are being authentic when they say whatever comes to mind, but blurting out unfiltered thoughts is not always truth-telling. If we are deeply ego-driven or driven by greed, for example, is it a virtue to flaunt those things in the name of authenticity? Or is it more authentic to acknowledge these human attributes as personal challenges?

If we are deeply bitter or resentful, is it authentic to exact revenge on those with whom we feel have done us wrong— or is it authentic to examine how dangerous revenge can be? Is a mass murderer just being authentic and true to himself? Or is he psychotic? Is a political leader authentic if he displays temper tantrums or is he displaying a particular brand of entitlement?

My sense is that the reality of authenticity is complex, elusive, paradoxical and is not for the faint of heart—or the humorless.

*I'm sometimes spring and sometimes  
wintress, sometimes earnest, some-  
times*

*fib-ish, sometimes skinny, sometimes  
blimpish,*

*sometimes frail, sometimes bullish,  
sometimes mercy, sometimes rancor,  
sometimes color, sometimes lan-  
guage,*

*sometimes whole and sometimes fam-  
ished.*

"Be yourself," we are told, as if selfhood were static, as if we were all miraculously self aware.

Miles Davis famously said *it takes a long time to learn to sound like yourself.*

Brene' Brown defines authenticity as *having the courage to be imperfect, set*

*boundaries and embrace one's whole self.*

It seems that living an authentic life means being honest with one's self in order to be honest with others. It's the first part that many people would prefer to do without.

Perhaps authenticity involves cultivating an awareness between one's inner life and one's outer expression,

When I first began teaching years ago I suffered from Imposter's Syndrome so badly I overcompensated — feigning expertise and generally trying too hard to sound like I knew what I was talking about at all times.

It was exhausting. It was truly exhausting. It wasn't until I began to shed those layers of pretension that I began to experience, not exhaustion, but the exhilaration that comes from teaching. *Ancora Impara*, I am still learning.

A poet friend of mine, a man who was deeply generous and gracious, recently died, leaving many of us bereft. He was deeply loved, not just for his brilliance, but for his easy, way with everybody, whether stranger, friend or colleague, whether PhD or bartender. Yet a couple of years before he died he shared with mutual friends that he felt he had failed in his genuine engagement with others. I was really surprised to hear this but shouldn't have been. This kind of humility and self examination is precisely what made him so uniquely genuine.

It seems authenticity is not a possession but a practice. Perhaps it's not so much about certainty of who we are, but rather inquiry as to who we are.

The more I seek authenticity in others and in myself, the more I think it does not mean discovering some pre-existing self residing within, but rather discovering the self through conscious, courageous action.

Keats said, *Some say the world is a vale of tears, I say it is a place of soul making.*

The way of authenticity becomes especially muddled in an age of performance. On social media, where persona is con-

structed for public display, people may present a manufactured version of themselves. Influencers who market their vulnerability or "realness"



can fall into the trap of staging sincerity. This does not mean that all expressions online are false, but it shows how fragile authenticity can be when packaged as a commodity.

In the end, it seems authenticity is less about finding the self than about living truthfully in the midst of human complexity. Maybe to be truly authentic is to be faithful to the fragile, changing self that is always becoming.

I mean, it doesn't take a rocket scientist to know that we are all at our best when we're not looking to impress, driven by a need to hurt others or pretending to be something we are not.

It's comforting and perhaps more honest to think of authenticity as a lifelong pursuit, a daily practice, and a worthy endeavour.

*Just north of mist, along the border  
half a color from the water,  
under the kiss of shadow's daughter,  
(two breaths backward, one word up-  
ward),*

*past the rumpled terra cotta,  
down the salve of templed sorrow,  
up the scales of Bach and Buddha,  
down the moon of broken solder,  
through the eyes of someone's father,  
in the grass beside the water,  
one part liar, one part seer,  
one part lyric, one part scholar,  
this is the walk we come to wander,  
one part illness, one part healer.*

**Wendy Videlock's books are available where books are sold. She currently serves as poet laureate of the Western Slope. Reach her at [westernslope-word@gmail.com](mailto:westernslope-word@gmail.com)**

# Friday Afternoon Art with Kate Montrose Senior Center 1-3 pm, Friday, October 24



Step-by-step instructions to paint this beautiful fall river scene with acrylic paint on a 14" x 11" canvas. No experience necessary. Everything included plus cookies and cider or soft drink. \$40 pp.



1800 Pavilion Dr., Montrose, Colo.  
<https://kathrynrburke.com/product/102425mrd>



# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## MONTROSE CENTER FOR ARTS: CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS OF THE ARTIST IMAGINATION EXHIBITION



**1st Place Winner Virginia Blackstock with Judge Greg Packard. Courtesy photo.**



**2nd Place Winner and Honorable Mention Winner Linda Mesaric with Judge Greg Packard. Courtesy photo.**



**Honorable Mention Winner Kristie Donathan. Courtesy photo.**

### Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE-The Montrose Center for Arts (MCA) is pleased to present the winners of the Artist Imagination Exhibit.

First prize (and \$200) was awarded to artist Virginia Blackstock for her watercolor titled "Startling Plumeria." Influenced by her many years in Dance and Theatre, Virginia Blackstock combines a flowing rhythmic movement with eloquent design and bold use of color ranging from the dynamic to the subtle. Judge Gregory Packard noted the beautiful use of negative space, color, composition and the beautiful frame of the work.

Second place (and \$100) as well as an honorable mention was awarded Linda Mesaric for watercolor titled "Stacked" and her watercolor titled "Fruit and Wine." Kristie Donathan also earned an honorable mention with her acrylic piece titled "Pop Collision." In particular, the judge noted the modern look and the use of negative space and movement in all three pieces.

The People's Choice will be awarded the last week of the exhibit (which runs through October 30) to give the public a chance to vote on their favorite piece of art.

Special appreciation goes to our judge, Gregory Packard, nationally known artist and co-owner, along with his wife, Carolyn, of Cimarron Song Gallery in Montrose, located at 901 E. Main Street. Pack-

ard's work is held by collectors around the world and has been featured in numerous one-man shows, including museums. He has also been featured in articles in national publications including the cover story of *Southwest Art* magazine.

Packard acknowledged the fine work of all the artists and said, "Every piece of art that comes into the world makes it a better place."

### Coming Next

The next exhibit is *The Art of Observation: Two Voices* that runs from November 4 – 29. It will feature two talented MCA artists: Julia Reid and Bonnie Bucknam. The reception for this show will take place Thursday, November 13, from 5 – 7 p.m. This is a free event, and everyone is welcome.

### Stay Tuned for Holiday Magic

The MCA has very special plans for the holidays this year. The *Give the Gift of Fine Art: A Holiday Marketplace of Art* will offer a wide range of art — paintings, pottery, wood and metal art, jewelry, fabric art and more. The exhibition reception will kick off the holiday season at MCA on December 2, 5 – 7 p.m.

### Meditation for the Creative

Throughout the year, MCA offers a variety of classes for artists. Artist and instructor Sangdrol Blanchard (owner of Meditation Spaces located at 12 S Uncompahgre Ave

in Montrose), will be presenting a unique class, *Meditation for the Creative*, a one-day workshop November 1, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The class is intended to help artists connect with their creative selves by using meditation to quiet the mind and connect with the creative center.

During this class artists will be creating artwork, engaging in guided meditation, discussion and journaling. Visit [montrosecenterforarts.com](http://montrosecenterforarts.com), click on classes, select the Meditation for the Creative class for additional details and to enroll.

### About Montrose Center for Arts

MCA is a non-profit organization totally served by volunteers and is always looking for volunteers to help with a wide variety of activities, from manning the reception desk, to helping with events and planning and developing the future of the organization.

If you are interested in helping bring art to the Western Slope, you can call or email MCA to volunteer.

The MCA depends upon support from membership, contributions, sponsorships, grant funding and the local community. To support the MCA and local artists on the Western Slope, become an MCA member by stopping by the gallery or visiting our website.

(970) 787-9428

205 E Main St

Montrose, CO 81401

[info@mc4arts.com](mailto:info@mc4arts.com)

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

Hours: Tues-Sat 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.



HOSTED BY:  
DOUG SPEEDIE, MD



# STATE HEALTH INSURANCE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SHIP) PRESENTATION

## MEDICARE IN A NUTSHELL

SHIP is your local State Health Insurance Assistance Program. SHIP provides unbiased help to Medicare beneficiaries, their families, and caregivers. Whether you are new to Medicare, reviewing Medicare plan options, or have questions on how to use your Medicare, SHIP can help.

**03.25.2025**    **09.30.2025**  
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM    5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

**06.24.2025**    **11.18.2025**  
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM    5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

THE PRESENTATION  
WILL COVER ALL OF THE  
BASICS OF MEDICARE, THERE  
WILL BE AMPLE OPPORTUNITY TO  
ASK ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT REGION 10  
SHIP OFFICE AT **970.765.3129**.

LOCATED IN CLASSROOM B (1ST FLOOR OF THE MAIN HOSPITAL)  
1501 E 3RD ST • DELTA, CO

# 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-

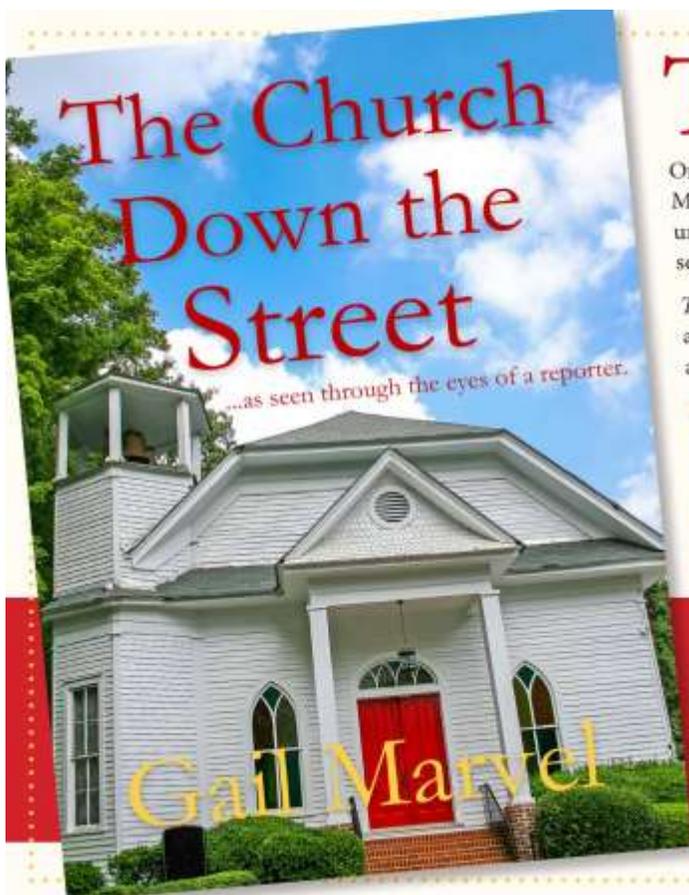
6874; email at [info@vbcmontrose.org](mailto:info@vbcmontrose.org); website: [vbcmontrose.org](http://vbcmontrose.org)  
**Current Pastor:** Roland Kassales  
**Worship Service Times:** Sunday School at 9:30am, Sunday AM Service at 10:30am, Sunday PM Service at 6pm, Wednesday Night Service at 6:30pm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



**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





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- 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



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Email: realtor@pegevanoika.com

# COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

## SAN JUAN WEAVERS GUILD SHOW & SALE NOV. 22 AT UTE MUSEUM

### *Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-Continuing one of the longest -running craft shows in western Colorado, the San Juan Weavers Guild will present its 47th annual Show & Sale Saturday, Nov. 22, at the Ute Museum, 17253 Chipeta Rd., Montrose, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. A vast selection of handwoven, hand-spun, felted, and other fiber-related items will be on display and offered for sale. Entry to the guild sale is free, and the public is welcome. Museum facilities are wheelchair-accessible and there is on-site parking.

The one-day guild sale takes place during a celebration of Native American Heritage Month. During the guild event, the museum will be sponsoring a demonstration by a Navajo weaver in conjunction with the

Adopt a Native Elder program, with rugs for sale to benefit traditional Navajo weavers. Additional hand-crafted items are offered in the gift shop and by Native American vendors. Guild members work all year to provide inventory for the sale, including kitchen items, rugs, clothing and accessories, ornaments, baskets, felted hangings, jewelry, and much more, all displayed by category. A single checkout station makes shopping convenient by card, cash, or check. Experienced customers are often lined up when the doors open for the best selection, yet later shoppers will continue to find a wide assortment of temptations for themselves and others. All inventory is displayed from the start; none is held back. The guild sets high standards for quality production.

Fiber artisans are on hand throughout the day to answer questions and share their enthusiasm for weaving, spinning, felting, basketry, and related fiber arts. Why does a kitchen towel cost more than it does at Walmart? We'll be happy to explain how much longer it will last and the amount of time, expense, and expertise that goes into such an original work of art.

The event is not just about sales, though (which benefit individual members rather than being a fund-raiser for the guild). Education is an important component, through displays, demonstrations, and hands-on activities for all ages. This year a display will feature members' work related to a National Park theme. An annual challenge encourages creativity for those who choose to participate.

## MEDITATION FOR THE CREATIVE - UPCOMING WORKSHOP

### *Special to Art & Sol*

MONTROSE-Every creative artist knows the difference between being "in the Zone" and not being in that creative place that makes their artwork 'sing'. But not every artist knows how to get into their creative mind space. An upcoming meditation event is intended to help artists resolve that challenge.

On Saturday, Nov. 1st, Montrose Center for Arts, in collaboration with Meditation Spaces in Montrose, Colorado, will host a one-day workshop titled "Meditation for the Creative". This workshop is intended to help artists remove their blockers by using meditation to quiet the mind, and connect with the creative self. During the class they will be creating art, engaging in meditation, discussing and journaling discovery, and taking home tools to help reduce stress and become more focused in the creative process.

Stress, uncertainty and insecurity can create 'blockers' between the artist and their work, which in turn can completely remove the ability to truly be creative. The use of meditation for contemplation, visualization and setting a clear intention will all be tools used to train the mind to relax, and connect with the heart and the creative self.

"During this workshop, we will open the floor for discussion with other artists, and explore the idea that a quiet mind, clear intention, and focused inspiration can free an artist from their individual blockers," said instructor Sangdrol Blanchard.

Each student will be encouraged to bring the medium of their choice to create two pieces of artwork in the workshop, discussing with other artists, journaling their discovery, and leaving with new tools that will help them become calmer, more confident and joyful about their next artistic creation.

### **DETAILS**

The workshop is Saturday, Nov. 1 from 9 am until 5 pm with an 1 1/2 lunch break (food not provided). The location will be at the Lions Clubhouse at 602 N. Nevada, Montrose, Colorado.

Chairs and floor seating will be available. Age suggestion is 12 years and over, seating is limited. Registration fee is for the day, and all attendees will receive a journal, a prayer mala, plus printed material from the class to take home.

Visit [montrosecenterforarts.com](http://montrosecenterforarts.com) and click on "Meditation for the Creative" under Classes to learn more and register to attend.

Fee is \$50. You must register to attend.



# COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

## WESTERN SLOPE FILMMAKERS BRING CINEMORTAL HOME FOR WORLD PREMIERE AT THE EGYPTIAN



Cast and Crew of Cinemortal at the Egyptian Theater in Delta. Photo by Reid Sanders.

scares. This event is really a celebration of The Egyptian, it's an amazing and important place. Our film would not exist without the Egyptian, so bringing it back here feels like coming home."

The premiere will include a 440 Filmmaker Reception from 5:30 to 6:50 p.m., featuring small bites, a cash bar, and photo opportunities with the cast and crew.

The movie screening begins at 7 p.m., followed by a filmmaker question and answer session at approximately 9:00 p.m.

"The Egyptian has seen a lot in its nearly 100 years, but serving as a movie set and then hosting that same film's world premiere is something truly special. We could not be prouder to welcome these talented young filmmakers back," said a theater spokesperson.

Tickets are available now at [deltaegyptian.org](http://deltaegyptian.org).

Reception and Movie: \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door

Movie Only: \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door

Event Details:

What: Cinemortal – World Premiere Screening

When: Friday, Nov. 7

440 Filmmaker Reception: 5:30 to 6:50 p.m.

Movie Screening: 7 p.m.

Filmmaker Q&A: 9p.m.

Where: The Egyptian Theatre, 452 Main Street, Delta

Note: Intended for adult audiences Meet the filmmakers, enjoy small bites and a cash bar, and be among the first in the world to see Cinemortal, filmed inside The Egyptian in 2023.

Tickets and information: [deltaegyptian.org](http://deltaegyptian.org)

### Special to the Mirror

DELTA— Two years after turning Delta's historic Egyptian Theatre into a working movie set, a group of recent film school graduates is returning to the scene, but this time they will walk the red carpet. Their debut feature film, Cinemortal, will make its world premiere at The Egyptian on Friday, November 7, giving the young creative team a full-circle moment in the theater where it all began.

The filmmakers, including Writer/Director and Western Slope native Tycho Wade, Actor/Producer Peter Nepi, and Producer/Director of Photography Sam Gannuch, spent two weeks in the fall of 2023 shooting their first full-length film inside the century-old venue. Cinemortal is a story that blends horror and mystery, following a late-night party gone wrong in an old movie theater, where a group of

friends uncovers the building's darkest secrets.

"I started making movies in my backyard in Grand Junction when I was about thirteen, and I have always known that is what I wanted to do with my life. Coming back to the Western Slope to film Cinemortal really felt like being in that backyard again. The crew was joking around, pulling pranks, and working really hard. It honestly felt like summer camp with friends," said Wade.

"The people in Delta were amazing. Everywhere we went, folks were excited to hear we were making a movie in their city, and they made us feel so welcome. This screening at The Egyptian is really special. After almost three years of work, this is the first time anyone will see our finished film. I hope people have a great time with some thrills, laughs, and maybe a few

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# COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

## ARTIFACTS ART PROJECT-(BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER ONE HAIR)

*Special to Art & Sol*

**HOTCHKISS-Event: What?** - Outdoor Raku ceramics firing incorporating donated human hair from a wide range of local people from across the political spectrum.

**When:** Friday – Nov. 14, 2025 – 8 pm at The Creamery Arts Center in Hotchkiss, CO in conjunction with the Strada Challenge (art created from life) gallery display and a show of miniatures along with a Soup Bowl fundraiser and Hotchkiss Art Walk. (5-8 pm.)

The ARTifacts Conceptual Art Project, that concludes with the November 14 raku firing, was begun in the summer of 2025 by artists Thomas Wills of Hotchkiss and Karen Lynn Floyd of Austin, CO with a goal of encouraging people from across the political spectrum to connect meaningfully with one another in these challenging times.

The project began with the collection of artifacts, locks of hair, along with the occasional entire haircut via six different collection points throughout Delta County. Along with the locks of hair, the donors also provided basic information about sex, age, and where they perceived themselves to fall on the political spectrum.

The idea is to mix all of the hair together in a single container, a symbolic coming together of people of all ages, sexes and political opinions. The hair will then be used as part of a November 14 (8 pm) process of a firing a number of raku ceramics pieces at the Creamery Arts Center in Hotchkiss.

The pieces are being created by Creamery ceramics studio teacher David Strong, Zach Knuckles and others.

The hair may be used in several different techniques of adding to the glazing designs on the surface of the pieces resulting in the hair being burned up.

This may be seen as an ultimate blending of donor's contributions.

Locks of hair may be contributed until November 11 when all of the collection jars will be retrieved and combined. They are located at Heart of the Dragon and Crystal Curios in Paonia, upstairs in Thomas Wills' display at the Creamery Arts Center in Hotchkiss, at The Lucky Horseshoe gift shop in Crawford, at The Self-Hope Thrift shop in Eckert (at the old Challenge Creamery) and at The Lab co-working space in Cedaredge.

Locks of hair contributions may be sent by mail before November 11 to ARTifacts c/o Thomas Wills P.O. Box 386 – Hotchkiss, CO 81419 along with sex, age and where you perceive yourself to fall on the political spectrum.

Contacts: Thomas Wills – 970-964-7588 or Karen Floyd 970-275-5216



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970-249-6442

**Rib City**  
970-249-7427

**Fiesta Guadalajara**  
Re-Opening 2025  
970-249-2460

**Stone House**  
970-240-8899



**Alpen Confections**  
970-648-0609

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



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

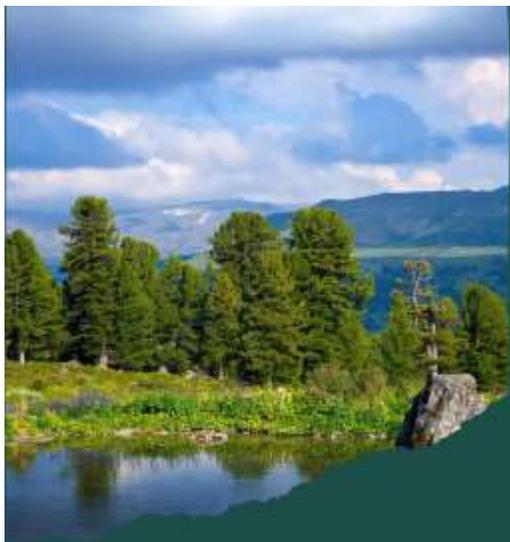


# CARTOON BY TIM JONES

WEEKLY CARTOON

## SOUR GRAPES

by Tim Jones



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



# 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.

# Mosaic Montrose Haunted Cottage



**5:30-7:30 pm, Thur., Oct. 23**



Demo & step-by-step Instructions to paint this colorful fall cottage with acrylic, watercolor style, on 8" x 8" canvas. Ghosts are optional. No experience necessary. Everything provided, including template for cottage. Plus Halloween cookies and cider or adult beverage, \$40 pp. Instructor, Kate Burke.

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Register online <https://kathrynrburke.com/product/102325M>



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## SAVE THE DATE! LOCAL EVENTS CALENDAR

### ONGOING-

**ALTRUSA INT'L** believes in "Leading to a Better Community" and is always looking for new members. We meet in Montrose on the first three Tuesdays a month at the Field House: 25 Colorado Ave, 12-Noon. Pick a day that works for you & please join us! Through our local Altrusa Club, members unite their varied talents in service to others, achieving as a group what individuals cannot do alone." <https://www.altrusamontrose.org/> P: 970-765-7666 E: [Altrusa.Montrose@gmail.com](mailto:Altrusa.Montrose@gmail.com)

**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)

**Tuesday - 1st and 3rd Tuesdays-Black Canyon Audubon Society hosts monthly birdwatching field trips in the Montrose area on 1st Tuesdays of the month and in the Delta area on the 3rd Tuesdays of the month. Check out the website for field trip details at [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. 23**-Friendship Quilters of Western Colorado will meet 9am - 12pm on Thursday, Oct. 23, at the Montrose County Event Center, 1036 N 7th Street. The meeting starts at 9am with social time, followed by a business meeting, program, and show and tell. Halloween is our theme of the month. Wear black and show off your coolest Halloween-themed projects. Local fiber artist Bobbie Irwin will share the history, uses, and techniques of "twining", an ancient form of weaving. Later in November, Bobbie will teach an all-day workshop for those interested in learning more. Call 360.448.0153 for questions.

**Oct. 25**-Western Colorado friends of the Himalayas present their annual program "An evening with our Sherpa Friends" plus our annual prestigious Community Service awards. 6 pm at the Montrose Ute Indian Museum. Free with donations welcomed.

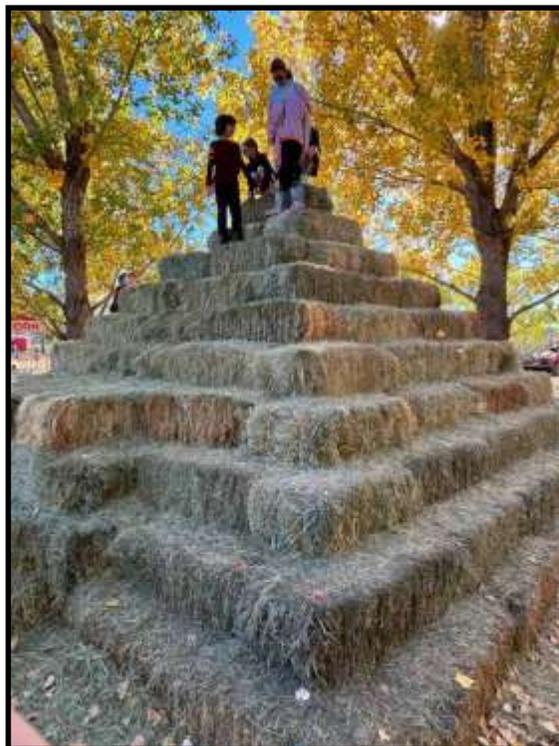
**Nov. 6**-Women's Giving Club will meet Nov. 6 at 5:30pm Bridges Golf and Country Club.

**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.

**Nov. 14**-Black Canyon Boys & Girls Club Crab Crack will be Friday, Nov. 14 at 6pm at the Montrose Pavilion.

# READER PHOTO SPOTLIGHT: PUMPKIN PATCH



Families enjoyed fun and fall colors at the Pumpkin Patch on the Dave Wood (6250) Road this weekend. Photos by B. Switzer.



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970-249-0433

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970-249-7427

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970-240-8899

Sidelines Sports Bar  
970-765-0129

Amelias Hacienda Restaurante  
970-249-1881

Delta: Pour Ernie's  
970-546-0074