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the Montrose Mirror

PROJECT 7 WATER AUTHORITY SEEKS REDUNDANCY WITH NEW \$185M+ H2O TREATMENT FACILITY

By Gail Marvel

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

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

- The City of Montrose
- The City of Delta
- The Town of Olathe
- The Tri-County Water Conservancy District
- The Chipeta Water District
- The Menoken Water District

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

Compare and Contrast:

Unlike the Grand Valley, which

Continued pg 10



(L to R) Deputy Project Manager for Project 7 Miles Graham and Project 7 Authority Manager Adam Turner are excited to present the Regional Water Supply & Resilience Program. Photo by Gail Marvel.

'BETTING THE FARM' TAKES ON NEW MEANING WITH PROPOSED \$198M BALLOT MEASURE



An acre of irrigated land will be assessed between \$700 and \$1,000. Photo by B. Switzer.

By Steve Middendorp

MONTROSE-The \$198 million Montrose High School proposal has started a debate throughout the school district as to whether this is necessary and if there is a way to make it cheaper. The cost has been a strong factor for those who oppose the new bond measure. The Montrose County School District website advertises the cost to be \$9 for every \$100,000 of land value per month. Many residents have expressed that this way of framing the cost is misleading and deceptive.

The median housing sale price in Montrose was \$450,000 according to Zillow. That equates to an extra \$40 per month in property taxes for the median home in the area, which is nearly \$500 for the year. The extra property taxes for commercial businesses and agricultural land are significantly higher. The average office property in Montrose is valued at more than \$700,000, which would cost an additional \$273.49 per

Continued pg 20

[Lauren Hall Ruddell, PhD.: Your Brain on Nature: Sleep!](#)

[City Hears from Region 10: AAA Funding Slashed to the Bone!](#)

[Red Hawks Crush Falcons 56-6 By Cliff Dodge!](#)

[Op-Ed By David White!](#)

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

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

RULE 2. While there are always exceptions, a letter can often say what needs to be said in one page or less. Our pages are 8.5 X 11, we use a 10 pt Calibri font; letters that are roughly 800 words fit well within this suggested guideline.

RULE 3. Please limit repetitive mud-slinging to avoid bumping up against Rule 1. Also, in the case of those writing to intentionally discredit a public official or candidate for public office, please provide a link to the source of your allegation if possible. Unsourced, unproven allegations are not credible, and could in fact be untruths.

Finally, opinions expressed in letters and commentary are those of the authors themselves, and do not reflect the views of the *Montrose Mirror* or editorial staff.

Thank you,
Caitlin Switzer,
Montrose Mirror Editor

THE MONTROSE MIRROR

Published every Monday since 2010 in Montrose, Colorado to a readership of over 20,000 residents of Western Colorado.

We encourage contributions and commentary. Submitted content may not necessarily reflect the opinion of the publisher.

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RED HAWKS CRUSH FALCONS 56-6



Football Walk-through. Photo by Cliff Dodge.

By Cliff Dodge

MONTROSE-The Montrose Red Hawks football team invaded the home turf of the Falcon Falcons on Friday evening and punished the home team by the score of 56-6. Even after a long and grueling bus ride the Red Hawks continued their winning ways, taking the first step to winning the 4A Southern #1 league with the dominating victory.

The Red Hawks won the coin toss and deferred their possession to the second half. The Falcons were unable to move the football and forced a three and out. The Red Hawks defense rose up and partially blocked the Falcon's punt giving the Red Hawks a first down at the Falcon 27-yard line. It took the Red Hawks only three plays to score as senior quarterback Chris Mock ran 5 yards for the touchdown. The PAT made the score 7-0 with less than 3 minutes off the clock.

The Falcons were unable to move the ball

and punted again, this time advancing the ball only 6 yards giving the Red Hawks excellent field position. The Red Hawks were unable to move the ball and turned it over on downs back to the Falcons, who again were unable to upset the Red Hawks defense and punted for the third time in the first quarter.

Two carries by Junior Fullback Elijah Womack moved the ball to the Falcon 35-yard line where Chris Mock fired a 35-yard touchdown pass to senior wideout Hunter Gurule for a 14-0 score after the first period of play. Another punt by the Falcons pinned the Red Hawks deep in their own territory at the 7-yard line. The Red Hawks then drove 93 yards in 10 plays with senior Abbott Dietrich scoring on a 5-yard run. The PAT increased the score to 21-0. The Falcons offense came alive and the home team drove 55 yards in 13 plays for their only score of the contest. The Red Hawks defense blocked the extra point try to make the score 21-6.

The Red Hawks returned the scoring favor with the next possession. Elijah Womack ripped off a 55-yard run and Aiden Grijalva took the ball the final 15 yards for the 2-play touchdown drive increasing the score to 28-6. On the next Falcon possession senior Wyatt Berry intercepted a Falcon

pass which the Red Hawks turned into another touchdown, this time a 1-yard touchdown run by quarterback Chris Mock to close out the first half with the Red Hawks leading 35-6.

The third period continued the Red Hawks offensive scoring and the defensive mastery as they shut down whatever offense the Falcons could muster. Elijah Womack scored on a 21-yard run on the Red Hawks initial possession of the second half and Chris Mock scored his third touchdown of the game on the second possession of the second half which increased the score to 49-6, and a running clock for the rest of the game.

The Red Hawks defense basically prevented the Falcons from running the football so they were forced to resort to throwing the ball. Senior Hunter Gurule who plays both offense and defense intercepted a Falcon pass and gave the ball back to the Red Hawks offense at the start of the fourth quarter. This time junior running back Biniyam Kenny finished the Red Hawks drive with a 5-yard touchdown run and 56-6 final score. The Red Hawks improved their overall record to 6 wins and 0 losses and a league record of 1 win and 0 losses. Next up for the Red Hawks a home contest with the Spartans of Doherty High School who come in with a 3-3 record. The kick-off is scheduled for 6 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 11.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

FREE FLU SHOTS: ANNUAL DRIVE-THROUGH FLU SHOT CLINIC OCT. 16

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE—Stop the flu bug! Join Montrose County, Montrose Regional Health, and partners on Wednesday, Oct. 16 for the annual free drive-through flu shot clinic. This year's clinic will be held from 3-7pm at the following clinic locations: the Montrose County Event Center (1036 North 7th Street, Montrose), Olathe Community Park (59618 US-50, Olathe), and the Basin Clinic (421 Adams Street, Naturita). All locations will have regular dose flu shots for people over six months of age and high-dose flu shots for seniors 65 years of age or older. The flu shots are free of charge and no appointment is re-

quired.

"Don't risk it—protect yourself and others from the flu with a quick and easy vaccination," said Lisa Gallegos, EPR and Communicable Disease Coordinator. "The flu shot is your best defense against serious complications."

"We are proud to once again offer our drive-through flu shot clinic," said Emergency Manager Scott Hawkins. "In addition to the regular flu shot, we are once again focusing on the high-dose flu shot to help protect the seniors in our community." Participants may stay in their vehicles for the duration of the process or utilize the walk-up depending on the number

and age of people in the vehicle. Upon arrival, all participants must sign a consent form. Vehicles attending the Montrose County Event Center location must enter through the right-hand turn lane off the San Juan Bypass. Volunteers include staff from Montrose County, the City of Montrose, Montrose Regional Health, Town of Olathe, Montrose Fire Protection District, River Valley Family Health Center, Basin Clinic, Montrose County Sheriff's Office, Pediatric Associates, Montrose Police Department, and the Montrose County Sheriff's Posse. Shots are available while supplies last. For more information please visit www.montrosefluclinic.com.



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P7 WATER AUTHORITY - REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY RESILIENCY PROGRAM



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Questions?

Scott Goodall

Preconstruction Director

480-973-1274

SWGGoodall@McCarthy.com

Chris Kostelny

Project Manager

847-208-5331

CKostelny@McCarthy.com

Mark Andrews

Sr. Project Manager

562-254-3925

AndrewsMR@CDMSmith.com

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

CANDIDATE RESPECTED FOR CROSSING THE AISLE, COLLABORATING

Editor:

How refreshing it was to hear a candidate in today’s political climate share the importance of crossing the aisle and collaborating with a qualified individual from the other party. To put their constituents before a party and policy over politics.

Jeff Hurd did that last night at The [CD3 Debate](#) sponsored by the Greater Pueblo Chamber of Commerce. To quote Mr. Hurd when asked, “who is a Democrat in the district whose advice you value and to whom you would turn if elected,” Hurd responded.

“Kathleen Curry lives In Gunnison County and is a well-regarded Democrat in that part of the district. She and I don’t agree on everything, but when it comes to water and agriculture there is a lot I could rely on her for.”

Kevin Kuns

Chair Montrose County Democrats

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NEW \$185M+ H2O TREATMENT FACILITY From pg 1

which is served by four interconnected water treatment plants (Grand Junction, Ute Water Conservancy District, Clifton Water District, and Town of Palisade), the Project 7 Water Authority is the sole domestic water provider for the Uncompahgre Valley and its only water source is the Gunnison River, conveyed through the Gunnison Tunnel.

Over the years numerous studies have been commissioned to look for ways to not only protect, but to expand the water supply for years to come. When the US Bureau of Reclamation completed the Ridgway Dam in 1987, the possibility for a second water source became more viable. **Project 7's Regional Water Supply & Resilience Program.**

A second water source has been discussed for years and in the 2000's it was determined that the most cost-effective and long-term solution was to add a second water source, treatment, and distribution system that would serve all Project 7 members. The proposed new water treatment facility will be located at 35679 US -550 and will have direct access to the Ridgway Reservoir.

It's important for citizens understand the second proposed water treatment project is viewed from different perspectives. Project 7 Water Authority sells treated water to their members; those water districts in turn sell the water to their constituents.

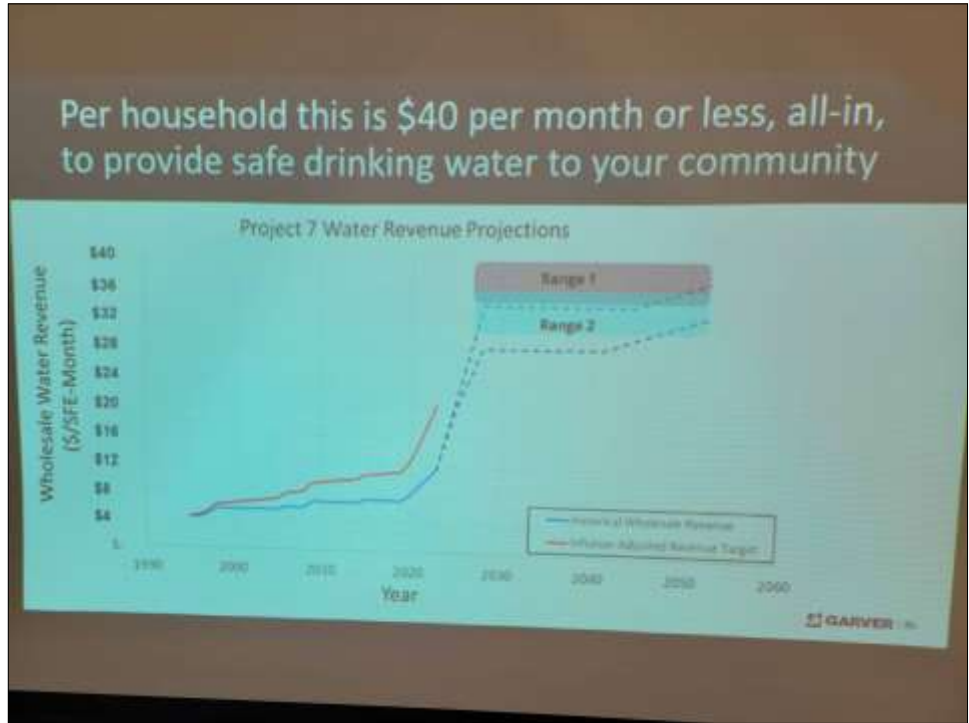
Project 7 Authority Manager Adam Turner said, "I have six constituents [water districts] that I am responsible to. Each of those [entities] are responsible to their own constituents [citizens]. I don't go to their constituents; I'm not responsible to them." Project 7 sets their own rates, which will increase and be passed on to the six entities.

The Project 7 Authority Board champions the capital project, but they are answerable to their constituents for rate increases from Project 7 as well as additional increases from the entity they represent.

Proposed Project:

Turner said, "This is like three capital projects together. There are really three components."

- A new raw water transmission line installed between Ridgway Reservoir and the new facility (approximately 5.5 miles



The Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) has yet to be determined for the Regional Water Supply & Resilience Program. While water rate increases from Project 7 could go up more than \$40 a month per household, citizen can expect additional rate increases from their water districts . Photo by Gail Marvel.

of pipe)

- A new drinking water transmission line from the WTP site to serve all members via an adequately sized tie in point within Tri -County WCD (approximately 3.25 miles of pipe)
- A new water treatment facility.

As with most large capital projects an advisor is hired and Project 7's Owner's Advisor is Garver.

Open House:

In the last three years the Regional Water Supply & Resiliency Program has held three open houses:

- July 27, 2022
- Sept. 26, 2023
- Oct. 2, 2024

The two-hour October event was held onsite and like previous events, it drew poor citizen attendance.

Deputy Project Manager for Project 7 Miles Graham, not an employee of Project 7, is subcontracted by Advisor Garver. He said, "I'm the spokesperson for Project 7. As of today, the [website](#) [and charts] have been updated to reflect the project's timeline."

Website Timeline:

- 2019-2024 Planning
- 2022-2025 Permitting & Design
- 2025-2027 Construction
- 2027 Completion/Start up.

Advisor Garver was hired in 2019. CDM Smith and builder McCarthy Constructors, a Design/Build contractor joint venture, were hired in early 2023. McCarthy is not a local contractor; however, they went through a public bid process.

Project 7 has its own financial advisors (Rafteis), and Municipal Advisors D.A. Davidson/Spencer Fane (full-service investment services) was hired in the first quarter of 2024. When asked why Davidson/Fane was not brought to the project sooner Turner said, "They were hired more for the water districts than for us [to forecast rate increases for citizens]. But if we have to go to a bond issue, we will need them."

When the *Mirror* inquired about the report from Davidson/Fane, Menoken Board representative Randy Meaker denied there was any report; however, when pressed he admitted there was a report, but it had not yet been presented to the

NEW \$185M+ H2O TREATMENT FACILITY From previous pg

to the board.

Kathy Calkins, Project 7's alternate board member for the Chipeta Water District, was more forthcoming, "I have the report. Is there any reason we can't make it public?" It was later confirmed that in September Davidson/Fane contacted each of the water providers and forecast the impact to individual water consumers in their districts. Calkins said, "For a resident in the town of Olathe who this year pays \$885, in five years they will pay \$1,592. A Chipeta Water user will go from \$932 [today] to \$1,751 by 2030." Citizens can contact their water provider to inquire about impacts to their water rates.

Funding

The estimated cost for the project in 2013-2014 was \$35M, of which \$30M would be covered through grants. However, the cost of the current project contin-

ues to increase and is now estimated to be upwards of \$185M. Graham said, "We anticipate that the Bureau of Reclamation will be the primary funder. We are in the application process for capital construction grants, and we are looking at federal and state funding. We had one \$30M grant rejected, but we applied again. Low interest construction loans are a piece of the project. We are pre-approved for two loans. Congresswoman Lauren Boebert's office is working with us for \$1M in funding."

Unlike the proposed new high school for Montrose, which is a ballot issue that can be thoroughly vetted by voters, the decision to build a new water treatment facility rests solely with the Project 7 Water Authority Board.

The Project 7 Board has already voted to fund 75 percent of the design for the facil-

ity, but they have yet to vote on the final plan. Citizens still have an opportunity to attend an open house or contact their Project 7 representative to inquire about financial obligations that will be incurred. Project 7 Board meetings are the fourth Thursday of every month at 4:30 p.m.; however, there will be no meetings in November or December.

The Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) is not expected to come in until December. While there is an "off-ramp" to the project, all the stakeholders were reluctant to discuss that possibility considering the investment that has already been made.

Graham said, "I'm sure we will have more open houses, but nothing has been scheduled yet. We are scheduled to present at the Montrose Forum on November 20th."

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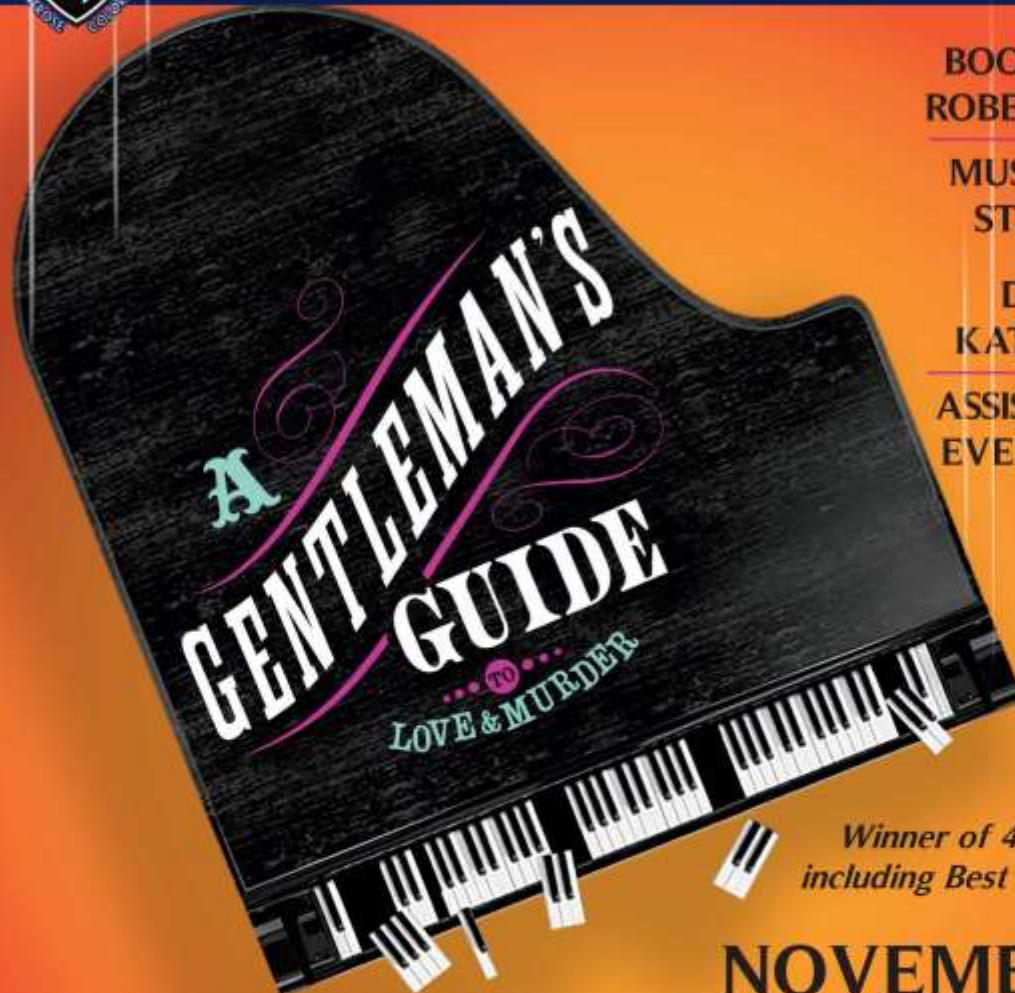
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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

WHY I AM VOTING FOR LARRY DON SUCKLA AND CLEAVE SIMPSON IN NOVEMBER

Editor:

This is why I am voting for Larry Don Suckla and Cleave Simpson in November

The reason I am voting for both of these gentlemen in November is, they both are honest men with integrity. If they tell you something it is the truth, if they say they are going to fight for the people of Colorado they will. Both of them understand the struggles that the rancher, farmer, logger, construction worker, small business owner fight for every day. They both have first hand, felt and saw what the barricades in Denver, and Washington have done to all of us. They feel our pain, because they themselves had to put up with the regulations and mandates forced upon us all.

Larry Don opponent Katheen Curry has not and will not vote to protect yours and my rights, look at her past voting record she voted with the Denver Democrats 90% of the time. She does and says what she thinks you want to hear, just to get your vote. She was a Democrat and when she lost a primary to another Democrat she

changed to an unaffiliated on December 28, 2009, to become an independent stating that it would be misleading to voters to run as a member of the Democratic Party when she was not aligned with the party's ideology due to her fiscally conservative stances. But now she is a Democrat again. She goes with how ever the wind blows. Changing her statements and ideology to fit the moment. Do you want someone who does not care how we feel to represent us?

If Larry Don says something he means it and he stays true to his grass roots, you may not like how he says something but at least you know how he feels and thinks. He does not sugar coat anything.

Cleave Simpson is running against Vivian Smotherman from Durango, who wants to do away with Tabor, as they said at the Club 20 debate in Grand Junction. Vivian will vote with the Democrats if elected, and will not fight for western Colorado. Check out her web sight to see just how radical this person is.

Cleave cares about the people in his district and not some special interest group or what the new buzz word of the day is. He cares and has fought for our rights four years and will continue to fight for us. Both of these gentlemen have fought to Halt the Dolores Monument.

They have talked to the people in the West End of Montrose County and have heard our voices saying we do not want a monument in our back yard.

They both have come and talked to the people attended the listening sessions and you never saw or heard from either of their opponents.

I can pick up the phone and call both of these gentlemen at anytime and they answer their phones and hear what I have to say.

They will do the same when elected. Please everyone do your homework and you will find that both Larry Don Suckla, and Cleave Simpson are the right ones to vote for.

Doris Van Ness, Bedrock



✓ VOTE Rick Dunlap
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- 21 year US Army veteran (retired)
Vietnam War combat veteran
Bronze Star with Valor recipient
- Associates Degree in Business Management

Volunteer Service to the Montrose Community

Current President of West Montrose Sanitation District, Current board member Welcome Home Alliance for Veterans, current board member of Grace Community Church, past Montrose County Fair Board member, past firefighter Montrose Fire Protection District, past member Montrose County Sheriff's Posse, past board member CASA of the 7th Judicial District

*Paid for by the Committee to Elect Rick Dunlap



Trisha MURRAY

Your Independent Choice for
COUNTY COMMISSIONER – District 3

LISTEN to ALL the People

- ★ Dedicate one afternoon each month to “Open Office Chats” to meet with the Citizens of Montrose County.
- ★ Look into the possibility of holding EVENING work sessions and Board meetings one time each month allowing the working class to participate and be heard.
- ★ Implement a Montrose County Citizens Academy program where citizens can participate in an “in-depth” overview and Q&A session of what services each individual department provides to our community and explain how your tax dollars are spent.

REPRESENT ALL the People

- ★ Implement an online survey system that allows citizens to weigh in on current topics of community interest.
- ★ Provide Results of surveys with all the citizens.
- ★ Represent the voice and interest/concerns of our local citizens to our State and Federal legislators.

Be ACCOUNTABLE to ALL the People

- ★ Redefine county’s current definition of “Transparency” in reporting by providing a greater understanding of where your tax payer dollars are spent through more detailed spreadsheets, pie charts and written explanations.
- ★ Publish simple quarterly reports showing YTD income, spending, and budget balances available throughout the year.
- ★ Provide written verification of how each Commissioner votes on all agenda items and issues presented during all Board meetings, with voting record to be recorded within the minutes of all meetings.

FORAGE PLOT *Field Day*

DELTA COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
OCTOBER 11, 2024
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM



*Intro and Field Walk -
Todd Ballard, CSU*



*Spray Calibration -
Katie Alexander, CSU*



*Alternative Forages -
Hannah Holm, American Rivers*



*Biochar for Water Use Efficiency -
Michael Lobato, Lobato Farms*



*Soil Health Program -
John Rizza, CO Dept of Ag*



Soft drinks and snacks will be provided



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INFORMATION:**

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Conservation Service
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COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION



Alfalfa



*Dryland
Pasture
Grasses*



Sanfoin

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

LOWV TO HOST CANDIDATE FORUM FOR COLORADO SD5

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The League of Women Voters of the Uncompahgre Valley, which serves Delta, Montrose, and Ouray counties, with the City of Montrose will host a candidate forum for the State Senate District 5 race on Monday, Oct. 14, 2024, from 6 pm to 7:30 pm. The forum will take place at the Montrose City Council Chambers, 107 Cascade, in Montrose. Doors will open at 5:30. The public is welcome and will have the opportunity to submit written questions as they arrive at the Forum. The event will be livestreamed, recorded, and available both at the League’s website at www.lwv-uv.org, and on the City’s YouTube channel.

OPEN HOUSE REGARDING 2A TAX QUESTION

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— The public is invited to attend an open house regarding Ballot Issue 2A. City officials will be available at the event to answer questions about the ballot question and the effects of raising the local lodging tax within the city limits, which is paid by tourists staying in local hotels and other lodging establishments.

The open house will be held Tuesday, Oct. 8, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the Centennial Room located on the west side of Centennial Plaza, inside the historic Montrose Fire Station.

In September, Montrose City Councilors voted unanimously to approve ballot language for the Nov. 5 election that, if approved, would increase the city’s tax on hotel rooms and other local lodging from 0.9 percent to six percent. The increase is intended to help mitigate the infrastructure impacts associated with increased tourism in our community, such as street maintenance, affordable housing, childcare services, and public transit, and to support tourism management and community events.

If approved on Election Day, Nov. 5, the hotel/lodging tax rate within the city limits will rise from 0.9 percent to six percent on January 1, 2025. This hotel/lodging tax increase would be paid by tourists and visitors to the Montrose community. At the October 8 open house, attendees can expect to find information presented in various forms that will detail how funds from 2A would be invested throughout the Montrose community. Recent research shows that the City of Montrose has the lowest hotel/lodging tax of all surveyed communities across the state of Colorado. The same research found that the average tax was approximately 6.7%. For more information about Ballot Issue 2A, visit Cityof-Montrose.org/Election.

MONTROSE REGIONAL HEALTH

Welcomes
DR. WILLIAM SUMMERS

PAIN MEDICINE SPECIALIST

Medical School
University of Alabama
School of Medicine
Birmingham, AL

Internship/Residency
University of Colorado
Aurora, CO
Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

Fellowship
Vanderbilt University
Nashville, TN
Interventional Spine

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Spine & Pain Center
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Montrose, CO 81401
(970) 252-2584

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to everyone that
has supported my
campaign to be
your next
Representative.
Let's finish strong!

Larry Don Suckla

I have learned that people want someone who is not afraid to speak up - someone who will finally stand up and say the things they value most. They want someone who will act on behalf of their needs, not what's best for the government. My opponent says she has experience working within the system. Where has that gotten us? If you want something different, vote for Larry Don Suckla, House District 58.


Nov. 5th Election, Vote Early

Larry Don Suckla House Seat 58

- To Keep Western Slope Water
- Lower Taxes
- Less Government Regulation
- Parental Rights in School

Contact:

 www.Sucklafor58.com

 970-570-5850

 sucklafor58@gmail.com

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

SIXTH ANNUAL WEST SLOPE WATER SUMMIT SET FOR NOV. 14



Welcomes **DR. JOHN FRANK**

BOARD CERTIFIED CARDIOLOGIST

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Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery
Trivandrum, Kerala, India

Internship/Residency

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Interventional Cardiology
Detroit, MI

Fellowship

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Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE—Join Montrose County, the Colorado River District, and Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association for the sixth annual West Slope Water Summit on Nov. 14 from 8:30am to 2pm at the Montrose County Event Center (1036 North 7th Street). Doors open at 8 a.m. The West Slope Water Summit is free and includes lunch—registration is required.

"This year's West Slope Water Summit promises to be a valuable learning experience for anyone interested in the future of our most precious resource," Commissioner Sue Hansen said. "By exploring the past, present, and future of water in our area, we can gain a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities we face. I'm especially excited for Robert Sakata's presentation regarding the future of water and agriculture in Colorado. Our area and economy benefit greatly from agriculture. I am glad we are adding ag into the water discussion because you can't talk about one without the other. I encourage everyone to register and join us for a day of informative presentations and discussions."

This year's speakers include Andy Mueller of the Colorado River District, Brody Wilson with a historical picture of the Gunnison Tunnel, Becky Mitchell of the Colorado Water Conservation Board discussing negotiating for water, and Robert Sakata presenting on the future of water and agriculture in Colorado.

The event is free and open to the public. A livestream will also be available at westslopowatersummit.com. Lunch is provided with an RSVP. Attendees can [register online](#) or call 970-964-8701. Local water information and resources are available [here](#).



'BETTING THE FARM' TAKES ON NEW MEANING From pg 1

month in taxes or \$3,281.88 per year. The average retail space is valued at \$1.4 million, which would yield \$6,563.76 per year in taxes.

Montrose County Assessor Brad Hughes clarified the rates for agricultural land and the tax burden would not be as significant as the bond proposal chart indicates. An acre of irrigated land will be assessed between \$700 and \$1,000 depending on several factors that determine how productive the land can be, including the soil composition. The chart indicates an additional monthly tax burden for farm property valued at \$400,000 or more. In raw land, that would be 400 acres at the highest farmland valuation according to Hughes. That equates to \$4.62 per acre for the entire year.

The house that exists upon farm property will be taxed at the residential rate, which is a quarter of the agricultural tax rate. Outbuildings for the farm will also be taxed at the agricultural rate. The *Montrose Mirror* has previously reported about the diminishing number of small farms in Colorado and across the country as the costs to produce continue to rise as inflation has hit every sector of the economy. Betting the farm is an old idiom that refers to the risks involved in running farming operations that can easily go bankrupt following one bad harvest, which is sometimes out of the farmer's control. Still, the bond proposal will have more of a significant effect for local businesses and residents that are scraping by week-to-week.

Many have criticized the proposal for including three floors, luxurious amenities, and a very high price tag. Others have said the current school is a money-pit that will cost taxpayers more in the long-run if action isn't taken soon. Supporters have also

pointed to the new Grand Junction High School that was built as evidence that Montrose should also value the children within the community. That price tag on that bond was \$115 million and voters were told the average home in the district would pay just \$3 per month for 20 years to pay for the school.

The Montrose High School bond proposal is 58 percent higher than the bond approved by voters in Grand Junction. The average property owner in the Montrose school district will pay more than 13 times more in taxes than the average property owner in Grand Junction when comparing the two proposals. For added context, the Grand Junction school has nearly 1,600 students, which is a 20% higher student population than Montrose High School.

According to a school construction report, the median cost of a high school in the United States was \$45 million and designed for 1,000 students. The median high school is large enough to have 180 square feet per student, a cost of \$49,000 per student. The current student count at Montrose High School is 1,261. Rounding up to 1,500 to accommodate for future growth would be a 19% increase in the student population. This would require a 270,000 square foot school to provide 180 square feet per student. At the average of \$235.29 per square foot, the total cost to build that high school should be \$63.5 million. **The bond proposal is requesting more than three times this value, which is what has many citizens concerned about the additional economic strain as statistical data shows an upcoming recession is imminent.**

The average lifespan of a high school building in the U.S. is 42 years. That equates to \$4.7 million per year. Colorado

schools require 160 days of school per year. The cost of the building is more than \$29,000 per school day if the building is in operation for the next 42 years.

There are retired community members who have lived in their farmhouses for decades. These homes may have gained substantial value during the heightened inflation and housing bubble, which would cause some seniors on a fixed income to pay out more than \$100 extra dollars per month to help pay for this bond proposal. A 2024 survey found that 56 percent of Americans cannot afford a \$1,000 emergency. A homeowner with a median valued house will pay over \$450 extra per year if this proposal passes. Renters are not immune to the tax increases, because landlords may pass on the increased cost to their tenants.

The Montrose High School has been accused of violating the Colorado Fair Campaign Practices Act, which dictates that a school district must not state a conclusion or endorsement of a ballot proposal. The school district has shared a pamphlet which provides three bullet points against the measure and a whole pamphlet of benefits for the school students if the proposal passes. The Facebook page has shared several posts that promote the measure without providing any counter arguments as the FCPA requires.

Citizens have been receiving text messages that promote "Yes for 5A!"

These messages are paid for by the Committee to Improve Montrose Schools, which was created last month with former Mayor Barbara Bynum as the registered agent. The website uses the same color scheme and language as the Montrose school district uses on its informational site.

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- ✓ 1 Car Detached Garage
- ✓ 2 Fully Landscaped Acres



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BROKER

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500 E Main St, Montrose, CO 81401

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

FEDERAL AND STATE FUNDING FOR REGION 10 AAA SLASHED TO THE BONE

“The question is where is the money going if we’re not taking care of our aging?”

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-The Montrose City Council met for a [regular work session](#) on Monday, Sept. 30.

“Let’s get this show on the road, good morning everyone, welcome to the city council work session for Monday, September 30,” Mayor J. David Reed said as he opened the session, reminding all that work sessions are for council consideration and discussion of upcoming agenda items, with no public comment allowed. Discussion items included authorization of a new Police Command Center for Cerise Park; the State Historical Fund Grant Application for the La Raza Park/Tortilla Flats Neighborhood National Historic District Nomination; an EPA Brownfield Cleanup Grant Application for the historic Bullock Power Plant; and the Woodgate-East Oak Grove Roundabout and Backage Road Project Award. Council also spent time in general discussion with a Representative of [Region 10](#).

All councilors were present along with key staff.

APPLICANT INTERVIEWS FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION AND PLANNING COMMISSIONS

Council spoke with [Bryce Gaber](#), who has applied for the Planning Commission, and with Historic Preservation Commission applicants [Danielle Godt](#) and [Jon Horn](#).

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Cerise Park Police Command Center

Police Chief Blaine Hall was present to speak about the proposed [Cerise Park Police Command Center](#). Council considered authorizing \$75,000 for renovation of a storage building in Cerise Park for dual use as a Command Center for Police Department operations.

Background-A memo from Public Works Director Jim Scheid to Council notes, “...The space would need to be tempered to allow for staging of equipment and materials needed by PD operations. The space would not be conditioned to what a standard office building would be but instead tempered to stay above 50 degrees in the winter and not above 80 degrees in the summer. The building will need to be insulated to allow for heating and cooling. The

heating and cooling would be performed by a mini-split type of mechanical unit. Work on this renovation would begin in November of 2024 and continue through February of 2025 making the renovated facility functional in the spring of 2025.”

State Historical Fund Grant Application: La Raza Park/Tortilla Flats Neighborhood National Historic District Nomination

Council will be asked to approve an [application for a History Colorado State Historical Fund Mini-Grant](#), to fund the nomination process to the National Register of Historic Places for the La Raza/Tortilla Flats neighborhood.

Background-A memo from Community Development Specialist Christopher Ottinger to Council states, “The Tortilla Flats Neighborhood, also called La Raza, is located between the Uncompahgre River on the west, Townsend Road and the railroad tracks to the east, West Main Street to the south and generally N 9th St to the North. It has historically been a majority Hispanic neighborhood since the early 20th century... If funded, the grant would provide for costs associated with hiring a qualified consultant that would lead the nomination application, with support from City Staff or La Raza/Tortilla Flats residents as needed. It is anticipated that this nomination may take up to a year to complete or more depending on the nomination cycle... The total amount that is being requested from the State Historical Fund is \$50,000. There is no required match for this grant. The grant is anticipated to be used to pay the consulting fee and any associated costs with the nomination process.”

EPA Brownfield Cleanup Grant Application - Bullock Power Plant

Council will be asked to authorize submission of a US EPA Brownfields Cleanup grant application in the amount of \$2,000,000 to fund the remediation expenses associated with the hazardous waste and regulated building material that exists at the former Bullock Steam Electric Plant.

Background-A memo from Ottinger to Council states, “Located at 30 W. South Fourth St. (326 S. Water Avenue), the Montrose Steam Electric Plant, later



During the Sept. 30 work session, Montrose City Council spent time discussing solutions to drastic state and federal funding cuts for Region 10’s Area Agency on Aging (AAA), which funds programs and services for senior citizens. [Region 10 website screenshot.](#)

named the James A Bullock Steam Electric SE, was a coal-fired plant that operated from 1952 to 1982. It was converted to natural gas power for two years but then went to “stand-by” status. A variety of ownership changes ensued, and the site eventually became a personal storage yard. After a number of years, the opportunity to purchase the property came in 2021. This was done as part of a cooperative agreement with Delta-Montrose Electric Association who were interested in the northern parcel for expansion planning... It is estimated that cost for remediation will total roughly \$2,000,000. This covers the removal of the asbestos within and surrounding the structure, capping the fly ash with vegetative cover, and implementing institutional controls for small amounts of other hazardous materials to ensure long term safety of the public. Thankfully, no mitigation is required related to the river or ground water. No known migration or seepage of heavy metals or other hazardous waste was detected in the sampling that has been performed. If funded, the grant would provide for costs associated with hiring qualified contractors and an environmental professional, who along with City Staff will work with CDPHE and the EPA to finalize a remediation plan and oversee the work of remediation. If funded, the work could begin as early as fall of

FUNDING FOR REGION 10 AAA SLASHED TO THE BONE From previous pg

2025..."

Woodgate-East Oak Grove Roundabout and Backage Road Project Award

The final work session discussion item was the Woodgate-East Oak Grove Roundabout and Backage Road Project Award. Council will consider approving \$3,225,315.03 in expenditures for construction of the Woodgate-East Oak Grove Roundabout and Backage Road Construction Project. This includes the award of a construction contract to K&D Construction in the amount of \$3,084,315.03, a survey and engineering support contract to Del-Mont Consultants in the amount of \$111,000, and up to \$30,000 in expenditures to Delta-Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) for street lighting within the project.

Background- A memo from City Engineer Scott Murphy to Council states, "...As part of a public/private partnership to secure the necessary rights of way and construct the WEOG Roundabout and southern reach of the Woodgate Backage Road, the City entered into a development agreement with the adjacent landowners on July 18, 2023. The City has also secured a separate right of way easement to continue Woodgate Road up to Encanto Place as part of a future project... Construction of the WEOG Roundabout Project was put out for bid on August 27 and bids were publicly received on September 23, 2024 from four contractors... The City has positive experience working with the low bidder, K&D Construction, on construction of the Miami-Hillcrest Roundabout and considers them qualified to perform the work. As a result, it is recommended that the construction contract be awarded to K&D... also recommending award of an

engineering support and survey stakeout contract to the project surveyor, Del-Mont Consultants. This scope of work is budgeted at \$111,000 on an as-needed, time-and-materials basis based on a proposal from the consultant...new street lighting for the roundabout will be installed by DMEA and paid for directly by the City. This work is expected to cost less than \$30,000."

GENERAL CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Council considered 2025 funding for the [Region 10 League for Economic Assistance & Planning](#).

Mayor Reed introduced Region 10 staff member Brian Bullard, who joined the discussion. Mayor Pro Tem David Frank spoke. Frank is the City's representative to Region 10. Frank said that state funding for the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) has been reduced during the last legislative session, "...in such a significant way that it directly impacted the ability of Region 10 and a number of the other area agencies on aging to be able to actually continue to fund the jobs that they do...a lot of those jobs that are critical to keeping seniors and elders in their homes, and keeping health and housekeeping services available to them, as well as providing meal services. Because of the shortfall it's directly impacting a lot of the programs that Region 10 does in Montrose.

".... I think this is a great opportunity for a discussion on our ability as a city to be able to continue to support our seniors and our elder population and keep them in their own homes..." Frank said. He listed the benefits of seniors being able to remain in their own homes.

Region 10's Brian Bullard discussed the [services](#) currently offered through the [Region 10 Area Agency on Aging](#). A contri-

bution of \$18K would meet Region 10's budget shortfall, he said, noting that meal deliveries meet not only nutritional but social needs as well.

Councilor Ed Ulibarri, who has helped to deliver meals on wheels, said that there is a need out there. "I'd like to see us do what we can to help."

Mayor Reed asked, "What does the future look like for funding, and how is that going to be addressed?"

Bullard said that state and federal funding have been flat for the past five years. "The question is where is the money going if we're not taking care of our aging...we don't have the answers right now..."

Mayor Pro Tem Frank suggested a multi-pronged attack, with locals taking time to testify on the need for restored funding during the state budget process, "Because if we don't take care of our seniors what good are we?"

Ulibarri said, "Let us not forget these are local taxpayers that we're helping support."

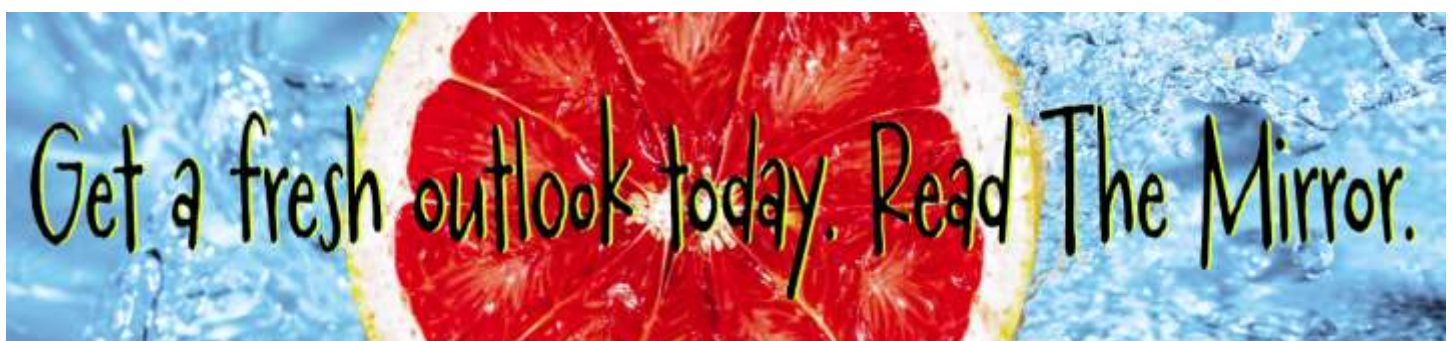
Councilor Judy Ann Files asked how the city supports Region 10.

Deputy City Manager Ann Morgenthaler said that the city's 2025 dues for Region 10 are \$24,000.

Council agreed to include a discussion with Region 10 on a future city agenda.

GENERAL COMMENTS

Frank said he had attended the rodeo, "It was a great time..." Councilor Doug Glaspell said that the 2024 Oktoberfest was very successful. Councilor Judy Ann Files said the state has released a report on recreational expenditures, and Western Colorado's numbers are comparable to the Front Range. She said she would share the data with other councilors.



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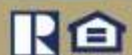
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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

BALLOTS GET MAILED OUT ON OCTOBER 11: VOTE REPUBLICAN

Dear Editor,

Here is my quick synopsis of easy voting recommendations: #1 **Vote Republican!** #2 **Vote NO on all of the Judges!** They aren't representing law abiding citizens and releasing criminals. (Except local Judge Kurt Beckenhauer will get my YES vote.) #3 **Go to <https://montroserepublicans.org/> for help on the Ballot Initiatives.**

Want a little more info? Do you have a plan to vote? Ballots get mailed out on October 11th. Are you registered? If not, you can **register to vote online here:**

<https://www.sos.state.co.us/voter/pages/pub/olvr/verifyNewVoter.xhtml> You can find your local, Sample Ballot here: <https://www.montrosecounty.net/73/Elections>

We need reformation in our Colorado legislature. In Colorado, we have elected Representatives that actually fly Palestinian flags at their desks in our Colorado State Capital!! Maybe they should be sent to Palestine to represent them because they sure aren't representing us! I'd consider that TREASON, personally. (See 18 US Code 2381- Treason "Whoever, owing allegiance to the United States, levies war against them or adheres to their enemies, giving them aid and comfort within the United States or elsewhere, is guilty of treason... and shall be incapable of holding any office under the United States.") They were elected to represent Colorado, not Palestine.

In Colorado, we are just ONE seat away from Democratic Senate control. **Please VOTE for Republican Marc Catlin!** (His opponent comes with NO Western Slope water experience but an LGBTQ agenda: <https://us4.campaign-archive.com/?e=d0d7d937a2&u=27121325a99aaafc5838ea407&id=07836b0285>) Marc Catlin knows our water and will help keep it on the Western Slope, unless you want more attacks on our children from current Representatives like THIS (click on link.) No, I am not unkind. Kindness does not GROOM and abort children. Murder is NOT a right.

Republican Larry Don Suckla is not an average politician! I, personally, endorse him 100%. He will not cave to dark money or be bought and sold, like many, or even his Democratic opponent, who ALREADY IS a professional lobbyist. Guess who she already answers to?! We need WE THE PEOPLE representation! During COVID, as County Commissioner of Montezuma County, Larry Don refused to make businesses shut down even though the State tried to force him to. We need Representatives like Larry Don fighting on our behalf!!

Vote NO on Ranked Choice Voting- Prop. 131 will require our county to buy MORE machines and even additional mail ballots to separately process. It is a nightmare, extremely expensive, and impossible to audit. Usually, the one with the most votes, does NOT win. Crazy!! Vote NO!! See more info here: <https://www.firstchoicecounts.com/discover>

The extreme tax raise with the **local high school initiative** will literally SINK many farmers, ranchers, and small businesses. If passed, they will be paying THOUSANDS MORE PER YEAR for 25 years. Of course, we all want to support our students, but straining the whole county is NOT the way to go about it. (See my fb page for more info, as the District is NOT giving you all the facts. <https://www.facebook.com/jodi.woodden>) There's no reason why ALL of our representatives cannot figure out how to manage OUR money better. Vote ALL tax increases DOWN. Make them manage our money better in the first place.

For more information and TRUMP signs, visit **Montrose Republican Headquarters on 447 E. Main Street!**

~Jodi Woodden, 5th generation Montrose native

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- ✓ 3 Bathrooms
- ✓ 1998 Built
- ✓ Three Story, Loft
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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

HUNTING BIG CATS IS CRUEL AND SHOULD BE PROHIBITED

Dear Editor:

Please vote "yes" on Proposition 127, the Prohibit Hunting of Mountain Lion, Bobcat, and Lynx Initiative, in November. The common method of using dogs with GPS trackers to chase the lion till s/he is exhausted and often climbs into a tree, where it is shot by a hunter from only yards away, is not sporting and is inhumane. The slaughter is not for meat but for the lion's head and skin.

If hunting big cats in Colorado is prohibited, their populations will stay about the same. California banned mountain lion trophy hunting in 1972 and its mountain lion density is about the same as Colorado's and that of other western states. California's average deer density is about the same as other western states, and so is its rate of cattle depredation.

Prohibiting big cat trophy hunting will have a negligible effect on the budget of the Colorado Parks & Wildlife department. In 2023, hunting licenses for mountain lions and bob cats brought in \$425,000 revenue to CPW, which is less than one-half of one percent of CPW's annual revenue.

Hunting big cats is cruel and should be prohibited. Vote "yes" on Proposition 127.

Melinda Marquis, Ph.D., Nederland

CHANGING NEEDS?

At a certain stage of life- many people are ready to make a change. To downsize their home, or simply choose a community that better suits their new lifestyle, interests, and needs. Sounds familiar? If you're ready to make a move, I invite you to call me today. I specialize in helping folks make the most from the changes and choices they have at all stages of life. I'd love to do the same for you.

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KATHLEEN CURRY FOR HD58

EXPERIENCE MATTERS

Kathleen is thrilled and grateful to have received endorsements from both Republican and Democratic state and local leaders, as well as respected bipartisan organizations. Here are just a few of the 14:



Phil Weiser, Colorado Attorney General

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



Ellen Roberts, Former State Senator of Durango

"Kathleen knows ranching firsthand and her lengthy and excellent past legislative service gives her extremely valuable background in the challenging water and agricultural issues of HD58. As always, her focus will be on promoting and fighting for what's best for the West Slope, especially the people in her district. She'll bring much needed rural common sense to Denver and the state Capitol!"



Colorado Placement & Referral Alliance (CoPRA)

"This endorsement reflects our confidence in your commitment to issues vital to our members and the Colorado senior community. We are deeply grateful for your participation in our legislative candidate program and your unwavering dedication to public service. We wish you the best of luck in your campaign and eagerly anticipate your continued advocacy for Colorado's seniors." (Corky Kyle, MPA, CAE, President)



National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB)

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



Committee to Protect Health Care

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



Colorado Advocates for Rural Electrification

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

ELECT KATHLEEN CURRY FOR COLORADO HOUSE DISTRICT 58 THIS NOVEMBER



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curryforcolorado.com

CITIZEN, COMMISSIONER-ELECT ASK BOCC TO CONSIDER FPPA

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-With just weeks to go before the general election, the [regular meeting](#) of the Montrose Board of County commissioners (BOCC) was short and sweet, with adjournment after 20 minutes.

All commissioners were present as BOCC Chair Roger Rash opened the meeting. Vice Chair Keith Caddy led in saying the Pledge of Allegiance, and in the absence of the scheduled pastor, Planning & Development Director Tallmadge Richmond delivered the invocation. "...we're grateful for the lovely weather and the good people we're here surrounded by, grateful for this board of county commissioners and their time and dedication and sacrifices to bettering the community and helping others...we are so grateful for all our many blessings..."

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Tom Mathis spoke, "From the Master Plan housing goals, living in Montrose County means being housed in Montrose County, 'achieving a healthy stock of housing that meets the community's needs is this element's focus. Housing options that meet the needs of Montrose County residents will retain current residents and align with anticipated population growth.'

"...doesn't the healthy stock of housing have to be properly inspected?" Mathis said.

"I am a retired Union carpenter from Northwest Indiana with 40 years' experience," he said. "I have never seen a lack of code enforcement until I moved here..."

Mathis continued "... currently footing foundation inspection process in the code was waived with the adoption of a resolution in 2019 and readopted on 6-27-23, Resolution 28-2023, which states a written foundation completion statement...must be submitted to the professional engineer prior to the framing inspection. The footers and foundation, the most critical component of the build, are covered up prior to being authorized by the building official.

"Until that resolution is repealed, and the original intent of the IRC restored, the lack of code compliant housing remains everywhere in Montrose County including the City of Montrose," he said.

Mathis suggested testing and licensing contractors to help mitigate the shoddy workmanship. "Currently there are no consequences for contractors who do not follow the code..."

He shared handouts with county officials. "Your time's up sir," BOCC Chair Roger Rash said.

Zacharia Greenfield was next to speak, addressing the turnover in the Montrose County Sheriff's Office (MCSO). "I came this morning to address the issue of FPPA (Fire and Police Pension Association of Colorado) for the Sheriff's Department," Greenfield said, "and our current retention problems...the turnover from Montrose Sheriff's Department to just the PD, I personally know seven officers that have transferred from the Sheriff's Office to the PD because of retirement and pay.

"I know that the Montrose Police Department really increased their pay," Greenfield said, "I believe...they start their officers at \$80,000, after seven years they max out at \$99,500, where the Montrose Sheriff's Office is \$63,000 maxing out at \$75,000...the discrepancies are leading to a mass turnover, with the average career in the Montrose Sheriff's Department of less than five years."

Greenfield said that he joined the military at age 17 and served three and a half years in Iraq and Afghanistan. After medical retirement, he went to work for Homeland Security, training bomb dogs across the United States. "I've worked with hundreds of police departments," he said. "All of them participate in some type of FPPA system. It's not just about retirement, it's about death and disability benefits. The death and disability benefits through FPPA far outweigh what Social Security does...I know that it would increase our budget by about \$240,000 a year changing over to FPPA...I believe it's a little over a million annually it's costing us in turnover of officers..."

He asked that commissioners hold a public meeting about FPPA. "I would love to have a public forum to discuss this as we go through the budget process this year...getting to minimum staffing level at the Sheriff's department will cost us more

than FPPA because of overtime concerns..."

Next to speak was Scott Mijares, Commissioner Elect to District 1.

Mijares said that he agreed with the previous speaker's comments, "...Our Sheriff's Department is dramatically underfunded and understaffed, it poses a danger to all of us...they just don't have the backup or the personnel to enforce the law..."

The Montrose County Sheriff's Office is vulnerable, and there are efforts underway to unionize the department, he said.

"I would urge you to definitely take a look at this, focus your attention on the Montrose County Sheriff's Department and the needs that they have for staffing and funding...we're just one bad situation away from the public being outraged by this problem...it's time for us to face it and make a move."

Mijares asked commissioners to continue the discussion of MCSO's needs with the new BOCC members as he and the newly-elected District 3 commissioner prepare to take office in January.

INTERIM COUNTY MANAGER

Interim County Manager Emily Sanchez had no changes to the meeting agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda items were approved as presented.

GENERAL BUSINESS & ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

After hearing from Sanchez and from Planning & Development Tallmadge Richmond, commissioners voted to approve [Resolution 51-2024](#), extending a moratorium on acceptance of new applications for power generation uses in Montrose County to December 31, 2024.

Commissioners held a brief public hearing. Commissioner Sue Hansen said, "...We're not opposed to power generation, we just want to make sure we get it right...thanks for your patience.

Commissioners accepted a [Proclamation](#) in Support of naming October, 2024 as Bullying Prevention Month. Present on behalf of the Proclamation was Beth Meek of the non-profit PEER Kindness.

With no further business and no executive session, the meeting was adjourned.

RED HAWKS SPORTS ROUNDUP *By Cliff Dodge*

SOCCER:

Montrose Red Hawks 7, Fruita-Monument Wildcats 2

The Montrose Red Hawks soccer team played host to the visiting Fruita-Monument Wildcats last week and handed the visitors a 7-2 pasting on the Red Hawks home pitch. The win improved the Red Hawks overall season record to 7 wins against 2 losses, and a league mark of 5 wins vs 1 loss.

Senior Tommy Montoya-Ornelas led the Red Hawks in scoring as he found the back of the net with two shots. Other scorers for the Red Hawks included senior Brody Cooling, senior Bowden Vigil, junior David Castro, senior Christopher Gonzalez-Muniz and sophomore Eli Rodriguez. Junior Jude Carlton, the keeper, faced only three shots in preserving the win

Next up for the Red Hawks is a trip to Glenwood Springs on Saturday, Oct. 5 with the kick-off scheduled for 11 a.m.

VOLLEYBALL:

Montrose Red Hawks 3, Grand Junction Tigers 0

The Montrose Red Hawks volleyball team took to the road last week, traveled to Grand Junction and proceeded to shut out the Grand Junction Tigers by the score of 3-0. The victory improved the Red Hawks season record to 10 wins vs only 3 losses. In league action the Red Hawks improved to 5 wins vs 1 defeat.

The Red Hawks got their offense going immediately as they jumped on the Tigers from the opening service, doubling the score of the first contest 25 to 12. The Red Hawks kept the pressure on through the match, winning game two by the score of 25-19 and the third game 25-18.

Next up for the Red Hawks will be another road trip, this one again to Grand Junction where the visitors will invade the home of the Grand Junction Central Warriors.

JUNIOR VARSITY FOOTBALL:

Red Hawks Jayvees 16, Fruita-Monument Jayvees 14

The Montrose Junior Varsity football team hosted the Fruita-Monument Junior Varsity on Monday and won a very close contest by the score of 16 to 14. The Red Hawks scored a touchdown in the first quarter and added their second score in the third quarter. The Red Hawks were successful on both of their two-point conversion tries.

The Red Hawks defense stood strong throughout the entire game as they gave



Montrose Junior Varsity. Photo by Cliff Dodge.

up a single touchdown late in the fourth quarter. The win improved the JV's record to 4 wins vs 1 loss. Next up for the Red Hawks will be a contest against the Palisade Bulldogs on Monday afternoon.

FRESHMAN FOOTBALL:

Fruita-Monument Freshmen 16, Red Hawks Freshmen 6

The Red Hawks and the Wildcats saw their defenses take center stage for the first three quarters of their football game last Monday afternoon in Montrose. The teams battled back and forth until both teams finally scored in the fourth quarter. The Wildcats put up 16 points while the Red Hawks managed only 6. The Red Hawks saw their season mark fall to 1 win and 2 losses.

MONTROSE RED HAWKS SOFTBALL:

Gunnison Cowboys 14, Montrose Red Hawks 13

The Red Hawks traveled east to Gunnison and took on the Cowboys on Wednesday. The Red Hawks put up a spirited effort but ultimately fell by the score of 14-13. The Red Hawks led 5-1 after two innings. The Cowboys put up 5 runs in the third inning and 6 more markers in the fourth inning. The Red Hawks scored 7 runs in the next two innings and led 13-12 heading into the seventh inning. The Cowboys pushed across a pair of runs in the bottom of the seventh inning to take the victory 14-13.

The Red Hawks Junior Emry Hall and Freshman Zuri Balleck led the hit parade with two base hits. The Red Hawks scored their 13 runs on 9 base hits. Sophomore

Isabelle Mott went the distance on the mound.

Fruita-Monument Wildcats 15, Red Hawks 0

The Red Hawks traveled to Fruita-Monument on Tuesday and were pummeled by the Wildcats 15-0. The Cats scored 7 runs in the first inning and 8 runs in the second inning invoking the 10-run rule, thus ending the contest after two innings. The Red Hawks struggled offensively as they were no-hit by the Wildcats.

Montrose Red Hawks 20, Bennett Tigers 5

The Montrose Red Hawks broke their losing streak with a 20-5 victory over the Bennett Tigers in the first game of a doubleheader on Saturday played in Bennett, Colorado. The Red Hawks scored 4 runs in the top of the first inning and were never challenged. The clincher was a 9-run eruption in the top of the fifth inning which put an end to the contest via the 10-run rule.

Montrose Red Hawks 20, Bennett Tigers 3

The Montrose Red Hawks continued their offensive production in the second game of the doubleheader with the Bennett Tigers. The Red Hawks pounded out 20 runs on 9 hits and 15 runs batted in. Sophomore Cheyenne Whitcomb and Freshman Aubrey Blacker led the hit parade with two hits each. Sophomore Isabelle Mott and Freshman Zuri Balleck each drove in 3 runs in the 20-3 Red Hawk victory.

The Red Hawks overall record now stands at 5-11 and their league mark is 1-7. The next action for the softballers will be a road trip to Palisade to tangle with the Bulldogs on Oct. 8.

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MAYOR HONORS BETTY HALL, LOCALS SHARE STRUGGLES WITH HOMELESSNESS

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE—Along with a brief agenda of regular business items, Mayor J. David Reed presented a Citizenship Award to Betty Hall and issued a proclamation in support of Bullying Prevention Month during the regular Montrose City Council meeting of Tuesday, Oct. 1. All Councilors were present for the meeting, though no members of the City Youth Council were in attendance.

Mayor Reed welcomed all to the meeting and led in saying the Pledge of Allegiance. “We’re always happy to see a crowd of smiling faces here, hopefully they’re smiling faces,” Reed said.

PROCLAMATION-BULLYING PREVENTION MONTH

Executive Director Joey Montoya Boese of the PEER Kindness non-profit was present to accept the [proclamation](#) in support of designating October 2024 as Bullying Prevention Month.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

There were no changes to the meeting [agenda](#), although Mayor Pro tem David Frank did note that there would be no comments from Youth Council.

YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE AWARD

Mayor Reed honored Betty Hall with a “You Make a Difference” award, highlighting her history of volunteering with her church and with TEEN Challenge. “...Every holiday without exception, Betty opens her home to host a potluck dinner for those who have nowhere to go,” Reed said. Hall has also volunteered for 49 years with the Montrose hospital women’s medical auxiliary and makes mission trips abroad regularly to provide relief to underprivileged children where needed.

“Betty truly strives each day to make a difference,” Reed said.

Following a huge round of applause, Hall spoke. “...It’s been my privilege to live in Montrose for this 49 years...it’s been a privilege to have Jesus in my heart, and I want to share with others the love that he has put there...you know it’s only what you do for others that counts...”

Hall thanked her friends for their support, adding, “I’m so happy to see some of the young people back there that’s going to



Citizens say the Pledge of Allegiance during council meeting of Oct. 1. Meeting Screenshot.

make a difference in Montrose in the years to come...”

CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Tom Cheney spoke. “This is regarding the proposed ordinance concerning homeless folks...you know homeless people, 2,000 years ago you might have called ‘em lepers. Folks in those days they stoned ‘em and ran ‘em out of town. It seems to me the flavor of this ordinance that you’re considering is treating these people pretty much the same way...the net affect is about the same...I’ve got some ideas on what you might be able to do...I’d like to see a little more work on this issue...I’d be happy to talk to anybody...thank you.”

Next to speak was John Brown, “Mr. Cheney brought up the biblical references to things starting 2,000 years ago. Sanctuary meant something totally different 2,000 years ago than it does now. Sanctuary meant a place that a person could go who is being charged with a crime, so they could put together a defense...then come back and meet the people that are going to judge them appropriately. The connotation now means a place that somebody who has done something illegal...coming into our country and then fleeing from the border area...and into cities like Denver because there are cities that are opening up their arms and saying come, stay here...I don’t know if it’s because of money or if it’s because of some possibility of

voting, having people register to vote for a particular party or not...sanctuary has a totally different meaning. A person who is in our area requesting sanctuary, they are expecting to get almost \$5,000 a month in benefits for a whole year. That’s more than most of us make in a whole year, and we had to work for it...All that’s coming out of our budgets...all the people that are coming here, they are looking for somebody else to pay their way. Please make Montrose a non-sanctuary city.”

Cindy Olinghouse spoke. “I’m still very concerned about what’s going on here, because Texas, Colorado, and other states are experiencing things from illegal aliens that should not be happening, and I’m just very concerned.”

Jamie Freeman spoke next. “I’m here because of the homeless thing that’s going on,” Freeman said. “I stand before you today not just as an individual but as the voice of those who, like me, have faced the harsh realities of homelessness. For the past five years I have called the streets my home. I am 39 years old and I have two dogs that are not just my companions but my protectors, they offer me comfort and safety in a world that often feels threatening. I come before you today with a heavy heart as I have learned that our town is moving forward with measures that criminalize homelessness...this is not just a personal issue, it is a matter of human rights...the right to life, liberty, and

LOCALS SHARE STRUGGLES WITH HOMELESSNESS *From previous pg*

the pursuit of happiness is enshrined in our constitution. When we make it illegal to be homeless, we are denying individuals like myself basic rights...homelessness is not a choice, it can often be the result of various factors...by criminalizing homelessness we are ignoring the underlying causes and failing to offer the support and resources necessary for the individuals to rebuild their lives..."

Freeman shared information about the "United We Stand" initiative. "Aimed at addressing homelessness in our community, this initiative proposes to house individuals in one-bedroom units where they can have access to showers, bedrooms, and laundry facilities.

"We are not asking for a handout, but a

hand up...I urge the town to consider donating five to ten acres of the many unused acres that the town owns. This land could serve as a temporary resource for those who would need it until we can establish a more permanent solution through the United We Stand program...let us work together to find compassionate solutions rather than punishing the vulnerable, by investing in the initiatives that support those in need and make our community a better place," Freeman said.

Next to speak was Jim Renfrow. "I came to start exploring options other than your ordinance that basically says we're going to treat 'em all the same..."

Renfrow showed an example of the body

and sleeping bags given to homeless people. "We have no place for these people to stay. It's like the general populace...we can't treat 'em all the same."

He read aloud a parable about sheep and goats, and then introduced Christopher Gallegos, who Renfrow said had served 23 years in prison.

Gallegos, who has also spent years of his life building bikes for those in need, stepped up to speak. "We need people to step forward and help us help the homeless...I build bikes...I focus on the...work release program...anybody who needs help in the community who needs help with a bicycle, we help...I've been trying to find a place to live..."

His felonies from 20 years ago keep him from obtaining housing, Gallegos said. "...I know without a doubt that if you give a homeless person a chance, and show them and encourage them every day, maybe they'll get out of the slump that they're in...I think if we was to get a piece of property, set something up, at least the homeless people with kids can at least go over there and be safe..."

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council voted unanimously to approve [minutes of the Sept. 16 Special City Council meeting](#) and [minutes of the Sept. 17 Regular City Council meeting](#) as presented.

YOUTH CITY COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS

Council voted to appoint Reign Icasiano, Shiloh Warthen, Jordyn Simo and Niyati Patel to the Montrose Youth City Council for the 2024-2025 term.

RESOLUTION 2024-1

Also approved was [Resolution 2024-16](#), to pursue grant funding from the History Colorado State Historical Fund for a National Register of Historic Places nomination for the La Raza/Tortilla Flats neighborhood as administered by the National Park Service.

STAFF REPORTS

There were no staff reports.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

The City will host a Budget Open House on Oct. 17 at 5pm, Mayor Pro Tem David Frank said. "...It's a great opportunity to ask questions and get involved."

With no further business, "...The work of council on the agenda for tonight's meeting has been completed, and we will stand adjourned," Mayor Reed said.

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Nestled on 32+ acres of pristine mountain landscape, this luxurious three-story home offers breathtaking views of the San Juan Range and overlooks a serene canyon carved by McKenzie Creek encompassed within the property boundary lines. A winding driveway leads you to this secluded sanctuary, where expansive windows and multiple decks seamlessly blend indoor and outdoor living, providing uninterrupted panoramas of majestic mountains and abundant wildlife. Inside, the heart of the home is a gourmet kitchen featuring a Dacor six-burner range, Sub-Zero refrigerator, and custom cabinetry—ideal for culinary enthusiasts. Sunlit living spaces are designed to capture the beauty of the surroundings, with high ceilings and an open layout that flows effortlessly. Step outside to a meticulously fenced and landscaped yard, where a flagstone patio with a gently flowing water feature creates a tranquil retreat. Gather around the fire pit with a built-in bench for cozy evenings under the stars. Every detail of this mountain oasis has been thoughtfully curated to offer luxury, comfort, and a profound connection to nature. Whether entertaining guests or enjoying quiet solitude, this extraordinary home offers a unique blend of elegance and rugged mountain charm.

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Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests will resume trail reconstruction on the Bear Creek National Recreation trail, located south of Ouray, on Oct. 10. Crews will be reconstructing portions of the trail between the trailhead and Yellow Jacket Mine, including construction of stone retaining walls, drainage features and low water crossings. This critical trail maintenance and reconstruction is funded by the Great American Outdoors Act and a grant from Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

The trail is expected to remain open during construction; however, visitors may experience delays of up to 45 minutes on weekdays. Construction activities will not occur on weekends. Trail crews will work until the weather becomes unfavorable this fall and will resume in the spring if the project isn't completed.

"Public and worker safety during the trail reconstruction is our top priority," stated Dana Gardunio, Ouray District Ranger. "We are doing our best to coordinate a schedule that will complete reconstruction work efficiently and mitigate potential hazards during the construction process. We appreciate the patience and support of trail users during this time."

During the construction, signage will be installed at locations along the trail to indicate work areas. Visitors are asked to follow the guidance provided for everyone's safety.

For more information on the trail reconstruction project, contact the Ouray Ranger District at 970-240-5300. For information and updates on current fire restrictions, conditions, and recreation opportunities on the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests, visit the [forest website](#). Connect with us on social media ([X \(Twitter\)](#) and [Facebook](#)).

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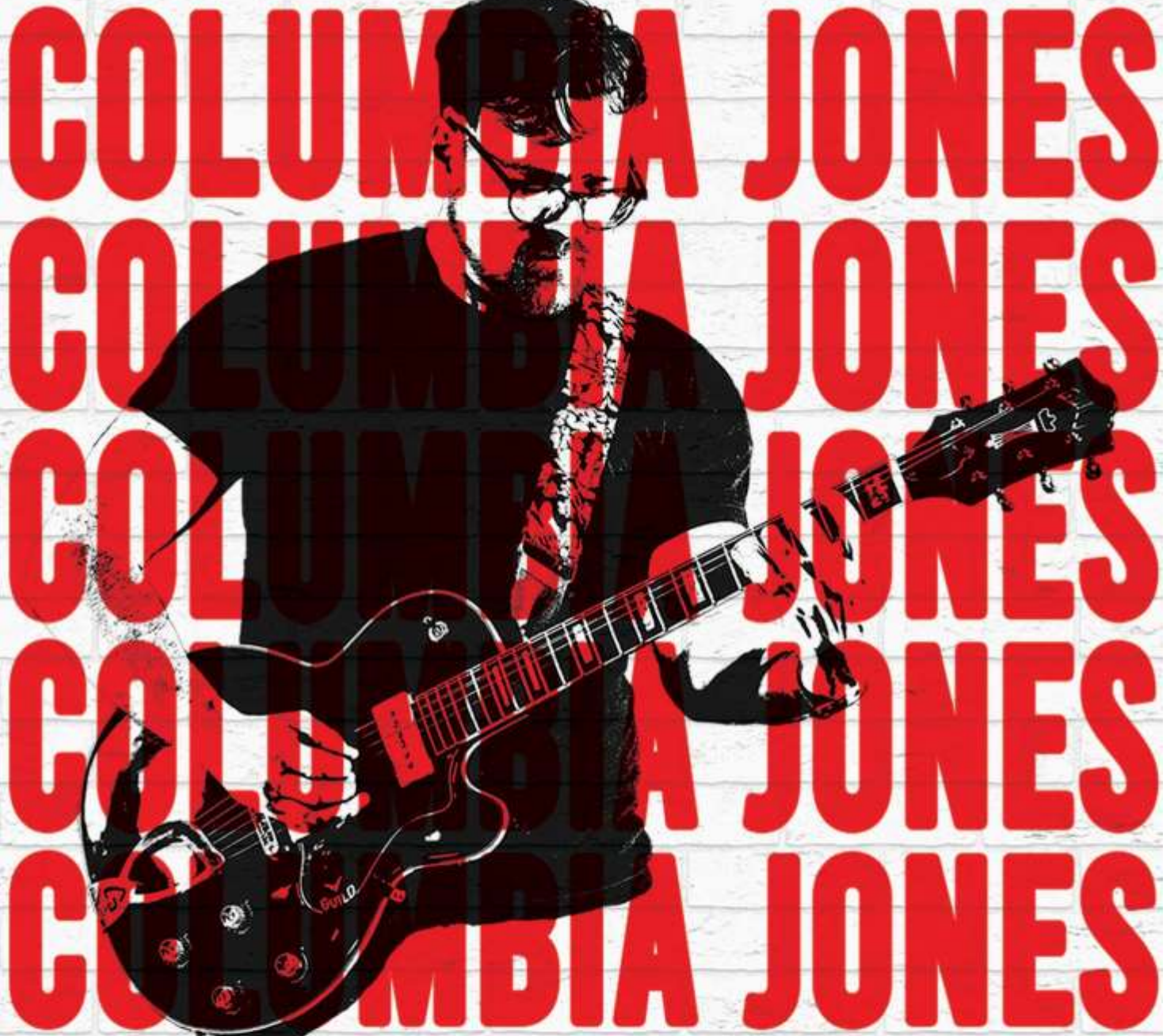


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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

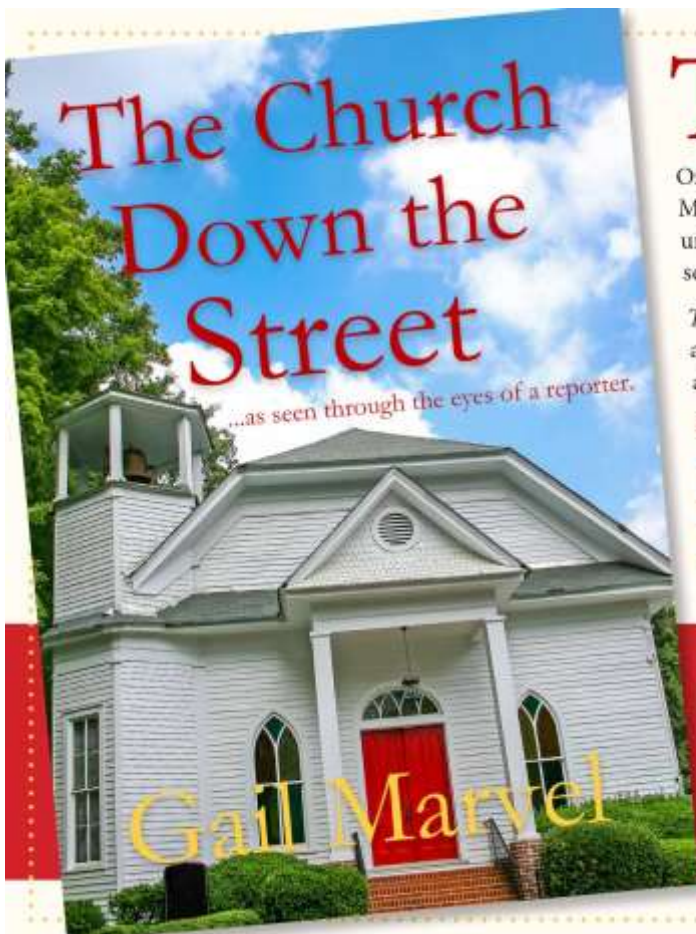
LISTEN TO 'THE BETTER ANGELS OF OUR NATURE,' VOTE TO REJECT TRUMP

Dear Editor:

In 1858, Abraham Lincoln warned us that "a house divided against itself cannot stand." We are now on the eve of the most consequential presidential election since 1860. Lincoln, the first Republican president, would not recognize his party today. It is in the grip of a man who attempted to subvert one of the most sacred pillars of our republic by engaging in a conspiracy to remain in power after the voters rejected him for a second term. This same man openly admires world leaders who style themselves as strongmen, leaders who, like Putin, Xi, and Kim, sit atop the most repressive totalitarian states in modern history. His ardent followers are, in a sense, a lost generation of voters. They have abandoned their allegiance to the democratic principles for which I and my fellow veterans served and, too often, died to protect. Their loyalty belongs to a man who, if elected to a second term as president, will use the extremist plans of Project 2025 to turn our country in a direction that few would have thought possible before now. For those voters who are still undecided or for those Republicans who have legitimate doubts about their party's nominee, I would recommend that you read former Republican congresswoman Liz Cheney's book, *Oath and Honor*, which outlines in detail how the plot to overthrow our democracy unfolded and how it led to the insurrection on January 6, 2021. When we vote on November 5, let us recall Abraham Lincoln's Second Inaugural words and listen to "the better angels of our nature" by once again rejecting a man who is manifestly unfit to hold the highest office in the land.

Sincerely,

George Bacon, Montrose



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

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

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

Readers will:

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

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

GAIL MARVEL
Montrose Author & Reporter



OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

MCSO IS USING TAXPAYER MONEY TO CREATE AND PUBLISH ENDLESS PRO CONTENT AND IMAGES IN VIOLATION OF THE COLORADO FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT

To The Editor,
 Vote NO on the 5A Massive Montrose County School District RE-1J property tax increase to build a shiny new high school with all the "extras" including a NEW football/soccer stadium and a climbing wall... all to be paid for on the taxpayer dime. This will be a 32% property tax increase for me, on top of the 2024 38% property tax increase I was forced to pay. My budget is broken now.... Who can afford this?

Business will be hit hard... and they will of course pass that tax increase on to consumers in higher prices and landlords will have no choice but to increase rental prices. Everyone will pay even if they don't own property.

MCSO is not being open and honest... notice how in their mailings and webpage,

they say the increase will be about \$9 per \$100,000 of assessed value MONTHLY... not yearly like every other calculation I've seen for other tax increase ballot measures. In fact I missed the word "monthly" the first time I read it.

So many people I've talked to also missed the "monthly" and I had to explain they need to multiply that "estimate" by 12 months to get a yearly tax increase.

While I am not an attorney, I believe MCSO is in violation of the Colorado Fair Campaign Practices Act by using taxpayer dollars to fund their webpage supporting the tax increase and to create and publish supporting content on their Facebook page.

MCSO claims they are in compliance because they list 3 Pro/Con issues on a page you must click on to find. Those state-

ments Pro/Con are clearly incomplete and biased and make the initial assumption that high school needs to be replaced. <https://www.mcsd.org/2024Bond> Denver just had to remove a webpage for doing the same thing.

MCSO has a Facebook page that lists image after image citing the "need" for a new high school without any mention of their limited incomplete Pro/Con "comparison". That means MCSO is using taxpayer money to create and publish endless PRO content and images in violation of the Colorado Fair Campaign Practices Act.

<https://www.facebook.com/montrosecountyschooldistrict>
 I urge you to vote NO on this OMG property tax increase in Ballot Measure 5A.
 George Kerber, Montrose

From Brook Hughes
 County Assessor

- Size of Bond Measure: \$198 Million
- Tax impact of \$9 per month per \$100,000 of a home's actual value

Photos [See all photos](#)



Campaign "Dos" and "Don'ts"

Colorado's Fair Campaign Practices Act (FCPA) prohibits the use of public resources to support or oppose a candidate or ballot issue. Understanding how this law impacts employee conduct during work hours is vitally important to all district personnel/volunteers in the upcoming election period. We hope that the following provides basic answers to frequently asked questions regarding district employees and elections.

FACTUAL SUMMARY:

- Allowed**
- A school district is allowed to spend public funds to prepare and dispense a "factual summary" which includes arguments both for and against proposals on any issue of "official concern" on the ballot.
- Not Allowed**
- A school district is not allowed to state a conclusion or opinion in favor of or against any particular issue addressed by the factual summary.

MCSO has 43 words of CON arguments and thousands and thousands of lines/words promoting the tax increase.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL:LETTERS

THE BEST CHOICE FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT #3 IS BY FAR JEFF HURD

Editor:

When Congresswoman Lauren Boebert moved to Congressional District #4 the race for Congressional District #3 is wide open. Once again Adam Frisch from Aspen is running on the Democrat ticket. His TV ads proudly proclaim that he will not take corporate donations, but he has no compunction about taking donations from the Soros foundation. He avoids noting that he has supported the influx of 20 million illegal aliens and seems to be proud of the fact that Colorado is a sanctuary state. He is apparently happy to see illegals being shipped all over Colorado, anywhere but in his hometown of Aspen. He has supported all of the questionable Democrat policies that have brought this nation to the brink of destruction.

We have far too many members of Congress now that are just like Adam Frisch and we certainly don't need any more. A vote for Frisch is a vote for more of what this country has experienced since under Biden/Harris. The best choice for Congressional District #3 is by far Jeff Hurd.

Dee Laird, Montrose



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CIMARRON CREEK

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

THE BEST CHOICE IN DISTRICT 3 IS TRISHA MURRAY

Editor:

In elections for public office voters often have to make an informed decision between multiple candidates. Such is the case here in Montrose for commissioner of District 3.

Where Republican candidate RICK DUNLAP is facing off against independent TRISHA MURRAY. So let's take a look at the history of both candidates.

RICK DUNLAP

-After almost 5 years of obscure retirement, DUNLAP suddenly appeared to run for commissioner in District 3. At the Republican County Assembly it became clear that he had been recruited as a candidate by one or more of our current commissioners ostensibly because of name recognition and their supposition that he could be manipulated to maintain a highly questionable status quo and county government.

-At a BOCC meeting last December Sheriff Lillard publicly noted that he inherited a sheriff department in disarray from Dunlap. During his tenure as sheriff Dunlap never questioned inappropriate charges to his PSST fund. Questions regarding those charges never arose until Sheriff Lillard began to point out inappropriate charges to the PSST absent sheriff department approval. All of this has been publicly documented. For a real insight into these problems voters are encouraged to contact Sheriff Lillard directly for more information.

-Because of concerns regarding Dunlap's mismanagement issues during his tenure it's interesting to know that the majority of the current sheriff department is not supporting his candidacy.

-In recruiting DUNLAP to run for district 3 the commissioners failed to properly vent their candidate.. The most glaring problem with his candidacy is that his daughter-in-

law Cindy Dunlap is and has been the County Chief Financial Officer for years and has done an excellent job in that position. If elected as Commissioner District 3 Dunlap faces a very clear conflict of interest because of that family relationship. If that occurs he would be duty bound to declare that conflict of interest and recuse himself from all financial discussions and decisions. Far too many voters are unaware of that conflict and DUNLAP has refused to address that problem. With the county budget now at around the \$130 million range it would be impossible for the county to operate in regard to financial matters with only two commissioners being able to vote. All county employees are supervised by the County Manager on a daily basis but department heads such a Cindy Dunlap work strictly at the pleasure of the Board of County Commissioners. Because of this clear conflict of interest Dunlap should have terminated his candidacy months ago.

TRISHA MURRAY

-Certainly a fresh new face to the Montrose political scene, but no stranger to Montrose with family ties in Delta and Ridgway. Trisha moved home to Montrose in 2011, where she met her husband Jeff. With a Bachelor of Science in Communications, she served as the Administrative Director for the BOCC appointed Montrose Memorial Hospital Board of Trustees for nearly 3 years, and has worked in the Montrose County Attorney's Office for the past 8 years. Trisha was a registered Republican until 2020. She chose to become an Unaffiliated / Independent registered voter because of all the mudslinging on both sides of the major political parties.

-As a full-time Legal Assistant with the County Attorney's Office, she has worked under 7 County Commissioners, 3 County

Managers and 2 County Attorneys over her tenure. In that position she has developed an insight into how things have developed in the county over those years of her service, particularly in respect to which departments are doing well and which departments struggle.

-For the past 7 years she has worked directly with the County Attorney to prepare the departments annual budget. She is aware of the county annual budget process, and the coding used by the Finance department to enter each line item. She is very familiar with most all of the contracts involving the various departments. Much of what has occurred within the county over the past several years has crossed her desk giving her a unique insight into the inner workings of our county government.

- Unlike her opponent in the District 3 race, Murray has a full understanding of the concerns that have been raised regarding the PSST fund and has expressed a willingness to explore all aspects of the FPPA retirement program for our Sheriff's Department.

- Frustrated with the state of politics today, and given her experience with our local county government over the past 8 years, she has to be commended for standing up to offer her services for all the solutions of Montrose County. You can check out her website at murray4montrosecounty.com.

With the recent appointment of a new County Manager the future of Montrose county government hangs in the balance on this one race.

If you want to have three fully functioning County Commissioners to move our county forward the best choice in District 3 is Trisha Murray.

Ballots will be mailed out this week. Encourage family and friends to vote early. *Dee Laird, Montrose*

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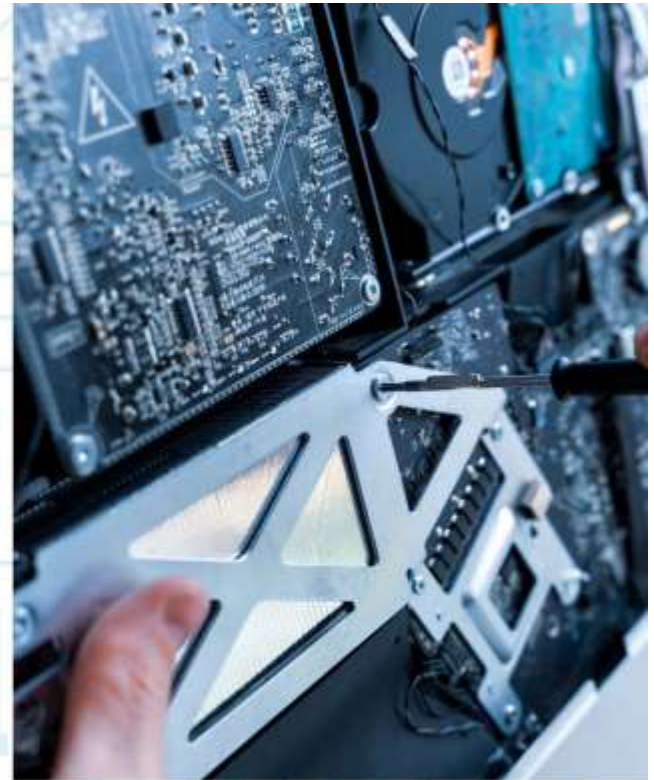
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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

PROTECT OUR COLORADO WILD CATS FROM TROPHY HUNTING AND TRAPPING

Editor:

Let's step forward into the modern era and vote 'yes' to protect our Colorado wild cats from trophy hunting and trapping. With a "yes" vote on Proposition 127 Coloradans have an opportunity to express our current values and connect our minds with our hearts. A chance to end the ecologically unsound, unsporting and cruel practice of chasing down hundreds of mountain lions each year with packs of dogs for nothing other than heads and hides.

This harassment and killing of our mountain lions is indefensible. A wealth of science shows it is not necessary. Science shows mountain lion numbers will not explode out of control. Deer and elk numbers will not go down.

Last season about 50% of mountain lions killed were females. Long after weaning from mother's milk, kittens still need their mothers to survive. The great toll on females inevitably orphaned kittens last year, left alone and starving in the middle of winter.

The ecologically unsound, unnecessary assault on our Colorado wild cats doesn't end there. Our bobcats are trapped, beaten to death or strangled without limit; furs

then sold for profit outside the USA. If trophy hunting and trapping of our Colorado wild cats serves no ecological purpose and is clearly inhumane and cruel it

must stop. A "yes" vote on proposition 127 will reflect the hearts and educated minds of Coloradans.
Lynn Ackerman, Highlands Ranch

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE EDUCATION FOUNDATION AND THE MONTROSE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT ACCEPTING 2025 TEACHER OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The Montrose Education Foundation and the Montrose County School District are excited to announce that the nomination window for the 2025 Teacher of the Year is now open for submissions! Anyone in our community can nominate an outstanding educator using the form at this link. This information is also posted on the Montrose Education Foundation (montroseeducationfoundation.org) and MCS D website homepages and Facebook pages or email montroseeducationfoundation22@gmail.com for nomination form link or questions.

The MEF Teacher of the Year Program recognizes licensed classroom teachers who have been teaching at MCS D for 3 years or more, for the significant contributions they make to their schools, district and their community. The nominees are individuals who:

- Inspire students of all backgrounds and abilities to learn;
- Have the respect and admiration of students, parents, community and colleagues;
- Play an active and useful role in the community as well as in their school; and
- Demonstrate high levels of academic achievement for their students.

MEF will honor all teachers who have been nominated during class time at their school with a certificate and balloon on Nov. 19. Also, a social media/newspaper announcement will be made during American Education Week in November to honor these outstanding teachers. The teachers who choose to continue in the Teacher of the Year selection process will be announced during the MEF Educator Appreciation Reception on April 3, 2025, where the recipients will be announced, along with the \$10,000 Impact Award recipients. We encourage you to nominate an outstanding MCS D teacher for recognition. Submissions will close on Monday, Nov. 4.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

HOW ABOUT A \$500,000,000++ WATER TREATMENT PLANT? If you thought a \$400M High School was bad enough, JUST WAIT!

By David White

If passed by the Project 7 Board of Directors, expect your water bills to easily double, triple, quadruple or more in the next decade and maybe beyond. And you don't have a thing to say about it!! No public vote. No representation of the people by these appointed individuals. Say what?

Let me start with some background as many reading this editorial will ask: What or who is Project 7?

Project 7 is a seven (7) member entity created in 1977 as a governmental agency to provide "raw" water that has been treated, tested and proven safe for human consumption to the member water providers, namely the City of Montrose, City of Delta, the Town of Olathe, the Menoken Water District, the Chipeta Water District and Tri-County Water Conservancy District. The Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association is a member but does not deliver water to any entity but is responsible for the water coming into the Uncompahgre Valley and the network of canals and ditches it oversees. Roughly 50,000 or more people in the valleys (Uncompahgre & Gunnison) receive their drinking water through the members of Project 7. For more information, visit the Project 7 website ([Project 7 Water Authority - Home](#))

According to their website, "the majority of water supplied to Project 7 for treatment comes from the Blue Mesa Reservoir via the Crystal Reservoir. A small amount (<5%) comes from Silverjack Reservoir via Cerro Reservoir." The Gunnison Tunnel diverts the water coming from Blue Mesa Reservoir into the South Canal. "The water travels down the South Canal a short distance and a regulated amount is diverted into Fairview Reservoir."

Project 7 is governed by an appointed board. Each person on the board is selected by their respective water district boards or elected boards as is the case with the municipal members Montrose, Delta and Olathe. Members of the Project

7 Board are:

-City of Montrose- David Bries, Utilities Manager (Alternate is Doug Glaspell, City Councilor)

-City of Delta- Kevin Carlson, Mayor

-Town of Olathe- Jake Foreman, Mayor

-Tri-County Water Conservancy District- Vicki Ripp, Rancher

-Menoken Water District- Randy Meaker, Farmer & Rancher

-Chipeta Water District- John McCollum, Owner, Ridgway Valley Enterprises

Project 7, after treating the raw water coming into its treatment plant on Highway 50 east of Montrose, delivers the now "potable" or "drinking" water to the member entities for a price. That price (determined by the Board of Directors) is the "wholesale" price for water which is paid for by the member entities and then they, using separate delivery systems which they own, mark up the wholesale price of the water and deliver it to your home or business through their water lines and bill you for the water (and associated delivery costs) you use on a monthly or bimonthly basis.

For quite some time, the Project 7 Board and Staff have been concerned about the fact that only one water treatment plant exists to serve the valley and the users. As their website states:

"Today, a single water supply source – the Gunnison River – and a single treatment facility provide all the drinking water supplied by Project 7 to the region's municipalities and rural areas. This presents major risk factors to the Valley's water system. A wildfire, pipeline or tunnel failure could cut off the drinking water that over 50,000 people and thousands of local businesses depend on. The most cost-effective and long-term solution is to develop a new drinking water source that reduces the risk of water supply interruptions for the region."

With the above said, I will get to the \$500,000,000++ question. The Project 7 folks have determined, through their

"Regional Water Resiliency Program", that we need a second water treatment plant to be located near the Ridgway Reservoir along with miles and miles of piping to bring treated water from this new site north to the member communities in the valley.

The planning for this project has been ongoing in earnest since 2019. Garver Engineering ([About - Garver \(garverusa.com\)](#)) was hired early on to be Project 7's advisor on this new treatment plant. CDM Smith ([CDM Smith - CDM Smith](#)) was hired to be design engineering firm for the plant and McCarthy Engineering ([McCarthy Building Companies - Reliable Construction](#)) was hired to construct the plant.

All of this is well and good and the justification for this project is, in my opinion, valid. However, after attending two meetings on this project (one on October 1st with some board members and a public Community Open House on October 2nd), I find it very disconcerting to learn that, by all appearances, the cart was put before the proverbial horse, meaning that figuring out how to pay for this new plant took a back seat to all of the design, engineering and ultimately, construction costs.

It wasn't until earlier this year that governmental financing specialists, D.A. Davidson Companies ([D.A. Davidson | The Strength of Advice \(dadavidson.com\)](#)) were contacted and brought in to advise the Project 7 Board on financing options as well as the need to conduct an in depth analysis of how funding would be generated given the not so stellar status of Project 7's credit worthiness (that's a subject for another day and story). And therein lies a huge part of their problem.

In an April 2022 article in the *Montrose Press* ([Major grant moves Project 7's back-up water treatment plant forward | Local News Stories | montrosepress.com](#)), Miles Graham, spokesperson for Project 7, was quoted as saying the following:

"Project 7 is keeping all options on the

HOW ABOUT A \$500,000,000++ WATER TREATMENT PLANT?

From previous pg

options on the table for the \$50 million — \$70 million treatment plant project, Graham said. That includes capital reserves of between \$2 million and \$3 million, as well as the possibility of low-interest loans and federal grants — and it is hoped the latter two options will furnish the lion's share of funding. The board for now disfavors a tap fee.

The revenue from the wholesale prices charged to the seven member-entities would account for only 3% to 5% of the project funding, Graham said."

Depending on the final design, the actual revenue increases needed would fall between four 12% increases and four 21% rate increases, followed by annual increases to keep pace with inflation.

Project 7's board already approved 15% increases in 2020 and 2021.

"We're trending on 15% increases. It's right now trending on the lower end of that spectrum," Graham said. "The next few years, we're anticipating year-over-year 15% increases." (NOTE: That's called compounding folks...15% increase one year and then 15% increase the following year and so on...in other words, it gets pricey VERY FAST, and you will pay the bill!)

According to data supplied to me from some concerned board members, this new treatment plant will not be a 100% replacement for the existing plant as it has a planned capacity to process 6 million gallons of water per day vs. the current plant's 27.6 million gallons per day, however, it can be expanded in the future, but at what cost?

Information provided by Project 7 shows that the current price for the plant as provided by the design engineers is now \$172,394.936 and not the \$50M - \$70M estimated just 2 years ago. What is going on here?? Information provided by D.A. Davidson Companies (who will evidently underwrite and market the bond issuance needed to pay for this project) is showing a projected amount to be borrowed of \$185,000,000! **All I can say is WOW!**

Because of issues associated with Project

7's credit rating, the board is looking at different financing scenarios to include having to pay debt service (interest only) of \$72,407,179 for 11 years (based upon borrowing \$136,140,000 supposing that the balance of the \$185M in projected costs are received in the form of grants or other loans from the State or Federal Governments) with a refinancing of the outstanding debt taking place after year 11. That refinancing would require an additional 29 years to pay off this project. Unbelievable!

To bring this home, examples provided to me, and which were created by a representative of D.A. Davidson Companies, show that **water costs for residential water customers in the Town of Olathe will increase from an average of \$885 - \$932 per year in 2024 to a projected cost of between \$1,568 per year to \$1,751 per year in 2030.**

If you live in the Chipeta Water District, D.A. Davidson's numbers indicate that **annual water costs for residential water customers in 2024 average \$932 but are projected to increase to \$1,568 per year in 2030.**

The City of Montrose uses about 50% of the water produced by Project 7. Costs to be borne by City of Montrose residents will be dramatically more than other municipalities or water districts as a result.

In reviewing the projected and escalating costs of this project with some board members, calculations show that should \$185,000,000 need to be borrowed, that at the end of the anticipated 40-year financing terms being negotiated, that this project will end up, with principal and interest, costing ratepayers an estimated \$534,000,000! Another WOW! is needed here!

By all reports, Project 7 Board President Randy Meaker is spearheading this project and pressuring the board to get ahead of the Montrose High School proposed \$395,000,000 (principal and interest) bond issue found on the upcoming November 5th General Election ballot. My question is, if accurate, why? Why has this

board not taken a step back and come up with an alternative plan. This proposal is simply unaffordable.

The scary thing about this entire proposed second water treatment plant is that while Project 7 has tried to communicate to the public its plans as the wholesaler of our drinking water, the real responsibility for getting this information out to the public falls to the water delivering entities. The City of Montrose City Council has been briefed several times by Project 7 staff on what's coming. What did they do? They raised our water rates in part to start banking money to pay for this second treatment plant yet there has seemingly been no push back from them to argue for alternatives, but what's new? They didn't even put an elected representative in place as the board member but instead but a staffer (David Bries — who is very well qualified, but he's not an accountable elected official like the City's alternate, Doug Glaspell, who apparently doesn't attend these meetings).

And given the magnitude of what is involved here, Project 7's board didn't even have adequate legal counsel until just recently and even then, I'm not sure that a local attorney has the skill set needed to oversee a project like this, but I guess we'll soon find out.

I hope that those reading this will contact their respective water provider(s) and start asking questions. Call or email Project 7 too (Project7@Montrose.net). With almost a billion dollars in combined proposed or existing local debt (City, County, Special Districts, etc.), the taxpayers better look out. We simply have too many folks who can put their fingers in our collective pie!

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

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

PUBLIC INFORMATION ON SCHOOL BOND TAX ISSUE

Editor: In order to better understand the School Bond Tax issue please publish my public request for information to the County Assessor along with his response to me and his estimated PROPERTY TAX CHART. Additionally, please provide a copy of the School Bond Ballot LANGUAGE for public examination and understanding.
 Jim Anderson, Montrose

APPENDIX A
FORM OF THE BALLOT ISSUE

MONTROSE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. RE-1J BALLOT ISSUE #3... BONDS

SHALL MONTROSE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. RE-1J DEBT BE INCREASED \$198 MILLION, WITH A REPAYMENT COST OF UP TO \$395 MILLION, AND SHALL DISTRICT TAXES BE INCREASED BY UP TO \$18.7 MILLION ANNUALLY FOR THE PURPOSE OF FINANCING:

- CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW MONTROSE HIGH SCHOOL ON EXISTING SCHOOL PROPERTY, TO INCLUDE UPGRADED SECURITY, A MAIN ENTRYWAY AND LOBBY TO BE LOCATED ON RIO GRANDE AVENUE TO REDUCE TRAFFIC CONGESTION, SPACE FOR VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL PROGRAMMING, VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS PROGRAMMING, STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES, AND CLASSROOMS AND SCIENCE LABS;
- SITE IMPROVEMENTS, INCLUDING EXPANDED PARKING AND RELOCATION OF ATHLETIC STADIUM, FIELDS AND COURTS;
- DEMOLITION OF THE EXISTING HIGH SCHOOL FACILITY WHILE PRESERVING THE LLOYD MC MILLAN GYM FOR SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY USE.

AND TO THE EXTENT THAT FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE ACQUIRING, CONSTRUCTING, REPAIRING, EQUIPPING AND IMPROVING DISTRICT CAPITAL ASSETS, BY THE ISSUANCE AND PAYMENT OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS WHICH SHALL BEAR INTEREST, MATURE, AND CONTAINING TERMS CONSISTENT WITH THIS BALLOT ISSUE AS THE BOARD OF EDUCATION DETERMINES; SHALL AD VALOREM PROPERTY TAXES BE LEVIED WITHOUT LIMIT AS TO THE MILL RATE TO GENERATE AMOUNTS, NOT TO EXCEED THE ABOVE AMOUNTS, SUFFICIENT IN EACH YEAR TO TIMELY PAY THE PRINCIPAL OF AND INTEREST ON THE BONDS AND, IF NECESSARY, SHALL THE DISTRICT BE PERMITTED TO ESTABLISH ITS DEBT LIMIT AT SIX PERCENT OF THE ACTUAL VALUE OF TAXABLE PROPERTY IN THE DISTRICT TO PERMIT THE ISSUANCE OF THE BONDS?

___ YES/FOR ___ NO/AGAINST

249

8500

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MONTROSE REGIONAL
CRIME STOPPERS

see something, say something

2024 Proposed Montrose County School District RE-1J Bond (New High School)

Tax Year	County	MCSD Assessed Value (Less TIF)	New High School Bond Mills Required to Generate \$14.7M/yr	Existing 2016 School Bond Mills Required to Generate \$2M/yr	Required Taxes For Existing Bond Repayment	Required Taxes For High School Bond Repayment
2024	Montrose	\$ 816,490,728				
2024	Ouray	\$ 12,498,650				
2024	Gunnison	\$ 8,266,790				
		\$ 837,256,168	17.557	2.389	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 14,700,000
						\$ 16,700,000 Total

RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY							
Actual Market Value	SB-233 Adjusted Actual Value (less \$55k)	2024 Residential Assessment Rate	Assessed Value	Estimated Mills to generate \$14.7M	Additional Taxes per Year	Additional Taxes per Month	Additional Taxes per \$100k per mo.
400,000	345,000	6.70%	23,115	17.557	\$ 405.83	\$ 33.82	\$ 9.80
500,000	445,000	6.70%	29,815	17.557	\$ 523.46	\$ 43.62	\$ 9.80
600,000	545,000	6.70%	36,515	17.557	\$ 641.09	\$ 53.42	\$ 9.80
700,000	645,000	6.70%	43,215	17.557	\$ 758.73	\$ 63.23	\$ 9.80
800,000	745,000	6.70%	49,915	17.557	\$ 876.36	\$ 73.03	\$ 9.80
900,000	845,000	6.70%	56,615	17.557	\$ 993.99	\$ 82.83	\$ 9.80
1,000,000	945,000	6.70%	63,315	17.557	\$ 1,111.62	\$ 92.64	\$ 9.80
IMPROVED COMMERCIAL PROPERTY							
Actual Market Value	SB-233 Adjusted Actual Value (less \$30k)	2024 Comm Improved Assessment Rate	Assessed Value	Estimated Mills to generate \$14.7M	Additional Taxes per Year	Additional Taxes per Month	Additional Taxes per \$100k per mo.
400,000	370,000	27.90%	103,230	17.557	\$ 1,812.41	\$ 151.03	\$ 40.82
500,000	470,000	27.90%	131,130	17.557	\$ 2,302.25	\$ 191.85	\$ 40.82
600,000	570,000	27.90%	159,030	17.557	\$ 2,792.09	\$ 232.67	\$ 40.82
700,000	670,000	27.90%	186,930	17.557	\$ 3,281.93	\$ 273.49	\$ 40.82
800,000	770,000	27.90%	214,830	17.557	\$ 3,771.77	\$ 314.31	\$ 40.82
900,000	870,000	27.90%	242,730	17.557	\$ 4,261.61	\$ 355.13	\$ 40.82
1,000,000	970,000	27.90%	270,630	17.557	\$ 4,751.45	\$ 395.95	\$ 40.82
INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY, VACANT LAND, & PERSONAL PROPERTY							
Actual Market Value	SB-233 Adjusted Actual Value (No Reduction)	2024 Assessment Rate	Assessed Value	Estimated Mills to generate \$14.7M	Additional Taxes per Year	Additional Taxes per Month	Additional Taxes per \$100k per mo.
400,000	400,000	27.90%	111,600	17.557	\$ 1,959.36	\$ 163.28	\$ 40.82
500,000	500,000	27.90%	139,500	17.557	\$ 2,449.20	\$ 204.10	\$ 40.82
600,000	600,000	27.90%	167,400	17.557	\$ 2,939.04	\$ 244.92	\$ 40.82
700,000	700,000	27.90%	195,300	17.557	\$ 3,428.88	\$ 285.74	\$ 40.82
800,000	800,000	27.90%	223,200	17.557	\$ 3,918.72	\$ 326.56	\$ 40.82
900,000	900,000	27.90%	251,100	17.557	\$ 4,408.56	\$ 367.38	\$ 40.82
1,000,000	1,000,000	27.90%	279,000	17.557	\$ 4,898.40	\$ 408.20	\$ 40.82
AGRICULTURAL & RENEWABLE ENERGY PROPERTY							
Actual Market Value	SB-233 Adjusted Actual Value (No Reduction)	2024 Assessment Rate	Assessed Value	Estimated Mills to generate \$14.7M	Additional Taxes per Year	Additional Taxes per Month	Additional Taxes per \$100k per mo.
400,000	400,000	26.40%	105,600	17.557	\$ 1,854.02	\$ 154.50	\$ 38.63
500,000	500,000	26.40%	132,000	17.557	\$ 2,317.52	\$ 193.13	\$ 38.63
600,000	600,000	26.40%	158,400	17.557	\$ 2,781.03	\$ 231.75	\$ 38.63
700,000	700,000	26.40%	184,800	17.557	\$ 3,244.53	\$ 270.38	\$ 38.63
800,000	800,000	26.40%	211,200	17.557	\$ 3,708.04	\$ 309.00	\$ 38.63
900,000	900,000	26.40%	237,600	17.557	\$ 4,171.54	\$ 347.63	\$ 38.63
1,000,000	1,000,000	26.40%	264,000	17.557	\$ 4,635.05	\$ 386.25	\$ 38.63

YOUR BRAIN ON NATURE – SLEEP



By Lauren Hall Ruddell, Ph.D.

Greetings Mirrorites!

I recently hosted a guest at my house whose chronotype is distinctly night owl, as opposed to my own early-bird setting. It was interesting to say the least. She was always tired until at least 1 PM, at which point she perked up in an astonishingly rapid and intense fashion. I was always short of sleep myself, due to trying to get up later than usual for me, and then stay up much later in order to enjoy my guest's company. Once this wonderfully entertaining person had left, I found myself returning to my usual 3:30 AM rising after only three days. My chronotype had definitely reasserted itself.

Coincidentally, during that time there were some thought-provoking articles in the *New York Times* and other journals about chronotypes, lack of regular sleep, dementia, depression, and a slew of other facts and factoids about catching enough high-quality 'Zs'. Does early-to-bed and early-to-rise truly make a person healthy, wealthy, and wise? It appears that this may be true for two out of three of the results suggested in this old bromide. I'm a champion sleeper, always have been. That makes me a bit of a freak, at least in America or even the UK, where 91 percent of adults report getting less than six hours per night. I get nine hours about 25 nights out of 30. I dream vividly and memorably. Imagine my hilarity when I found out that Gen Zers and Millennials are so obsessed with getting 40 winks that they will plunk down \$300 for an Oura sleep ring and then pay a yearly \$80 fee for access to their sleep data. I almost wet my pants laughing. These 'sleepmaxxers' are definitely on the right track concerning the



Image of child dreaming courtesy of Pixabay.

importance of sleep, but weirding out about it and making certain companies very, very rich is just silly.

But short sleep is definitely a thing and the CDC considers it a pandemic of sorts. One research team reported that Gen Z is 26 percent more likely to be kept up by prolonged technology use than Millennials. Meanwhile, 28 percent of Millennials reported that prolonged technology use is rarely or never a problem when it comes to *falling* asleep. Good news, except they aren't doing much better due to caffeine and alcohol use. They get to sleep faster than Gen Z, but wake up in the middle of the night (or day) more often. "[Gen Zers] are using tech much more frequently right before they go to bed. So, they're going to bed with their phone in their hand and essentially not able to go to sleep," states sleep researcher [Dr. Chris Mosunic](#). Gen Zers also tend to experience vivid dreams and remember their dreams more than Millennials, which means they're not entering as deep of a state of sleep as they should. But dreaming is good for you, right?

Yes, but it's not enough. Ya gotta sleep long and hard to protect your brain, it's true. And non-REM (NREM) sleep, also called deep sleep or slow-wave sleep, is just as important as REM sleep with what dreams may come. Maybe more so.

NREM sleep is responsible for: tissue repair, bone building, injury healing, immune boosting, memory consolidation,

improving executive attention, and problem-solving. It is during this phase that the brain's janitorial services hit the hallways. This may be the most important aspect of all. It has been shown that as little as a one percent reduction in deep sleep each year for people over 60 years of age equals a 27 percent increased risk of developing dementia. Yikes!

REM sleep is responsible for...well, we're not entirely sure! It seems to be crucial for brain development in infants and children, and also seems to help with emotional management. It's possible that it processes and then dismisses unwanted and unnecessary neurons involved in the retention of life experience memories, associations, and our feelings about them. But at this point, scientists are really not sure.

What does any of this have to do with time in nature? Well, plenty.

One Australian study demonstrated that people who live in greener environs are more likely to achieve a healthier duration of sleep. The protective effect of green space appeared to [guard against short sleep](#) (less than 8 h). In 2015, the NIH reported similar findings. In 2021, a Kentucky team found that time spent outdoors in excess of four hours weekly increased odds of normal sleep duration. All of these studies focused on exposure to green environs, either close by or within walking distance. They did not include results for vigorous 'green exercise'.

Exercise at any time during the day appears to be good for sleep. A common belief is that vigorous exercise later in the evening will disrupt sleep by stimulating the body and raising body temperature. However, only three percent of evening exercisers reported worse sleep due to recent exercise. More than 50 percent of those who performed vigorous or moderate exercise in the evening (within four hours of bedtime) reported sleeping better. Regardless, there appears to be a knock-on effect for exercising in nature for a better sleep experience that has to do with regulation of circadian rhythms above that experienced by exercising indoors alone. Ergo, forego that expensive sleepmaxxer jewelry and get outside into the Western Colorado autumn sun while you can in order to go deep and awake healthy, wise, and maybe even better equipped to be wealthier!

Saturday, Oct 12, 1-3:30 pm

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

FRIENDS OF THE BLACK CANYON REVIVES SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL PARK WITH EXCITING EVENTS!

Special to the Mirror

REGIONAL- Mark your calendars - Exciting things are happening! Friends of the Black Canyon is excited to host a series of events to celebrate the 25th birthday of Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park! There is something for everyone from a photo contest to a birthday kickoff party at **Pomona Brewing Company** to a fundraiser at **Bluecorn Cafe & Mercantile**! Join us in honoring and celebrating 25 years of natural beauty and help support the park for future generations!

Visit the link below to learn more and get your tickets!

<https://www.friendsoftheblackcanyon.org/happybirthday>

BLACK CANYON NATIONAL PARK
25th Birthday
EVENTS SCHEDULE

→

BIRTHDAY WEEK
Kickoff Party
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12TH | 4PM - 7PM
Location: Pomona Brewing Company
Beer Tap @ 4PM of a special brew by Pomona in celebration of the Black Canyon's Birthday!
POMONA IS DONATING A PERCENTAGE OF PROCEEDS FROM THE ENTIRE BATCH TO THE FRIENDS GROUP!

NATIONAL PARK
Photo Contest
SEPT. 22ND - OCT. 14TH
\$5 Entry Fee
Adult and Youth Category
ENTER SUBMISSIONS AT
friendsoftheblackcanyon.org/photo-contest
Winners will be announced October 18th at the Bluecorn Fundraiser and will receive a National Parks Pass!

BLACK CANYON
25th Birthday
FUNDRAISER
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18TH | 7PM - 9PM
LOCATION: BLUECORN CAFE
\$35 PER TICKET
LIVE AUCTION - APPETIZERS - CASH BAR
LIVE MUSIC BY
THE BLACK CANYON BOYS
GET YOUR TICKET BY VISITING:
friendsoftheblackcanyon.org/happybirthday

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

GUNNISON GORGE NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA IS TURNING 25 ON OCT. 19

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Please join Bureau of Land Management and Colorado Canyons Association to celebrate the anniversary of the designation of this magnificent landscape. Three events are scheduled to mark the occasion. Please use the RSVP link below and sign up right away as space is limited.

Friday, Oct. 18 6:30-8 PM in Delta-Eagle Rock Shelter presentation with Glade Hadden, retired BLM archeologist

Saturday, Oct. 19 9-11:30 AM near Austin-Eagle Rock Shelter hike with Glade Hadden and BLM staff

Two hike times available

9-10:15

10:15-11:30

Saturday, Oct. 19 Noon-3 PM at Gunnison River Pleasure Park-Lunch and drinks (available for purchase) and cake (provided by BLM), Noon-1:30-lunch and socializing

1:30-2:15-remarks followed by cake

<https://www.coloradocanyonsassociation.org/events/gunnisongorge-anniversary>

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

KATHLEEN CURRY IS THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR HD58

Editor:

HD58 race has two very different candidates running. One, Larry Don Suckla, has stated he does not compromise, and won't compromise if elected. Considering the Democrats in the state legislature outnumber the Republicans 46-19, I don't see how Larry Don will be able to get anything done.

The other candidate, Kathleen Curry, has served in the legislature before, so she knows how the legislature works. She knows how to reach across the aisle and work with the other side. She also is aware that the Front Range outnumbers the Western Slope representatives, so once again, to get things passed for us out here, she can work with the front range legislators. One of her quotes is "You can't work in isolation and get anything done that is meaningful for the folks at home"

Larry Don has commented that he does not think our kids have a mental health issue. He stated he thought the schools were teaching mental health issues, and manipulated into believing there is something wrong with them. What a horrible thing to say. Just because he does not experience mental health issues, or his kids, does not mean it does not exist.

Kathleen will advocate for our kids, and adult's, mental health. She states that Gunnison Hospital had targeted mental health as the number one issue for its community.

Larry Don's website does not list any kind of experience in water management, neither locally, nor on the national level with the Colorado Water Compact. Kathleen has extensive experience with water management, and currently is an advocate for Western Slope Water in Denver. She also serves on numerous water boards locally. According to Jeff Hurd, Republican for CD3, Kathleen is someone he could rely on for Ag and water experience.

Larry Don stated in an interview that he has "proof" that climate change does not exist. While Kathleen states that it is responsible for the reduction of inflows of water on the Colorado systems

There are so many additional differences between the two candidates. When it comes to experience, ability to work with others, and deep concern for ALL the constituents of HD 58 and all of Colorado, there is one solid winner. After watching the debates and reading their interviews, I would wholeheartedly recommend Kathleen Curry as the best candidate for HD58.

Gwen Vaughan, Montrose

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

HARRIS IS AN INCUMBENT POSING AS A CHALLENGER

Editor:

I had to chuckle when I saw a couple of Harris/Walz signs in my neighborhood indicating that "We're not going back." Most reasonable people would naturally ask: Going back to what, exactly? Secure borders? Safer communities? A booming economy? Women's spaces and sports protected? Prosperity? Anyone proudly displaying those signs is advocating for a continuation of the corruption and ineptitude of the Biden/Harris administration: two foreign wars tearing us apart, 21 million unvetted invaders from around the world, inflation costing the average consumer more than \$12,000 annually, soaring national debt, our nuclear-armed enemies threatening WWII, and violent crime at record proportions from coast to coast. All that damage to our country was "accomplished" in less than four years by Biden-Harris.

With immigrant crime out of control, homeownership beyond reach for too many Americans, our energy independence forfeited, a weakened military, disintegrating public schools, and law enforcement demonized, it's pretty rich to hear our current VP and her self-described "knucklehead" running mate talk about the things they are going to do "from day one." Day one began over 1400 days ago for Komrade Kamala. Harris is an incumbent posing as a challenger, griping about the status quo she created. It is a pretty simple calculation for Americans to discern whether they were better off under Harris/Biden or Donald Trump. We have already experienced real life under both candidates for roughly the same amount of time.

I don't try to challenge my neighbors displaying the Harris/Walz signs. There is no reasoning with people who believe the woman who is responsible for the last four years' disasters is suddenly capable or even interested in fixing anything. Even the woefully incompetent Jimmy Carter received 41% of the popular vote in 1980 after four years of miserable failure. I guess some people like failure. Que Mala is also attempting to reach low-information voters who will fall for her lies about her record and goals, knowing the Pravda media will cover for her. The left, through its control of the education system, has done wonders in producing legions of ignorant, low-

information voters. Kamala will also depend on the countless millions of people Democrats have made dependent on the federal government, either through welfare programs or within their vast bureaucracy of federal government employees.

Hurricane Helene is testament to the abject incompetence of the Biden-Harris administration and that bureaucracy, specifically the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The absentee president spent a weekend at the beach as overflowing rivers deluged Appalachia. While Kamala was staging photo ops to appear to be doing something, Trump was with Franklin Graham and Samaritan's Purse bringing supplies and support to the victims. Mercury One, a charity founded by Glenn Beck, teamed up with the United Cajun Navy, a non-profit, to perform search-and-rescue operations and deliver critical supplies, using 50 helicopters. Florida governor DeSantis had rescue operations running and sent Florida National Guard to harder hit areas in North Carolina along with needed heavy equipment --- before FEMA was even getting started. Civilian volunteers, veterans, and private charities are doing FEMA's work to get people out and to deliver supplies.

Nearby Fort Bragg, NC, and the 82nd Airborne Division has helicopters, field hospitals, water trucks, etc. ready for humanitarian relief. The 2nd Marine Division, a few hours away from Fort Bragg, is standing by. The soldiers of the 101st Air Assault Divisions are likewise close by. Several days into the chaos, Biden sent a mere 1,000 soldiers to the disaster areas --- too little and too late. Obviously ill-prepared and struggling, FEMA then added insult to injury by announcing they are running out of money for disasters (after diverting more than a \$1 billion in FEMA's budget to provide services to illegal aliens). Like the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and other federal bureaucracies, FEMA bureaucrats sit on their behinds for years, collect their outrageous salaries and retirements, vote for their Democrat benefactors, and then fall flat on their faces when they are actually challenged to do their jobs.

The flyer I recently received from the Montrose County Democrat Party highlights oth-

er special interest groups Kamala will depend on. Teachers Unions: "You are not alone if you are concerned that - public education funds will be diverted to private entities" Heaven forbid if our public school monopoly gets challenged to actually educate rather than indoctrinate by giving taxpayers choices as to where they spend their education tax dollars. Abortion advocates: "You are not alone if you are concerned that - the health & wellbeing of women & girls will be threatened" Never mind the fact that Trump wanting to sign a national abortion ban is a blatant lie. Heaven forbid if the states agree with the vast majority of Americans and the world and actually restrict third trimester abortions. Invasion supporters: "You are not alone if the support immigrants provide ranching & farming ... will be impacted by blanket deportation policies." Let's totally ignore the horror story of what happens when our immigration laws are ignored. Once upon a time, we vetted people who wanted to come to the U.S. The huge number of illegal migrant criminals released into the country proves Democrats don't care about any of our citizens, much less ranchers and farmers. Federal immigration authorities have confirmed that more than 647,000 illegal migrants convicted or suspected of rape, murder, and other heinous crimes are roaming free in the US. That number only includes the ones ICE is aware of. Other low information voters: "You are not alone if you are concerned that ... Social Security eligibility and benefits will be reduced or eliminated." This is the age-old lie that Republicans want to throw your grandma off the cliff and stop her social security benefits. Democrats know Social Security and Medicare are approaching insolvency but choose to use the scare tactic rather than actually do anything about it.

Harris and her Democrat supporters could tell the truth about their intentions, but there's an election to win --- at any cost. The country be damned. Democrats really think all the lies and subterfuge is going to work.

Fortunately, a large majority of Americans are not as dumb as Democrats think. They recognize the total disconnect between the Harris team and reality.

Ed Henrie, Montrose

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

FREE AND HONEST ELECTIONS?

Editor:

What does it take to have free and honest elections here in the United States? The “free” is for free from corruption. It takes an army of people diligently working towards that goal. Some are elected officials and staff some are volunteers. It also takes a free and unbiased media to keep the electorate informed of the issues and the candidates. With the conviction and sentencing of Tina Peters, we have seen how one misguided elected official can cast doubt on this process. We have also endured 4 years of wild accusations and unsubstantiated conspiracy theories from both sides. We have seen Trump sued and convicted of something that should not even be a crime. And all of this has caused serious embarrassment to the entire process and cast dispersions on the diligent workers who have made it their life’s work to provide free and honest elections to the citizens of this great country. How did we get here and who is to blame? And how can we fix this and regain the faith and trust of the citizens? To answer the second question, we must answer the first question.

Pryor to and leading up to the 2016 election as well as the four years Trump was president. The FBI started an investigation in to the suspected Russian collusion of Donald Trump. We have since found out that this entire process was corrupted by

dishonest and politically motivated people within the FBI and the DOJ as well as people within the Hillary Clinton campaign. For four years Trump had to endure constant attacks on his character and his legitimacy as president and he was impeached twice. And some of the Media that is supposed to be the watchdog of our “Republic” chose to take sides in this debate and assist in the bashing of President Trump. We have seen big tech sensor anyone who did not follow the prescribed narrative. I and many social media conservative influencers had our accounts frozen just prior to the 2020 election. Trump had his Twitter account frozen on January 6th, 2021, while he was trying to send a message for the capital rioters to stop what they were doing. That is very telling for them to accuse Trump of insurrection for the January 6th riots but not allow him the tools (social media) that might have immediate influence over the rioters. So, Trump questions the accuracy of the 2020 election and is called a traitor. But when Hillary Clinton questions the legitimacy of the 2016 election, that is OK. And when Kamala Harris supports the 2020 rioters that’s not treason? <https://youtu.be/wSK6G9bcKml> Sure looks like a double standard to me. I too questioned the accuracy of the 2020 election and as chair of the Montrose GOP and a member of the canvassing board refused to certify

the 2020 election. But I did not take it to the extremes that Tina Peters and others have. I did some research and found some disturbing facts about the 2020 election but none of them had anything to do with the voting machines.

So how do we move forward and regain the confidence of the voters? Number one we stop all the conspiracy nonsense. We only discuss publicly what can be proven and verified. But we must remain vigilant because we have millions of non-citizens who are not legally allowed to vote. But every election cycle we find some of them are voting. Number two we should familiarize ourselves with the issues, candidates and the processes that go into our elections. Most of these conspiracies gained traction because of lack of knowledge of the processes that go into running an election. Our county clerk (Tressa Guynes) and her staff are more than willing to answer any questions. You can also volunteer as an election judge, poll watcher or even the canvassing board.

The canvassing board is where you get to evaluate the voting machines for accuracy. Lack of knowledge and unfounded accusations is the biggest threat to our free and honest elections. Tina Peters conviction is proof as to how an unsubstantiated conspiracy can turn into corruption.

Ray Langston, Montrose



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

SADLY, FREE SPEECH VANDALISM CONTINUES

Editor:

To date 30+ Harris/Walz signs and 3 banners have been stolen. The cost to our decent hardworking neighbors over \$1000 Dollars. So much for respecting the Constitution and EVERYONES freedom of speech. Montrose we are so much better than this. Please join us and not let a few bad actors/ vandals, define our awesome community. We are asking you to denounce this kind of behavior.

Kevin and Bobbie Kuns, Montrose

TIME TO SHELVE THE HATE AND DIVISION

Editor:

If you've paid attention to national politics over the past 9 years, you've surely figured out the Trump campaign strategy: Outrageous lies and stupid statements, each one more strident and crazy than the previous. In this way, he keeps himself constantly in the media. To him, all media attention, even if it's bad, is good ... if it keeps the media talking about him; it's just free advertising for the Trump brand.

As I've written here in the past, Adolf Hitler's *Mein Kampf*, the book which, according to Ivana Trump, he kept on his bedside table, contains the following quote: "... *the broad masses of a nation are always more easily corrupted* "... *and thus in the primitive simplicity of their minds they more readily fall victims to the big lie than the small lie, since they themselves often tell small lies in little matters but would be ashamed to resort to large-scale falsehoods.* ". Hitler's propaganda minister, Joseph Goebbels, is reported to have boiled this down to: *"If you tell a lie big enough and keep repeating it, people will eventually come to believe it."*

As a matter of public record, Trump said, in a speech on July 3rd, 2021: *"If you say it enough and keep saying it, they'll start to believe you."* Sounds remarkably similar to the quotes attributed to Hitler and Goebbels. Coincidence? I think not. This is the strategy behind the "Big Lie" used constantly to justify his false claim that he won the 2020 election; and which led to the first attack on our democracy by a

president in our 244 year history.

I know that none of this will penetrate the brains of the Trump cultists pushing one-man rule upon our country; but dictatorship would only see our country circling the drain on the way to certain destruction. My hope is that "traditional" conservative Republicans will join with Democrats to recreate a coalition that will preserve our democracy for our children's, and their children's, futures. This hope is coming true, as scores of traditional conservatives have joined with Democrats in the goal of protecting our freedom from a wannabe dictator. I've even seen this happening among local Republicans who have had enough of Trump, and on the national level, almost everyone who worked in the Trump Administration have pointed out the extreme dangers that would be faced if he returned to the White House. As for Democratic coalition, they are divided on many issues relating to the economy, the Ukraine War, Israel, etc. Yes, democracy is messy, and consists of discussion, debate, and, ultimately, compromise on the issues that are contentious ... but out of this seeming chaos come realistic solutions, crafted by reasonable lawmakers, to the problems that will always be present in any civilized society.

A true conservative approach would tackle the REAL problems facing our country, including, among other things, comprehensive border protection and immigration reform, economic stability, lowering deficit spending and the national debt,

more efficient and frugal governance, cutting bureaucratic red tape both locally and nationally, building affordable housing, realistic policies helping both urban and rural poor get good paying jobs by returning manufacturing to the USA, the dangers of AI and misinformation, economic crimes, including identity theft, mitigating the effects of climate change (like Hurricane Helene), protecting our precious environment for the good health of all, civility, respect for the truth, etc. Solutions to these problems can only be reached when we have two parties working in good faith towards solving them. We may not always agree on particular solutions, but sincere debate, followed by compromise, leads to solutions.

This type of teamwork condenses the wisdom of the ages, and needs to be brought back to the halls of Congress, as well as to our society. I think that we would all agree that anything is better than a Congress that has been broken by the likes of MTG, Boebert, Gaetz, and many other idiots, and agents of chaos, who, at taxpayer's expense, have ushered in the least productive Congress since the U.S. Civil War. Want to Make America Great Again? Then join with reasonable people to push back against the division, misinformation, and hate that are dividing our country, and work together to build a secure future for coming generations. Only when we relearn how to work together can we get there.

David Congour, Montrose

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

UNDECIDED ON PROPOSITION 127? ASK YOURSELF WHERE YOUR VALUES LIE

Editor:

Much has been written about proposition 127, which prohibits the hunting of bobcats, lynx and mountain lions in Colorado, and many of the position papers presents a number of reasons for supporting this proposition. I would like to add one more reason: progress.

One needn't look too far into the past to find practices that were once legal such as bear-baiting, cock fighting, public executions, and the list goes on. In my own lifetime I've witnessed the banning of smoking in enclosed spaces both public and private, and even in restaurants and bars where cigarette smoke used to create a haze.

Why do we choose to prohibit activities that some faction of the populace finds enjoyable? What principle guides these legislative and societal decisions? I would say that it is the belief that one being's pleasure should not come at the expense of another being's suffering.

If you are undecided on proposition 127, ask yourself where your values lie. If you want to live in a world in which people are free to harm for fun, then vote against the proposition. If you want to live in a world in which humane values are lived by as much as possible, then vote for the proposition. That is the real question the voters will decide on November 5.

Tina Eden, Niwot

POLITICAL POSTERS REPRESENT FREEDOM OF SPEECH, TO TAKE THEM DOWN IS DOMESTIC TERRORISM

Editor:

As a resident of Montrose I have grave concerns about the theft that is taking place on private property by taking down political posters. This is our Freedom of Choice to do so. We live in a country where many men and women fought for this freedom. This form of domestic Terrorism and Intimidation will benefit no one.

It will only continue the hatred and division which apparently seems to be the modus operandi for many in the GOP party. I personally do not agree with all the political Trump posters I see but it is their Freedom of Choice and I will respect that.

Montrose can and should do better.

Gwen Vaughan, Montrose

for Freedom of Choice

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KATHLEEN CURRY FOR HD58

EXPERIENCE MATTERS

Hi, I am **Kathleen Curry**, candidate for the **Colorado State House, District 58**.

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

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

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

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

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

I would be honored to get your vote this November.



Kathleen

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COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

ALAN KENNETH METCALFE ***February 10, 1949 - July 22, 2024***

ALAN KENNETH METCALFE, known affectionately as Al, died peacefully on July 22, 2024, at the HopeWest Ferris Care Center in Grand Junction, CO. He was 75 years old.

Born in Boulder, CO on February 10, 1949, Al spent most of his childhood in Seattle, WA where he enjoyed a typical upbringing filled with good friends, scraped knees, and a strong Christian foundation. After briefly attending St. Martin's College, Al, in his own words, "decided to explore the exotic world and joined the Navy which, despite its advertising, wasn't the most effective choice in that pursuit." He served two cruises aboard the USS Enterprise during the Vietnam War as part of what he called the "Tonkin Gulf Yacht Club."

Following his time in the military, Al dedi-

cated 33 years to the U.S. Postal Service, retiring as a postmaster. He then embraced what he humorously called his role as a "curmudgeon," adding with characteristic wit that it was "an easy role for me according to our mildly sarcastic children."

Written for his 50th high school reunion, "My precious wife Paula and I share four girls whom we cherish immeasurably and five arguably brilliant grandsons. These creatures of ours are far-flung. Thanks be to God for them all." In addition to leaving behind his wife, his girls, and their families, Al is survived by a brother and his wife, and sister. Estranged from his only son and that family, as well as another grandson, Al would be heard to remark, "Regret is the sorriest word in the English language."

For the past 27 years, Al and Paula have

made their home in rural western Colorado, where they were closely supervised by five different Westies, three of them rescue pups. All of them were spoiled with the occasional treat and many walkies, although it would be more honest to say, "many treats and occasional walkies."

Despite his self-proclaimed curmudgeonly nature, Al was known as a true gentleman who deeply loved God and his country, family, friends, and the pursuit of knowledge. Al's life was guided by his faith, and he found comfort in Psalm 23, particularly the verse, "...and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

Al will be remembered for his wit, devotion to family, and unwavering faith. May he rest in peace and enjoy his conversations with his Lord. He had many questions.

Now more than ever...

Thank you for reading

THE MONTROSE MIRROR

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

LEE OWEN FORTNER

April 4, 1941 – September 22, 2024

LEE OWEN FORTNER, age 83, passed away on Sunday September 22, 2024 at his home in Montrose, CO.

Lee was born April 4, 1941, in Olathe, Colorado to Ralph and Lois Brown Fortner. He was raised and graduated from high school in Montrose, Colorado.

Lee was married to Thelma Lou for 32 years before she passed away on December 27, 2021. Lee worked for the state highway department in Gunnison, CO for 30 years before retiring. In his spare time Lee enjoyed outdoor activities like hunting, camping, fishing and going on four-wheel drive adventures with family and friends. Surviving relatives include Lee's son Brad Fortner, step-son Bobby Oberosler and stepdaughter Tania Williams. Lee's grandchildren include Kaylynn, Trey, and Tyler Fortner in addition to Taylor, Maggie, and Abigail Williams and Andee Oberosler. A private family graveside will be held at the Olathe Cemetery. Crippin Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements.

GILBERT BRYSON "GUS" CARKHUFF

June 13, 1932 — September 29, 2024



GILBERT BRYSON ("GUS") CARKHUFF passed away September 29, 2024, in Pueblo Colorado. Born June 13, 1932 and raised in Mont-

rose Colorado, Gus spent his boyhood on the family farm south of town. His family moved into town around 1950. Gus graduated from Montrose High School in 1950. His employment with Western Electric in 1952 began a long and rewarding career in telecommunications, first as a telephone installer in several regions of the southwest US, and later as a supervisor.

Gus Served in the US Air Force during the Korean war.

He married Gloria Bell Newberry on August 31, 1958. After several years of working and living town-to-town, he and Gloria settled in Pueblo Colorado in 1960, where he continued not only his career, but pursuit of many hobbies and interests. Gus loved to travel, and was an avid camper, snowmobiler, ATVer, fisherman, and boater. He was an expert tinkerer and 'fix-it' guy. He also enjoyed spending time with extended family on the Western slope and with many co-workers who became close

friends.

He could strike up a conversation with anyone, anywhere - whether on the boat dock, the trail head, the RV park or just out in the front yard while doing lawn work. No matter where you met him he always had a smile, a wave and a welcoming word.

Gloria passed away in 2002. Gus is survived by three daughters – Crystal (Tracy R. Lay) Carkhuff, Maxine (Pete) Schollenberger, and Joni (Greg) Bilger; four grandchildren – Tim Schollenberger & wife Olivia; and Gage, Blaine and Gabrielle Bilger. He is also survived by twelve nephews and their families.

Memorial Service for Gilbert Carkhuff will be at Crippin Funeral Home on Wednesday, Oct. 9 at 11am. Graveside service and burial to follow at Valley Lawn Cemetery in Montrose with reception afterwards. Contact Crippin Funeral Home of Montrose for more info.

ISSUE 489 Oct. 7, 2024

ART & SOL

THE BAREFOOT LAUREATE - THE ANSWER TO ALL THAT AILS US?

By Wendy Videlock
MONTROSE-I sometimes think poetry might just be the answer to all that ails us. I suppose that's because poetry reminds us to really slow down and listen, and not just to the poem at hand but to the world at large, to the silence between sounds, to our own inner chatter, and to the words coming out of our own mouths. Surely slowing down is a lost art, not to mention the lost art of listening.

Dear Universe,

In all this calm,
in all this mist,
these vague shaped
continents
begin to drift.
A finger lifts,
falls again.
A foghorn sounds,
passionless.
Do you wonder
what we are
in all this calm,
in all this mist.
Wolf prints.
Red clay.
A slender wrist.
Murder. Magic.
Ballet.
While people often say they don't like
poetry, poetry is the first thing that people



Western Slope Poet
Laureate Wendy
Videlock. Courtesy
photo.

turn to during times of terrible loss, grief and sorrow. I can't tell you how many memorial poems I've delivered at funerals over the years. Sometimes I think it's the most important service I perform as a poet. As a culture we also rely on poetry during times of upheaval and trauma. During the Arab Spring poetry marched in the streets. After the attacks on 9-11, a poem by WH Auden filled our social media feeds. But poetry is also central to great celebration, often becoming the highlight of wedding ceremonies, graduation speeches, and inaugurations. And I can't tell you the number of times I've heard people say that poetry saved their lives. Although it's true that poetry is a sacred art, it's also true that poetry is fundamentally fun.

Like a sleuth

*I watch for the moon
to slip up.*

In fact, the poets that I always return to have an unmistakable twinkle in the eye. They love to make us laugh at ourselves, to play with language, and to remind us how those things are a great source of pleasure. Why, the very word, *humor*, comes from the word *humus*, of the earth, to be *humble*. Contrary to popular opinion, poetry is not an elitist art, but rather a great joy, a deep source of pleasure, a road that leads to enchantment.

*For some, love
is a shooting star,
for others
a plot
and barbed wire,*

*for others
a warm
and tended fire.*

The dominant culture seems to insist on polarization, fragmentation, and compartmentalization, but a sense of wholeness and integration is what poetry offers in return. Poetry is not interested in demographics, but rather challenges the very idea of reducing ourselves to one thing. Poetry has us finding the universal in the particular, the metaphor in the familiar, the cosmos in the miniscule. Poetry it seems, is a way of exploring what it means to be alive in the world, a way of learning to live with uncertainty. Poetry might even be insisting we loosen the ways we think of ourselves, rethink the ways we perceive the world, unearth the story under the story.

I am entirely convinced that the simple act of reading a few lines of poetry a day can change your life. Try it, you just might fall in love with life all over again!

Wendy Videlock of Palisade serves as Poet Laureate of the Western Slope. Wendy is the author of five books of poetry, a book of essays and an illustrated children's book. Reach her at westernslopedword@gmail.com

What You Thought You Lost

Upcoming Events

wendyvidelock.com

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Poetry Foundation

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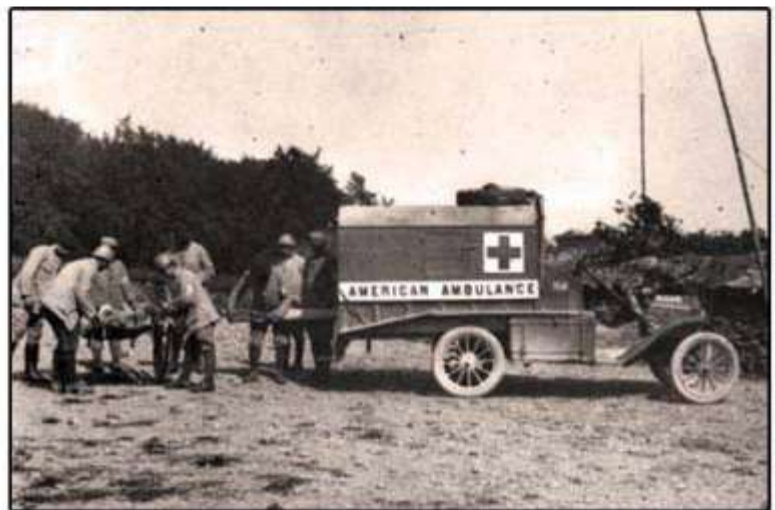
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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

A GENTLEMAN'S GUIDE TO LOVE AND MURDER

By LaDonna Bubak

MONTROSE—"Why are all the D'Ysquiths dying?" So asks the cast of *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*, a merry, murderous musical opening Nov. 1 at Magic Circle Theatre.

Spilling over the brim of its posh teacup with lyrical wit, farcical humor, and an infectious musical score, this irresistibly engaging four-time Tony winner turns the audience into accomplices from the very start.

After his mother's passing, low-born and penniless Monty Navarro (Dalyn Pearson) learns he's a distant heir to the D'Ysquith banking fortune. There's just one problem—well, nine of them actually. Nine members of the well-heeled D'Ysquith clan (all played by M.A. Smith) stand between him and his only chance at winning the hand of the beautiful but financially-motivated Sibella Hallward (Wendy Bodwell). A delightfully implausible plan is hatched, and as Monty rockets through the ranks of London's Edwardian-era elite—acquiring an aristocratic fiancée,

cousin Phoebe D'Ysquith (Bethany Ward), along the way—his newfound relatives start dropping like flies. From killer bees to skating on thin ice to a tragic weight-lifting accident, the D'Ysquiths meet their maker in the most creative—and hilarious ways. While each one brings Monty closer to inheriting a fortune, they also bring him closer to losing his own head—if love doesn't save him first.

Helmed by veteran Magic Circle Director Kathy Murdoch, with Everett Gregory stepping into dual roles as Music Director and Assistant Director, this light-hearted and family-friendly farce is a rollercoaster of wit, suspense, and captivating melodies sung by incredible vocalists.

Amy Priest (Miss Shingle), Ruthie Rich (Lady Eugenia) and Tia Brown (Miss Barley) take on three of the more memorable roles in the show, while the ensemble features the exceptional singing talents of Josiah Austin, Tia Brown, Sarah Crawford, Janel Culver, Mike Edwards, Jonathan Heath, Cole Patterson, Jessica Vergari, and Hannah Weider.

With a delightful blend of clever humor and catchy music, and a quirky cast of characters, *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder* promises an evening of non-stop laughter and unforgettable entertainment.

Running Nov. 1 through 23.



Picturesque HOME

Located in the highly sought-after Spring Creek area of Montrose County, this residence offers a peaceful retreat with unparalleled views. The property features ample space for vehicles and recreational equipment, including a 4+ car garage with a newer 681 sq ft addition ideal for a workshop, garage, or RV storage, complemented by a convenient 24' x 12.5' carport for additional storage needs..

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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

PLAYGROUND CELEBRATION SET FOR MONDAY, OCTOBER 21

Special to the Mirror

DELTA-After two years in the making, Delta County is thrilled to announce the grand opening of the new community-designed playground at the Delta County Fairgrounds in Hotchkiss. The event will take place on Monday, October 21, at 4:00 PM, and all community members are invited to join the celebration, which will include a ribbon-cutting ceremony, speakers, cake, light hors d'oeuvres, refreshments, and an opportunity for children and families to enjoy the new playground equipment. The event will feature speeches from several key partners, including Commissioner Wendell Koontz, whose vision and dedication helped make this project a reality.

Commissioner Koontz also spearheaded the North Fork Miners Trail project, providing a safe route for children from the nearby North Fork High School and Recreation District to access and enjoy this new community space.

Delta County is grateful for the significant support from the Colorado Health Foundation, whose generous contributions have been instrumental in ensuring that the playground is inclusive for children of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds.

Additionally, Delta County would like to acknowledge the team at Summit Recreation in Palisade and their project manager, Kaycie, a Delta County resident who has worked diligently to bring our vision to life.

We would also like to thank and recognize the hard work done by Kerry from Urban Play Studio and the entire group of our local community Co-Creators for their essential roles in this collaborative project.



Their hard work and dedication were vital in shaping the vision for a playground that welcomes all children, regardless of ability or social circumstances.

“We’ve built this playground as a space where every child in our community can come together and play in a healthy, inclusive environment,” said Commissioner Koontz. “This wouldn’t have been possible without the tremendous efforts of our community members, vendors, our part-

ners at the Colorado Health Foundation, and the Co-Creators who helped bring this dream to life.”

The new accessible playground represents Delta County’s commitment to fostering fairness, equality, and inclusivity, ensuring every child has a place to play and grow. The Ribbon cutting for new accessible playground will be 4pm at Delta County Fairgrounds, keynote speakers, refreshments, and play time.



Thursday, October 10
5:30 - 7:30 pm



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

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Later this month at Mosaic

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MOSAIC
Wednesday
Oct. 30th
5:30-7:30 pm

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Wreaths, florals, ribbon, bling & decorations. All the tools and lots of stuff to play with.

21 N. Cascade Ave., Downtown Montrose

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Office Hours: By appointment.

Contact Information: (970) 249-2451

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

Worship Service Times: Sundays 9AM,

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

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

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

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

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH

Independent Baptist

112Main St.

P.O. Box 262

Olathe, Co 81425

Tuesday-Friday Phone: 970-808-1021

www.biblebaptistchurcholathe.com

Pastor Gabe Skillo

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Sunday 6 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Study/Prayer 7 p.m.

CELEBRATION CHURCH

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

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

Office Hours: By appointment

Phone: (970) 497-4925

Email: celebrationmontrose@gmail.com

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

celebrationmontrose.org/

Worship Service Times: 9am and 10:45am

Senior Pastor:

Pastor Brandon Mathis

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

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

Demographics: Multi-generational

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

Student (middle & high school) at 9am.

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

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

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

Contact: 970-633-0226

Website: www.montroselutheran.org

Email: montroselutheran@gmail.com

Pastor: Tim Onnen

Worship: Sundays at 9 AM

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

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

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

COMMUNITY SPIRIT CHURCH

United Church of Christ (UCC)

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

Office hours: Call or text for appointment

Phone: 970-765-7070

Email: spirit@communityspiritucc.org

Website: communityspiritucc.org

Current Pastor: Rev. Wendy Kidd

Worship service: Sundays at 11am

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

where everyone can live freely and au-
thentically.

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

COVENANT HEBRAIC FELLOWSHIP

Denomination affiliation. No affiliation

Address Office hours N/A

Contact: 720-951-9941,

office@ccfmontrose.net,

www.ccfmontrose.net

Name of current Senior Pastor. Led by
elders

Worship service times. 10AM on Satur-
days with potluck at Noon. Children’s
Church will be offered as needed.

Covenant is a Hebraic roots community

that studies the Torah as well as the rest of
Scripture. We learn about the Hebrew
roots of the language and believe that the
Lord's feasts are for today. We are pre-
dominantly made up of older folks, but
have some young blood, too.

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY *From previous pg*

FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

Denomination: Church of the Nazarene

Address: 705 South 12th Street

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9 am - Noon and by Appointment

Contact Information: Office Phone 970 249 -9213, mncfirst@gmail.com, www.montrosenazarenechurch.org

Pastor: Buddy Cook

Services Sunday: Worship 10 AM, Adult Bible Study 11:30 AM Worship includes age-appropriate children's ministry during adult worship.

Wednesday: Prayer Boot Camp - 7 PM
Mission Statement: *Montrose First Church of the Nazarene exists to make Christlike*

disciples in Montrose Colorado and around the world.

Demographics: Our church consists of older and younger people. We have younger families with children and young teens and older adults as well. We also support the work of Calvary Ranch Colorado and its addiction recovery ministry.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MONTROSE

Affiliation: Presbyterian

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

Contact: 970-249-4732, info@fpcmontrose.com, www.fpcmontrose.com

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jesse G. Mabanglo

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

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

HILLCREST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Denomination affiliation: United Church of Christ

Address: 611 South Hillcrest Drive, Montrose, CO 81401

Office hours: By appointment

Contact information:

Phone number: (970) 249-9047

Email address: office@montroseucc.org

Website: montroseucc.org

Current Pastor: Rev. Wendy Kidd

Worship service times: Sunday, 10 a.m.

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

on life's journey.

Church demographics: HCUCC welcomes all ages to worship with us. (predominately family, youth, seniors, singles)

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

MONTROSE MISSION OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH

Affiliation: Orthodox

Meets: 2057 S. Townsend, Montrose, CO

81401 and Cimarron Creek Clubhouse.

Worship Services: The Montrose Mission of the Orthodox Church meets every Saturday night at 7 PM at All Saints Anglican

Church for Vespers, and we currently meet only on the third Sunday of each month for Divine Liturgy in Montrose at 9:30 AM at the Cimarron Creek clubhouse.

MONTROSE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Denomination Affiliation: United Methodist

Address: 19 S. Park Avenue Montrose CO. 81401

Office Hours: M-Thu, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Contact Information: 970-249-3716, office@montroseumc.org, [mont-](http://montroseumc.org)

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

Current Senior Pastor: Rev. Kevin Young

Worship service times:

8:30 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual

9:45 a.m. Christian Education & Fellowship

11 a.m. Sanctuary

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

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

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

ROSEMONT BAPTIST CHURCH

Affiliation: Southern Baptist

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

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

Contact information:

Phone: 970.249.4887

website: www.RosemontBaptist.org

email: office@rosemontbaptist.org

Senior Pastor: Rolland Kenneson

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

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

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

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

matter what stage of life they are in.

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

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

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY *From previous pg*

SPIRITUAL AWARENESS CENTER

Denomination affiliation: Independent Interfaith
Address: Meeting at Lions Park Community Building, 602 N. Nevada, Montrose
 Office hours: Tues-Fri, 9 am to 4 pm, **Home Office** – 970-252-0908
Contact information:
 Rev. Dr. Arlyn Macdonald,
 970-252-0908,
arlyn@spiritaware.org,
www.spiritaware.org

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

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

ST. STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

Denomination: Anglican-Reformed Episcopal Church (REC)
Address: 2405 Sunnyside Road, Montrose 970-249-4868
Contact: [ststephensmont-](http://ststephensmontrose.com)

rose@yahoo.com
www.ststephensmontrose.com
Rev. Dec. Garrett Agajanian
 St. Stephen's is a community of caring Christians rooted in the godly traditions of the past, focused on the challenges of the

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

SUMMIT CHURCH OF MONTROSE:

Denomination affiliation: Southern Baptist
 Address: 10977 60.75 Rd. Montrose, CO 81403
 Office hours: Varies
 Contact information:
[email:summitchurchmontrose@gmail.com](mailto:summitchurchmontrose@gmail.com)
 website:
www.summitchurchmontrose.org
 Senior Pastor: Interim Pastor

Worship service times: Sunday Worship is at 9 a.m. followed by a time of fellowship and snacks. Beginning Sept. 8 we will have a family Bible study, "Who's in Charge?" following fellowship from 10:45-11:30 a.m. All family members are welcome. During the Sunday sermon we offer teaching for children ages birth to kindergarten, in a kid-friendly room called Base

Camp. We have communion on the first Sunday of each month and meet later in the day for a potluck dinner at 5:30 p.m., followed by a prayer session at 6:30 p.m. Please visit <https://www.summitchurchmontrose.org/events> for more information. Summit Church welcomes people of all ages!

VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH OF MONTROSE

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

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

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

<p>Church Directory <i>Mirror Editorial Staff</i> 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</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>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?</p>
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HEALTHY RHYTHM CONCERT SERIES PRESENTS

ALICE DI MICELE

LIVE AT

HEALTHY
RHYTHM
ART GALLERY

THUR OCT 17

DOORS 7

SHOW 7:30

“Alice’s music has that great combination of earthiness & groove that keeps it funky from the inside out. She’s for real.”

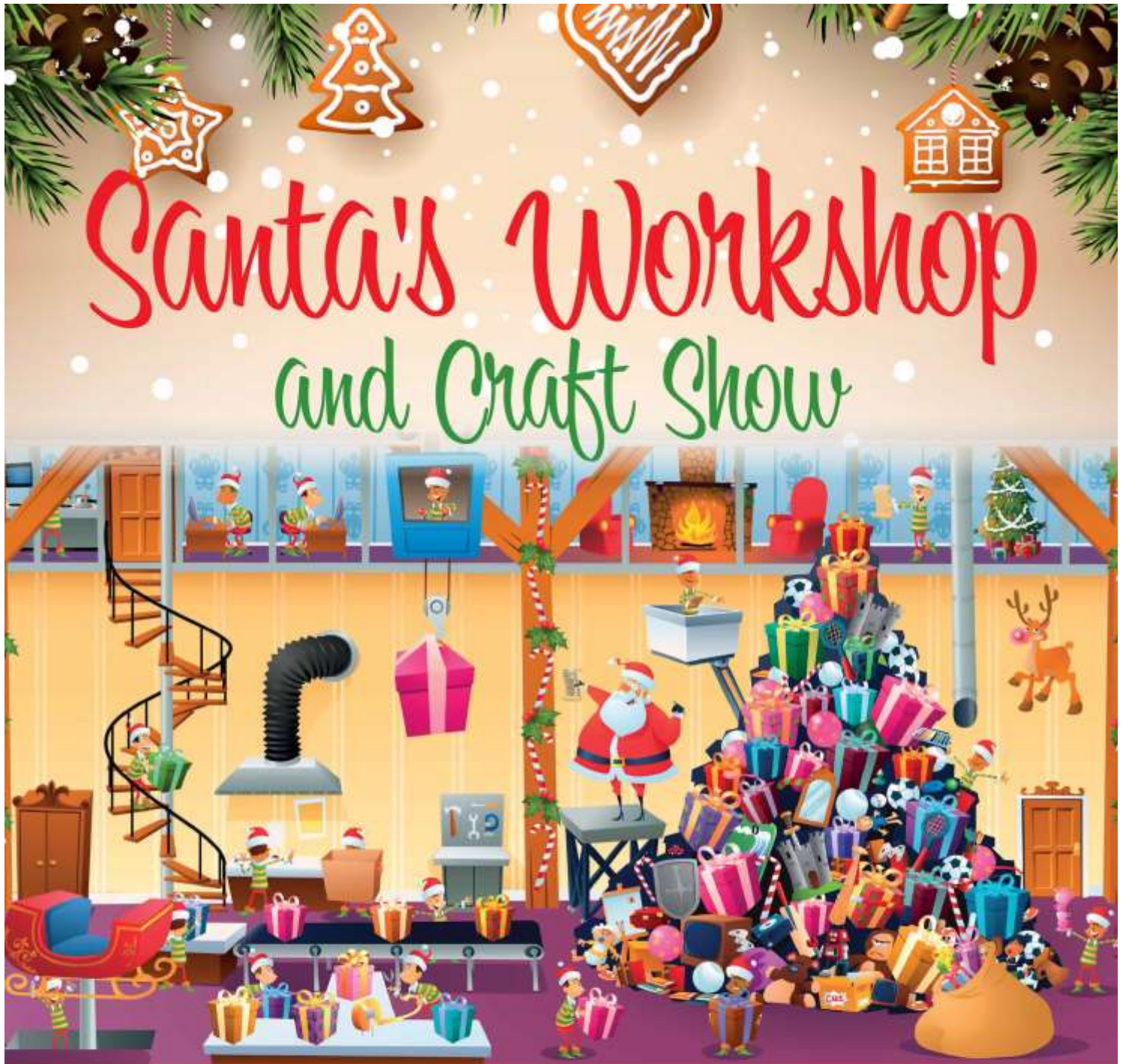
-Bonnie Raitt

ADVANCE SEATS \$20 · DAY OF SHOW \$25

33 N. UNCOMPAHGRE AVENUE, MONTROSE

WWW.HEALTHYRHYTHM.NET * ALICEDIMICELE.COM





Friday, Dec. 6th • 9:30am to 6pm
Saturday, Dec. 7th • 9am to 4pm
Sunday, Dec. 8th • 11am to 4pm

Montrose County Fairgrounds Friendship Hall

For Vendor Information call

Debbie 970.531.2438 or email montrosefootwear@aol.com

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 Mark Covington.....970-209-1956 Yvonne Lund.....970-209-6421
 Office: 1563 Ogden Rd Montrose, CO 81401.....970-249-6658



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SAVE THE DATE! LOCAL EVENTS CALENDAR

ONGOING-

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

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

MONTROSE CENTER FOR ARTS FIRST FRIDAY-New Art Exhibit opening with featured artists.4:30 - 7 pm First Friday of every month. 11 S Park Ave., Montrose. Free Admission. For more information: 970-787-9428 or info@mc4arts.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE MONTROSE GENEALOGY CENTER at 700 E. Main St. is now open Wednesday and Thursday afternoons, 1-4 p.m. or call for an appointment: 970-240-1755. Free help and resources for your family history research." (The center is sponsored by the non-profit organization, Fore-Kin Trails Genealogical Society.)

MONTHLY

Oct. 7-Monday Oct. 7 at 5 Citizens' Climate Lobby meets at Montrose Safety complex mtg rm 434 S1st, Nonpartisan, National, Environmental. All Welcome.info 970-765-9095.

Oct. 8-An open house regarding Ballot Issue 2A will be held Tuesday, Oct. 8, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the Centennial Room located on the west side of Centennial Plaza, inside the historic Montrose Fire Station. For more information about Ballot Issue 2A, visit CityofMontrose.org/Election.

Oct. 14--The League of Women Voters of the Uncompahgre Valley with the City of Montrose will host a candidate forum for the State Senate District 5 race on Monday, Oct. 14, 2024, from 6 pm to 7:30 pm. The forum will take place at the Montrose City Council Chambers, 107 Cascade, in Montrose. Doors will open at 5:30. The public is welcome.

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

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

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

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

MONTROSE HIGH SCHOOL DIVISION AWARDS



MHS Division Award Winners include Left to Right-Emily Ruiz, Trevor Prock, Kay Brumley, Char Hellyer, Charlie Boschen, Vivian Ficco, Robby Walker, Emmy Maxwell, Madeline Seacat, and Guadalupe Saldana-Morales. Courtesy photo.

SEE SOMETHING - SAY SOMETHING



970-249-8500

ANONYMOUS CALL

MONTROSE REGIONAL
CRIME STOPPERS