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the Montrose Mirror

CITY COUNCIL VOTES TO PASS CAMPING ORDINANCE



A man and his belongings find shelter briefly at a picnic table in a local park. Montrose has no year-round homeless shelter, and the operators of the winter shelter have questioned whether it will open this year. Mirror file photo by Harry Switzer.

By Caitlin Switzer
MONTROSE-Along with all members of City Council, members of the City of Montrose Youth Council were in attendance at the regular City Council meeting of Tuesday, Oct. 15. Present on behalf of youthful citizens were Sydney Bell and Darinka Skibova. Also present for the meeting were a number of observers.

Mayor J. David Reed welcomed the Youth City Councilors and called the meeting to order. All joined in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Among items to be considered was Ordinance 2670, which updates city rules on unauthorized camping and sleeping in areas prohibited.

CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Reed read the rules for public comment and welcomed citizens who were

Continued pg 69

SKY HIGH SALES TAX RATES BRING FOOD INSECURITY HOME

By Steve Middendorp
MONTROSE-Colorado law doesn't allow for taxation of groceries at the state level, but Montrose County and the City of Montrose both add taxes to food that will be consumed at home. In Montrose County, 12.3% of residents are facing food insecurity, with taxes 25% higher than the 9.8% rate for the rest of Colorado.

There are 13 states in the United States that tax groceries; Mississippi has the highest rate with 7%. Montrose County residents are taxed 5.63% at the grocery store, which is split between Montrose City and Montrose County. The City of Montrose collects 3% along with 0.58% for a city public safety tax and 0.3% for recreation. The county imposes 1% for the county and 0.75% for the county public safety tax.

With two major ballot proposals calling for increased taxation of Montrose County residents, it is worth a reminder that one out

Continued pg 27



In Montrose County, 12.3% of residents are facing food insecurity, with sales taxes 25% higher than the 9.8% rate for the rest of Colorado. Photo by Harry Switzer.

UPDATED GUIDELINES FOR LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Dear Readers:

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

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

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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Bullying & Conflict Training Session

Wednesday,
October 23
6:30 – 8 PM

Montrose Library
Meeting Room



Join us for a training session with Peer Kindness on how to help kids navigate situations involving bullying.



Stay after the training for a Q & A session or visit informational booths hosted by local organizations.

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JOIN MONTROSE COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM FOR A WALK ON THE SPOOKY SIDE

Oct. 25-26-The Montrose County Historical Museum takes a walk on the Spooky Side with tales of spooks, ghouls, and ghost stories. The museum's ghost authority mingles history and legends on a walk of down Montrose's shadowy Main Street and dark alleyways. The ghouls will be present as they follow patrons enjoying the mysterious tales of the town's eerie history of paranormal activity and perhaps have their own experiences to share afterward. This has limited spaces available This is a family friendly walk. Tickets are \$10 per person. Call or email 970-249-2085, info@montrosehistory.org



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

VOTER RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE TO ALL

Editor:

It's a privilege to vote, and a big responsibility. We want to be as well informed as possible.

There is a non-partisan voter guide that shows candidates' positions on important

topics in a simple chart. The candidates were interviewed, and this chart summarizes their answers. It can be accessed at transformcolorado.org. Scroll down the page to Voter Guides, and click on Southwest.

If you would like to be more informed about the issue of abortion, OB/GYNs who have performed numerous abortions at various stages describe the procedures in short videos on Whatisabortion.com.

Sandy Anderson, Montrose



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

BULLOCK POWER PLANT CLEANUP MEETING SET FOR OCT. 23



The former Bullock Electric Steam Plant electric generation site, located at 30 W South 4th Street. On Wednesday, Oct. 23, city staff are hosting a public open house at 5 p.m. in the City Council Chambers located at 107 South Cascade Ave to share information about the city's application for a federal Brownfield Cleanup grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency to aid in the site's cleanup. Photo courtesy of the City of Montrose

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— The City of Montrose is applying for a grant to aid in the cleanup of the former Bullock Electric Steam Plant electric generation site as plans to reuse the location gather momentum.

City staff are hosting a public open house set for Wednesday, October 23, at 5 p.m. in the City Council Chambers located at 107 South Cascade Ave to share information about the project and gather public input. Information translated into Spanish will also be available.

The City of Montrose is applying for a federal Brownfield Cleanup grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency, or EPA, for the former Bullock Electric Steam Plant located at 30 W South 4th Street (historically 326 Water Ave).

This coal-fired power plant supplied electricity for the City of Montrose for decades before being retired in the latter half of the 20th century. Since the facility was taken offline, the area around it has fallen into disrepair and remnants of its coal-fired power generation operations have impacted the soil composition at the site.

The purpose of the grant is to aid in the cleanup of the area so that the grounds and facility itself can be reused for future business endeavors or public use. All individuals are welcome to provide comments and attend the open house.

Draft versions of the analysis of Brownfield Cleanup Alternatives and the grant application will be made available for review and comment starting on Monday, October 21, at 400 E Main St, Montrose Colorado 81401 or by contacting Christopher Ottinger at cottinger@cityofmontrose.org.

Comments pertaining to the application or Analysis of Brownfields Cleanup Alternatives (ABCA) can be sent to the City of Montrose % Christopher Ottinger 400 E Main St, Montrose Colorado 81401.

Those preferring to email comments should use the subject line "EPA Brownfield Cleanup Comment" and email them to cottinger@cityofmontrose.org by November 12 at 5 p.m. Comments received by the deadline will be reviewed and attached to the final submittal. Any persons requesting special accommodations, translation, or interpretation to participate in this process, should contact Christopher Ottinger at 970.240.1468.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

THIS PROPOSITION DESERVES A NO VOTE

Editor:

Mirror readers will certainly have noticed an influx of letters regarding Proposition 127 to ban cougar and bobcat hunting. All of these letters have strangely come from the front range and are quite obviously part of a highly orchestrated campaign to pass this proposition.

A Google search shows that the cougar population in Colorado is between 3000 to 7000 not including kittens, with an average of 505 being taken annually. The population of bobcats in Colorado is projected at 12,000 with 805 have been taken annually during the hunting season. Based on these numbers it should be quite obvious that neither species is being over hunted with the Colorado Department of Parks and Wildlife doing an excellent job in game manage.

Make no mistake this proposition is being promulgated by the same left-wing environmental fools who promoted wolf introduction in 2020 and it is nothing but and anti-hunting measure. This proposition deserves a NO vote.

Dee Laird, Montrose

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RED HAWKS SPORTS ROUNDUP

RED HAWKS REMAIN UNDEFEATED: MONTROSE 32, MESA RIDGE 28

By Cliff Dodge

MONTROSE-The Montrose Red Hawks battled cold temperatures, wind and rain on Friday evening, in addition to the Grizzlies of Mesa Ridge, to remain undefeated and in line to play for the Southwest # 1 League championship in November.

The game see-sawed back and forth from the opening kick-off to the final whistle with the visiting Red Hawks making a 32-28 score stand up in difficult weather conditions. This was a contrast in styles as the Grizzlies ran from a spread formation and threw the football all over the field. On the other hand the Red Hawks relied almost entirely on the running game as their offensive line continued to poke holes in the home team's defense.

The Grizzlies took the opening kick-off and were stymied by the Red Hawks defense and forced to punt. The Red Hawks could do no better with their first possession and punted the football back to the Grizzlies who put together a 16-play drive that culminated in a 4-yard touchdown run to lead 7-0. This was the first time all season that the Red Hawks were behind their opponents.

The deficit did not last as the Red Hawks, using a heavy dose of Junior Elijah Womack, ran the ball 63 yards for the tying touchdown. Womack took a handoff from quarterback Chris Mock and rumbled 31 yards for the score. The Red Hawks then took the lead with a successful 2-point conversion to lead 8-7 at the end of the first quarter of play.

The Grizzlies returned the kick-off 75

yards to the Red Hawks 20-yard line to open the second quarter. Mesa Ridge then scored their second touchdown as their tailback broke loose for a 20-yard scoring run increasing the score to 13-8 in favor of the Grizzlies.

The Red Hawks then returned the favor as the offense took 13 plays to move the football 80 yards with junior Chase Mehan lugging the rock the final six yards for the go-ahead touchdown. Elijah Womack tacked on a successful 2-point conversion to make the score 16-13 in favor of the Red Hawks.

The Grizzlies continued their assault on the Red Hawks defense as they moved the football into Red Hawks territory. The Red Hawks defense stiffened as Chase Mehan, one of several two-way players, intercepted a pass that turned the ball over to the Red Hawks offense once again.

The Red Hawks running game came to the fore once again as Montrose moved the football 47 yards into Mesa Ridge territory. Then disaster struck. The Red Hawks fumbled a hand-off in their backfield and the Grizzlies recovered with but 20 seconds remaining in the first half of play.

The Red Hawks received the second-half kick-off and moved smartly down the field into enemy territory. Chase Mehan then broke loose on a 40-yard scoring gallop. Womack added the 2-point conversion to make the score 24-13 in favor of the Red Hawks.

Mesa Ridge was not done by any means. The Grizzlies recovered a Red Hawks on side kick attempt and scored in seven

plays to shrink the lead to 24-21

The Red Hawks then marched the ball 56 yards with Elijah Womack scoring the touchdown from one yard out. Aiden Grijalva added the successful 2-point conversion to increase the score to 32-21 with one quarter left to play.

The Grizzlies took over on their own 20-yard line and again unleashed their passing attack. The Grizzlies moved the ball into the Red Zone and then completed a 6-yard pass for the touchdown, closing the lead to 4 points, 32-28.

The scoreboard clock showed 10:44 when the Red Hawks took possession of the football as they received the kick-off. The Red Hawks then put together a 19-play drive that used up the entire 10 minutes and 44 seconds of time on the clock. The Grizzlies were unable to get their hands on the football and saw the Red Hawks control the ball for the entire time left on the scoreboard to win the game 32-28.

The Red Hawks improved their overall record to 8-0 and 3-0 in League play. The Red Hawks travel to winless Widefield next Friday. The Red Hawks cannot afford to overlook this team which could be considered a "trap game." The biggest test for the Red Hawks will come on Friday, Nov. 1, as they play host to the undefeated Pueblo West Cyclones at the stadium.

Pueblo West is also 8-0 and this game will be for all the marbles, the league championship and seeding in the 4A CHSAA state playoffs. Stay tuned.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

ARREST MADE IN COLD CASE AFTER 25 YEARS OF TIRELESS INVESTIGATION

Montrose County Sheriff Gene R. Lillard

MONTROSE-On May 27, 1999, Mr. Dale Williams was reported as a missing person to the Nucla Marshal's Office. The investigation was then assumed by the Montrose County Sheriff's Office on July 4, 1999, which was the same day that Mr. Williams' truck was found fully submerged in the muddy waters at the confluence of the Dolores and San Miguel Rivers.

Since that date, numerous law enforcement agencies including the Montrose County Sheriff's Office, Colorado Bureau of Investigation and the Federal Bureau of Investigation have been involved in this investigation.

"There have been countless interviews and hundreds of hours of investigation poured into this case. It has taken an entire team effort of law enforcement, family and concerned citizens to bring the case to where it is at [today](#). We are grateful for the in-depth investigation over the last 25 years by the Agents of the Colorado Bureau of Investigation and Investigators and Deputies of the Montrose County Sheriff's Office," said Montrose County Sheriff Gene R. Lillard.

On Oct. 14, 2024 an arrest warrant affidavit was written by Agent Brandon Ludwig of the Colorado Bureau of Investigation and later reviewed and signed by the Honorable Montrose County Court Judge Laura Harvell.

Bail was set at \$1,000,000.00 cash-only for the arrest of James Daniel Bishop for Murder in the First Degree in violation of C.R.S 18-3-102 (1)(a) as amended a Class 1 Felony.

On Oct. 17, 2024, James Daniel Bishop was arrested by Montrose County Sheriff's Office Sergeant Chuck Searcy, U.S. Marshal's Service and the Colorado Bureau of Investigation in Naturita, Colo., without incident.

The Montrose County Sheriff's Office is grateful to the investigators, the community, and the Williams family for their tireless efforts to begin the closure process for a case that has affected us all.



James Daniel Bishop. MCSO mug shot.



ELECT RICK DUNLAP

For
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Professional Service

- 28 years Law Enforcement, Retired (including 3 terms as the Montrose County Sheriff)
- Past President of County Sheriffs of Colorado
- 21 years U.S. Army, Retired - Awarded Bronze Star

Volunteer Service to Montrose Community

- Current President of West Montrose Sanitation District
- Current Board Member for Welcome Home Alliance for Veterans
- Current Board Member of Grace Community Church
- Past Montrose County Fair Board Member
- Past Volunteer Firefighter - Montrose Fire Protection District
- Past Member of Montrose County Sheriff's Posse
- Past Board Member CASA of the 7th Judicial District

More About Rick

- Associates Degree in Business Management
- Married to my wife, Karen, for 52 years
- Proud father of 3 sons, with 8 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren
- Resident of Montrose County for 42 years.

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PAID FOR BY COMMITTEE TO ELECT RICK DUNLAP

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEF

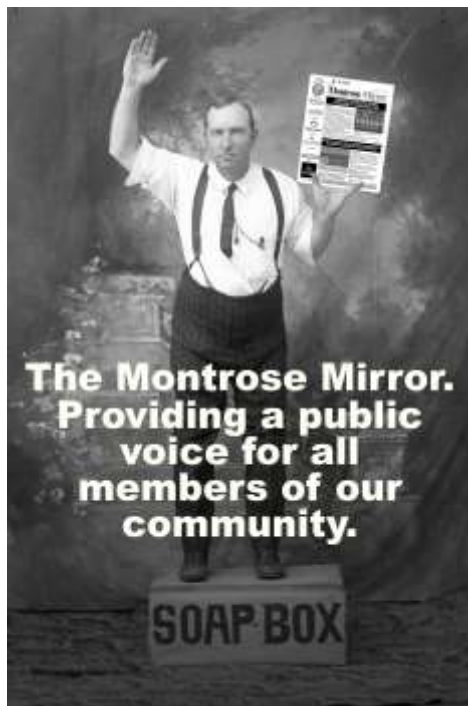
CORONER'S INFORMATION RELEASE: DECEASED PERSON LOCATED DURING PROPERTY SEARCH

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— On Oct. 9, the Montrose County Coroner's Office was called to the 71000 block of Buckhorn Road for a deceased person discovered during a property search by the Montrose County Sheriff's Office. The decedent is identified as Jose Cruz Moreno-Rocha, a 30-year-old male of Montrose, Colo. The case is currently un-

der investigation by the Colorado Bureau of Investigation, 7th Judicial District Attorney's Office, Montrose County Sheriff's Office, and the Montrose County Coro-

ner's Office of Medical Investigation. At this time, the cause and manner of death are under investigation pending the results of an autopsy.



ELECT CURRY

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

WHY I'M VOTING FOR ELLEN ANGELES FOR STATE SCHOOL BOARD

Editor:

Ellen Angeles has the qualities that a State School Board member needs to lead and collaborate with other state policy makers and stakeholders to achieve Colorado's vision for education. As a teacher with 20 years of experience, she understands the learning standards and assessments of the Colorado Department of Education. And her additional background in banking, finance, and sales will help her create policies that serve the best interests of students and the public.

She helped the Montrose community build the Montrose Recreation Center and Columbine Middle School. And she was partially responsible for making sure our Montrose Regional Library could be funded to stay open for 7 days a week.

She believes that every student in Colorado's schools deserves an engaging, inspiring, and caring learning experience. She provided that to her students when I taught with her at Olathe Elementary. That is why I'm voting for Ellen Angeles for State School Board.

Alice Murphy, Montrose
Retired Teacher



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

LETTERS FROM HOME COMES TO DELTA PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Special to the Mirror

DELTA-The Delta Montrose Community Concert Association welcomes Letters from Home to the stage on Thursday, Oct. 24, 2024 at 7:00 PM at the Delta Performing Arts Center, 822 Grand Avenue in Delta, Colorado. Doors open at 6 PM.

Letters from Home is a classic USO Style show with a witty, modern edge featuring high-energy singing and tap dancing. The performance features Erinn Dearth and Dan Beckmann honoring great artists spanning several decades like Frank Sinatra, the Andrews Sisters, Vera Lynn, the Nicholas Brothers, Creedence Clearwater Revival, and many others. They have performed 1000+ shows across the world including a full 50-States Tour, singing at the 75th Anniversary of D-Day in Normandy, France, and entertaining Battle of the Bulge veterans in Belgium.

Single admission tickets will be available at the door on the evening of the performance, \$25 for adults, \$5 for students. For more information please contact Bob at 970-835-4480 or Connie at 970-249-4308 or visit our website at www.deltamontroseconcerts.com.

SS4A Grant - Safe Streets and Roads for All

Public Workshop - November 7, 2024

5:30 p.m.

Public Works Meeting Room

63160 LaSalle Road

Montrose

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

Public input is crucial to develop an Implementation Plan.

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

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

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



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

VOTE EARLY for NOV. 5th Election

Larry Don Suckla for House District 58

www.Sucklafor58.com

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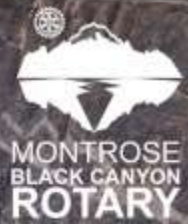


The only way to make changes is to bring in someone new to the job. There will be no one that will out-work Larry Don Suckla at the capital and there is no one who understands our rural values better than he does.

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Larry Don Suckla



STRATEGIES FOR EFFECTIVE CONNECTION



October 24th

PANELISTS



Phoebe Benziger
Community Change Agent and Leader



Kelvin Kent
Philanthropist, Author, and Businessman



Tonya Maddox
Chief Executive Officer, Our Town Matters & Montrose Business Times



Ricardo Perez
Executive Director Hispanic Affairs Project



Dan Soderlind
Administrator Black Canyon Surgical Center

AGENDA

- 7:30 – 9:30 am
 - Networking Before & After Panel Discussion
 - Coffee, Tea, Light Breakfast
- 8:00 – 9:00 am Panel Discussion
 - **Enhance Communication Skills:** Learn actionable strategies to improve your ability to connect with others.
 - **Build Stronger Relationships:** Discover techniques to foster meaningful connections within your community.
 - **Gain Insights from Experts:** Hear from panelists who have successfully implemented these strategies in their own work.
- 9:15 am Networking
 - Connect with fellow community members
 - Learn more about Rotary and Interact



[Register Now](#)

Visit blackcanyonrotary.org to secure your spot. This is a free event, open to the community, leaders, aspiring leaders, and all other community members.

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

ELLEN ANGELES WILL BE A TRUE VOICE FOR OUR STUDENTS

Editor:

I would like to urge voters to pick Ellen Angeles for State School board.

Many don't pay attention to local and state school board elections, but these boards have tremendous power to either improve or hinder our children's education.

I was one of those inattentive voters until I saw the impact of Ellen's opponent, Sherri Wright, on my child's education in Cortez. During the years Sherri Wright was on the school board our district was among the lowest in the state for academ-

ic achievement. When the pandemic came and our district needed unity she led the board in firing our newly hired superintendent in a secret meeting and focused on divisive curriculum issues. She worked with the new superintendent to limit the role of parents on our accountability committee and spoke over and interrupted parent volunteers making the case for better family engagement.

Reasonable people can disagree on big issues, but for our children to get the education they deserve we need teachers, parents, and administrators all focused on

the best interest of the student. We need leaders who model this behavior by treating colleagues, constituents, students, teachers and families with respect. We need leaders who model two-way communication and are open to constructive feedback.

Ellen Angeles is that leader. She is driven by a passion for public education and a sincere commitment to serving students. Please- don't sit this one out. Vote for Ellen Angeles, she will be a true voice for our students.

Laura DeWitt, Cortez, CO

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

PUBLIC SAFETY MUST BE PRIORITY NUMBER ONE

Editor:

On October 6th the Montrose Press reported on the County's 2025 Proposed Budget and the Capital Improvement projects.

In the article the sheriff's budget is addressed. One of our County Commissioners was quoted as saying that this budget is making a huge commitment to public safety. They went on to say that the status of the Sheriffs budget is being litigated in the public and much of it is inaccurate.

I want to set the record straight with some facts. According to FBI Statistics released this year.

Fact - Colorado is currently ranked as the 3rd most dangerous state in the nation with 493 violent crimes/100,000 citizens. National average is 381/100,000 citizens.

Fact - Colorado is 4th highest in RAPE with 63/100,000 citizens.

Fact - Our Montrose County Sheriff's Department has 47 Certified Deputies on staff. 10 work at the Jail which services

inmates from surrounding counties, 6 are commanders, 4 are investigators.

Sheriff Lillard has personally told me that he has 27 certified deputies patrolling our county, with a population of nearly 44,000 citizens and an area over 2,200 square miles.

He sometimes has 3-4 deputies on staff at one time.

That is .613 deputies per 100,000 citizens covering an area that spans from Olathe to Colona and over to Nucla.

To put that in perspective, the Montrose PD has 45 Patrol Officers serving a population of 21,000 citizens covering 18 square miles. They have higher pay and better retirement benefits.

That is 2.14 officers per 100,000 citizens That is 3.5 times more officers per 100,000 than the Montrose Sheriff's Dept.

The national average (depending on where you get your information) ranges from 1.8 to 2.4 officers per 100,000.

To say that this year's budget is a huge commitment to public safety is laughable.

Our Sheriffs Dept. currently has 11 unassigned patrol vehicles sitting in the parking lot. We need to appropriate the funds our Sheriff's Department needs to man those vehicles and patrol our county. This must be priority number one.

The article goes on to say that we must proceed with the proposed \$28 million dollar North Campus Project. They say the current South Campus Building the is "in dire straits."

This is not how we should be appropriating our precious county funds while our sheriff struggles to fulfill his duties to protect and serve our community.

I recommend that you put the North Campus Project on hold and rehabilitate the South campus building. This will enhance the value moving forward, giving us more options when/if it comes time to sell.

Our average homeowner cannot neglect the maintenance of their home, walk away from it, and then ask other taxpayers to pay for their new home.

Scott Mijares

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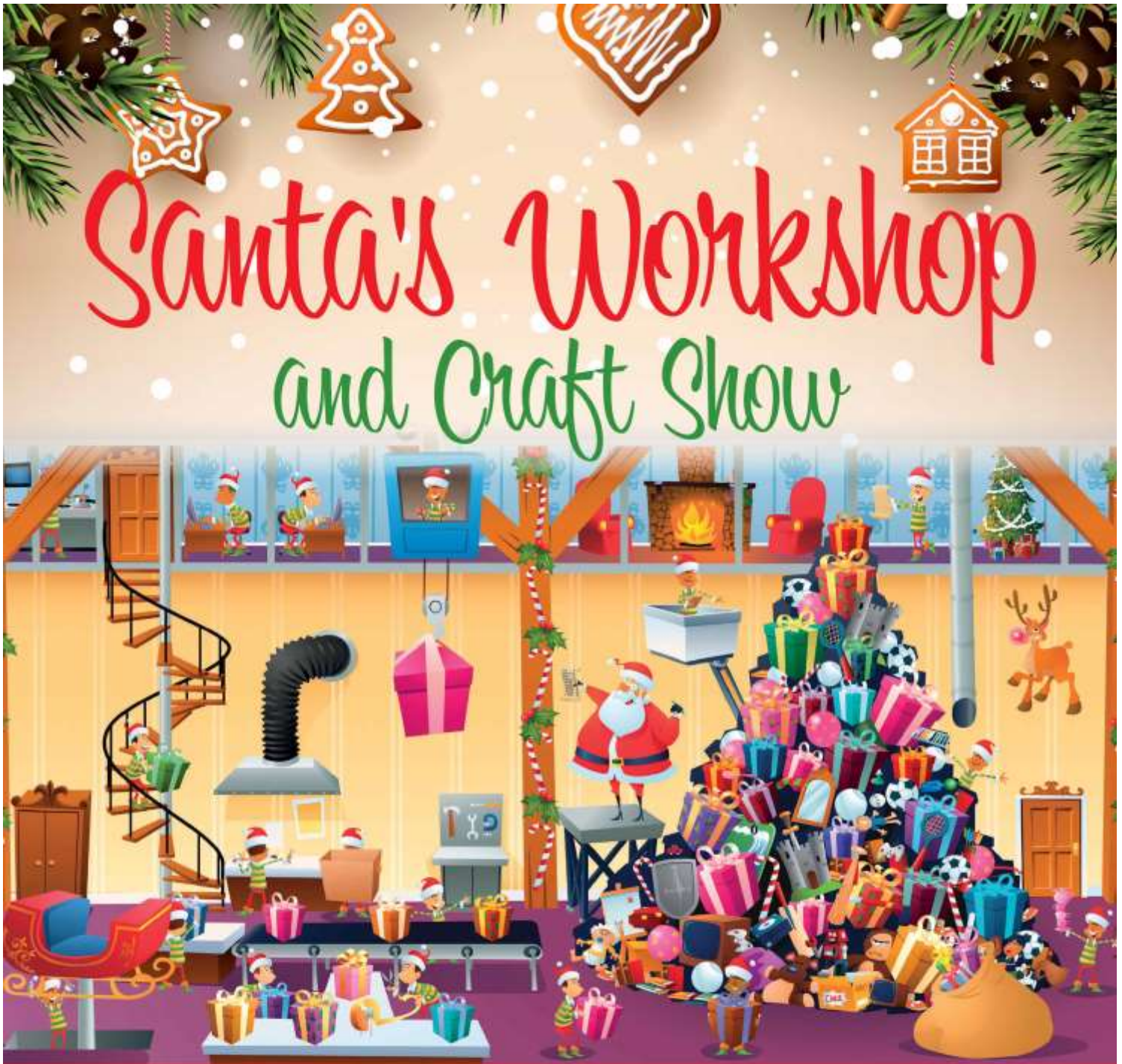


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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

PARTIAL TRAIL CLOSURES EXTENDED THROUGH OCT. 25 FOR VALLEY FLOOR DURING TIMBER TRANSPORTATION OPERATIONS

Special to the Mirror

MOUNTAIN VILLAGE — Due to variable weather and unforeseen circumstances that delayed the start of helicopter operations to remove standing dead and down trees from the north side of Mountain Village, the previously announced partial trail closures will be extended through Friday, Oct. 25.

This work involves a helicopter removing dead trees from areas that are otherwise inaccessible due to parcel boundary geography and the steepness of the slopes. This work will occur near and over Boomerang Trail, Jurassic Trail, Stegosaurus Trail and the National Forest System Trail #431 on the Valley Floor.

The previously announced trail closures in coordination with the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests' Norwood Ranger District will remain in effect through October 25 to ensure public safety during helicopter operations.

These operations involve transporting timber sourced from the fuel treatment

areas to the Valley Floor as part of habitat restoration activities along the San Miguel River.

Other trees will be moved to the Town's shop area in the Meadows.

The trail closures will only be in effect when the helicopter is operating between 7:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. October 21-25 (weather dependent) A map of the trail closures is available at bit.ly/TMV24TrailClosure.

The closure area includes:

- Boomerang Road beginning at the intersection with the River Trail on the south side of the Boomerang Bridge and continuing southwest until the National Forest Boundary
 - River Trail beginning at the intersection with Boomerang Road and continuing west until the National Forest Boundary
 - The portion of National Forest System lands south of the San Miguel River and west of the Boomerang Bridge
 - Stegosaurus and Jurassic trails located within the Town Mountain Village
- Helicopter work and trail closure updates

will be posted on social media by TMV, the GMUG and other local agencies. Notices will also be sent via text message to those signed up for Public Safety notices through TMV's ReadyOp system.

To sign up for those notices, please visit: bit.ly/MVNotifications.

Signs, barricades and staff will be placed along affected trails to prevent access to the area when the helicopter is in the air. The transported timber will be staged on the Valley Floor over the winter in preparation for the upcoming habitat restoration work by the U.S. Forest Service and Trout Unlimited. The restoration work is scheduled to begin in 2025.

Please note that additional helicopter work may continue after Oct. 25 on Town of Mountain Village land only, and only Jurassic and Stegosaurus trails will experience closures after October 25.

The above-listed trails located on USFS land will not be affected. An additional announcement will be shared through Town channels once more information is available.



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Vote

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County Commissioner District 3



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

VOTE YES ON THE MONTROSE HIGH SCHOOL BOND

Dear Montrose Voters:

Come on, Folks, vote yes on the Montrose High School bond!...I taught 22 years in MHS, retired in 1995 and it should have

been razed in 1980....It was inadequate then and continues to be patched, pounded and glued with no academic or educational improvements. The students, teachers,

office workers and maintenance people deserve a facility that provides outstanding educational possibilities, and you can provide that by voting yes on the MHS bond. Construction costs are not going to decrease. The existing building contains dirt in the corners from 1946 which cannot be removed and poses health and safety issues for all.

The building should probably be condemned.

So, come on fill the yes circle and provide an MHS that will last another 90 years thereby providing a place of pride for Montrose!

Thank You!

Marge Morgenstern, Montrose

CLIP & SAVE **MONTROSE COUNTY REPUBLICANS**

2024 BALLOT INITIATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

More info: MontroseRepublicans.org

YES Amend G -Modify Property Tax Exemption for Veterans with Disabilities

— Amend H -Judicial Discipline Procedures and Confidentiality, establish judicial review board

YES Amend I -Constitutional Bail Exemption for First Degree Murder

NO Amend J -Repealing the Constitutional Definition of Marriage

NO Amend K -Modify Constitutional Election Rules

NO Amend 79 -Constitutional Right to Abortion & Removes the Constitutional Prohibition on Taxpayer funding of Abortions

YES Amend 80 -Constitutional Right to School Choice in K-12 Education

— Amend JJ -Retain Additional Sports Betting Tax Revenue for Water Conservation Projects

NO Amend KK -Firearms & Ammunition Excise Tax

NO Prop 127 - Prohibit Bobcat, Lynx & Mountain Lion Hunting

YES Prop 128 -Parole Eligibility for Crimes of Violence to serve 85% of sentence imposed

— Prop 129 - Establish Qualifications & Registration for Veterinary Professional Associate to practice under supervision of Vet

YES Prop 130 -Funding for Law Enforcement

NO Prop 131 -Establishing All-Candidate Primary & Ranked Choice Voting in General Elections

NO Issue 2A -*City of Montrose* -Increase hotel room tax for 2025 & Increase current Excise Tax

— Issue 2B -*Town of Olathe* -Public Safety Tax

NO Issue 5A -*Montrose School Dist RE-1J* - \$198M Bond for New Montrose High School

— Issue 7B -*Crawford Water Conservancy Dist* - \$1M Bond, special assessment fee to pay back

Note: — means Neutral





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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MURDER ARREST MADE IN 25-YEAR OLD COLD CASE

Colorado Bureau of Investigation
CBI – NATURITA– A 68-year old Naturita man has been arrested for Murder in the First Degree for the 1999 disappearance of

then 42-year-old Dale Williams. Dan Bishop of Naturita was taken into custody Thursday and booked into the Montrose County Detention Center.

leave her then-husband (Bishop) and resettle in Texas at an undisclosed location.

Williams was last seen on May 27, 1999 after he received a call to help a stranded motorist, possibly near the town of Bedrock, CO.

His truck was found nearly 6 weeks later on July 4, 1999 submerged in a river. Investigators found a rifle in the bed of the truck with a spent shell casing in the chamber. Firearm purchase records show the .22 caliber rifle belonged to Dan Bishop. Based on the comprehensive investigation, it's believed Bishop acted together with his cousin (now deceased) to murder Dale Williams. Bishop is being held on a \$1 million dollar cash-only bond. The charges are merely accusations. The defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty. No additional details are available at this time.



Dale Williams. CBI courtesy photo.

The Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) with assistance from the Montrose County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) opened a new inquiry in September of 2023, after previous investigations into the now 25-year old Cold Case concluded without criminal charges. At the time of his disappearance, Dale Williams owned an auto body shop in the small Western Slope town of Nucla. An investigation revealed Williams and his wife helped the wife of Dan Bishop



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SKY HIGH SALES TAX RATES BRING FOOD INSECURITY HOME From pg 1

one out of every eight people living in the county face food insecurity. The USDA defines food insecurity as “a household's limited or uncertain access to adequate food.”

Among those who face food insecurities in the county, about one quarter are ineligible for SNAP benefits. The other three quarters have SNAP benefits, but are still unable to make ends meet for themselves and/or their families. SNAP benefits are usually not enough to cover the full cost of groceries for eligible people. The average meal in the county costs \$3.56 compared to \$3.35 for the whole state of Colorado. Three meals a day would be 90 meals a month for a monthly food budget of \$320 per month. That is nearly \$20 higher for monthly food expenses over the rest of Colorado. When a 5.63% tax is added, that makes the cost another \$20 higher per person each month.

Colorado food assistance applications are up by 35% since 2019 and the state is currently under a federal corrective action plan for slow processing times. The Colorado Benefits Management System is an inefficient program that is prone to malfunctions.

Colorado ranks in the bottom five states for processing food assistance applications, which compounds issues with food insecurity around the state. Pandemic assistance programs drove the poverty rate down to a record low of 8% in the United States, but bounced back with a record increase in 2022. Five million more children began living in poverty in 2022 compared to 2021.

A family of four is paying \$80 more per month for food than the rest of Colorado and \$80 in taxes on groceries. That's \$1,920 per year in extra expenses. The *Montrose Mirror* reported about the huge tax increase proposal for the building of a new high school. 37% of the population is unable to afford a \$400 emergency while the cost of food, electricity, and mainte-

nance have gone up substantially during the last several years. While the inflation rate has dropped in recent months, it plateaued at 7%, a rate higher than the country has seen in four decades.

Food inflation specifically was under 2% per year from 2015 through the end of 2019. In 2020, the first year of the pandemic, the food inflation rate hit 3.9%. 2021 saw a rate of 6.3% followed by a whopping 10.4% in 2022. Yahoo statistics show that food prices are 25% higher than they were at this time four years ago. \$100 in groceries in 2020 would cost \$125 in 2024. The city and county sales taxes compound further in this scenario. Residents are not only paying 25% higher for the grocery increase, but an additional 25% in sales tax.

The extra strain on consumers is noticeable for the middle class, and especially those living at or around the poverty level. Those who have expressed displeasure towards the school proposal have said they support education, but a new building is not necessary for students to achieve better outcomes. Opponents and proponents of the measure say they care about the well-being of the local children and this is said to be an investment in the children.

Food insecurity is not at the top of the agenda, but reducing the burden on taxpayers at the grocery store would be a much better investment for the kids who are facing uncertainty regarding their daily caloric intake. The lowest 20% of income earners spend nearly twice the share of their overall income in food than the highest 20%. The lowest income earners (under \$20,800 annually) pay about 7.1% of their total income in sales taxes. About 11.6% of Montrose County residents live below the poverty line. That is better than the national rate of 12.5%, but 20% higher than the rate of 9.6% for the whole state of Colorado.

In a document from 2020, the City of

Montrose states, “Montrose is not unique in applying sales tax to the purchase of groceries. 233 municipalities in Colorado, out of 271 total municipalities in the state, also apply sales tax to groceries. This provides a reliable revenue stream that is responsive to growth as well as to the increased government services that may be needed in communities with tourism-based economies.”

The document says that tourists pay sales taxes for resources that they will barely use during their time in the area. “Citizens of the City of Montrose pay 31% of sales tax collected on groceries in the City of Montrose, and benefit from 100% of the sales tax collected.”

The pie chart indicates that Montrose County residents pay the largest share of the sales tax revenue, which leaves less than a third remaining. That chunk is split between San Miguel County residents, Ouray residents, and tourists. The specific numbers are not provided, but the tourist section is slightly larger than Ouray County and slightly smaller than San Miguel County. It appears that the tourist share of sales taxes accounts for less than 10%.

The city also provides the total grocery sales tax revenue of \$3.9 million in 2020, which is just 3.58% of the 5.63% that is collected at the supermarket register. The county and recreation district collected another \$2.23 million. That is \$6.13 million that was collected in grocery sales tax in 2020, about 70% of which was paid by Montrose County residents.

Grand Junction and Fruita both have sales tax exemptions for groceries, but instead have a property tax.

The Grand Junction property tax would equate to about \$19 per year for a home valued at \$400,000. With the combined city and county taxes on groceries, Montrose County residents are paying about 12 times higher than Grand Junction when using the numbers provided by the City of Montrose.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

WHY I ENDORSE TRISHA MURRAY FOR MONTROSE GOP

Editor:

My name is Daniel Eddy, I am a former precinct captain for Montrose County GOP. I resigned my post after the primary because I could not, in good faith, give my support to all the candidates. The Republican slate is strong, except for one, Commissioner District 3, Rick Dunlap. I'm not here to discuss why I cannot support him, rather why I am supporting Trisha Murray. Trisha quickly returned my call and listened to my concerns. She is approachable, caring and has the experience to know and do the job. She is not a "yes man" to anyone but her constituents. Trisha told me her door would always be open to all members of the county, not just her supporters. She has conservative values, and will be a great steward of the taxpayers' money, I give my full support to Trisha Murray as Montrose County Commissioner for District 3.

Daniel Eddy, Montrose

ENDORSEMENT ALERT:

THE CORTEZ JOURNAL

THE JOURNAL

Our View: Elect Kathleen Curry to House District 58

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

NEW VOTER SERVICE AND POLLING CENTER AT HERITAGE HALL



Heritage Hall Voter Service and Polling Center. Courtesy photo.

Special to the Mirror

DELTA COUNTY—Delta County is pleased to announce the opening of a new Voter Service and Polling Center (VSPC) at Heritage Hall, located at the Delta County Fairgrounds in Hotchkiss. This new location will provide voters with a convenient option to vote in person, drop off their mail ballots, pick up replacement ballots, update their voter registration, and register to vote for the upcoming General Election.

The **Heritage Hall Voter Service and Polling Center** will be open during the following hours:

Monday, Nov. 4, 2024: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2024: 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Voters are encouraged to take advantage of this new center for all their voting needs, especially if they require assistance or need to make changes to their voter registration. Heritage Hall is centrally located for residents of the North Fork Valley, offering a convenient option for in-person voting and ballot drop-off.

Additional Delta County Voter and Service Polling Center Locations:

Delta Human Services

Location: 320 W. 5th Street, Delta, CO 81416

Hours:

Monday - Friday (October 21st – Nov. 4th) 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Saturday (Nov. 2nd): 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

ELECTION DAY (Nov. 5th): 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Orchard City Town Hall

Location: 9661 2100 Rd., Austin, CO 81410

Hours:

ELECTION DAY ONLY (November 5th): 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.

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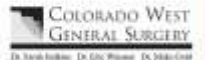
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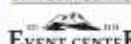
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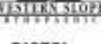
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DEA SUPPORTS 2024 RED RIBBON CAMPAIGN TO PROMOTE HEALTHY, DRUG-FREE LIFESTYLES

Special to the Mirror

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration recognizes the Red Ribbon Campaign – the nation’s largest drug prevention effort, throughout the month of October, by providing drug prevention, awareness, and education that encourages living healthy and drug-free. DEA’s Red Ribbon Week is recognized October 23 through October 31 every year and honors the life of Special Agent Enrique “Kiki” Camarena who was tortured and brutally murdered by drug traffickers in Mexico in 1985.

“DEA honors Red Ribbon throughout the month of October to spread awareness and promote the importance of drug use

prevention. We want to save lives by raising awareness about deadly drugs,” said DEA Administrator Anne Milgram. “The sacrifice DEA Special Agent ‘Kiki’ Camarena made motivates us to continue our important work to save American lives through our enforcement and outreach efforts. We know the work we do today will shape the future of our tomorrows.” DEA’s Virtual National Red Ribbon Rally premiered on Tuesday, October 8, and is available for viewing throughout the month of October on www.DEA.gov/redribbon and www.getsmartaboutdrugs.com.

The National Red Ribbon Rally includes an opening video by DEA Administrator Anne

Milgram; a musical performance by students from Volcano Vista High School in Albuquerque, New Mexico; the presentation of colors by the Greater Cleveland Color Guard in Cleveland, Ohio; the premiere of the “No Second Chance” fentanyl PSA from students in Tempe, Arizona; and the Red Ribbon Pledge led by students from the Richmond, California, Police Athletic and Activities League. The winners of DEA’s 2024 Community Drug Prevention Awards and Visual Arts Contest will be announced, and viewers will learn many ways community groups and families can get involved in this year’s Red Ribbon Campaign.

As part of the Red Ribbon Week campaign, DEA and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration are sponsoring the 9th Annual Red Ribbon Campus Video PSA Contest. Last year’s winners and information on how campuses can submit a PSA can be found at www.campusdrugprevention.gov/psacontest. DEA is also a co-sponsor of the National Family Partnership’s annual Red Ribbon Week Photo Contest. More information is available at www.redribbon.org.

Red Ribbon Week began in 1985 in Kiki’s hometown of Calexico, California, and quickly gained momentum across the state and then across the rest of the country. The National Family Partnership turned Red Ribbon Week into a national drug awareness campaign, an eight-day event proclaimed by the U.S. Congress and chaired by then President and Mrs. Reagan. Every year since, Red Ribbon Week has been celebrated in schools and throughout communities.

President Biden has designated October as National Youth Substance Use Prevention Month and the Red Ribbon Resolution for 2024 has been introduced in the U.S. Senate to support the goals and ideals of Red Ribbon Week.

We encourage you to follow DEA’s social media accounts on [Instagram](#), [X](#), [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), [YouTube](#), and [Flickr](#) to help spread awareness. Additional resources including the Red Ribbon Pledge, posters, and PSAs can be found in the Tool Kit on www.dea.gov/redribbon.

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- ✓ 3,206 sq. ft.
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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

FRONT RANGE RESIDENTS AND SIERRA CLUB ADHERENTS ATTEMPTING TO PUSH THEIR THINKING ONTO RESIDENTS OF THE WESTERN SLOPE

Dear Editor,

Perusing the Montrose Mirror this morning I found that the preponderance of letters were regarding Prop 127 and the hunting of Big Cats in Colorado. Regardless of where one stands on the issue, I thought the majority of letters were obviously a concerted effort by Front Range residents and Sierra Club adherents to push their thinking onto us residents of the Western Slope. I guess that if you were fine with the reintroduction of Wolves into Western Colorado by the

massive voting Bloc on the Front Range, you would also be okay with this current "Save the Cats" effort.

Of the 16 letters written by 18 people regarding Prop 127, there was only one that asked us to consider a "No" vote and 17 people pushed for voting "Yes. The "No" vote recommendation was from a Montrose resident. Only three of the writers proposing a "Yes" vote were residents of Colorado west of the Continental divide (Two from Durango who touted connection to the Sierra Club, and one from Nor-

wood). The other 13 were all from the Front Range.

So why would they take the time to write in to a small local News outlet in Montrose?

Does this sound like a concerted effort by the same people who wanted Wolves brought back into (Western) Colorado? I would not be surprised to learn that these 17 "yes" folks are in favor of eventually outlawing the harvesting and management of all wildlife in the State.

Mike Rape', Montrose

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

COLORADO CHAIN LAW EXPANSION *Snow is flying- Be ready for the new restrictions*



Courtesy photo.

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO-A new law (SB24-100) is requiring all Commercial Motor Vehicle (CMV) drivers to carry chains from September 1 until May 31 is now in effect. This also applies to vehicles with a combined weight of 16,001 lbs used in commerce or as transport for at least 16 passengers (including the driver) on public highways. This includes all of I-70 from Morrison West and most state and federal highways west of I-25.

State legislators have expanded existing laws in an attempt to help move commerce safer and to keep our roadways open during these major snowstorms. Due to Colorado having higher elevations, it may be dry and blue skies on the front range, but winter weather is not uncommon in September and October. Winter patterns shift by elevation. It is imperative for all CMV drivers to be prepared and carry chains due to Colorado having such a variety of winter weather.

CMV drivers can be more prepared by checking weather alerts and visiting COtrip.org for information about road closures, travel alerts, chain law information, mountain rules, and chain law information.



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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.

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

VOTE NO ON LODGING TAX INCREASE

Editor:

Like far too many governmental organizations the City of Montrose has never shied away from any opportunity to increase a tax in order to generate additional revenue, no matter the effect it would have on our citizens. Since the inception of MURA has essentially given away millions in tax dollars to private businesses as well as raising rates on the critical services, now comes the city with a proposal to increase the city lodging tax, most of which is sure to be allocated for further giveaways.

Increasing taxes on thousands of visitors who pump millions into our local economy for increased city giveaways certainly seems detrimental to our local economy.

Is it any wonder that NO NEW TAXES signs have sprung up all around town? As with the school bond question this issue deserves a loud NO vote!

Dee Laird, Montrose



Donor's first recurring gift up to \$100 could be matched for Colorado Gives Day 2024 starting Nov. 1st until funds are exhausted!



OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

MOUNTAIN LIONS DON'T EVER NEED TO BE TROPHY HUNTED

Editor:

Thank you to our Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commissioners who are speaking out to support Proposition 127.

"Proposition 127 bans chasing mountain lions with dogs, in which the 'hunter' follows the GPS signal from the dogs' collars to a treed lion, walks up and shoots the animal. That is not hunting, and something we would never allow with ungulates (animals with hooves)," writes **Parks and Wildlife Commission Vice Chair Richard Reading, PhD, a wildlife biologist**, in [his letter published Sunday in the Ark Valley Voice](#). Dr. Reading is the only wild-

life biologist on the commission. He continues: "Similarly, bobcats are trapped not for personal use, but for the sale of their fur for sale to buyers from outside the U.S. — the very definition of commodification."

"Prop 127 allows voters to recognize not all hunting is defensible, and these are indefensible state-sanctioned acts of cruelty," explains **James Pribyl, Jack Murphy and Jessica Beaulieu** in their [opinion piece in the Grand Junction Sentinel Sunday](#).

The Commissioners join a larger group of leading wildlife biologists who report the

scientific consensus that mountain lions don't ever need to be trophy hunted, because populations naturally balance based on their environment.

The scientists also noted that trophy hunting creates chaos among lion populations. Older lions are being killed and the juveniles remaining are less experienced at killing traditional prey.

Prop 127, as commissioners note, allows control of any lion or bobcat involved in conflicts by state or federal authorities. Those exemptions cover livestock or pet protection and human safety.

Ashara Morris, Elbert CO

WHAT COULD BE MORE UNFAIR? VOTE NO ON AMENDMENT 79

Editor:

Colorado is already a destination state for those seeking late term abortions. We already have some of the most unrestricted laws in the nation regarding abortion. Amendment 79 would only take the same laws we already have and enshrine them in the state Constitution. So why the endless barrage of ads, with paid actresses portraying distressed women who claim they are being denied their "right" to abortion? Who would be benefitted by making this part of the Constitution?

Certainly not the people involved. Those who want to protect the pregnant mother, often in panic mode, with commonsense protections, are shut down. Parents who would like to be consulted and informed about their underage daughter receiving an abortion would have to change the Constitution to get that right. The baby, of course, is not considered, and suffers excruciating pain as his/her limbs are ripped off, with no anesthetic, the head crushed, and brains spilled out. (See how abortions are per-

formed at different stages in short videos by OBGYN's who have performed abortions at [Whatisabortion.com](#)).

Who benefits from Amendment 79? The multimillion dollar abortion industry, the pimps and sex traffickers have a great windfall for their businesses. Now the taxpayers (even those who feel different levels of abortion are wrong) are forced to line all of their pockets.

What could be more unfair? Vote NO on Amendment 79!

Sandy Anderson, Montrose

DEMOCRATS WANT US ALL TO PAY FOR WOMEN'S ABORTIONS

Dear Editor:

The Democrats want us all to pay for women's abortions. Apparently they don't understand that abortion is an ELECTIVE process in most cases. Just like breast augmentations and face lifts, abortions should be paid for either out of pocket or through insurance. Citizens

should not be forced to pay for elective surgeries! We're bombarded with articles and ads telling us it's all about women's health rights. What about the baby's right to life? (See U.S. Declaration of Independence, "...right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness".) Abortion ends any rights that he/she may have had. Abortion also

eliminates the father's parental rights, of which he apparently has none.

Here, it's really this simple...If you don't want a baby, don't participate in the activities that make them. Or take measures to prevent the pregnancy you may be creating.

Bob Ernst, Montrose

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

IT IS OUR COLLECTIVE, MORAL RESPONSIBILITY TO REJECT BALLOT ISSUE 5A

Editor:

Dr. Stephenson's plea in her op-ed of September 23, 2024 is loaded with platitudes but is light on reality and accuracy. The "Greatest Generation", which we are admonished to emulate, was indeed a humble, polite, giving generation (and we have become their antithesis). Social psychologist Glen Holl Elder, Jr. studied this cohort extensively and concluded that most of the children of the Great Depression fared unusually well in their adult years due to their exposure to the hardships of the Great Depression, and developed "an ability to know how to survive and make do and solve problems". Based upon this finding, would not our high school students fare best in the real world if they were educated in humble facilities, rather than being pandered to and helicoptered over? The Greatest Generation adapted and flourished without climbing walls, gathering stairs, or preposterously expensive high schools (or is it a Motel 6). They also were stunningly frugal. Both of our fathers, WWII veterans, would re-use their cheap paper dinner napkins if not too soiled. It is dishonest to suggest that we might honor them by saddling the least among us with huge property tax burdens, while affordable housing is virtually non-existent in Montrose, due, heretofore, to the Tellurization of this once-honest, once-affordable, once-rural community.

It is suggested that we all need to buck up and move forward with the proposed project just like the Greatest Generation did "coming out of the Great Depression". Minimum wage was 30 cents per hour in 1940 and if you deflate \$200,000,000 back to 1940, the price tag would have been around \$9,000,000. The Greatest Generation would have laughed or run the politi-

cians out of town had they suggested \$9,000,000 of bonded indebtedness when we were making 30 cents per hour (farmers less).

The presentation of the tax burden of the initiative is misleading by omission. An increase of \$9 per month per \$100,000 of home value appears to be accurate, but should be presented in terms of annual burden for the average homeowner. The cost would be more like \$400 to \$500 per year; a lot of money. But what about renters, businesses and us farmers? Residential rentals are taxed similarly to homes in terms of rates, and landlords MUST, not may, pass the increased cost on to tenants. The amount and timing of rent increases are less direct, but inescapable. Landlords have bills to pay. At a time in which up to 56% of Americans cannot lay their hands on \$1,000 in an emergency, Dr. Stephenson needs to explain how someone living in an apartment and commuting three hours daily to Telluride to "shine boots" there should pay an extra \$200 to \$400 per year in property tax. Should they also pay more for groceries and gas? They would.

The complete lack of consideration for the poor is disgusting. They should be considered first.

Businesses, including farmers, fare even worse, and this is the glaring omission from the sales pitch. School property taxes on commercial structures and farm structures (not land) valued at \$400,000 will increase by a stunning \$1800 per year, or \$150 per month. Even if one believes the new school campus will be a magnet for businesses, our experience, which includes 46 years as an Arthur Andersen-trained accountant, has been that businesses fail because they are not making

money. Perhaps Russell Stover will come back?

The initiative would further divide (in fact, has already) what was once a "community" by exacerbating the chasm we have here between the (angry) non-government-job working man and the Telluride wannabes. Therefore, please don't oppose us poor farmers selling our water downriver when the time comes. Our children have little interest in farming and we are getting old and are tiring of maintaining your greenbelts for practice and perhaps, now, at increased loss. Please don't give us the crap that selling our water "will destroy our community" because our political leaders and proximity to Telluride already have done so.

Since we care about children (even the unborn) one thing that might change our minds about the initiative would be if the Superintendent and all board members would sign joint and several personal guarantees that the dismal high school test scores will improve proportionately with the increase in school district taxes. If scores did not so improve, this club would commit to having their wages garnished for the remainder of their lives or until the metrics improved. Please don't dismiss this suggestion; it is what we do every day in our businesses in the real world. If we get something wrong, we pay for it for as long as it takes. The penalty should be even worse when using OPM (Other People's Money). If they are not willing to do this, they do not believe their own BS.

Please vote NO on Ballot Issue 5A.

Michael L. Curtis, Farmer and Accountant
Becky Greager Curtis, Farmer, born in the Montrose Hospital in 1957 and raised in Norwood.

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Our maintenance team takes care of all the beautiful landscaping in the community, including the home lots, which are equipped with in-ground sprinkler systems.



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1941 Country Road 1A
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OFFERED AT :

\$ 1,950,000



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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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

COLORADO VETERINARIANS SAY 'YES' TO PROPOSITION 127

Special to the Mirror

GRAND LAKE, COLORADO – Last week 119 of Colorado’s veterinarians released a public letter to support a ‘YES’ vote on Proposition 127, a state ballot measure to protect mountain lions and bobcats from inhumane hound hunting and fur trapping.

Veterinary professionals today are trained in modern social science, which informs them when human activities are causing unnecessary and unwarranted physical and emotional pain to sentient and highly intelligent animals.

The letter is signed by veterinarians from across the state and documents extreme cruelty and physical harm caused by the recreational activities of trophy hunting and fur trapping, not only to the wild felines, but also to the domestic dogs used for hound hunting, the only way lions are trophy hunted in Colorado, according to state data.

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 15:



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!"



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 Outfitters Association

"Because of her staunch, realistic, and continuous work for wildlife and sportsmen at the Capital, the Colorado Outfitters Association happily and easily endorses Kathleen Curry."



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."



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."

ELECT KATHLEEN CURRY FOR COLORADO HOUSE DISTRICT 58



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(970) 209-5537
curryforcolorado.com

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

VOTE ROBERT LOGAN FOR CU REGENT

Dear Editor:

As an independent-leaning Republican, I am crossing the aisle and voting for Democrat Robert Logan for University of Colorado Regent for congressional district CD3.

This goes beyond party politics and is about selecting the best candidate.

Robert Logan is a 6th generation Coloradan with deep roots in the SW part of the state. He graduated from Durango High School, and enlisted in the US Air Force. He served four years and was honorably discharged with accommodations. As a jet engine mechanic, he

learned responsibility, discipline, and attention to detail.

Using the GI Bill, he began his educational path earning a degree from Fort Lewis College in business/economics, followed by a master's of divinity, and then a teaching degree for social studies/government. Robert Logan is clearly well-rounded, can read a budget, and follow the money.

Robert Logan has taught at Durango HS for the past 27 years, and is recently retired.

He was a highly-respected teacher and

served on numerous boards and committees, feeding his passion for quality education.

This continues in his desire to serve our district as CU Regent.

I know Robert Logan to be a good listener, to hear individual concerns, and able to consider all sides. He has the educational background, the energy, and the commitment to serve our region well.

Please join me in voting for Robert Logan for CU Regent representing our part of the state.

Candace Harter, Durango

AS SPORTSPERSONS, IT'S TIME TO CLEAN UP OUR ACT

Dear Editor:

As a lifelong sportsperson and someone who has purchased fishing licenses and habitat stamps here for 25 years, I was pleased to see so many of our current and past CPW commissioners rightly support Prop 127 for numerous reasons: science, ethics and fair chase, not to mention the great service that big cats provide against the spread of Chronic Wasting Disease in

our deer and elk herds.

Using GPS collared dogs to chase a lion into a tree and then shoot the lion from point blank range is not hunting...it's merely shooting.

It serves no conservation purpose and only removes animals from the landscape that have no history of conflict, while undoubtedly orphaning many young kittens - keep in mind, nearly half of the lions killed

are females. As sportspersons, it's time to clean up our act and not mince words when we correctly describe big cat hunting and trapping as a crime against nature.

I fully support Prop 127 and hope that Coloradans decide to relegate this blood sport and fur trapping of bobcats to the history books.

Charles Seymour, Denver

TROPHY HUNTING AND TRAPPING IS AGONY FOR OUR WILDLIFE

Dear Editor –

A YES on Proposition 127 is supported by the majority of the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commissioners that have spoken out, and this includes the only wildlife biologist on the commission.

I thank these CPW Commissioners for their YES. Proposition 127 is supported by

more than a half-century of the best science - lion populations are self-limiting based on environmental factors -- preserving the balance of nature.

KILLING lions for their heads and fur and the commercial TRAPPING of bobcats for their fur is cruel and brutal.

A YES on Proposition 127 protects our

lions from trophy hunters and our bobcats from trappers but it does allow for their management in the protection of people, pets and livestock.

Trophy hunting and Trapping is agony for our wildlife.

Please vote YES on Proposition 127.

Jerilyn Bensard, Denver



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

LEAVE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT TO NATURE AND TO THE EXPERTS

Dear Editor,

I would like to thank the four current and past Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commissioners for speaking out to support Proposition 127. This includes the only wildlife biologist on the commission which sets our wildlife policies for the great state of Colorado. James Pribyl, Jack Murphy and Jessical Beaulieu recognize not all hunting is defensible and that chasing with GPS collared dogs, treeing, and then shotting them out of trees is state sanctioned cruelty. Also Commission Vice Chair Richard Reading, PhD states that bobcats are not trapped for personal use, but for the sale of their fur for sale to buyers from outside the U.S.

The experts state that Prop. 127 is based on science. In states that already have bans in place, the mountain lion population has remained stable, not increased. Twenty-two wildlife scientists have stated that mountain lion populations are self-limiting and preserve the balance of nature, even reducing the spread of Chronic Wasting Disease in deer and elk.

Scientists also noted that trophy hunting kills the biggest, healthiest, and most experienced lions and create a population of more juveniles. These young cats haven't yet learned how to hunt before they are orphaned and must turn to easier prey, like livestock and pets.

Proposition 127 does not take away CPW's ability to control problem mountain lions or bobcats. Leave wildlife management to nature and to the experts and vote yes on #127!

Carol Gustafson, Greeley

PLEASE VOTE YES ON 127

Dear Editor,

When I volunteered to put Proposition 127 on the ballot, many people said they wanted "to follow the science" or "to vote in line" with what Colorado Parks and Wildlife experts recommend. This past weekend, current Commissioners Jessica Beaulieu and Jack Murphy, former chair James Pribyl, and current Commission Vice Chair Richard Reading, PhD - the only wildlife biologist on the Commission and the person who sets Colorado's wildlife policy - offered their unequivocal recommendation: Vote YES on 127! We commend these officials and urge voters to seek out information from them when preparing to vote.

Highlights that speak to us from Dr. Reading's letter to the [Ark Valley Voice](#), and from the Commissioners' opinion piece in Grand Junction's [Daily Sentinel](#):

"Opponents of Proposition 127 argue that we must allow our agency to professionally and scientifically manage wildlife. Nothing in Proposition 127 prevents the agency from doing that...Our cats deserve the same protections and guidelines as our other species in Colorado – managed with science and ethics. A YES vote on Proposition 127 encompasses both." ~ Dr. Reading

"There is no research, no evidence to suggest that the recreational hunting of wild cats brings any public benefit or solves any problem. It's not managing populations, wildlife, public safety or conflict. As a science-backed agency, we are held to a higher standard and one of science, not mere opinion and conjecture." ~ Commissioners Beaulieu, Murphy and Pribyl

So, the experts have weighed in. To support our wildlife and best management practices, please vote YES on 127.

Christi Brockway, Larimer County



REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE COUNTY RECORDS FIRST WEST NILE VIRUS CASE OF THE SEASON

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— Montrose County Public Health confirmed its first case of West Nile virus in a 70-year-old male. West Nile virus is most commonly spread to people by the bite of an infected mosquito. In 2023, Montrose County reported 2 cases of West Nile virus.

“Now is the time to continue to stay watchful and prepared,” said Montrose County Public Health Director Jim Austin. “Despite the cooler evening temperatures, mosquitoes are still a concern until the temperatures drop consistently. Simple steps such as wearing an effective insect repellent, wearing protecting or long-sleeve clothing, mosquito-proofing your home, and possibly staying indoors when mosquitoes are most active are key to helping avoid West Nile virus.”

Most people infected with West Nile virus don't have symptoms. About 20% of infected people will have flu-like symptoms, and fewer than 1% develop a serious, potentially deadly illness. People over age 60 and those with certain medical conditions are at greater risk of serious illness. See a health care provider if you develop severe headaches or confusion.

Stated below are precautions to take while outside and in areas where mosquitoes are active.

To protect yourself:

- Use insect repellents when you go outdoors. Repellents containing DEET, picaridin, IR3535, and some oil of lemon eucalyptus, and para-menthane-diol products provide the best protection. Follow label instructions.
- Limit outdoor activities at dusk and dawn, when mosquitoes that carry West Nile virus are most active.
- Wear protective clothing (long pants, long-sleeved shirts, and socks) in areas where mosquitoes are active. Spray clothes with insect repellent for extra protection.

To mosquito-proof your home:

- Free mosquito dunks are available while supplies last at Montrose County Public Health Office (1845 South Townsend Ave., Montrose or 851 Main Street, Nucla).
- Drain standing water around your house at least once every week. Empty water from tires, cans, flowerpots, clogged gutters, rain barrels, birdbaths, toys, and puddles.
- Install or repair screens on windows and doors.
- Replace outdoor lights with yellow “bug lights”. These attract fewer mosquitoes. These do not repel mosquitoes, just limit the amount.
- For more information, visit CDPHE's [West Nile virus web page](#).



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

COME OUT ON THE MORALLY CORRECT SIDE AND VOTE YES FOR PROPOSITION 127

Editor:

Political campaigns are a funny thing. When ads start showing up on TV, the radio, and on social media, the voter would like to believe that what they're seeing or hearing is sincere. Certainly the campaign sponsoring the ad thinks they're being straightforward, but a certain word or phrase may be catchy but has a double meaning and can be confusing to the voter.

Such is undeniably the case with opponents of proposition 127 to ban trophy hunting of mountain lions and the trapping of bobcats for their fur. Wouldn't you agree that a campaign titled "Wildlife

Deserves Better" sounds as though they want to protect our wildlife? Or how about "Coloradans for Responsible Wildlife Management"? Sounds like they exist to help our wildlife, right?

In truth, both groups are run by trophy hunters and fur trappers who think they are doing us a favor by killing them to manage their populations and leave our ecosystem healthy. Then they will tug at your heartstrings and say they are protecting your children and pets when they kill these apex predators, claiming it's always been done this way and they have the science to prove it. They don't.

So when you see a yard sign or a media

ad saying vote "no" on proposition 127, understand they're opposing proposition 127 because they'll lose the ability to hunt mountain lions, bobcats, and lynx, be it for recreational sport (aka trophy hunting) or to strip them of their fur to send overseas to make a coat.

All I am asking is that you do your research and not be sucked into ads that seem to want to help animals and the environment. I'm sure you will then come out on the morally correct side and vote yes for proposition 127.

*Ellen Kessler, Volunteer
Cats Aren't Trophies
Littleton, CO*

VOTE "YES" ON 127 TO PROTECT MOUNTAIN LIONS FROM TROPHY HUNTERS

Editor:

Thank you to four CPW commissioners for confirming why they support voting YES on 127.

"Proposition 127 bans chasing mountain lions with dogs, in which the 'hunter' follows the GPS signal from the dogs' collars to a treed lion, walks up and shoots the animal. That is not hunting, and something we would never allow with ungulates (animals with hooves)," writes CPW Commission Vice Chair Richard Reading, PhD, a wildlife biologist, [in his letter published Sunday in the Ark Valley](#)

[Voice](#). "Similarly, bobcats are trapped not for personal use, but for the sale of their fur for sale to buyers from outside the

U.S. — the very definition of commodification."

"Prop 127 allows voters to recognize not all hunting is defensible, and these are indefensible state-sanctioned acts of cruelty," explains former and current commissioners Pribyl, Murphy and Beaulieu in their [opinion piece in the Grand Junction Sentinel Sunday](#).

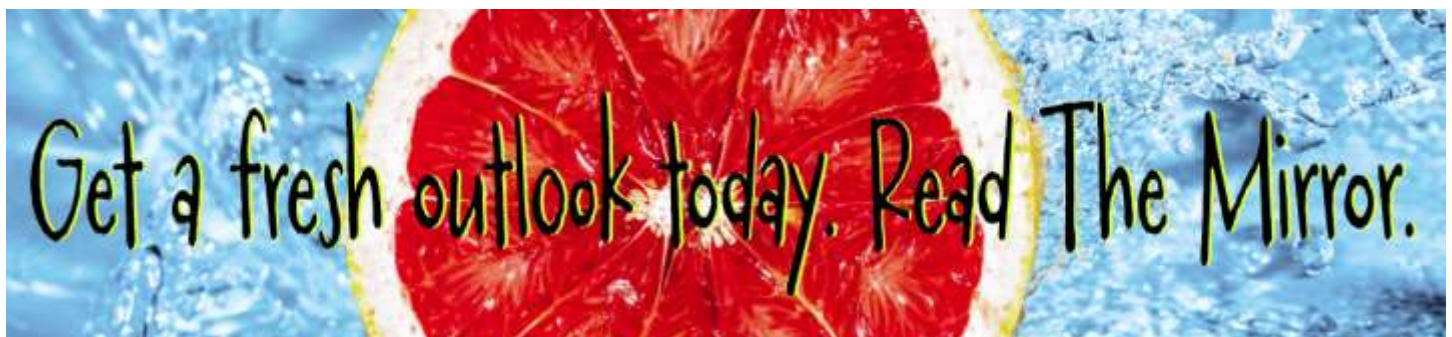
"Opponents of Proposition 127 argue that we must allow our agency to professionally and scientifically manage wildlife. Nothing in Proposition 127 prevents the agency from doing that, it simply sets the ground rules by which the agency operates. We already do that. We do not permit use of night lights and baiting, for ex-

ample. Yes, we may have to change some management, but our professionals at CPW are up to the task," Reading says.

"Prop 127 is based on not a little, but more than a half-century of the best science as evidence for commissioners to confidently tell the voters that lion populations will stabilize, not increase, without hunting. In California without lion hunting, populations are stable, not increasing, and at the same level as they are here in Colorado," multiple Commissioners report.

Vote "YES" on 127, it protects mountain lions from trophy hunters while allowing management to protect people, pets and livestock.

Jacci McKenna, Eagle



COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

MARC CATLIN RECEIVES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL'S LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO-Representative Marc Catlin has received the Economic Development Council of Colorado's (EDCC) 2024 Legislator of the Year EDIE Award at the annual [Drive | Lead | Succeed](#) Conference in Beaver Creek, CO. Rep. Catlin was recognized for his bipartisanship and ability to work across the aisle on many issues including water, broadband, workforce, and economic development.

The award recognizes legislators that have shown outstanding achievement in economic development in Colorado. Criteria to be considered for the award:

- Sponsoring or being a leading voice on bills or ballot initiatives aimed at strengthening Colorado's economy, identified in EDCC's legislative policy statement: healthy business climate, effective well-maintained infrastructure, and well-educated workforce.

-Building consensus across the political spectrum to successfully pass bills or ballot initiatives that strengthen Colorado's economic outlook.

Representative Catlin says, "To be recognized as the Legislator of the Year for the Economic Development Council is such an honor. Colorado needs to remain open for business to attract good jobs for our hometown communities. Good jobs are a part of the answer for solving our cost-of-living crisis in Colorado. Our state must continue to invest in our infrastructure for thriving communities."

Colorado State Representative Marc Catlin represents the eight counties of Dolores, Delta, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montezuma, Montrose, Ouray, and San Miguel. Representative Catlin is the Vice Chair of Agriculture, Water, & Natural Resources Committee, is a member of the Capital Development Committee, and is



Rep. Marc Catlin. Courtesy photo.

Ranking member of the Transportation, Housing & Local Government Committee.

ENDORSEMENTS for MARC CATLIN Candidate for State Senate District 5

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NFIB The Voice of Small Business. COLORADO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

ACEC American Council of Engineering Companies of Colorado. COLORADO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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CDA COLORADO DENTAL ASSOCIATION

Learn more about Marc Catlin www.CatlinForColorado.com

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Marc Catlin champions and promotes many sectors in our rural communities across the state. Helping to make viable, successful and safe communities.

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COLORADO STATE POLICE

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COLORADO PETROLEUM ASSOCIATION. colorado SKI COUNTRY USA. Colorado Automobile Dealers Association

CPGA Colorado Propane Gas Association. c.h.a. Colorado Hospital Association. COLORADO THE BANKERS ASSOCIATION. ICBC INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY BANKERS OF COLORADO

COLORADO BIOSCIENCE ASSOCIATION. C.A.N.D. COLORADO ASSOCIATION OF NATUROPATHIC DOCTORS. Colorado Psychiatric Society

APTA Colorado A Creator of the American Physical Therapy Association. adha COLORADO DENTAL HYGIENISTS ASSOCIATION

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

A YES ON PROP 127 VOTE IS FOR THE SAKE OF OUR SANITY AND HUMANITY

Editor:

Join the majority of CPW Wildlife Commissioners speaking out, and biologists who set policy, and Vote YES on Prop 127.

It's a no-brainer.

Who would ever want to support a dark fringe industry that asks, "Should I slowly choke this bobcat to death in its cage, or inject it with acetone, or just bludgeon it to crack its skull open?" For the sole purpose of selling the unoffending beautiful animal to make some money by turning it into someone's frivolous fur coat. In China.

Who would want to live in a world where any random peaceful native wild cat at any moment can be hunted down by a gang of dogs, shot out of the tree it turns to for refuge. To be mounted on someone's living room wall?

Who would accept the logic that if you eat it, you can kill it any which way. If I shoot your dog, and eat it, this means you should thank me.

Who would call themselves a hunter for disrupting nature with chaos of buzzing drones flying to aid dogs with GPS-laden collars, to spot and terrorize any feline for personal pleasure. Leaving her kittens to die slowly from starvation and dehydration.

A Yes on Prop 127 vote is for the sake of our sanity and humanity. All lion hunting is always done with dogs, and upgraded technology like smart phones will continue to provide lions zero respect or chance at survival.

Opponents talk about science yet offer none. Science does not support cruelty.

Opponents instill fear, attacking the very nature of shy, elusive cats and the humans who care about their overall well-being tied to healthy ecosystems.

Opponents hate lions for eating deer they wish to hunt themselves, pretending 50 years of science doesn't exist informing them it's mountain lions who keep deer herds healthy and robust.

Opponents claim they care about ranching and pets yet pretend science doesn't exist to inform them hunting lions increases predation on livestock and pets.

Opponents prey on voters' egos and irrational fears of a shy predator who has always lived among us and wants nothing to do with us.

Don't give into hatred and buzz words. Vote YES on Prop 127.

Julie Marshall, Lafayette CO

MONTROSE SCHOOL DISTRICT IN VIOLATION OF COLORADO CAMPAIGN LAWS

Editor:

Many of us living on the north end of Ouray County are part of the Montrose County School District and will have 5A on our ballots along with the Montrose County residents.

I made a formal complaint to the Colorado Secretary of State on 10/10 and finally got notified of their "potential violations" today.

The Colorado Secretary of State has agreed that I have identified one or more potential violations of Colorado campaign laws by the Montrose County School District relating to Ballot Measure 5A.

Since 10/10 the MCSDD FB page has stopped posting PRO memes created using govt resources and have posted a link simply showing how to calculate the YEARLY tax increase impact. They have NOT removed all prior potential violation posts.

This screen shot is from the attachment in the email from the Colorado Secretary of State.

George Kerber, Ouray County



Courtesy image George Kerber.



REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

THE BOSOM BUDDIES 32ND ANNUAL 5K WALK/RUN & 10K RUN WAS A HUGE SUCCESS!



M & H Towing And Recovery held a fundraiser to benefit Bosom Buddies at the PRCA rodeo finals. Stephanie Manspeaker and Pryce Hoey presented a check for \$14,000 to Bosom Buddies President Phyllis Wiesner at the group's 32nd Annual Walk/Run on October 12th. Wiesner said, "We are incredibly grateful for all the support M & H gives us. This donation will help so many dealing with the effects of breast cancer."



OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

AS JUDGE JUDY SAYS, HOW DO YOU KNOW WHAT I AM THINKING?

Editor:

In the letter to the editor entitled "There's only one presidential candidate who won a primary!", Kelly Ray, notes:

"Do we want to become a nation where presidential primaries really don't matter? The more appropriate question is:

"Do we want the option to vote for an alternative candidate if, for whatever reason (death, incapacity, withdrawal), the candidate originally appearing on the primary ballot or through caucus selection cannot or chooses not to run for President?"

It would appear that some believe a candidate selected BEFORE that party's convention must be the candidate no matter what. Or possibly they fear the change may have a detrimental effect on their candidate's chances. Forget the rhetoric that this is a scheme to block or bypass the voters! It is an appropriate vehicle to address life circumstances. Remember, **Trump is the oldest candidate ever selected as a nominee for President.** With his age, voters could face a similar predicament.

And for those Republicans using the rhetoric that Democrat voters are disenfranchised because of the process of replacing President Joe Biden with Vice President Kamala Harris, this challenge is unlikely to be successful as delegates to the convention pledged to Biden are "unbound" if the candidate withdraws, allowing them to vote for another candidate Penn State, Ask an expert: Harris 2024? Here's what election and campaign finance laws say, July 23, 2024, <https://www.psu.edu/news/research/story/ask-expert-harris-2024-heres-what-election-and-campaign->

[finance-laws-say](#). And how do you know how Democrats feel?

Did you vote for Harris in the primary?

Republicans had multiple names on the ballot as Trump was not the sitting President. On the Democrat's ballot, there was only one choice, Biden, the sitting president. So, the answer is clear on this question.

The Democratic party absolutely CUT voters totally out of the primary election process.

Not true. The primary election took place and people cast their vote based on the candidate on the ballot at that time. But as in life, things change. Since President Biden had dropped out of the presidential race before the Democratic convention took place, the 87 delegates to the August convention did what they needed to do – select a replacement who they felt fit the voting segment they represented. That action is not abandoning the voters but instead performing their duties as delegates to the national convention. Since Biden endorsed Harris as his choice, it seems an obvious choice for anyone who had voted for Biden in the primaries.

History of Primary Elections – Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_presidential_primary

There is no provision in the US Constitution for the role of political parties. The first two nominations and elections were handled by the Electoral College. Starting with the 1796 election, a congressional party or a state legislature party caucus selected the party's presidential candidates when a two-party system emerged. In 1831, because one party had no congressmen, its party leaders called for a

national meeting of supporters to select the party's candidate (national convention). Between 1912 and 1968, the Progressive Era reformers looked at the primary election as a way to measure popular opinion of candidates.

In the 1968 Democratic National Convention, VP Hubert Humphrey secured the presidential nomination even though he never won a single primary. A Democratic National Committee-commissioned panel recommended the states adopt new rules to assure wider participation. A number of states chose a presidential primary to come into compliance with the Democratic party rules. Some initially referenced primaries as a popularity contest.

My Position – The Process is Alive and Well – Only The Perception of Some is Flawed

So, the answer is clear in my mind. Selection of an alternative Democrat nominee for President of the United States is fair and realistic based on the circumstances taking place in 2024 because:

1. Biden withdrew as a candidate for President and endorsed Harris (if you voted for Biden in the primary this endorsement is compelling);
2. To ensure both parties are properly represented on the November ballot options must be in place to replace a candidate when life circumstances get in the way; and
3. The primary is not the final determinant of who will be on the November ballot – the Republican and Democratic conventions finalize the selection by delegates who represent your choice and the realities of the present.

Sue Schmidt, Montrose



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OPINION/EDITORIAL:LETTERS

VOTING "YES" ON PROPOSITION 127 ALIGNS WITH BEST PRACTICES IN WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

Dear Editor,

I'd like to express my concern that opponents of Proposition 127 are acting dishonorably by posting massive signs that sound like they are for the measure, then tell people to vote the opposite way.

I will vote YES for wildlife, and I want to offer gratitude to our Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commissioners who have spoken openly in support of Proposition 127 to protect mountain lions and bobcats and lynx from cruelty. These leaders, which include the only wildlife biologist on the commission, have articulated why voting "yes" on Proposition 127 aligns with best practices in wildlife management.

Hunting in Colorado requires adhering to fair chase principles which are violated by methods employed to hunt Colorado wild-cats. Chasing down terrified mountain lions and bobcats with packs of radio collared dogs until these animals are utterly exhausted and then shooting them at point blank range is not fair chase. Lion hunting outfits guarantee a kill which is akin to a canned hunt again violating fair chase.

Bobcat baiting, trapping, bludgeoning, strangling, and skinning to extract pelts for sale to foreign markets defines the commodification of wildlife violating best practices in wildlife management in Colorado.

I am proud of Colorado Wildlife Commissioners who are stepping into the modern era and endorse balancing animal welfare concerns with wildlife management. A 'yes' vote on Proposition 127 safeguards our Colorado mountain lions, bobcats, and lynx from cruel, unethical, and unnecessary hunting and trapping while allowing management to protect people, pets, and livestock.

Lynn Ackerman, Highlands Ranch, CO



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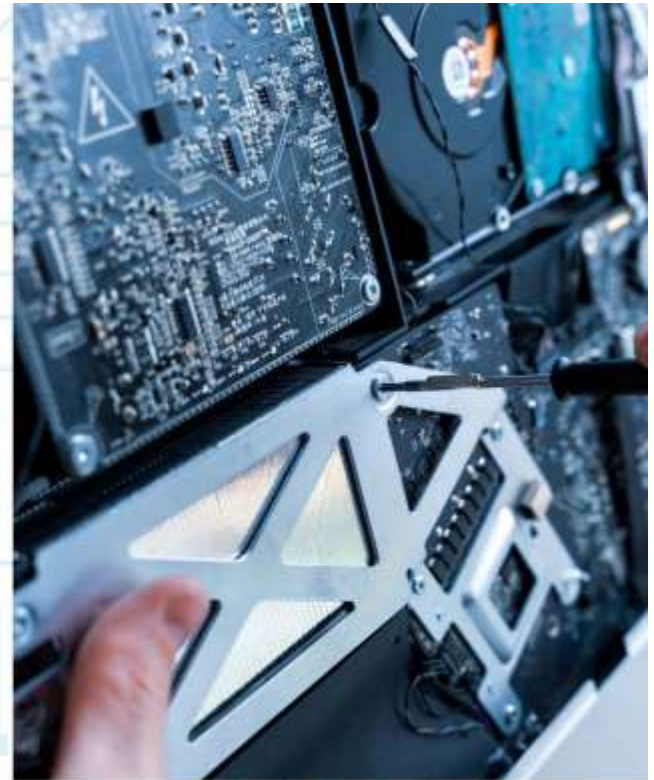
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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

WHAT ARE WE TO DO WITH LEGITIMATE CONCERNS ABOUT VOTING MACHINES?

Editor:

The 2024 Presidential Election is now upon us, and the “all-the-time-in-the-world” past 4 years we collectively had to get to the bottom of the questionable elections (machines) has been completely squandered (either with malicious intent or by naivete/sloth/cowardice/????), and we are now approaching ‘the final hour’, with many (most) of the issues remaining un-addressed.

Regardless of which candidate(s) win in this election, there will be significant skepticism/distrust of the results, which should, in itself, be enough to do away with the machines, and drastically revamp our entire system.

Don't believe me? Don't! However, what are we to do with the trepidations and questions that true titans in the world of computers and technology continue to pose?

What are we to do with the concerns of DR. WALTER DOUGHERTY, Senior Lecturer Emeritus in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering at Texas A&M University, who holds both Master's and Doctorate Degrees in Mathematics from Harvard University, is peer-review published on topics such as Artificial Intelligence, Quantum Computing, Cyber Ethics, and Program and Software Design, and who is HIGHLY skeptical? You may see the interview with Dr. Dougherty at: <https://rumble.com/v4uw7ee-the-joe-hoft-show-a-summary-of-the-illegitimacy-of-us-voting-systems-with-d.html>

What are we to do with JEFF LENBERG, whose expertise regarding computer technology and ethics is endorsed by International Space Hall of Fame Astronaut, Col. Sidney

Gutierrez, when Mr. Lenberg states, “The big lie is that we have secure elections. Our election system, from top to bottom, every aspect of it, has been subverted.” Interview of Mr Lenberg:

<https://rumble.com/v4y0573-28-may-2024-apollo-live-6pm-est.html> (the reading of Col. Gutierrez' affidavit of endorsement time stamped 2:00-6:20).

What are we to do with CLAY PARIKH, cybersecurity expert and certified ethical hacker, who spent nine years as a hacker in an election systems lab when he sounds the alarm?

<https://1819news.com/news/item/black-box-voting-confessions-of-an-elections-hacker-part-1>
<https://1819news.com/news/item/black-box-voting-confessions-of-an-elections-hacker-part-2>

What are we to do with PROFESSOR J. ALEX HALDERMAN, University of Michigan Dept. of Computer Science and Engineering, who testified in a Northern Georgia courtroom, stating, “Our voting systems are vulnerable”, identifying 9 critical vulnerabilities that could corrupt entire voting systems and change election outcomes, AND identified COLORADO as one of 16 states considered VULNERABLE.

For that matter, what are we to do with ERIC COOMER, Dominion Voting Systems'

own Director of Strategy and Security, when he is quoted as saying, “Our [expletive] is riddled with bugs”?

As I bring up these legitimate questions, I am ‘brushed off’ by our local officials, as if it were just me, and not also these extremely adept experts, demanding answers. On top of that, our local elections officials, though possibly unwittingly but still just as effectively, continue to push the agenda of Dominion Voting Systems and the false narrative of Colorado’s “Gold Standard” elections, even to the point of appearing via YouTube to forbode of election “misinformation”. While I agree that there is plenty of misinformation going around, it is We the People, trying to get through the smokescreen and get to the truth.

Finally, there is Tina Peters, Mesa County Clerk and Recorder and reluctant Gold-Star Mother, who was REQUIRED by both Federal Law (52 USC 20701) and Colorado Revised Statute (1-7-802) to “preserve election records”, (nearly) the only one courageous enough to do her duty DESPITE the consequences, who has now, just begun a 9-year prison sentence for her trouble, in standing for truth.

Meanwhile, the people continue on, refusing to be bothered with such trifles. “All's good. Nothing to see here. Our leaders tell us so”, while the flame of Liberty, which has been fought for, so mightily, by so many, and for so long, continues to flicker and fade.

Joe Stucky, Montrose

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

HOW SHOULD YOU VOTE YOUR BALLOT?

Left, Right, Centrist – GOP, Democrat, Unaffiliated & More? We all get a say IF WE VOTE!

By David White

Several people have asked me where to find resources that will help them decide on how to vote on the many questions being asked in this year's ballot. Some research led me to find the following very complete list which appeared in the October 17, 2024, issue of the Colorado Times Recorder.

I hope this list will be helpful regardless of your political persuasion.

Left-leaning Organizations:

ACLU of Colorado: [The American Civil Liberties Union of Colorado](#)

COBALT: COBALT is a non-profit that prioritizes protecting access to reproductive healthcare, here are its endorsements: [Cobalt Advocates Endorsements](#)

COLOR: Colorado Organization for Latina Opportunity and Reproductive Rights, [COLOR Action Fund](#), voting guide.

The Colorado League of Women Voters. The nonpartisan group has [general information](#) for voters and a guide to [Colorado ballot initiatives](#) with recommendations on ballot initiatives [here](#).

One Colorado: One Colorado is a Political Action Committee aimed at protecting LGBTQIA+ rights and boosting openly queer candidates. [One Colorado Endorsements](#)

New Era: New Era Colorado, an advocacy group aimed at increasing young people's civic engagement in Colorado, has released a [voter guide](#) for the upcoming election.

Progressive Voters Guide/ProgressNow Colorado: The [Colorado Progressive Voters Guide](#) is "powered by ProgressNow Colorado" and includes endorsements from multiple progressive groups.

Right-Leaning Organizations:

Centennial Institute: The Centennial Institute is Colorado Christian University's policy organization. This is their [voting guide](#) for the 2024 election.

Common Sense Institute: Fiscally focused organization's [ballot issue guide](#).

Denver Catholic: [Denver Catholic Conference Voter Guide](#)(Only amendments)

Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce: DMCC's [Voting Guide](#) on Ballot Issues

Scott Bottoms' Election Guide: Bottoms is among the most conservative members of the Colorado House of Representatives. Here is his [election guide](#).

Jeff Hunt, Christian conservative talk radio host: [Jeff Hunt Colorado Ballot Guide](#)

Laurel Imer's Election Guide: [Laurel Imer](#) ran for the Republican nomination to represent CD7 in 2022, but she did not win the primary. Here is [her voting guide](#).

Ross Kaminsky's Ballot Guide. The KOA radio host's [recommendations](#).

Kim Monson's 2024 Colorado Voter's Ballot Guide. Monson is a KLZ radio host. [See her guide here](#).

Rocky Mountain Gun Owners PAC: [RMGO Endorsements](#) – candidates only.

Smart Choice Colorado: Former Moms for Liberty head Darcy Shoening's [organization](#) released a list of candidates it supports.

Reason Foundation: (Libertarian) [Reason Foundation Guide to Colorado's Statewide Ballot Questions \(2024\)](#)

Transform Colorado: [Voter guides](#) from Transform Colorado are paid for by the conservative Truth and Liberty Coalition.

Political Parties:

Colorado Democratic Party: [The Colorado Democratic Party](#)

Colorado Green Party: [The Colorado Green Party](#)

Colorado Republican Party: [Colorado Republican Party](#)

Colorado Working Families Party: [Colorado Working Families Party Voter Guide 2024](#)

Libertarian Party of Colorado: [Colorado Libertarians](#) put out a 90-minute video on ballot initiatives through Free State Colorado

You can find the complete guide here: [Guides Available To Help Voters Navigate the Colorado Election Ballot](#)

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.

Come take a stroll down memory lane and enjoy a sweet treat!



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

TROPHY HUNTING IS A CRUEL AND UNSPORTSMANLIKE PRACTICE

Dear Editor,

I am writing to send a big thank you to some commissioners and a previous Chair of Colorado Parks and Wildlife for speaking out on Proposition 127. The commissioners are Jack Murphy, Jessica Beaulieu and Richard Reading. The previous Chair is James Pribyl.

They understand the importance of Proposition 127.

They also dispel some of the disinformation that has been circulated.

James Pribyl, Jack Murphy and Jessica Beaulieu state in the Grand Junction Senti-

nel that "Proposition 127 allows voters to recognize not all hunting is defensible, and these are indefensible state-sanctioned acts of cruelty."

Opponents of the proposition claim that CPW needs to be allowed to manage wildlife.

Proposition 127 does not interfere with CPW management. It merely sets some basic rules by which they operate. Richard Reading, PhD and a wildlife biologist echo these sentiments.

Proposition 127 has specific exemptions allowing CPW to protect people, pets, and

livestock. It protects mountain lions at the same time.

CPW commissioners along with Dan Ashe, Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service understand also that mountain lions are a self-regulating species. They do not need to have their numbers "managed" through trophy hunting.

Trophy hunting is a cruel and unsportsmanlike practice and is totally unnecessary from an ecological standpoint. Listen to these CPW commissioners and vote YES on Proposition 127.

Karla Heeps, Denver

A "YES" VOTE ON PROPOSITION 127 PROTECTS MOUNTAIN LIONS

Dear Editor:

I would like to thank a majority of Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commissioners ("Commissioners") for speaking out in support of Proposition 127, which, if it passes, will ban trophy hunting of Mountain Lions and the killing of Bobcat and Lynx for their pelts.

Over the past weekend, four Commissioners and a past Chair, have spoken out to explain why voters should vote YES on 127, in order to protect our wildlife in conformity with best management practices. One of these four Commissioners speaking out is the only wildlife biologist on the Commission. Here is what these Commissioners recently said:

"Proposition 127 bans chasing mountain lions with dogs, in which the 'hunter' follows the GPS signal from the dogs' collars to a treed lion, walks up and shoots the animal. That is not hunting, and something we would never allow with ungulates (animals with hooves)," **writes Parks**

and Wildlife Commission Vice Chair Richard Reading, PhD, a wildlife biologist, in his letter published Sunday in the Ark Valley Voice. "Similarly, bobcats are trapped not for personal use, but for the sale of their fur for sale to buyers from outside the U.S. — the very definition of commodification."

"Prop 127 allows voters to recognize not all hunting is defensible, and these are indefensible state-sanctioned acts of cruelty," explains **James Pribyl, Jack Murphy and Jessical Beaulieu** in their **opinion piece in the Grand Junction Sentinel Sunday.** Murphy, Beaulieu, and Reading are three current members of the Commission, while Pribyl is the former Chair.

"Opponents of Proposition 127 argue that we must allow our agency to professionally and scientifically manage wildlife. Nothing in Proposition 127 prevents the agency from doing that, it simply sets the ground rules by which the agency operates. We

already do that. We do not permit use of night lights and baiting, for example. Yes, we may have to change some management, but our professionals at CPW are up to the task," **Vice Chair Reading says.**

The Commissioners join a larger group of leading wildlife biologists who confirm that the scientific consensus is that mountain lion populations do not ever need to be trophy hunted, because populations naturally balance themselves based on environmental factors. That list includes Dan Ashe, the long-time director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the nation's top wildlife manager, and Elaine Leslie, PhD, Chief of Biological Resources for the National Park Service, who lives in Durango.

A "YES" vote on Proposition 127 protects mountain lions from trophy hunters while allowing CPW to protect people, pets and livestock. A "YES" vote on 127 preserves the balance of nature.

Karen Spaulding, Arvada



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CITY COUNCIL VOTES TO PASS CAMPING ORDINANCE *From pg 1*

present to speak to items that were not on the meeting agenda.

John Brown spoke, "...I'm here as usual to request the City Council bring forth an amendment, a vote, or a declaration of some sort declaring Montrose to be non-sanctuary." He discussed recent incidents on the Front Range, such as apartment takeovers.

"We would like to make sure that we in Montrose are not akin to that, we don't become a lair to that by somebody dumping their unwanted people on us."

This country was built on legal immigration, he said. "Illegal immigration already specifies that a person has already broken the law to get into this country...the court systems don't seem to be able to contain them..."

Brown reminded all of those present to vote in the general election. "...We should be out there expressing ourselves and directing our elected officials on how we would like them to vote."

Cindy Olinghouse spoke, "I'm here again to agree with my friend here. I'm not sure why we would change our council vote from four to declare a non-sanctuary city and then change our minds a few days later...I just want to continue to bring this to your attention..."

Tom Cheney spoke, saying that a recent article in the *New York Times* rated Montrose as the 20th most expensive city in the country. "A study analyzed areas with populations between 10,000 and 50,000 and found the ones that were as expensive as major coastal cities. There were 20 cities listed in this article, Montrose was Number 20. We have a very expensive town," Cheney said. "I'm wondering if a person in New York City or Los Angeles was interested in moving their business, I doubt they would be terribly interested in Montrose if their employees have to pay as much as they pay in these coastal areas for housing.

"What are you folks doing about this?"

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilors voted unanimously to approve [Consent Agenda](#) items.

ORDINANCE 2670-FIRST READING

According to the meeting agenda, Ordinance 2670 "updates Title 6 Chapter 1 of the Official Code of the City of Montrose, Colorado: repealing and replacing Title 6 Chapter 1 Section 10 (6-1-10), regarding unauthorized camping; repealing and replacing Title 6 Chapter 1 Section 12 (6-1-12), regarding sleeping on sidewalks, streets, curbs, parking spaces, alleys, public right of way or within doorways prohibited; and amending Title 9 Chapter 10 Section 1 (9-10-1), regarding park hours."

A [memo included in the meeting packet](#) from Assistant City Attorney for Public Safety Matthew Magliaro provides background on the updated ordinance.

City Manager Bill Bell said that it is already illegal to sleep in city parks, "Unlawful sleeping is not a new law."

The changes are being driven by the populace, he said.

Police Chief Blaine Hall shared information and [presented photos](#) of some of the encampments that staff have cleaned up in city parks, which have spanned the length of the park system. A recent clean-up involved 11 employees, three policemen, and one ride-along. Three tons of trash were removed with the assistance of a front loader and a bobcat.

A red-lined copy of [Ordinance 2670](#) is also included in the packet.

A number of citizens spoke against the proposed ordinance. Speakers ranged from professionals such as attorneys, social workers, and local librarians to those with personal experiences of homelessness, including that of a local educator who was homeless as a child.

Speakers expressed concern that there is no place else for unhoused people to go, and winter is fast approaching. The mandatory jail term included in Ordinance 2670 will require that a public defender be appointed for those accused of violations. The few resources that exist here are directed toward males rather than females, and many more people are currently at risk of homelessness.

"Jail time can be a huge setback for

someone just trying to survive," Social Worker Claire House said.

Local attorney Patrick Crane said that the only difference between current law and the proposed ordinance is the mandatory ten days in jail.

To jail someone for homelessness is like kicking them when they're down, Paul Stockwell said.

"Where are we supposed to go? It's a lot harder than anybody knows," said Tiffany Freeman, who said that she is presently unhoused.

For homeless people, ordinary activities can seem almost impossible, "You cannot apply for a job when you have no address...the Western Slope is known as a resource desert," Jan Chastain said.

More than one speaker pointed to the success that Grand Junction has seen with its [Homeward Bound](#) shelter.

Pastor Preston Gordon of All Saints Anglican Church said, "...It's God's heart for justice, for those who don't have a home, for the poor, the powerless, those who don't have anyone to speak out for them. I believe God cares about how we treat those people. I believe punitive measures, alongside a lack of options for the unhoused in Montrose, isn't just for these members of society...to lay fines on people for these reasons when they have no other viable place to go doesn't seem just or right in God's eyes to me...there's a lot of people on the edge of homelessness that reach out to us and I'm also concerned about those people and the problem isn't getting better. I don't see the ordinance helping promote the safety, health, and prosperity of these people in Montrose..."

Following public comment, Council voted unanimously to pass Ordinance 2670 on First reading. A member of the audience yelled "Shame," as Council took a brief recess.

BEAR CREEK TOWNHOMES FINAL PLAT

Council voted to approve [the Bear Creek Townhomes Final Plat](#) to create 48 townhome lots, five single-family residential lots, and associated easements, rights-of-

CITY COUNCIL VOTES TO PASS CAMPING ORDINANCE *From previous pg*

way, and open space.

BROOKSIDE MEADOWS SUBDIVISION PRELIMINARY PLAT

Council voted to approve the [Brookside Meadows Subdivision Preliminary Plat](#).

CERISE PARK COMMAND CENTER EXPENSE AUTHORIZATION

Council voted unanimously to authorize \$75,000 for the renovation of a storage building in Cerise Park for dual uses as a command center for Police Department operations.

WOODGATE-EAST OAK GROVE ROUNDABOUT AND BACKAGE ROAD CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT

Council voted unanimously to approve \$3,287,515.03 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 \$92,200 in expenditures to Delta-Montrose Electric Association for street lighting and power reconfiguration within the project.

STAFF REPORTS

Council heard the [Sales, Use & Excise Tax Report](#), presented by Sales Tax Accountant Leeanne Whittaker.

Youth City Council is preparing to do a highway cleanup and will be attending the Youth National League of Cities Conference in November in Tampa Bay Florida.

Councilor Ed Ulibarri asked if hotel excise tax is down due to fewer visitors, or if it has been impacted by the new hotel in the URA.

City Manager Bill Bell said that funds generated by the hotel within the MURA stay within the MURA, and would not show up on the Sales, Use, & Excise Tax Report. Holiday Inn has been undergoing a major renovation and has limited the number of

rooms open to the public for the past few months.

The Rio Bravo restaurant was shut down, and several others have gone out of business. There are new restaurants in the URA.

Mayor Pro Tem David Frank encouraged members of the public to attend the Budget Open House on Thursday, Oct. 17.

Councilor Glaspell thanked staff for their assistance during the meeting, "I appreciate everybody's help and support..."

Councilor Judy Ann Files thanked Public Works, the Parks Department, and City Engineer Scott Murphy for the connecting links project and new trail that was completed last week between Stony Creek and Columbine East.

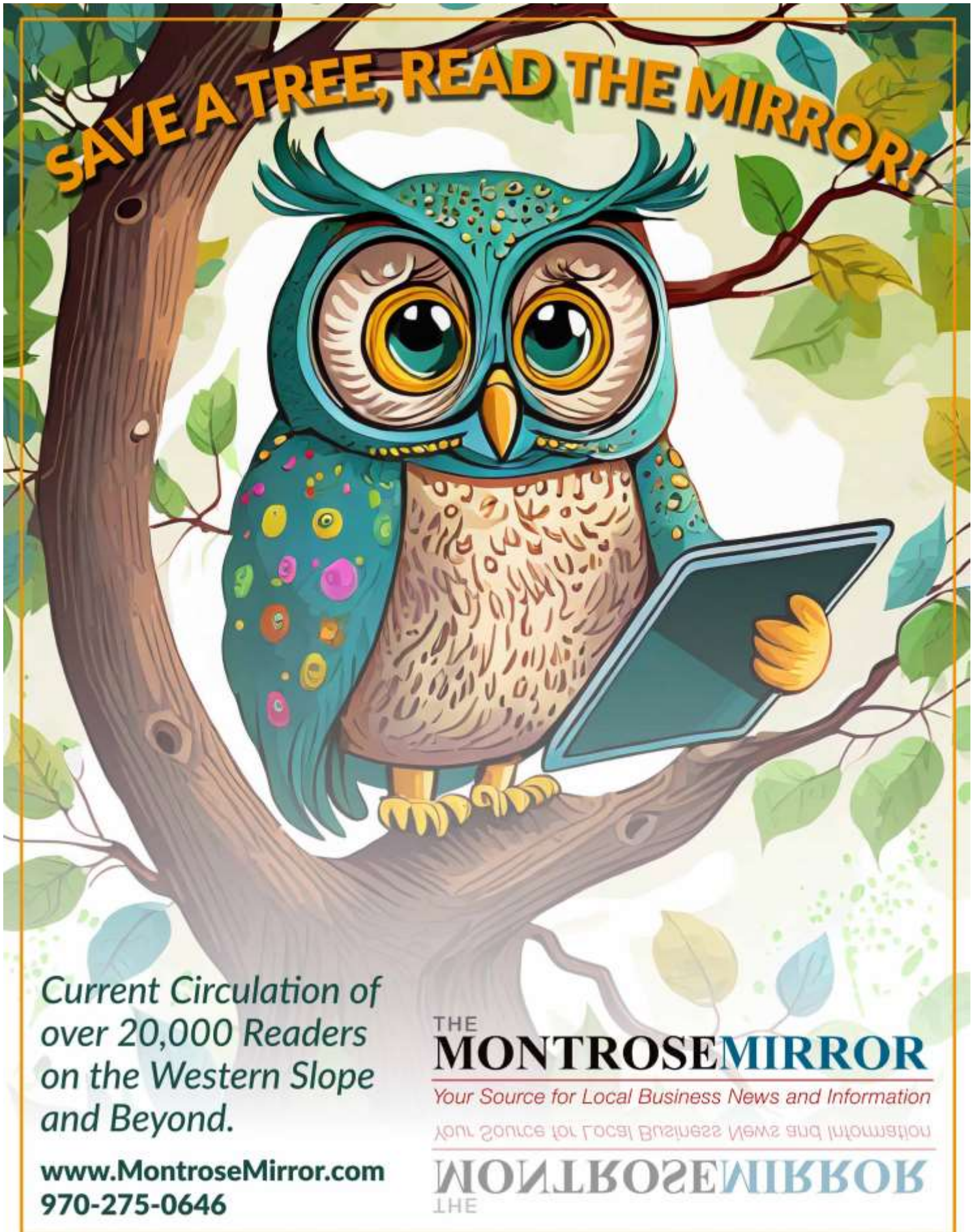
"...it's on the original railroad right of way...it's already getting quite a bit of use, because 6700 Road has become a major walking area for our citizens, adding that really helped."

**Join us for the
'Haunting of the Downtown' Ghost tour
Oct. 25th & 26th at 6:00 pm**

The Montrose County Historical Museum takes a walk on the Spooky Side with tales of spooks, ghouls, and ghost stories. The museum's ghost authority mingles history and legends on a walk of down Montrose's shadowy Main Street and dark alleyways. The ghouls will be present as they follow patrons enjoying the mysterious tales of the town's eerie history of paranormal activity and perhaps have their own experiences to share afterward.

There are limited spaces for this family-friendly tour, to reserve a space call 970-249-2085 or email info@montrosehistory.org
Tickets are \$10.00/person





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BOCC APPROVES AIRPORT ITEMS, NEW WINDOWS FOR IT BUILDING



BOCC Chair Roger Rash, center, responded passionately to a comment by Scott Mijares. "I'm damn proud of what this board has done. I'm damn proud of what our staff has done...And to have someone come up here, and disrespect this board, and our staff, has no moral ethics." Meeting screenshot.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-Montrose Board of County Commissioners Chair (BOCC) Roger Rash opened the regular meeting of Wednesday, Oct. 16 with a cheerful greeting, but later delivered an emotional tirade about two members of the previous BOCC while commenting on the installation of new windows in the IT Building.

All commissioners were present for the meeting.

BOCC Vice Chair Keith Caddy led in saying the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the invocation delivered by Pastor Curt Mudgett of Cedar Creek Church.

"Let's pray together...Heavenly Father we're grateful for this day that you have made...your word says that if anyone lacks wisdom let him ask of you in faith and you will be generous...would you also bless those who come today to give input...that all of us might be harmonious in everything that is said..."

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Rash read the rules for public comment into the record.

Scott Mijares spoke, "Two days ago the *Montrose Press* reported on the 2025 proposed budget and capital improvement projects. In the article the Sheriff's budget was addressed. Commissioner Hanson was quoted as saying, 'This budget is making a huge commitment to public safety.' She went on to say that this is being litigated in the public and much of it is inaccurate.

"So I'm here to set the record straight

and give you some facts. According to FBI statistics released this year, fact-Colorado is ranked third most dangerous state in the nation with 493 violent crimes per 100,000 citizens. The national average is 381 per 100,000. Fact-Colorado is the Fourth highest in the incidence of rape, with 63 per 100,000 citizens. Fact-our Montrose Sheriff's Office has 47 certified deputies on staff. Ten of them work in the jail, which services inmates from surrounding counties. Six are commanders and four are investigators.

"Sheriff Lillard has personally told me that he has 27 certified deputies patrolling our county, with a population of nearly 44,000 citizens and an area of over 2,200 square miles. That is .613 deputies per 100,000, covering an area that spans from Olathe to Colona and over to Nucla. To put that in perspective, the Montrose PD has 45 patrol officers serving a population of 21,000 citizens covering 18 square miles. They have higher pay and better retirement benefits. That is 2.14 officers per 100,000 citizens, and it's 3.5 times higher than the ratio for our Montrose County Sheriff's Department.

"Now the national average depending on where you get your information ranges from 1.8 to 2.4 officers per 100,000. So, to say that this year's budget is a huge commitment to public safety, in my opinion, is laughable. The article goes on to say that we must proceed with the proposed North Campus Project. They say that the building is, quote, in dire straits. This is nothing more than an admission of the failure of this administration to properly manage and maintain our county's assets.

"I recommend that we put the North Campus project on hold and rehabilitate the South Campus building. This will enhance the value moving forward, giving us more options when and if it comes time to sell.

"Our average homeowner in Montrose cannot neglect the maintenance of their home, walk away from it, and then ask our fellow taxpayers to pay for their new home...I'm available, you can find me at Scott4montrose.com, I'm coming up in January as a Montrose County Commissioner. Thank you."

COUNTY MANAGER

County Manager Frank Rodriguez asked to move Item E2 from the Planning and Development Consent Agenda to Item F4 under Planning and Development General Business.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioners voted unanimously to approve [Consent Agenda items](#), with Resolution No. 52-2024 assigned to Item 8.

GENERAL BUSINESS AND ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Commissioners approved two items on behalf of Montrose Regional Airport.

The BOCC voted to accept final settlement from retainage for the Temporary Traffic Signal Project, contract #2023-202. The Temporary Traffic Signal project was awarded to Morton Electric, Inc. of Pueblo, CO on December 20, 2023. Notice of final settlement retainage has been published pursuant to statute and no claims have been made. [Final retainage](#) in the amount of \$35,667.14 will be released to Morton Electric, Inc.

Commissioners also voted to approve the [4th \(Fourth\) Amendment Revision #1](#) to the On-Call Architectural Engineering and Planning Services Agreement entered into 12/19/2023 with Corgan Associates Inc., for Automobile parking Lot Design and On Site Construction Management as detailed in Exhibit A. For a not to exceed amount of \$18,180 changing the original cost of \$157,404.00 to \$175,584.

Assistant County Manager Emily Sanchez presented for consideration and possible approval the Second Amendment to the Design-Build Contract between Montrose County and Stryker and Company, Inc. dated July 19, 2023 "to extend the scope of work to include replacement of 31 existing windows in the Information Technology building located at 121 S Townsend...for a total contract increase of \$91,171.93."

The windows will match those at the historic courthouse, which is presently being renovated by Stryker & Co, Sanchez said. Commissioner Hansen said, "And those windows will be in line with the courthouse?"

"They will match what was historically at the building, by the same manufacturer,"

BOCC APPROVES AIRPORT ITEMS, NEW WINDOWS FOR IT BUILDING

From previous pg

Sanchez said.

"I do have a comment," BOCC Chair Roger Rash said. "As a matter of fact, this courthouse project is going very well. It should have been done multiple years ago, but the previous board of David White and Glenn Davis decided to build an event center that costs this county about \$1.75M annually in expenses. If that courthouse would have been done on their watch, a lot of these buildings would be done. The courthouse would have been done at half the cost, maybe \$5M to \$7M rather than \$14M because of inflation. The...building down at the South Campus has been worked on extensively, for the misinformed.

"That could have been done and this new building could have been built before this board ever left. So consequences of elected officials do happen. And this board has had to deal with those consequences and debt service by that board," Rash said.

"Their decisions, their lies, telling the public that they were going to build one thing and then delivering another, and costing this county millions of dollars annually in expenses, plus the funds it took to replace and to make that building functional, this board handled.

"And we handled the construction of this building, which we probably paid too

much for," Rash said, "And how do you drill 96 holes in 14 acres and miss an acre of oil slick, that this board had to deal with during this construction. Elections have consequences, and we have cleaned up from the previous board.

"And I'm damn proud of what this board has done. I'm damn proud of what our staff has done. Our facilities director is top notch.

"And to have someone come up here, and disrespect this board, and our staff, has no moral ethics," Rash said. "And that's all I have to say."

Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the Chair's signature on the Second Amendment to the Design-Build Contract by and between Montrose County and Stryker and Company, Inc.

Also approved unanimously was the Chair's signature on a lease agreement with Montrose West Recreation, Inc to lease the Gymnasium located at 147 W Main Street, Naturita, Colorado for a term expiring Oct. 1, 2025.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioners voted to approve items on the Planning & Development Consent Agenda, with the exception of Item E-2, which was moved to the Planning and Development General Business category,

where it became Item F-4.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT GENERAL BUSINESS

Commissioners opened a public hearing to consider the DBarG Minor Subdivision Waiver Request [WV24-004] proposal for a waiver from the 200 ft road frontage requirement at Parcel 372303202001, 59023 Highway 50.

After some consideration the BOCC closed the public hearing and the waiver request was denied.

Commissioners opened a public hearing to consider the Arashvand Minor Subdivision Waiver Request [WV24-006] proposal for a waiver from Subdivision Regulations section 3.38.C where 40 ft of ROW Dedication is required at Parcel 376715400017, 65681 Lincoln Rd. The hearing was closed; Commissioners voted to approve the proposed waiver.

Also approved was the Preliminary Plat Elk Mountain Estates Subdivision [MA24-005] proposal to divide 17 acres into four lots at Parcel 376524103003.

Finally, the BOCC voted unanimously to continue the Red Wall Minor Subdivision proposal, to divide 35.03 acres into three lots at Parcel 399505100019, until the meeting of Nov. 20.

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

249 8500 *ANONYMOUS*

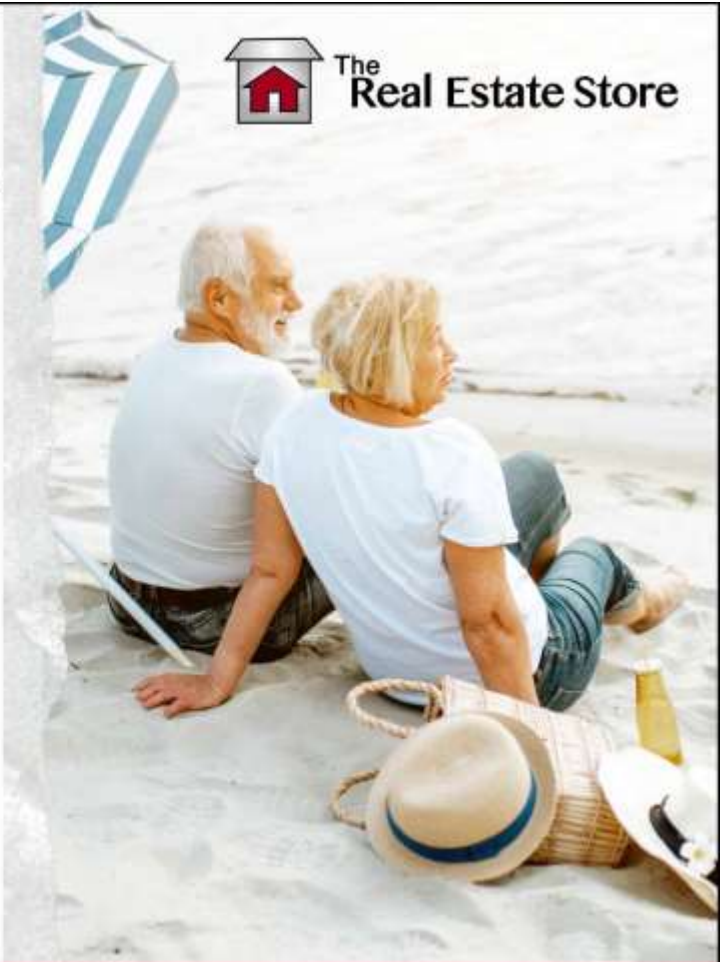
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MONTROSE RED HAWKS SPORTS ROUNDUP

By Cliff Dodge

VOLLEYBALL:

MONTROSE RED HAWKS 3, FRUITA-MONUMENT 2

The Montrose Red Hawks volleyball team continued their winning ways last week as they hosted the Fruita-Monument Wildcats on Tuesday at the Fieldhouse. The Red Hawks dropped the first game by the score of 21-25 and then returned the favor winning the second game 25-21.

The Wildcats made it dicey as they won the third game by 4 points, 25-21. Down 2 games to 1, the Red Hawks shifted their game into a different gear and demolished the Wildcats by the scores of 25-6 and 25-8 leaving no doubt as to the outcome of the match.

MONTROSE RED HAWKS 3, DURANGO DEMONS 0

The Red Hawks then played host to the Demons from Durango on Friday evening at the Fieldhouse. This match was never in doubt as the Red Hawks, in workman-like fashion, defeated the Demons 25-21, 25-21 and 25-20 to win the match 3 games to none.

The Red Hawks improved their overall record to 13 wins against just 4 losses. The Red Hawks also improved their league record to 8-2 with the playoffs looming. The Red Hawks are currently ranked # 5 in the state 4A division and are knocking on the door to return to the state playoffs at the Denver Coliseum in November.

SOCCER:

GRAND JUNCTION TIGERS 2, MONTROSE RED HAWKS 1

The Grand Junction Tigers invaded the Montrose soccer space last Tuesday and eaked out a 2-1 victory over the Red Hawks. This was a tight-knit contest from beginning to the final whistle. The first half of the game was a defensive struggle with no goal scored by either team. The second half of the contest saw the Tigers outscore the Red Hawks 2 goals to 1 to take the match.

MONTROSE RED HAWKS 4, PALISADE BULLDOGS 1

The Montrose Red Hawks soccer team rebounded from their loss to the Grand Junction Tigers as the Palisade Bulldogs presented themselves to be the home team's next victim. The Red Hawks were tough on defense and quick on offense as they scored twice in the first half and added 2 additional goals in the second half.

Tommy Montoya-Ornelas, a senior, led the Red Hawks as he scored 3 goals, while Senior Christopher Gonzalez-Muniz scored one goal. Senior Brody Cooling and Junior Jude Carlton each contributed assists to the scoring totals.

The Red Hawks increased their overall season record to 8-5 with the victory. Their league record improved to 6-3 with the win. Next up for the Red Hawks will be a home contest with the Rams from Roaring Fork on Tuesday.

JUNIOR VARSITY FOOTBALL:

MONTROSE JV'S 24, PALISADE JV'S 16

The Montrose Junior Varsity football team took on the Palisade team last week and defeated the Bulldogs by the score of 24-16. The opening quarter was scoreless, but the Red Hawks opened up their offense in the second stanza as they scored two touchdowns to lead 12-0 at halftime.

The Bulldogs scored a touchdown and a 2-point conversion in the third and fourth quarters to account for their 16 points. The Red Hawks added a touchdown in the third and the fourth quarter to make the final score 24-16

The JV's will play their final game of the season on Tuesday as they host the junior varsity Grand Junction Tigers at the Montrose stadium with the kick-off slated for 4 p.m.



OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

DO WE WANT TO SEE BILLIONAIRES RUN OUR COUNTRY?

Think before you Vote!

During my career, I lived overseas in two countries that were ruled by authoritarians; while in the military, and then in the diplomatic corps as a security engineer. My first overseas posting in the 1970's, was in the USAF in Iran, which was under the dictatorship of the Shah of Iran. There was a picture of the Shah in every house in Iran (and it wasn't out of love for him).

The second was in Kenya, ruled by a strongman named Daniel Arap Moi. During these years, I travelled regularly to embassies throughout Africa and the Middle East, read area studies on countries there, and got a feel for life in non-democratic countries, including dictatorships.

Coming from this background, I find it hard to understand why so many believe that the country's, and indeed, the world's, problems can be solved by installing one-man rule. Donald Trump has proven, throughout his life, that he will do anything and everything to satisfy his own personal interests; basically his own personal power, wealth, and his narcissistic ego. But he knows next to nothing about governance, and has always cheated others, and skirted the law. He came into office by conning a portion of the American People into believing that he was the smartest, the best, the most honest, and the most hardworking leader and businessman the world has ever known. He is none of these, he is simply a confidence man, appealing to others by stoking fear and resentment. Unfortunately for us, he has proven to be the most effective liar and conman this country has ever produced. Criticize him, and you'll be viciously insulted, discarded, and "thrown under the bus." On the other hand, if you offer sufficient praise, you are given a position of authority, regardless of whether you have skills or expertise.

If we are unfortunate enough to see him

re-elected, he will appoint to his administration only those who genuflect openly to him; leading to corruption, and incompetence, on a scale never before seen. He will, like other dictators, not tolerate any disagreement, however slight, with his decisions, regardless of the harm they will do to the American People. This is dictatorship ... and dictatorships ALWAYS end in disaster.

Among the actions he has publicly and repeatedly promised to take: Use the Justice Department, Congress, National Guard, and U.S. Military, to go after those who criticize him. He will lock up his opponents. He will suspend the Constitution when he sees fit to do so; and if the Supreme Court tries to stop him, they won't have the enforcement power. He will rule by decree, and the other two branches of government will be powerless to stop him. He has promised to forcibly deport millions of immigrants, including English speaking young people (the Dreamers) who are successful, contributing members of our society. This will lead to soldiers going door to door in every town and city, which will likely result in civil war. The U.S. will try and dump them in Central American countries, turning the U.S. into an international pariah.

I've seen how countries with such leaders end up, and it always ends in violence. When all decisions are made by one man; many of them end up damaging individuals, groups, corporations, and foreign relations. Corruption is rampant; and payola government thrives, both nationally and locally. Want to pay a small bribe to get your building permit faster ... then vote for Trump. We saw this on a smaller scale in his first administration, when, for instance, he overcharged the Secret Service, benefitted from foreign leaders staying at his venues, and seeing his daughter and stepson got rich off of deals with Saudi Arabia and China. The corruption would

be much worse in a second term. The citizens, left with no option to dissent a dictator's decrees and corruption, are eventually forced into violent protest in response. Those who believe his claims that a Harris Administration would lead to violence and chaos have the situation precisely backwards.

For leaders, words are powerful indicators of their character. Trump's recent statements echo those of Hitler and Mussolini; calling his opponents vermin, animals, and scum, and promising to deport, beat, and jail them. Look all you want to, but you will never see such statements for either Biden or Harris; nor any previous presidents in the modern era.

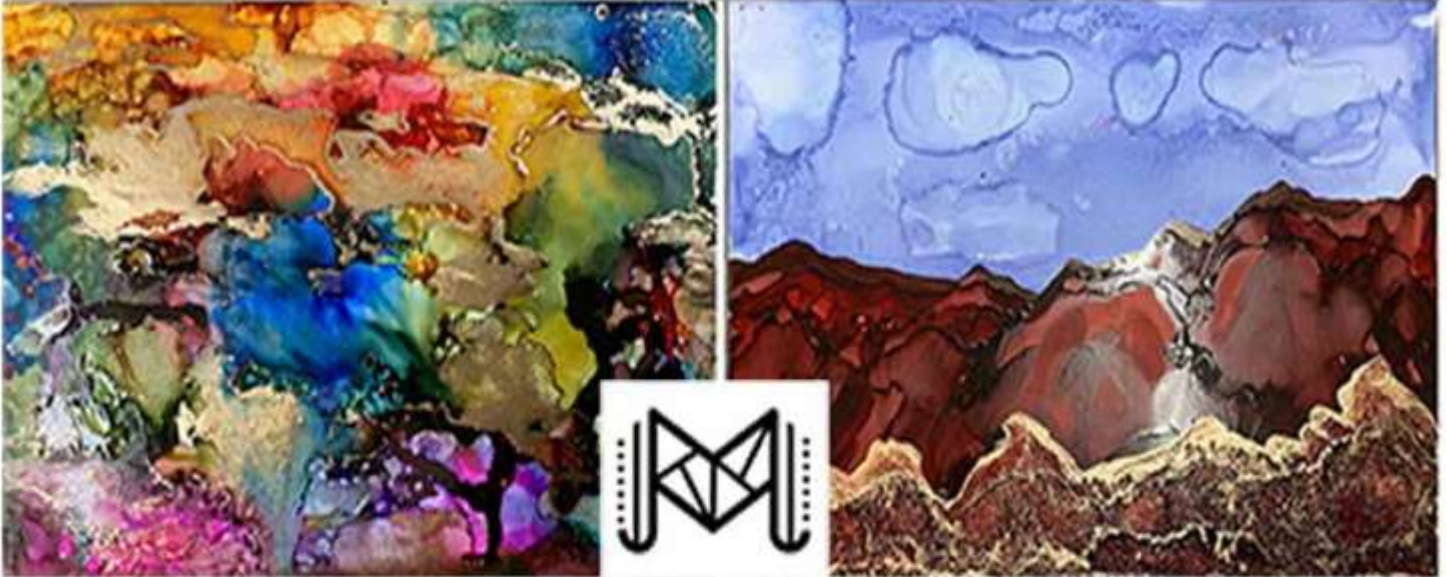
Most former members of the Trump Administration have warned against his return, including his vice president, three national security advisors, two secretaries of defense, attorney general, chief of staff, both secretaries of state, communications directors, staff lawyers, numerous press officers, etc. In addition, nearly every NATO leader has warned our people not to reelect Trump. The only leaders supporting him, are Putin, Zi Jinping, Kim Jong Il, and Victor Orban ... dictators all.

Seven hundred current and former national security leaders and military officers (an ad-hoc group named National Security Leaders for America), have endorsed Harris. Dozens of prominent Republicans have done the same. They know what Trump's cult members don't understand: Trump is the greatest national security threat in the history of the United States.

On the other side, billionaire Elon Musk is bribing people to vote for Trump; he is seeking power, and sees Trump as his vehicle. Do we want to see billionaires run our country? What will they do for workers? Want a 60-hour workweek drawing minimum wage? Then vote for Trump.

*David Congour
Montrose, Colorado*

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

FRUITA AREA CHAMBER TO HOST 2024 CANDIDATE & ISSUES FORUM

Special to the Mirror

FRUITA-The Fruita Area Chamber of Commerce is getting ready to host the 2024 Candidate & Issues Forum on Oct. 22, 2024, at Fruita Monument High School. This event will provide the people of Mesa County the chance to come listen to your local leaders talk about policy and issues that are relevant to Mesa County.

Learning about your community leaders can give you valuable information about these candidates and if they truly represent Mesa County. If you are interested in submitting a question, we have this QR

code that you can scan and submit a question through or this link: [https://forms.monday.com/forms/38dee05c08c93f62d301df79dab559](https://forms.monday.com/forms/38dee05c08c93f62d301df79dab55980?r=use1)

[80?r=use1](https://forms.monday.com/forms/38dee05c08c93f62d301df79dab55980?r=use1). This event will run from 6:30 PM through 8:30 PM, with a meet and greet before the actual forum from 6:30 PM through 6:50 PM with the candidates.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

THANK YOU TO COURAGEOUS CPW COMMISSIONERS

Dear Editor:

I write in appreciation of the courageous CPW commissioners who publicly spoke out in support of Proposition 127 to ban trophy hunting of mountain lions and bobcats in Colorado.

Dan Ashe, former director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and lifelong hunter, writes in *Writers on the Range*, "(Mountain lions) are likely providing an important ecosystem service in checking the spread of chronic wasting disease, CWD, an existential threat to healthy deer and elk populations, by targeting animals

weakened by the disease. Killing 500 lions, every year, in Colorado is not simply unscientific and unethical, it is interrupting the animals' vital work as a bulwark against CWD."

PhD Wildlife Biologist and Vice Chair of the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission writes in the Ark Valley Voice, "the 'hunter' follows the GPS signal from the dogs' collars to a treed lion, walks up and shoots the animal. That is not hunting, and something we would never allow with ungulates (animals with hooves). Similarly, bobcats are trapped not for personal

use, but for the sale of their fur for sale to buyers from outside the U.S. – the very definition of commodification."

Three current members of the CPW Commission, James Pribyl, Jack Murphy and Jessica Beaulieu, in their opinion piece in the Grand Junction Sentinel Sunday, wrote, "Allowing lion hunting is increasing human-lion conflict, as studies inform that complaints and livestock depredations "were most strongly associated" with lion hunting and drastically increased from 36% to 240%."

Lennard Zinn, Boulder

THE LITERATURE IS CLEAR THAT LIONS SELF-REGULATE

Editor:

If you embrace the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation, which guides wildlife agencies across the U.S. and Canada, you must vote yes on Proposition 127. That model, much heralded for its conservation successes, clearly states that hunting must involve "fair chase," and that wildlife cannot be commodified.

Proposition 127 bans chasing mountain lions with dogs, in which the "hunter" follows the GPS signal from the dogs' collars to a treed lion, walks up and shoots the animal. That is not hunting, and something we would never allow with ungulates (animals with hooves). Similarly, bobcats are trapped not for personal use, but for

the sale of their fur for sale to buyers from outside the U.S. – the very definition of commodification.

Opponents of Proposition 127 argue that we must allow our agency to professionally and scientifically manage wildlife. Nothing in Proposition 127 prevents the agency from doing that, it simply sets the ground rules by which the agency operates. We already do that. We do not permit use of night lights and baiting, for example. Yes, we may have to change some management, but our professionals at CPW are up to the task.

The literature is clear that lions self-regulate their populations, so a surplus of lions is highly unlikely. More research

shows that lions do not suppress deer and elk populations, likely because they are self-regulating. Instead, lions do us a great service by removing sick and injured animals from populations, such as those infected with Chronic Wasting Disease.

Our cats deserve the same protections and guidelines as our other species in Colorado – managed with science and ethics. A YES vote on Proposition 127 encompasses both.

The views expressed in this letter are my own, as a private citizen and should not be construed to represent the Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) Commission. CPW is neutral on Proposition 127

Richard P. Reading, PhD, Denver

IF YOU CARE ABOUT SCIENCE VOTE YES ON PROP 127

Editor:

The opponents of Proposition 127 are trying to confuse and deceive the voters with signs that sound animal friendly but are not. If you care about science, Vote YES, as Prop 127 has the support of wildlife biologists across the country, who agree that the killing of these animals is cruelty, not management.

Thank you to the Commissioners from the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission who recently announced their sup-

port of Proposition 127. The CPW Commission is the governing body that sets policy on wildlife for all citizens across the beautiful state of Colorado. Their report stated, "Prop 127 is based on not a little, but more than a half-century of the best science as evidence for commissioners to confidently tell the voters that lion populations will stabilize, not increase, without hunting." The Commissioners report that the scientific consensus is that mountain lion populations do not ever need to be

trophy hunted, because populations naturally balance themselves based on environmental factors. That list includes Dan Ashe, the long-time director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the nation's top wildlife manager. And Elaine Leslie, PhD, Chief of Biological Resources for the National Park Service.

If we don't listen to the biologists then we fail to follow science. Follow the science and vote YES on Prop 127!

Maya Key, Boulder

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

THIS TYPE OF WILDLIFE “HARVESTING” MAKES NO SCIENTIFIC SENSE

Dear Editor,

A huge thank you to the majority of Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commissioners for supporting Proposition 127 and explaining its value.

Among them is the only wildlife biologist on the commission, which sets Colorado’s wildlife policy.

In addition to the cruelty, unfair chase methods with dogs treeing an exhausted lion – all done with GPS on dogs’ collars – this type of wildlife “harvesting” makes no scientific sense.

It’s a false assertion that culling mountain lions keeps the balance of nature. In fact, mountain lions and bobcats are self regulating according to environmental conditions, as proven by a half century of scientific research and also California where trophy hunting has been illegal for three

years. There is no mountain lion explosion there.

Furthermore, trophy hunting takes the mature lions – both male and female – which leaves kittens (if they survive) without the adults to teach them hunting skills. As a result, more juvenile lions go after people’s pets and livestock instead of their natural prey.

For bobcats the justification of hunting is even more egregious. They are trapped and brutally maimed and killed, not for personal use, but to sell their fur to international markets for fashion!

Recently, 22 top wildlife biology experts wrote to Colorado voters their findings that “Mountain lion trophy hunting is unnecessary to manage stable mountain lion populations and serves no management purpose.” for complete and accurate sci-

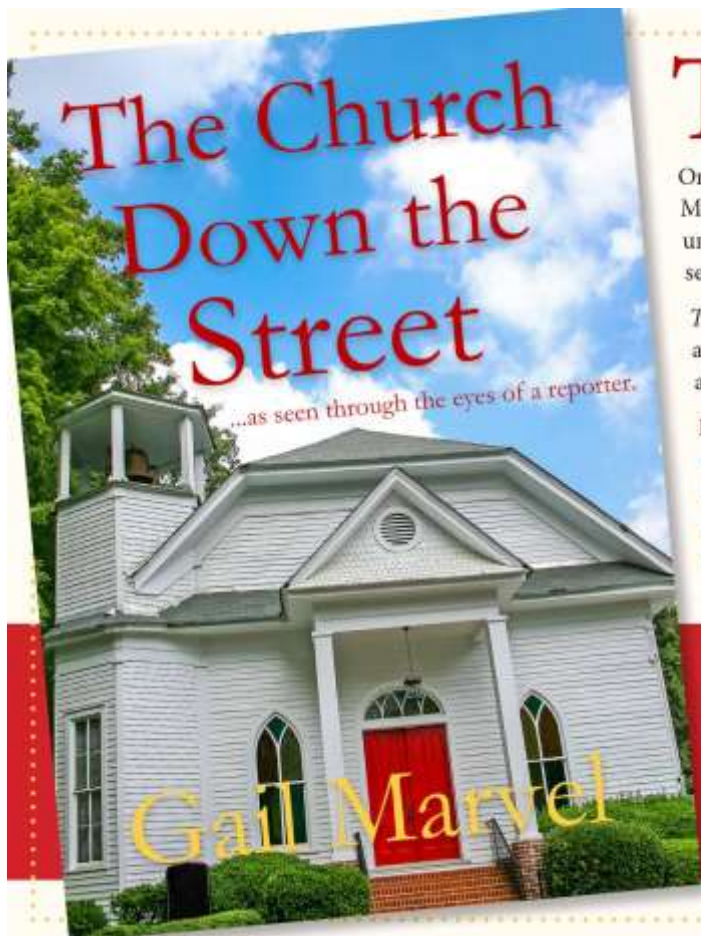
entific data and opinion see:

<https://catsarenttrophies.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Science-letter-sign-CATs-24-09-12.pdf>

Also <https://arkvalleyvoice.com/a-yes-on-proposition-127-meets-the-north-american-model-of-wildlife-conservation/>
<https://catsarenttrophies.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Current-and-former-CPW-commissioners-endorse-Prop-127-The-Daily-Sentinel-.pdf>
<https://writersontherange.org/we-need-mountain-lions-to-do-their-job-as-predators/>

Please vote “yes” on Proposition 127 to stop the needless slaughter of these beautiful animals and keep the balance of nature.

Respectfully,
 Reed Glenn, Boulder



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.

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

GAIL MARVEL
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OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

PLEASE JOIN US IN VOTING “YES” FOR PROP 127

By James Pribyl, Jack Murphy and Jessica Beaulieu

We are current and former Colorado Parks and Wildlife commissioners, which is the body that sets wildlife policy, including a former chair, and we encourage a “YES” vote on Proposition 127.

Prop 127 simply protects Colorado’s majestic mountain lions and bobcats from highly unpopular, unscientific and unwarranted abuse and exploitation that in no way contributes to our bright future of ethical outdoor recreation in our great state of Colorado.

Wild cats are hunted by dogs, not humans. The pack is set loose in nature, tracked by phone app, often aided by drones. It’s a long, raucous and terrorizing attack on unoffending native animals, who seek safety up a tree. It resembles the canned hunt as wildlife has nowhere to run, no chance to survive.

A small lion-hunting industry promotes capturing the prize, the trophy Tom, guaranteeing success at 100%.

This permissive environment for killing wild cats — animals not involved in any human conflict — sharply contrasts with Colorado’s devotion to ethical hunting principles including fair chase.

Bobcats are baited with the smell of sardines or oily cat food in cages across the remote wilderness, exposed to brutal sub-zero winter weather. Held daytime and nightfall, animals suffer from stress. The trapper arrives to choke the caged animal slowly to death not to bloody their pelt prized for spots similar to the leopard.

Trappers sell fur at auction, the first stop along luxury fur market sales to China. This is not hunting, but commodification of wildlife driven by market prices.

Prop 127 allows voters to recognize not all hunting is defensible, and these are indefensible state-sanctioned acts of cruelty.

It’s time for change because we’re doing much more harm than good.

Nearly half of lions killed every year for recreation are females. Trophy hunters are asked to look for kittens, but that cannot work, because mothers leave their most vulnerable young behind in the den when going out to find food.

Abundant moral and welfare concerns deserve serious attention. Dismiss them, and we endanger our humanity in favor of rapid technology that grants unfair advantage, disrespecting both native wildlife and our ethical hunting traditions.

Prop 127 reminds us of 30 years ago, when Colorado Division of Wildlife bear biologist Tom Beck, an avid hunter, spoke out in support of Amendment 10, approved by voters to protect bears from baiting with doughnuts slathered with bacon grease, from chasing them with dogs to then be shot, which also orphaned cubs.

Beck was attacked mercilessly by extreme special interests for doing the right thing for wildlife and for Colorado. He had no support from commissioners. His boss, Bruce Gill, was similarly attacked for good research showing what’s known as fact today: you cannot kill lions to solve declining deer. It does not work. CPW concluded this once again in a presentation of a six-year study just last year.

We’re proud to carry Beck’s legacy, understanding that we can support most hunting, but not all hunting, and it’s important to see the difference when the loudest extreme voices want nothing to change.

We must, and we can vote YES. As we choose to kill apex predators for recreation, it blinds us from investing in lions as the unique biodiversity boon they are in helping prey animals maintain or increase their population numbers.

Lions not only selectively target mule

deer infected with Chronic Wasting Disease, but are equipped with a gut to remove CWD from the environment. CWD is the most serious risk to the future of hunting today, infecting 42 out of 51 deer herds and 17 of 42 elk herds of Colorado.

To be clear, CPW offers cougar hunting to serve mountain lion hunters alone, for a recreational opportunity. Fur trapping brings trappers personal profit.

There is no research, no evidence to suggest that the recreational hunting of wild cats brings any public benefit or solves any problem. It’s not managing populations, wildlife, public safety or conflict. As a science-backed agency, we are held to a higher standard and one of science, not mere opinion and conjecture.

There is evidence allowing lion hunting is increasing human-lion conflict, as studies inform that complaints and livestock depredations “were most strongly associated” with lion hunting and drastically increased from 36% to 240%.

Prop 127 is based on not a little, but more than a half-century of the best science as evidence for commissioners to confidently tell the voters that lion populations will stabilize, not increase, without hunting. In California without lion hunting, populations are stable, not increasing, and at the same level as they are here in Colorado.

Please join us in voting “YES” for Prop 127.

Jack Murphy and Jessica Beaulieu are current Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) commissioners representing outdoor recreation and state parks utilization. Their views are their own as citizens. CPW is neutral on Prop 127.

James Pribyl served as former member of the Colorado State Parks Board, Greater Outdoor Colorado Trust Fund, and as chair of the Parks and Wildlife Commission.



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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

IS THE TRADITIONAL NONPROFIT OBSOLETE?

Special to the Mirror

REGIONAL-Many say that the classic nonprofit model, dominated by certain “best practices” and assumptions about board and staff, is obsolete – or at least is evolving to make more sense in today’s realities.

This will be addressed in a lively zoom workshop on October 24, from 9:00-11:00 a.m. Three national nonprofit experts – Andy Robinson, Cristal Cherry, Renee Rubin Ross – will look at what the IRS does (and doesn’t) require. They’ll provide examples of everything from easy tweaks to structural changes, being done, legally, nationwide. Can board seats be shared? Can staff serve on boards? Can a nonprofit be a co-op?

The cost is \$10 for residents of Gunnison County, and \$15 for others. To register, go to www.cfgv.org and you’ll see the registration link for “Beyond the 501(c 3).” Call 970-641-8837 for more information.






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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

PROPOSITION 127 – IT'S GREAT SENSE FOR EVERYONE

Dear Editor:

I am an enthusiastic supporter of the beauty and splendor we have in Colorado. We are so lucky to have this majesty here and all so close that we can enjoy what Mother Nature has to offer on a daily basis.

I have many things I think are important in Colorado including preserving and protecting the Colorado River, protecting our open spaces, parks and wild areas. Very few places in the world have as much potential as Colorado and I believe that protecting our air, water and soil resources are essential for our lives today and especially future generations. I believe that protecting Colorado should be a non-partisan concern because we all rely on these resources every day. We should all do our best to conserve and protect Colorado and the God given environment in which we live.

Top of mind with these efforts is Proposition 127, it's a common sense good for everybody idea that should be supported by all Colorado residents. I believe that the collaboration of citizens with CPW will allow planning, protection and the most efficient and logical use of resources. I hope everyone will join me in supporting Proposition 127 – it's great sense for everyone. Colorado is a dream destination for many visitors and one of the main attractions that keeps our economy strong is the amazing wildlife we have.

Sincerely,

Tim Berg, Littleton

STRENGTHEN PROTECTIONS FOR NATIVE WILD FELINES

Dear Editor,

I want to extend my sincere thanks to the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commissioners for their unwavering dedication to safeguarding Colorado's beautiful and delicate ecosystems. These efforts ensure that our state's wildlife remains protected and that our dwindling natural spaces continue to thrive for future generations.

This year, several commissioners—both current and past—have shared their insights on Proposition 127, advocating for a balanced and science-based approach to wildlife management. Leaders like Richard Reading, PhD, Vice Chair of the Parks and Wildlife Commission, have highlighted the importance of carefully evaluating certain practices, such as the use of dogs to chase mountain lions. Their voices remind us that we must continuously revisit and refine how we manage wildlife to meet Colorado's conservation needs.

As the Director of Northern Colorado Wildlife Center, I am particularly encouraged by the commitment of commissioners like Reading, James Pribyl, Jack Murphy, and Jessica Beaulieu to advance these important discussions. Their willingness to reflect on how we manage our wildlife—rooted in research, ethics, and a passion for conservation—is what makes Colorado a leader in preserving our natural resources.

Proposition 127 represents an opportunity to further strengthen protections for native wild felines while upholding the humane standards that align with our shared mission. It's a reminder that Colorado can lead with compassion and scientific integrity.

Thank you to the commissioners for your dedication to protecting our state's wildlife!

With gratitude,

Tallon Nightwalker

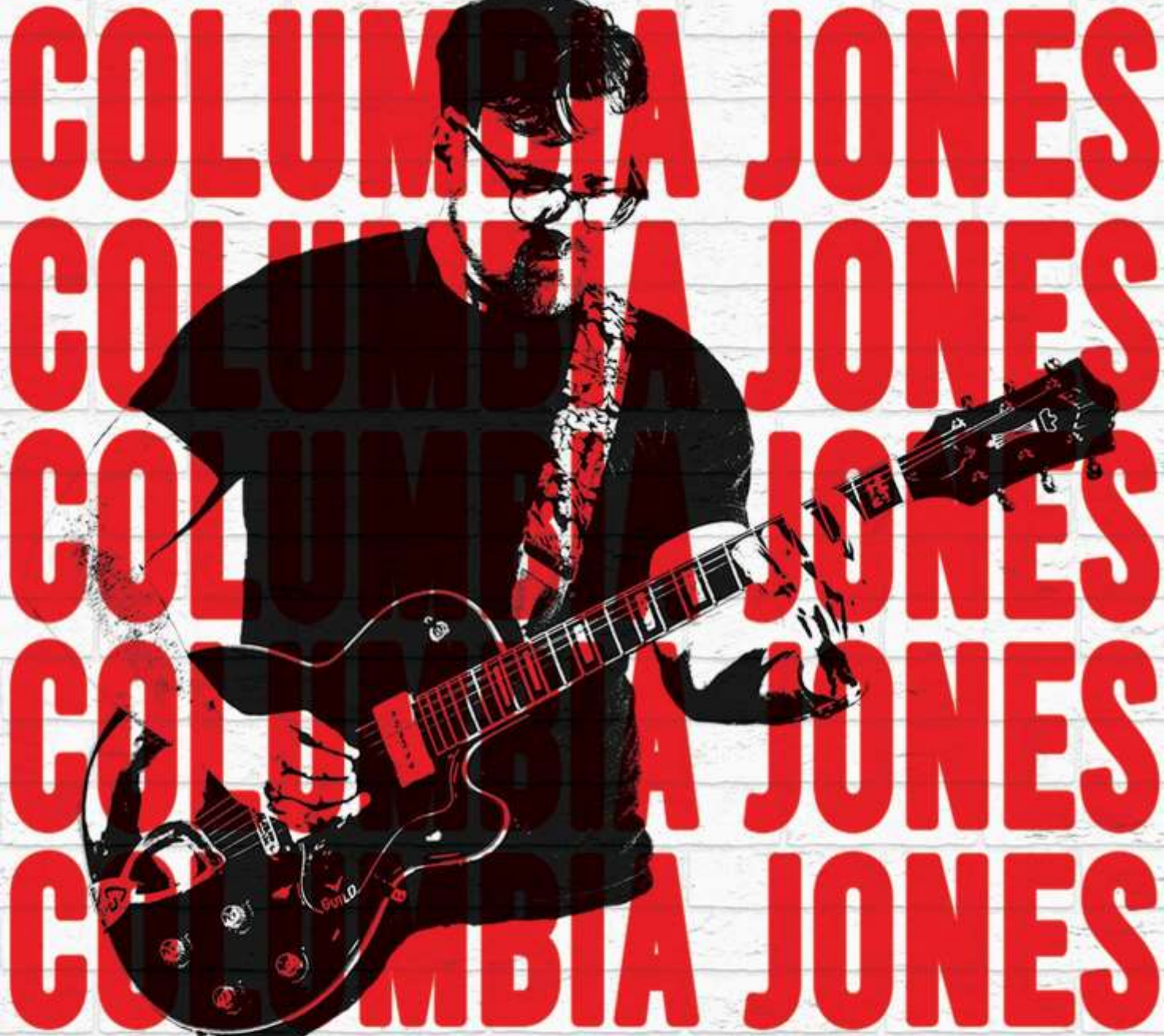
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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

PLEASE LISTEN TO OUR PROFESSIONALS AND VOTE "YES" ON 127

Editor:

Many thanks to the increasing number of wildlife biologists, professionals, and experts who have spoken out to encourage a "Yes" vote on Proposition 127, which would protect mountain lions and bobcats from cruelty in Colorado.

Among those who are working to debunk misleading information are current and former members of Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) Commissioners, a former director of the US Fish and Wildlife Service and long-time hunter, and many wildlife biology professionals and researchers, including Jane Goodall.

They are in unison, citing research, including that from our own CPW, showing

that hunting of mountain lions and bobcats is not useful in reducing depredation of livestock or protecting deer and elk herds, but in fact can have opposite, undesirable effects.

They cite evidence mountain lions play a critical role in reducing chronic wasting disease that is decimating deer and elk herds and bring evidence that the killing of unoffending lions can upend the social structure of lion populations and risk increased conflict with humans.

CPW commissioners are outspoken against cruelty and unethical practices in the hunting of our big cats. Richard Reading, PhD, CPW's Wildlife Biologist and Commission's Vice Chair, states the use of

dogs and technology to chase and tree mountain lions to be shot at point-blank range and the use of baited traps to capture bobcats to harvest their fur for the overseas fashion industry violates the traditional standards among hunters of fair chase and would never be sanctioned by CPW for the hunting of deer or elk.

He stressed Prop 127 would in no way stop CPW from their charge of managing cougar populations when needed.

Other CPW Commissioners and a former CPW Chair call the tactics used by big cat hunters "unscientific and unwarranted abuse and exploitation" and "indefensible state-sanctioned acts of cruelty" that "does more harm than good."

Please listen to our professionals and vote "yes" on 127.

Suzanne Bhatt, Boulder



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COUNCIL TO AMEND LAND USE CODE TO PREVENT ADU'S FROM BEING USED AS SHORT-TERM RENTALS



Montrose City Council work session Oct. 15. Meeting screenshot.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-City of Montrose Mayor J. David Reed welcomed all to the [regular work session](#) of Tuesday, Oct. 15. All councilors were present, with employees including the City Manager and Department Heads.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Land Use Code Update Discussion Regarding ADU Parking and Travel Home Park Pad Site Surfacing

Community Development Manager Jace Hochwalt led with the first Discussion Item, a two-part Land Use Code Update. The first portion concerned surfacing for Alternative Dwelling Unit (ADU) Parking and for Travel Home Park Pad Sites.

Council spent time in discussion. In addition to Hochwalt, [Lakewood Attorney Gerald Dahl](#), who consults with the City of Montrose, was present virtually to answer questions as needed.

Background- A [memo to Council from Hochwalt](#) offers background and details. The memo states, "On September 10, 2024, a City Council Special Work Session was held to provide a comprehensive update to the City Council regarding the status of the Land Use Code Update including a myriad of proposed changes to various chapters of Title 11 of the Montrose Municipal Code. From that meeting there were two discussion points that City staff

proposed to bring back to the City Council for further discussion. The first is related to parking requirements for accessory dwelling units (ADUs). The second is related to travel home park pad surfacing requirements..."

The [memo](#) also outlines Accessory Dwelling Unit Parking Requirements:

"At the September City Council Special Work Session, a proposal was presented to the City Council specific to the allowance of accessory dwelling units (ADUs) beyond the REDO district. This was supported by the City Council, but further discussion was warranted specific to parking requirements. The proposal presented by staff was that ADUs would not require an off-street parking space. City Council wanted further discussion on this topic and wanted City staff to bring back alternative options for parking."

Five alternatives were presented for the ADU parking discussion:

- **Option #1** - No off-site parking space(s) shall be required for an ADU; on-street parking may be used as parking for an ADU.
- **Option #2** - Require an off-street parking space only if an ADU is conveyed separately from the primary dwelling unit. This would only apply to ADUs within the REDO district, as ADU conveyance outside of the REDO district will not be permitted.
- **Option #3** - Require a minimum of one off-street parking space for an ADU in all zone districts, unless on-street parking is available within [100] linear feet of an ADU. The distance can be modified based on zone district, i.e., zone districts with larger lots may warrant a greater distance to available on-street parking.
- **Option #4** - One off-street parking space shall be required for an ADU, except for those located within an underlying B-1 zoning district.
- **Option #5** - Require a minimum of one off-street parking space for an ADU in all zone districts and prohibit the use of ADU's for short-term rentals.

Councilor Ed Ulibarri said that in his neighborhood, short term rentals often take up available street parking, leaving none available for neighbors.

Short term rentals can also leave local

renters without options. "There isn't a whole lot of places to rent--people have trouble finding a place."

Councilor Judy Ann Files noted the importance of off-street parking in the B-1 Central Business District. "It seems to me in the B1 district our parking's already tight...you have to have off street parking."

"By the time you realize the short-term rentals are a problem, it's already too late...I think a conversation about that is appropriate," Mayor Pro Tem David Frank said, noting also that off-street parking should not include parking in alleys.

Frank pointed out the burdens that can be caused by Alternative Dwelling Units. "...Service staff driving from other communities...can't afford to buy or rent in local communities..." Frank, "An ADU as a short-term rental isn't helping our housing stock."

"If we allow short term rentals as ADU'S we're competing with our hotels," Councilor Files said.

Mayor Pro Tem Frank said that this is a good time to add language to the Land Use Code that forbids ADU's from being used as short-term rentals; the other councilors agreed.

"It's unanimous." Mayor Reed said of the consensus.

Hochwalt said, "From a code standpoint...we have clear direction."

Next to be considered were the paving and surfacing requirements for pad sites.

Background-The memo from Hochwalt to Council states, "At the September City Council Special Work Session, proposed modifications to Chapter 13 of Title 11 were presented to Council specific to travel home parks. There was City Council support for the proposed changes, but discussions at the meeting warranted further discussion specific to pad site surfacing. Current standards (which are similar to the proposed standards) require internal streets be paved, but do not require individual pad sites to be paved. City Council wanted further discussion on this topic and wanted City staff to bring back alternative options for pad site surfacing."

Four alternatives were presented for new travel home parks:

COUNCIL TO AMEND LAND USE CODE TO PREVENT ADU'S FROM BEING USED AS SHORT-TERM RENTALS *From previous pg*

• **Option #1** – Continue with current practice and do not require pad sites to be paved and leave the option to the owner/developer on how to surface pad sites. Internal streets/drive aisles would continue to be required to be paved.

• **Option #2** – Require travel home park pad sites to be hard surfaced (i.e. gravel), but not paved. Internal streets/drive aisles would still be required to be paved.

• **Option #3** - Require paving of the aprons for travel home pad sites and require hard surfacing of the pad sites (i.e. gravel). Internal streets/drive aisles would still be required to be paved.

• **Option #4** – Require paving of the travel home park pad sites. Internal streets/drive aisles would still be required to be paved.

Hochwalt recommended that all pad sites be hard surfaced. Also, “All internal streets must be paved.”

Mayor J. David Reed said that as an RVer himself he preferred Option 3. “Not looking at this from an affordable housing standpoint, looking at it from an amenity standpoint...from a visitor standpoint.”

Councilor Glaspell said that the travel parks to be considered would be located within city limits; pavement requirements would prevent issues with gravel migration.

Council voiced a consensus regarding the preference for Option Three.

For existing travel home parks, two op-

tions were presented, dependent upon the changes proposed to new parks.

• **Option #1** - *Understanding that a majority of existing parks are nonconforming, any expansion of existing travel home parks would require compliance with new regulations for only the expansion area of the park.*

• **Option #2** – *Understanding that a majority of existing parks are nonconforming, any expansion of existing travel home parks would require full compliance with new regulations for the entirety of the park.*

Councilors expressed a preference for Option 1.

Hochwalt said that there will be a public open house on the Land Use Code changes at 5:30 pm on Nov. 4.

2024 Legislative Changes Regarding Liquor Licensing

City Attorney Chris Dowsey spoke about [Colorado Senate Bill 2024-231](#), and asked whether Council wished to continue the status quo and hold public hearings for liquor license applications as they have done in the past. Liquor License approvals will continue to come before Council in public meetings as agenda items with public comment allowed, but noticing requirements would change, Dowsey said.

After conversing with staff and one another, Council voiced a preference for continuing to hold public hearings for liquor license applications.

Proposed Fee Schedule Revisions for 2025

City Clerk Lisa Del Piccolo presented [proposed fee schedule revisions](#) for 2024. A [redlined version of revisions](#) is included in the work session packet.

Councilor Ed Ulibarri said that food truck vendors in the city may be something that Council will want to spend time discussing in future sessions.

“What are we going to do about these things in the future?”

Mayor Pro Tem David Frank said a vendor has asked the city to allow staking of tents in park.

Frank said that stakes cause damage to turf and water lines.

Councilor Doug Glaspell said that some vendors bring water tanks to weigh down tents.

Mayor Reed said he attended a Colorado Municipal League (CML) meeting virtually and discussed some trends such as “enabling” laws that allow municipalities to adopt certain ordinances and broaden the power of municipalities.

Montrose Police Sergeant Tim Cox said that officers were able to attend Taser training.

Councilor Judy Ann Files said that the *Montrose Daily Press* wrote that the winner of the recent candidate forum was Police Chief Blaine Hall and the City of Montrose.

With no further discussion, the work session was adjourned.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

MONTROSE COUNTY – WHERE’S THE LEADERSHIP? *Career Bureaucrats & Their Misaligned Priorities – Rash is the Word!*

By David White

As with most things’ government, leadership at the top means everything. Montrose County, for almost 8 years now, has been led by two career public “servants” (aka, bureaucrats) who sit on the three-member Board of County Commissioners (BOCC). Outside of Commissioner Sue Hansen (who has had real-world private business experience), Commissioners Rash and Caddy are lacking in this area. Both came from careers in government with Commissioner Rash, the most seasoned and schooled in what it takes to use the government’s power to accommodate his world view, being the individual currently wielding the gavel at Montrose County BOCC meetings.

In spite of their “Republican” values, it has become apparent that all three have a proclivity to get involved in not only campaign interference by violating their own resolution against doing so (see below), but also by shirking their responsibilities for keeping Montrose County’s operations on solid financial footing. Questions beg to be answered regarding their funding of our Sheriff’s Office through the Public Safety Sales Tax (PSST), which was approved by voters in 2007 and which the Commissioners apparently regard as a slush fund for capital improvement projects (i.e. construction of an addition to the County jail, parking lot and roadway improvements at the Sheriff’s Office, etc.) vs. providing funding for our public safety officers and staff as well as their inability to make their Montrose County Event Center profitable (among other shortcomings).

In an article I wrote on June 27, 2024, I noted the following:
“For whatever the reason, our sitting BOCC members decided quite a while back that they would openly endorse and campaign for “Big Lou” Stark and Rick Dunlap to be the successors to the almost 8-year reign of Rash and Caddy. Things really heated

up at the Republican County Assembly on March 23, 2024, where we saw Commissioner Rash second the nomination of “Big Lou” Stark and then all three Commissioners stand on stage with Rick Dunlap during his nomination and acceptance speech. By all appearances, the ethics of such actions, at a minimum, should have been a warning sign that something was amiss.

Resolution No. 67-2018 which was voted on and passed by the three of them on Wednesday, November 7, 2018 – the day after the 2018 “off year” elections, was their way of permanently shutting down various groups and campaigns seeking their support for ballot issues or campaigns of any kind. To be clear, language included in Resolution 67-2018 stated that the BOCC pledged that ***“in order to preserve public trust and confidence, and promote principles of fairness and impartiality, the Board wishes to remain politically neutral and refrain from supporting ballot measures and CAMPAIGNS of any sort.”***

The resolution further states that ***“the Board feels strongly that each and every voter in Montrose County should vote according to their own conscience and positions, and without influence from the Board as the governing body for Montrose County...”***

(See https://www.montrosecounty.net/DocumentCenter/View/12555/Resolution-67-2018_1)

As most of you know, Lou Stark lost in the primary election and Scott Mijares is the sole candidate for the District 1 seat on the Board. Dunlap won the Republican primary for the District 3 seat currently held by Roger Rash and is facing the unaffiliated candidate, Trisha Murray which didn’t sit well with this BOCC. While violating their own resolution didn’t seem to bother them, the November 5th election of Trisha Murray over their chosen heir, Rick Dunlap, will certainly have them dreaming apocalyptic thoughts of seeing their

“empire” and grandiose plans for the future of Montrose County unravel in Technicolor! One can only hope!

At last week’s meeting of the Board of County Commissioners, current Chairman of the Board, Roger Rash, went off on a tirade blaming the previous Board of County Commissioners, namely Glen Davis (who left office over 6 years ago) and me, David White (who left office almost 8 years ago), for his failure and that of his colleagues to make the Montrose County Event Center profitable. Mr. Rash (whose name fits his character), has a record of shirking his responsibilities as a County Commissioner and is quick to lay blame for his failures at the feet of others. Claiming that the County Event Center has lost \$1.75 million a year is beyond the pale, which is what he stated in last week’s meeting ([Board of County Commissioners](#) view his comments from the 12:40 mark until the 14:40 mark). No one should get away with allowing losses like this to happen on their watch (if even true)! Rash’s argument is akin to Joe Biden and Kamala Harris blaming Donald Trump for today’s inflation, illegal immigration and other economic maladies that they single handedly have caused due to their failed policies. Mr. Rash claims that the County was unfairly burdened with this “money pit”, yet he approved allowing it to be built back in 2017 when he could have cancelled the contract to build it in the first weeks of his first term in office, but that didn’t happen. To top it off, Mr. Rash and Mr. Caddy even allowed their names to be placed on the dedication plaque that greets patrons visiting the Event Center, yet they lament the fact that the money should have been spent on **THEIR** pet project, restoring the old Montrose County Courthouse building that will generate **NOTHING** in the way of revenue for the County but instead house the bureaucratic elite that work for Montrose County.

Mr. Rash loves the government tit on

MONTROSE COUNTY – WHERE'S THE LEADERSHIP? From previous pg

on which he has sucked off of for his entire adult working career (military, State of Colorado/CDOT and Montrose County). He pontificates about the Historic Montrose County Courthouse and how that should have been a priority of the "previous BOCC," yet he knows nothing of what the previous BOCC was about as he didn't attend any of their meetings during his time running for the office he holds today. In addition, he never sat down with the Commissioner he replaced or others that would have educated him about what the business of the County entailed. Instead, he flew in with a biased view of Montrose County government and its citizens to include our West End residents that he has, in my opinion, uniformly underrepresented during his years in office.

Today we find that in the County's proposed 2025 budget, which Mr. Rash and his colleagues will no doubt approve in the coming weeks, that they plan to spend \$6.36 million dollars more in 2025 for the "restoration" of the old County Courthouse bringing their total "investment" to an estimated \$16.2 million dollars not including the roughly \$3.5 - \$4 million in "sunk costs" associated with restoration (architectural design, engineering, etc.) plus remodeling other County facilities to accommodate displaced workers, equipping and moving these dozens of County employees to other County buildings during the restoration project as well as their relocation back into the restored building

in late 2025 along with new phone systems, office furniture and the like – a total combined cost that will exceed \$20,000,000.

The "restoration" of this building will cost more than the total combined cost to construct the multiple buildings located at the Road and Bridge Facility, situated on 14 acres on LaSalle Road and Hwy. 50 **AND** the Montrose County Event Center located at the County Fairgrounds. Yet, the previous BOCC (8 years ago) were the spendthrifts? Please, Mr. Rash, find another excuse for your failures.

Oh, and it doesn't stop there. Mr. Rash and his pals plan to spend \$29.4M to construct a new 50,000 square foot office building near the Justice Center for other County bureaucrats. Yep...and it's in the 2025 budget at that amount (which, the County Manager has indicated may be less, but no number has been released reflecting a lower final cost). And they've spent over \$1,000,000 dollars on planning and design work for this building! I guess I missed the press release on this monument to Rash and the BOCC. What a legacy they're building for themselves.

On top of that, they're planning to "rob" the Sheriff's PSST fund of \$750,000 for a West End (Naturita) remodel of the old Naturita Elementary School building into a County facility which has recently begun to house the Sheriff's West End operations and may include Health & Human Services and other County operations at a

later date rather than taking it out of the General Fund budget for facilities. How many deputies could receive better pay and equipment for \$750,000? Don't be surprised if we wind up with our Sheriff's Office unionizing at some point due to these misplaced priorities.

Thankfully, we only have about two and a half months left to go of Mr. Rash and his antics to include his revisionist history. This is an elected official who should have resigned years ago. Countless reasons exist...some legitimate and others not, drove him to stay in a position that cost the taxpayers a few hundred thousand dollars to pay him a large salary with little to show for it.

I guess that if you huff and puff and bluster long enough, you can form an illusory opinion of yourself that you're right and everyone else is wrong. So it goes with this group. We should all be looking forward to a new day in County government this coming January where practical, business-oriented decisions are going to once again be made reflecting a sincere effort to be wise stewards of our taxpayer dollars.

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



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

TRUMP RUNS ON HIS ACTUAL POLICIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Editor:

The Democrats' campaign against Trump has been characterized by so many lies that it is impossible to keep up with them. The sheer volume tends to make it difficult to learn the truth about any of them. Fortunately, Democrats are learning the hard way that Abe Lincoln's quote is valid: "You can fool all the people some of the time and some of the people all the time, but you cannot fool all the people all the time."

I wrote last week about union workers and blue-collar workers that are no longer loving Kamala Harris and her party because they are tired of the Democrat party screwing them over for the last 40 years. It is now evident that Trump is also gaining new black and Hispanic votes as never before. This week Obama illuminated an attitude all too common in the Democrat party. As the party of slaveholders and segregationists, they do not respect African Americans – instead they assume their ownership. Obama condescendingly accused black men of not voting for Harris due to their misogyny because he doesn't think African Americans can think for themselves and see the destruction caused by the Harris-Biden administration. Trump is undoubtedly also picking up volumes of Jewish voters because of Obama, Biden, and Harris' insane sympathy toward Hamas, Hezbollah, and Iran. In exchange for nothing, Obama freed Iran from sanctions, funded the terrorist regime with billions of dollars, and green-lighted their development of nuclear weapons. Biden and Harris continue Obama's policy of sacrificing Israel. Iran now has enough weapons grade uranium to build nine nuclear warheads in one month and fifteen in five months.

Writer Jack Hellner wrote a great article about imagining what Kamala's campaign ads would look like if she were forced to tell the truth. Rather than accusing Repub-

licans of wanting to suppress votes, their ads would have to say they think Blacks and other minorities don't have the ability to get a photo ID. They would have to discuss their reasoning behind the DOJ suing the state of Virginia for removing illegals from their voter rolls. Rather than lying that Kamala is tough on crime, they would have to brag about no-bail laws and allowing people to steal \$950 with no repercussions. Or, they would have to talk about Kamala's new proposal to not prosecute drug dealers until they were caught dealing for the third time. They would have to admit they purposely continue to do nothing about funding bankrupt Social Security because if they did, they wouldn't be able to accuse Republicans of wanting to get rid of it. Rather than blaming Trump for the border invasion, they would have to acknowledge the invasion is their plan because they need a new block of voters totally dependent on big government. Rather than lying about Trump wanting a national abortion ban, they would run ads stating how great abortion at all stages of pregnancy is, and that they vote against giving care to babies born alive after botched abortions. They would have to stop claiming they support women's rights, and talk about how they fully support men destroying women in women's sports. (Believe all women, unless they tell you they fear getting crippled competing against men.) They would have to brag about continually blocking poor and minority children from having options to failed and dangerous government schools. Rather than having photo ops with Walz hunting pheasants (with 20 other people?) and Kamala supposedly owning a Glock, they would have to run an ad that says they plan to do away with the Second Amendment and confiscate your guns. Rather than accusing concerned mothers of supporting "book bans," Democrats would have to show their support for little

children reading explicit books about sex. They would also have to announce that they fully support boys and girls having their genitals removed without parental consent.

Que Mala would have to quit scapegoating and admit things that everyone already knows. The out-of-control inflation was caused by her administration's spending and had nothing to do with "price gouging" or evil landlords charging too much for rent. Even though Komrade Kamala campaigns as though she is not currently in the White House, she is, and has had every opportunity to solve the self-inflicted problems she now professes to have solutions for. She can't talk about a "new way forward" after candidly admitting that she can't think of anything she would do differently than Biden.

Unlike Kamala and Democrats, who have to always claim to be the opposite of what they actually stand for, Trump runs on his actual policies and achievements. He wants less government, fewer regulations, energy independence, lower taxes, and no inflation. Trump made the world safer during his presidency. We now have five new wars including Ukraine and Israel that didn't exist four years ago. Trump wants people of all races to have better opportunities instead of having a goal, like Democrats, of making more people more dependent on an ever-expanding big federal government. He wants America first.

I suspect my neighbors that still have their Harris-Walz signs in their yards are part of the "fool some of the people all the time" group.

Fortunately the vast majority of this once-great nation are coming to their senses and are no longer fooled, which shouldn't be that difficult when you see Kamala totally incoherent whenever she is not speaking from a teleprompter and is asked the simplest of questions.

Ed Henrie, Montrose

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

SHARON LOU ARCAND-BARTZ

November 4, 1954 — October 7, 2024



SHARON LOU ARCAND-BARTZ was united with her Lord on October 7th, 2024. Sharon Lou Arcand was born November 4th, 1954, in St. Paul, Minneapolis.

In the Spring of 1962, her family moved from White Bear Lake, Minnesota, to a dairy farm outside Bloomer, Wisconsin

where she would eventually help with the farming by driving tractor and laying up hay.

She went to small rural schools, graduating in 1973 from Bloomer High School. She went on to earn a degree in Interior Design, A Diploma in Architectural/Structural Drafting, and later a Degree in Electrical Engineering Technology, spending the majority of her career as an Avionics Technician with Air Methods Inc. and Sierra Nevada Corp.

After visiting the Colorado Mountains one year, Sharon decided to move to Denver. She met her husband to be, Larry, in 1984. They found they had much in common, with a love of the mountains and wilderness. They were married in 1986, at Woodbine Ranch in Colorado.

In June 1995, Sharon and Larry welcomed their daughter, Kristina, who soon joined in their outdoor adventures. Sharon was so proud of her daughter, watching her grow up, playing sports, singing and always doing well in school.

Sharon had many skills and interests. She

loved to garden, both flower and vegetables. She was an artist, a seamstress, and a wonderful cook and was rediscovering her joy of photography, especially wildlife. Sharon had a relationship with her Savior, Jesus Christ, since she was a child.

She participated in many church activities, bible studies, and taught Sunday School for many years to young children. She lived as a witness of Jesus and his Love through her life, attitude, joy, and commitment to Christ, family and friends.

Sharon is survived by her Husband, Larry Bartz; her daughter Kristina Bartz; her siblings Kathy (Tim) Jacobson of Bloomer, WI; Karen (David) Arcand-Johnson of Maplewood, MN; John Arcand of Dallas, WI; Lauralee (Robert) Seidling of Chetek, WI and Kym Arcand of Barron, WI.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Clement Arcand and Doris Arcand (Einum), and her brother Rory Arcand of Ridgeland, WI.

Memorial Contributions can be made to Wycliffe Bible Translators www.Wycliffe.org/donate

ELIZABETH JOANNE (FRASIER) TAYLOR

November 9, 1946 — October 10, 2024

ELIZABETH JOANNE (FRASIER) TAYLOR, known affectionately as Betty, passed away on October 10, 2024, in Grand Junction, Colorado, just shy of her 78th birthday. Born on November 9, 1946, Betty grew up in Montrose, Colorado, where she attended Maple Grove Elementary and Montrose High School. Betty was a kindhearted and strong-willed individual, cherished as a loving wife, daughter, and sister. Her life was marked by a deep love for her family and her passions. She is survived by her devoted husband, Bob Taylor; her sister, Sandy Frasier Wallace; brother-in-law, Bob Wallace; and a loving circle of cousins, nieces, and nephews. Betty was preceded in death by her parents, Ralph and Gwen Frasier, her brother, Terry Frasier, and her first husband, Wayne Vanderpool. Throughout her life, Betty nurtured a series of hobbies that reflected her vibrant spirit and love for life. She had a profound love for dogs and enjoyed snowmobiling, traveling, walking, attending concerts, and maintaining an active lifestyle at the gym.



ISSUE 491 Oct. 21, 2024

ART & SOL

YOUR BRAIN ON NATURE – DST ENDING



By Dr. Lauren Hall Ruddell, Ph.D.

Greetings Mirrorites!

Just twelve days from now a dreaded bi-annual event will occur. Daylight Saving Time (DST) ends at midnight on Sunday, November 3. If on the following Monday you feel extra groggy while reading The Mirror, you will not be alone. I hate both time changes with equal passion, and with good reason. Each one takes me about eight days to adjust to!

The American Academy of Sleep Medicine (AASM) reports that about 63 percent of Americans would prefer to eliminate DST, and 55 percent experience tiredness following the switch. Researchers say that the change has long-term negative consequences for our bodies and minds. These unnatural insults to our circadian rhythms have definite consequenc-

es for health, and the effects we feel are not just a social construct. Making the shift can increase your health risks.

“The scientific evidence points to acute increases in adverse health consequences from changing the clocks, including in heart attack and stroke,” says sleep expert [Adam Spira, PhD, MA](#), a researcher at Johns Hopkins Medicine. Further side effects can include a heightened risk of [mood disturbances](#) and elevated production of inflammatory markers in response to stress. Depression, anxiety, seasonal affective disorder, and even the number of early morning traffic accidents have been shown to measurably increase. Given that all of this nasty stuff happens to us for a week or two every year, why do we have this silly rule anyway?

DST was originally enacted to conserve energy back in the old days, but now it may do the opposite. Benjamin Franklin espoused the concept in 1784, believing that rising earlier would economize candle usage and save people money but it didn’t catch on then. The concept slept in until formally adopted during World War I as part of a global attempt to conserve energy. That rationale is part of what keeps DST in practice today despite being stupid, harmful, and irrelevant as pointed out [in a 2017 paper published in the International Association for Energy Economics Journal](#). As society has evolved, lighting accounts for less and less overall

energy consumption. Rather, extending the use of daylight hours encourages people to use more air conditioning and heating.

Some proponents say the additional daylight in the evening hours during spring and summer are beneficial to the mental health of those who work during the day. That, too, has been refuted according to [a 2020 study published in PLOS](#) which suggests that the change exacerbates mood disorders and substance abuse. So more after-work sunshine doesn’t necessarily mean a healthier you. Michael Downing, a lecturer at Tufts University and author of the book *Spring Forward: The Annual Madness of Daylight Saving Time*, writes... “Since 1915, the principal supporter of daylight saving in the United States has been the Chamber of Commerce on behalf of small businesses and retailers. The Chamber understood that if you give workers more sunlight at the end of the day they’ll stop and shop on their way home.”

Ah, of course. Capitalism trumps health every time. So what can a groggy, crabby victim of the change do to ameliorate the damage? “Sunlight is the most powerful synchronizer of our circadian rhythms—the internally generated clocks our bodies follow.” Dr. Spira says while it’s somewhat advantageous to have more time for outdoor activities in the evening, “exposure to more light closer to bedtime

Continued next pg

YOUR BRAIN ON NATURE – DST ENDING From previous pg

makes it harder to fall asleep at our usual bedtime, and can reduce the amount of sleep we're able to get each night." We also lose light in the morning, leaving many of us waking up in the dark. That's bad, Spira says, because exposure to light in the morning has an alerting effect and helps us maintain a strong circadian rhythm.

"We function best when our sleep-wake cycle follows the sun. We get sleepy, due in part to melatonin release, when it gets dark. In the spring, when we switch to daylight saving time, we increase the amount of light we're exposed to in the evening hours."

The easy answer...get outdoors in the morning. The morning sun is full of short wavelengths that have a powerful effect on circadian rhythms.

These short wavelengths are composed of blue light, and together with the intensity of morning light, signal to the suprachiasmatic nucleus in the brain's circadian clock that it's 'Wakey, wakey, eggs and

bacey' time!" The gradual rising of morning light furthermore synchronizes many bodily functions from appetite, digestion, and urine output to hormone secretion, mood, and concentration. Household lighting, even when measured at a window, is far dimmer compared to light intensity outside, even on an overcast day and will not cut the mustard when trying to get back in sync with the sun.

By all means run errands during the middle of the day, but make sure to get an hour of direct morning sun first for several days after the time change. Then, at home in the evening, dim the room lighting and dial back your screen brightness, Blue shortwave light is a wake up signal that emanates from fluorescent lights and computer screens (and cell phones). So since you will have trouble falling asleep early and then getting up earlier than usual, help your brain out by spending time in glorious, natural, Colorado morning rays without sunglasses, and then avoid unnatural evening emanations that will keep

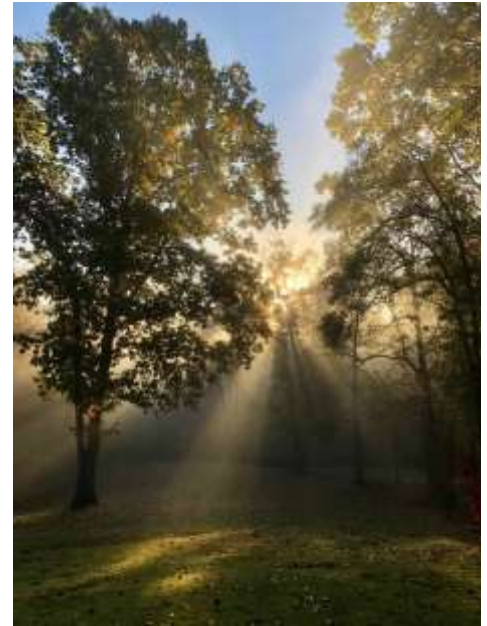


Photo courtesy of S. Klepacki.

you awake when you don't want to be. Let nature help you to 'fall back' to where you would be anyway in a sane and sensible world.

SEE SOMETHING - SAY SOMETHING



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MONTROSE WOMAN'S CLUB ANNUAL HOLIDAY BAZAAR



Three Creative's Booth, Kate Burke, Cathy Hart, Jessica Vergari. Photo by Kate Burke

By Kathryn R. Burke

The show, in Montrose Fairground's Friendship Hall, was packed with friendly vendors, many of them set up with groups of four or more tables. We had a relatively slow day on Friday, but Saturday was so busy we had to call on friends to come in and help with our booth.

This year's Montrose Woman's Club (MWC) show was orchestrated by club officers Charlotte Salesberry and Lorraine Shide, who has done the Bazaar for four years (with one out for Covid, when all larger gatherings were shut down). Lorraine is a retired teacher (who still does some subbing) and

knows the drill. "I spent 48 years in the classroom," she said. "Ten years in Fruita, 20 years in Olathe, and another ten in Montrose. I know how to organize activities and get things accomplished when you're on a tight time budget.

MWC members helped manage the show, man the Club's discount table of donated items, the grab bags, and sell the beautiful gift baskets. Outside trucks with their own generators provided food and drink for guests and show vendors.

What makes this show unique – a standout in the plethora of other arts and craft shows—is that it is a fund-

raiser for local charities. It's totally run by volunteers. Table rental costs are reasonable, and 100% of the rental fees go to a fund MWC, a non-profit organization, distributes to charity in the spring.

"The Club has been doing this for nearly half a century," said club president, Chris Reece. "It's all about community," added MaryJo Levenhagen, MWC treasurer who writes those charity checks.

It's also about having fun. We all have a good time, buyers, sellers, and looky-loos. And for many of us, it's a chance to see old friends who come back again every year.

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MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY

ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

Office Hours: By appointment.

Contact Information: (970) 249-2451

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

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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GET YOUR **HOLIDAY SHOPPING DONE EARLY AT
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970 787-9428**

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

Oct. 24- The Delta Montrose Community Concert Association welcomes Letters from Home to the stage on Thursday, Oct. 24, 2024 at 7 PM at the Delta Performing Arts Center, 822 Grand Avenue in Delta, Colorado. Doors open at 6 PM. Single admission tickets will be available at the door on the evening of the performance, \$25 for adults, \$5 for students. For more information please contact Bob at 970-835-4480 or Connie at 970-249-4308 or visit our website at www.deltamontroseconcerts.com.

Oct. 24- The League of Women Voters of the Uncompahgre, which serves Delta, Montrose, and Ouray counties, and the City of Montrose will host a candidate forum for the State Senate District 5 race on Thursday, Oct. 24 from 6 pm to 7 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

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

Nov. 7- The Montrose Women's Giving Club meets Nov. 7 at 5:30pm. at Bridges Golf and Country Club. All women are invited.

Nov. 12- The City of Montrose will begin its annual fall leaf cleanup on Monday, Nov. 12, with the annual collection service running through Dec. 5. Residents can use any brand of clear bags to collect leaves and place them on the curb for the city's pickup service. If scheduling is necessary, call 970.240.1480. The pickup service is free for City of Montrose utility customers. No yard waste other than leaves will be accepted.

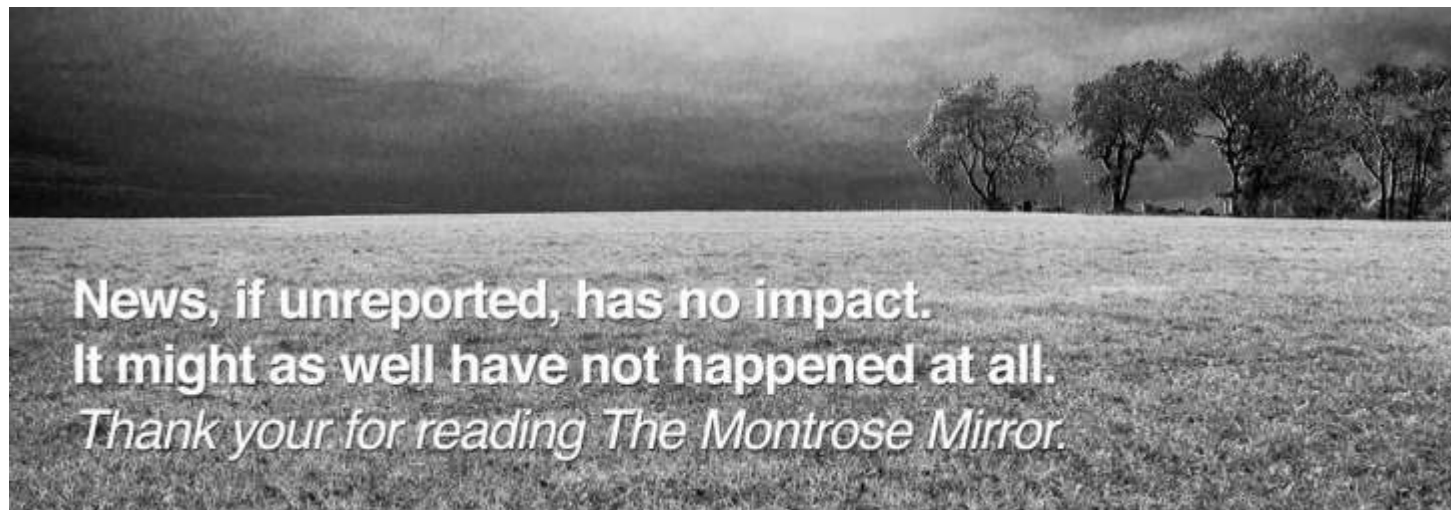
Nov 14—Join Montrose County, the Colorado River District, and UVWUA for the sixth annual West Slope Water Summit on Nov. 14 from 8:30am to 2pm at the Montrose County Event Center (1036 North 7th Street). Doors open at 8 a.m. The West Slope Water Summit is free, open to the public, and includes lunch—registration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

FIRE EXTINGUISHED ALONG RIVERBOTTOM TRAIL



Photos by Harry Switzer

MONTROSE-Neighbors reported hearing what sounded like several small explosions coming from the Riverbottom Trail, followed by a sudden fire in the park around 8pm Saturday night. First Responders were on the scene almost immediately; The fire was extinguished quickly thanks to the quick response from PD and Montrose Fire Protection District. Montrose Police will continue the investigation, Montrose Fire Protection District Public Information Officer Lindsey Wiley said. The fire appears to have taken place at the site of an encampment (inset).



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