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the Montrose Mirror

'EMBOLDENED BY A SYSTEM WITH NO OVERSIGHT' Judicial disciplinary procedures will now be heard by independent board



Judges in the 7th Judicial District, above, have faced public backlash after repeatedly ignoring documented instances of child abuse. Now that Amendment H, which established an independent judicial review board, was passed overwhelmingly on election day, judicial disciplinary procedures will be moved from the Colorado Supreme Court to an independent board. Photo by Harry Switzer.

By Steve Middendorp

REGIONAL-A new statistical analysis involving the signees of a petition against Colorado judges finds that the 7th Judicial District is one of the worst districts in the state for requiring children to spend time with a parent who is a documented abuser.

The *Mirror* has reported about a Denver protest regarding a mother, Rachel Pickrel-Hawkins, who was jailed for refusing to comply with court-ordered "reunification therapy" with the father who was accused of sexually abusing his three daughters and nearly drowning his son in a pool.

The protest organizers had also gathered 250 signatures of individuals who feel wronged by the way judges have handled custody disputes in Colorado. The *Denver Gazette* reported about a survey of those who signed the petition. When a child was listed on a personal protection order, judges removed the child from the order 70 percent of

Continued pg 23

BOARD OF EDUCATION VOTES TO RETAIN INDEPENDENT CHARTER SCHOOL REVIEWER TO ASSIST IN MCA REVIEW PROCESS

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-All directors were present as the Montrose County School District RE-1J Board of Education gathered for a regular meeting at District Offices on Tuesday, Nov. 12. Those in attendance included Board President Sarah Fishing (District E); Vice President Steve Bush (District G); District A Director Neisha Balleck; District B Director Ted Valerio; District C Director Alice Murphy; District D Director Tom West, and District F Director Jody Hovde.

Fishing opened the meeting and led in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. The Board voted to approve the meeting agenda. Despite the livestream failing early on and needing to be restarted, the board worked briskly through a business agenda that finished with an Executive Session.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

The November School Resource Officer (SRO) Award winner was Olathe High School Senior Evan Eddy. Eddy was present, but his award certificate appeared to have been misplaced. RE-1J PIO



All RE-1J directors were present for the Nov. 12 regular meeting. Meeting screenshot.

Continued pg 14

MHS, OHS Students Get Ready for Peru:
By CB Williams!

Lauren Hall Ruddell, Ph.D: Your
Brain on Nature-Dark Night!

Red Hawks Sports Coverage:
By Cliff Dodge!

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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Community Conversations: Housing Needs

**Tuesday,
November 19—6 PM
Montrose Regional
Library**



The Montrose Library is partnering with Tri-County Health Networks for a series of Community Conversations this fall to discuss pressing issues facing Montrose alongside community leaders. These conversations will take place at the library meeting room, and will cover such topics as demographics, climate, housing, and mental health. Email Sara at srinne@montroselibrary.org for more information.

320 S 2nd, www.montroselibrary.org
Mon-Thurs 10-7, Fri 10-6, Sat 10-5, Sun 1-5,
(970)249-9656, Option 3.

MONTROSE REGIONAL
LIBRARY DISTRICT

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH TO MEET NOV. 20

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-On Wednesday, Nov. 20 at 5pm, the Montrose Neighborhood Watch group will be meeting in the Community Room at the Police Department, 434 S First Street. This is a NEW TIME and there are many opportunities for residents to become more involved. All activities are under the direction of the Montrose County Sheriff's Office. Get involved, stay informed. Call 970-252-4499 for more information.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

LET'S THINK OUT OF THE BOX, GET MAXIMUM BANG FOR OUR BUCK

Dear Editor:

I have heard that there are a few options to build a new school on properties at a different location than our current one.

I understand that the ground on which our current high school stands has some kind of a covenant on it restricting it to educational purposes. Think how wonderful it would be to have a full campus of Colorado Mesa University in town instead of the here and there facilities which they are now using.

If the city bought the current location from the school system and sold it to Colorado Mesa University, CMU could rebuild it into a fine, attractive campus and quadrangle as most universities have. That would be very attractive to students who are looking for a slightly less urban experience. It would bring to our town some of the advantages that a full college town has. It would be an exceedingly clean form of economic development for us.

The school district would then have a pot of money to put toward their new buildings and campus. Since they would be starting from scratch, the cost of a new facility should be much less than it would be if they have to tear something down to build anew. I would think that if the city can put together something of the magnitude of Colorado Outdoors, this should be an easy undertaking for them.

We have two years until they come back to us with a new plan for a new school. Let's think out of the box and get the maximum bang for our buck.

Rick Bleier, Montrose

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

WINTER HAS ARRIVED IN COLORADO - IS YOUR VEHICLE READY?

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO-After mild temperatures just days ago, winter weather is hitting every region of the state, and many drivers may

feel a bit unprepared. With another round of weather on its way, it is essential that all drivers anticipate snow, wind and icy conditions across Colorado. The Colorado

State Patrol urges all drivers protect themselves and others on the road by being prepared for the winter weather.

Take time today before the next round hits to make sure your vehicle is properly equipped to endure the weather.

-Before your drive, monitor local weather alerts.

-Check website <https://www.cotrip.org/home> for information on road closures in the area.

-Clear your car of snow and ice before departing to your location. Do not leave snow on the roof or let any snow cover windows or mirrors.

-Make sure your vehicle's tires are all 3/16" tread depth.

-Check your windshield wipers and windshield wiper fluid. Replace your wipers and replenish your vehicle with windshield wiper fluid if needed.

-Check your battery and make sure it is functioning.

-Electric and Hybrid Vehicles should charge up as cold temperatures drain the battery.

-And, as a reminder to professional drivers - all commercial vehicles should be carrying chains.

In addition to ensuring their vehicle is in good condition, drivers should also bring extra clothing, snow boots, blankets, and food and water.

Extreme conditions and require motorist to shelter in their vehicles for extended periods of time. It is also recommended that drivers carry a power bank charger for their phones.

Let's keep ourselves safe this winter by being prepared for the roadway. Taking time to prepare your vehicle can make a big difference.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

SEASONAL BIG GAME GATE CLOSURES ON THE NORWOOD AND OURAY RANGER DISTRICTS

Special to the Mirror

NORWOOD— The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests will begin their annual seasonal closure of big game wildlife gates on the Norwood and Ouray Ranger Districts Dec. 1.

These closures are intended to reduce human interactions with elk and other wildlife during winter months.

“Elk need to conserve energy to survive the harsh winter months,” said Norwood and Ouray Ranger District’s Wildlife Biolo-

gist, Kara Berggren. “By reducing human activity in their winter habitat, we can help minimize stress on the animals at a time when they are particularly vulnerable.” Big game wildlife gates will be closed on the Norwood and Ouray Ranger Districts from Dec. 1 through April 15. Most gates affected by the closure are clearly marked with black and white signs stating, “No motorized vehicles to protect big game winter range.” Visitors are asked to respect these closures to protect critical wildlife habitat. Individuals who are found

to violate the wildlife closures are subject to citations and fines.

For additional information, contact the Norwood Ranger District at (970) 327-4261 or the Ouray Ranger District at (970) 240-5300.

For information and updates on current fire restrictions, conditions, and recreation opportunities on the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests, visit the [forest website](#). Connect with us on social media ([X \(Twitter\)](#) and [Facebook](#)).

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We are very happy to offer delivery to our home-bound neighbors. Please request delivery by noon on Wednesday, November 22 by calling 970-318-6759 or signing up online.

MontroseCommunityDinners.com



MONTROSE
Community Dinners



OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

LET'S GO FOR THE UPPER 20%

Editor:

Reference the Mirror article regarding MHS ranking in the upper 50% achievement level, coupled with our recent ballot selection for a new high school building.

It brought back a vivid memory.

The first time I brought home a "C" grade on the report card to my parents, my Dad asked me if I knew what a "C" grade really meant,

Of course, I did not. He let me know that a "C" made me the smartest of the dumbest, and the dumbest of the smartest,

I never forgot. Let's go for the upper 20% starting now! 📧

Ron Smith, Montrose



The advertisement is divided into two main sections. The top section has a black background with the Giovanna Designs logo on the left, which consists of a circular emblem containing the brand name in a cursive font and a red diamond icon below it. To the right of the logo, the website GiovannaDesigns.myshopify.com, the Instagram handle [@giovannadesigns2](https://www.instagram.com/giovannadesigns2), and the email address Giovannadesigns2@gmail.com are listed in a gold, serif font.

The bottom section features a photograph of various hand-crafted jewelry items, including necklaces, bracelets, and earrings, displayed on a light-colored surface. Overlaid on this image is the text "EXQUISITELY UNIQUE HAND-CRAFTED ARTISAN JEWELRY" in a white, serif font. A yellow rectangular button with the text "SHOP NOW" is positioned in the lower-left corner of the image.

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DUNCAN ACCEPTS SCHOLARSHIP TO ATTEND COLORADO MESA UNIVERSITY



Ellie Duncan as she prepares to sign her scholarship paperwork.

The Duncans, L-R Adam, Yesenia, Ellie and sister Mia. Photo by Cliff Dodge.

By Cliff Dodge

MONTROSE-Montrose High School Senior Ellie Duncan has accepted a soccer scholarship to attend Colorado Mesa University next fall. Ellie Duncan, surrounded by family, friends and soccer teammates gathered in the cafeteria for the signing ceremony on Wednesday, Nov. 13.

Duncan said, "I am looking forward to having a final season with my Red Hawks teammates, making the most of it and attempting to qualify for another trip to the state tournament.

Duncan described her soccer journey. "I was born here in Montrose. I loved soccer from the time I could kick the ball around the back yard. I started playing for the Avalanche and then I went up to Grand Junction RDC when I was in 7th grade. Then I played for the Montrose Red Hawks soccer team. I played four years from freshman to senior, this year being my final year before going off to college."

Ms. Duncan then described the recruitment process that landed her with the Mavericks. "The recruiting process was

actually pretty great. I ended up going to a Mesa soccer camp. They seemed to like what they saw, then a tour of the campus. Then I got to go into the locker room and hang out with their team before one of their games and watch the game from the sideline. Then they made me an offer and I accepted it very quickly because I was excited to play soccer for the Mavericks."

Elle's course of study has not yet been determined. She mentioned nursing as well as education and teaching as possibilities. She will have plenty of time to work that out as she begins her college career. The Mesa soccer program has been very successful over the past couple of years and Elle is ready to do whatever is needed to advance the cause.

December 10



ColoradoGivesDay.org

BOARD OF EDUCATION VOTES TO RETAIN INDEPENDENT CHARTER SCHOOL REVIEWER TO ASSIST IN MCA REVIEW PROCESS From pg 1

PIO Matt Jenkins said, “We’ll get Evan his certificate.”

Montrose High School athletes Elijah Womack and Aiden Grijalva spoke about the football team, and invited the board and Community to the first state playoff football game on Nov. 16 at 1PM.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Earning Altrusa Apple Awards were Johnson Elementary School Teacher Nikki Thompson and Northside Elementary School Teacher Scott Severson.

The KREX Golden Apple Award for October was awarded to Montrose High School Science Teacher Emarae Garcia, and the KREX Golden Apple Award for November was awarded to Pomona Elementary School Teacher Amanda Connelly.

DONATIONS

Centennial Middle School received a donation in the amount of \$3,500. from Montrose Oral Maxillofacial Implant Surgeons for the shop program.

The Montrose High School Cross Country team received a \$1,000 donation from Lou and Dawn Winkler

The San Juan Healthcare Foundation donated \$1,350. to offer the Virtual New Me Puberty Program through the Denver Museum of Nature & Science to MCSD 5th grade students.

Donations were designated to Montrose High School Athletics in Memory of Joe Fassler:

- Cindy and Michael Rogers \$150
- Jeanne and Jerry Troshynski \$100
- Juliana and Michael Myers \$50
- Jodi and Dale Lonker \$50

QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORTS

Re-1J Finance Director Emily Imus reported on the first quarter of the 2024-2025

school year, by fund and by investment.

BOARD ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATES

The District Accountability Committee held a meeting and will meet again on Dec. 3. District A Director Neisha Balleck and District C Director Alice Murphy both serve on the DACC.

Murphy said, “We went through the rubric with the proposal for the charter school, each section...the DACC will come up with a recommendation on what they think should happen.”

Balleck asked about the DACC recommendation process, and whether they were able to make a recommendation with conditions.

The board spent time in discussion.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT-DEFERRED MAINTENANCE

Facilities Director James Barnhill discussed maintenance, grounds, and the 2024-2025 Deferred Maintenance Allocation Plan.

Following a detailed presentation of the District’s deferred maintenance needs, Barnhill said that there are 90 open work orders. Maintenance positions are difficult to fill. “We keep pushing on...that’s where our money goes.”

COMMUNITY INPUT

There was no community input.

OLD BUSINESS

The Board of Education considered whether to contract services with Colorado Association of Charter School Authorizers (CACSA) as an expert charter application reviewer for Montrose Classical Academy (MCA).

Joining the board virtually for the discussion was CACSA Executive Director Mackenzie Khan, Ed.D.

Following the discussion, the Board voted

unanimously to contract services with CACSA as an expert charter school application reviewer.

CONSENT AGENDA

With Items No.1 and No. 6 pulled for further discussion, Directors voted to approve Consent Agenda items including Personnel Report.

NEW BUSINESS-ITEMS PULLED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

The Board voted to deny a request by District A Director Neisha Balleck to amend the minutes of the Oct. 8 regular meeting, and voted to approve Minutes from the October 8 Regular meeting, October 21 Special Meeting and October 22, 2024 Regular meeting/Work session minutes.

The Board of Education voted to approve Consent Agenda Item 6 after further discussion, contracting with ProCare Therapy for a Mild/Moderate Teacher at Johnson Elementary for the 2024-25 school year.

ENROLLMENT REPORT

Finance Director Emily Imus presented the Enrollment Report. District Enrollment is presently 5,080 students, which is 20 students fewer than the previous month and 74 students fewer than there were last year at this time.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board voted to enter Executive Session “for discussion of the purchase, acquisition, lease, transfer, or sale of any real, personal, or other property interest to include the following individuals: all Board members present this evening, Dr. Stephenson, Mr. Pavlich, Ms. Imus and Mrs. Laird, to discuss district property planning per C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(a).”

The Board of Education will meet again for a special meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 19.



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MHS, OHS STUDENTS GETTING READY FOR PERU: *A story of love and learning*



Map of the area in Peru the students and teachers will tour. Courtesy image.

by CB Williams

MONTROSE-Immersion: This approach to teaching a second language and literacy development has proven itself to be the most successful school-based language program model available, according to the Center for Advanced Research on Language Acquisition (CARLA).

“I can teach you Spanish,” Montrose High School Spanish teacher Lidia Bond explains, “but you have to have your own life experiences — use the language, eat the food, dance — to really learn.

“Not like watching YouTube videos,” she said with a smile.

Bond knows that immersion students typically achieve higher levels of language proficiency when compared with students in other types of language programs, because, as a native Spanish-speaker from Peru, she experienced immersion learning firsthand.

It is a challenge to keep up with Bond when she is speaking, she is very quick and concise with a beautiful lilt to her voice. “I grew up in Peru and received my teaching license there,” she said, “That is where I met my husband.” Her husband Brian is a geologist, graduate of the Colorado School of Mines, who was working in South America.

“He said he was looking for gold and he



Pictured are, from left, Yuliana Almanza, senior; Carissa Trask, junior; Kacy Stewart, junior; Delilah Day, freshman; Jordyn Simo, junior; Taylor Gibson, senior; with MHS Spanish teacher Lidia Bond. Not pictured, but joining the group are Evie Sherman, junior; Natalie Trask, freshman; Samantha Priest, junior; Amy Priest, Montrose middle school teacher; Adrian Almanza, Olathe High School, junior, and OHS Spanish teacher Carla Hernandez. Photo by CB Williams.

found me!” she said with a wink and a grin.

She was teaching in Peru when they met and their first child was born there, son Brian Bartholomew. Then, in January 1998, husband Brian was transferred and they ended up moving from Tacna, Peru to Ann Arbor, Mich. — about 4,266 miles from her home.

Oh, and she spoke very little English.

“I had legal papers, because we were married,” she said, “but I had no family, no friends, no parents, no job there.” She said she was fortunate to have help, particularly from her husband’s parents. She was presented with one of those first-generation language translators and a big dictionary.

To learn English, she said she watched a lot of Sesame Street, read bilingual books, and had a lot of support people around her.

“It was scary,” she said, and although she had a teaching license in Peru, she had to go back to college to get her U.S. professional license.

“I was sent angels,” she said. And the Bonds had daughter Brianna born in 2003.

Bond said she first taught ESL (English as a second language) math and science. And she continued to be a life-long learner, earning not one but two masters degrees. Later she moved on to teaching Spanish.

She said her students always have appreciated that she teaches castellano — the Spanish language originating in the Castile region of Spain, which under the Spanish constitution is the official language of Spain.

Though she adjusted well to her new country, Bond’s love for her birth country of Peru runs deep, and she always has a yearning to visit it and her family. She said she returns annually. Fortunately for her students, she knows they will learn much more by visiting Spanish-speaking countries, and for many years she has gathered up students and adults each year, alternatively visiting Peru and Spain.

In her earlier teaching days, Bond put together the itinerary for the trips and made arrangements herself. Now she sets up the tours through Explorica by WorldStrides, a company based in Charlottesville, Vir., that specializes in educational tours throughout the world.

MHS, OHS STUDENTS GET READY FOR PERU From previous pg



Senior Yuliana Almanza pours hot chocolate during the final MHS regular season football game. Photo by CB Wil-

Who's heading to Peru?

The current tour group, affiliated with the MHS Spanish Club, will be traveling to Peru June 3-12. It includes 10 students and three adults, and Bond said the main focus will be to learn how to communicate in Peru, and to see how people live.

Those attending from Montrose High School are Yuliana Almanza, senior; Carissa Trask, junior; Kacy Stewart, junior; Delilah Day, freshman; Jordyn Simo, junior; Taylor Gibson, senior; Samantha Priest, junior; Evie Sherman, junior; Natalie Trask, freshman; Amy Priest, Montrose middle school teacher; and Bond. Olathe High School Spanish teacher Carla Hernandez and Adrian Almanza, junior, are also set to make the trip.

They will leave from Denver to Lima, Peru, and from there will meet up with their 24/7 tour guide. They will tour Lima, then fly to Cuzco for a sightseeing tour, and make their way to the Sacred Valley, Machu Picchu, Cuzco and Lake Titicaca. They

will cruise around the Uros Islands and Taquile Island where they will go hiking and visit with indigenous Uros families.

Learn more about their trip at www.explorica.com/bond-8802.

High school and college credit is available through this accredited tour company, Bond said, as well as continuing education credit for teachers.

"It's a big place," she said with a smile, "We have free iPads here—they don't."

Bond said the students will see llama and alpaca farms, ruins from ancient peoples and will see clothing and agriculture practices they do not see here in the U.S.

According to research, immersion students who begin as English-only speakers consistently develop native-like levels of comprehension, such as listening and reading skills, in their second language. They also display fluency and confidence when using it.

The students will experience culture that has been traced to 12000 BCE, and see ruins dating back many thousands of years. In Lima, they will be in the city Lima, where historians place the start of higher education in the Americas in 1551. They will learn of the democratic representative government of the Republic of Peru, at the same time seeing spectacular sites.

That is the immersion Bond and Hernandez hope to attain for their students.

Hernandez, Olathe teacher who taught Spanish for three years at MHS, was on the 2023 trip to Spain with Bond.

"It's super important for students to know and experience the culture," Hernandez said, "in the classroom we can just do so much."

She said she saw a big change in students who were on the trip to Spain. Some were first-year Spanish students and were undecided if they wanted to continue or not "A lot of them decided to continue their language education," Hernandez said. Students who continue their education set themselves up for fluency in Spanish, which can lead to a seal of biliteracy, high school and/or college credit tested on their ACT.

The seal of biliteracy also can lead to an advantage on a resume when applying for jobs in the future.

"When I was in high school, I did not get

this opportunity," Hernandez said, "now I have visited nine countries."

She said these trips give students living in the small community of Olathe – and those from Montrose – to have a peek into the world through a school-affiliated safe environment.

One of the students who was on the Spain trip said she really gained an appreciation for the Spanish culture, and really improved her use of the language.

How will students pay for such an experience?

The trip to Peru will include round-trip airfare from Denver, eight overnight stays in hotels, all meals, full-time services of a professional tour director, visits and tour diaries, and local guides, buses and bus drivers (and their tips). And it runs about \$4,200 per student. Cost for adults is a few hundred dollars more.

Bond said students and their parents are responsible to cover the cost of their trip. The school administration and community are very supportive, but it is up to individuals to cover the costs.

So, they are busy working and fundraising.

Senior Yuliana Almanza said along with attending high school, she has two jobs, and she also can be seen working the concession area at the football games. The Peru trip students sold baked goods, hot chocolate and cider during the last freshman/JV and varsity games, and hope to set up a table at the MHS football playoff games.

"My parents have encouraged me to take this trip before I go off to college," Yuly said, "and it's important to me to actually see the culture — how they actually live — and I'm looking forward to seeing the islands on Lake Titicaca and the people who live in the area." So, she gladly serves the hot chocolate, knowing there will be a great reward.

"If we're able to see how they live, it will help us get a better understanding of their living conditions," she said, "I've heard that living conditions are not all good.

"Maybe I can help in a small way – in finding ways to help them."

Yuly is planning to study elementary education – or perhaps will focus on human

Continued next pg

MHS, OHS STUDENTS GET READY FOR PERU From previous pg

services – either at Colorado Mesa University in Grand Junction or the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley.

She said her parents told her she should not pass up the opportunity to take this trip, because they are there to support her now, and this might be a once in a lifetime chance.

Senior Taylor Gibson, who along with attending school works part time at Backstreet Bagels, is looking forward to the trip and to college. She plans to attend Colorado Mesa University to study business.

“This can only improve my Spanish,” she said, jokingly. Then seriously turned to help customers lined up for goods. Taylor said she does not intend on continuing her study of Spanish in college, but never say never.

Taylor’s mother, Christine Mitchell, is backing Taylor all the way. She thinks this will be eye-opening for her daughter.

“I hope she learns independence and a respect for our culture,” Mitchell said, “and the culture of the Peruvian people.”

Raising money is work, and these students are prepared to do it

“Raising the money is unfortunately a little harder in a small community like Olathe, but they are supportive there,” said Her-

andez. She said in Montrose there’s a bigger crowd and the kids are working hard.

“They’re baking all the goods,” she said, as well as preparing the hot chocolate and cider with their teachers.

The group plans to set up a table during the Montrose Parade of Lights, Dec. 7 at 5:30 p.m., hopefully near the Main Street McDonald’s. (The hot chocolate in particular has been a hit on cold nights.) And there will be other fundraising activities throughout winter and spring.

Bond said besides raising funds for the trip, they are also looking for transportation to Denver.



Junior Kacy Stewart and Senior Taylor Gibson get ready to help serve lines of customers at recent football game. Photo by CB Williams.

Airline costs are significantly less for flights leaving from Denver, rather than Montrose.

If anyone would like to help the students financially, Bond said, they can write a check to the MHS Spanish Club and put “Peru Trip” in the memo line, then drop it off at the front desk of the high school.

For more information, contact Bond at lidia.bond@mcsd.org.



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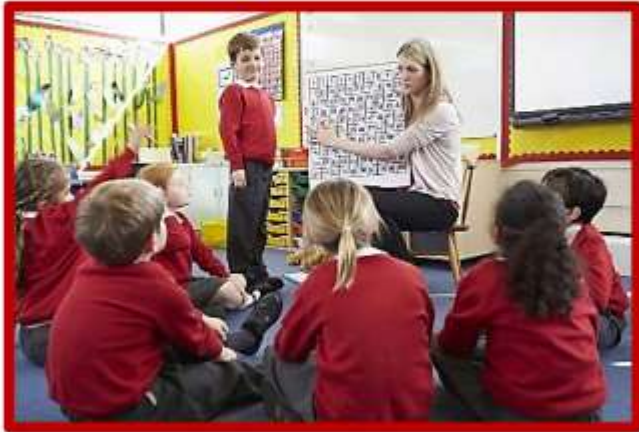
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'EMBOLDENED BY A SYSTEM WITH NO OVERSIGHT' From pg 1

the time to allow contact with the allegedly abusive parent.

There were cases in which the parent was criminally charged with abuse and the child disclosed parental abuse in forensic interviews. In 90 percent of those cases, the judge removed the child from the protection order so the child could spend time with the abusive parent. Half of those surveyed had their parental time restricted or revoked even though the other parent had been criminally charged with abuse.

The report includes several concerns relating to a number of judicial districts in Colorado and was presented to the governor, the attorney general, the state supreme court, and the state court administrator office. It suggests policy proposals, including the implementation of AI to ensure Colorado judges are complying with the legal requirements related to custody cases involving child abuse.

The report also suggests a fast-track process to protect children from abuse without going through the "nearly impossible" standard of proving "imminent threat." The report suggests magistrates should receive mandatory trauma-informed training as they handle 90 percent of family court cases. Judges and magistrates should be investigated and receive a suspension when involved in a case where a child has been murdered following dismissal of credible abuse accusations.

A new motion was filed in the San Miguel County District Court that alleges personal relationships between CPS case workers and a Ouray father with documented sexual abuse. The case was the subject of a [Propublica](#) story by Hannah Dreyfus last year that implicates Chief Justice D. Cory Jackson of the 7th Judicial District. The mother has filed for a motion to change venues to the 2nd judicial district alleging several conflicts of interest within the seven-year court battle. The motion states, "Father has personal relationships with nearly all of the parties that were tasked with investigating allegations of abuse by Father to the child throughout this case."

The motion first mentions the father's

lawyer Amy Ondos, who represented him in the family court for two years while she also served as the president of Dolphin House. During the same time period, it was Dolphin House that conducted forensic interviews with the child regarding abuse and neglect. The court motion calls this conflict "clear impropriety" that was never disclosed, but uncovered by the mother's research and due diligence.

The court motion goes on to say, "Father's other conflicting relationships include, but are not limited to, San Miguel County caseworkers Jennie Thomas (CPS), Mary Kelly (CPS), Carol Friedrich (Director, San Miguel County DHS), Linnea Edwards (CPS), Officer Norman Squire (San Miguel County Sheriff's Office (SMCSO), and Deputy Dan Covault (SMCSO)."

Thomas allegedly omitted the father's admission that he sexually assaulted a four-year old when he was 16 years old. Thomas joined the father in therapy sessions and hired Dr. Susan Coykendall to test and evaluate the father. Coykendall is the wife of then Chief Judge Steven Patrick who resigned from the position earlier this year. Judge Jackson is now the chief judge of the 7th district and recused himself from the case upon accepting the new role. Judge Patrick served as Judge Jackson's marriage officiant, and the two reportedly have a close relationship.

Dr. Coykendall said she has a "creep-o-meter" and the father was "so far down at the bottom of it that it wasn't even, it wasn't a concern." Coykendall said there were no red flags with the father despite his admitted history of sexual abuse.

The court motion goes on to say, "Thomas engaged in collusive acts with Dr. Coykendall for the benefit of Father's case and gaining custody of the child while acting as a neutral caseworker for DHS. Even after Thomas left her position as a case worker, she has continued to counsel Father on how to use the CPS system to his advantage, going so far as to instruct him to make repeated false CPS reports against Mother."

Thomas, the former CPS caseworker in question, also happens to be the counse-

lor at the child's school, the child's math/social skills teacher, and is listed by the father as the child's emergency contact.

The court motion accuses the San Miguel DHS of systemic bias based on the leadership of former director Carol Friedrich, who has professional ties with Ondos and is married to Dennis Friedrich, who served as a mediator in this case. The motion states, "Under Friedrich's direction, DHS dismissed credible medical reports of abuse and undermined Mother's efforts to document [the child's] injuries, resulting in biased conclusions that prioritized Father's interests over [the child's] safety."

Norman Squier of the San Miguel County Sheriff's Office (SMCSO) has a close personal relationship with the father and was assigned the role of investigating child abuse claims. Squier allegedly failed to make a report when the child disclosed to Squier that his father hit him with a stick.

Deputy Dan Covault allegedly dismissed claims of abuse and failed to investigate mandatory reports from National Jewish Hospital, Children's Hospital Colorado, and the child's pediatrician. Then Ridgway Marshal Tammy Stroup asked Deputy Monty English to conduct an investigation, and English determined there was enough evidence to press charges against the father.

In response to the report, Deputy Covault disregarded English's determination and attacked the mother. The investigative report from English "disappeared" from the case files. The motion said Covault's current role as undersheriff compromises the integrity of future investigations.

The motion further stated, "These entrenched conflicts, all within the 7th Judicial District, directly violate multiple Colorado statutes and professional ethical standards, including C.R.S. § 19-1-307 (mandating neutral child welfare investigations), C.R.S. § 18-8-111 (requiring truthful reporting), the Colorado POST Code of Ethics, and IACP Ethical Standards."

The Mirror interviewed Tina Swithin, the founder of One Mom's Battle, about the parental alienation industry that has

'EMBOLDENED BY A SYSTEM WITH NO OVERSIGHT' From previous pg

turned parental abuse claims back on the protective parent.

In response to the latest news, Swithin said, "I have been advocating for family court reform for over a decade and have a front row seat to the crisis in the Colorado family court system. This case first hit my radar in 2023 and it illuminates the collusion and corruption that so many protective parents face in family court proceedings. Colorado has come under an intense spotlight as a result of rogue judges and other professionals who are emboldened by a system with no oversight. This case should outrage citizens in Colorado and beyond."

Amendment H to establish an independent judicial review board passed overwhelmingly on election day. This will move the judicial disciplinary procedures from the Supreme Court to an independent board. Proceedings will be transparent--and the public will be aware when formal charges are filed against Colorado judges.



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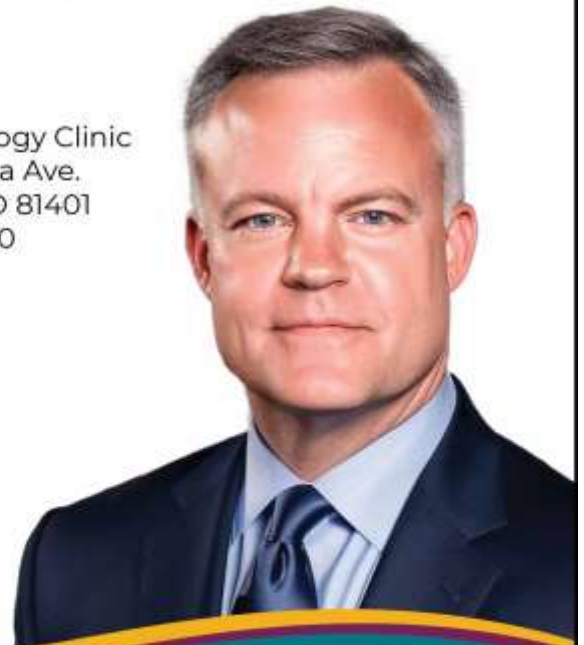
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

BLM RELEASES FINAL SUPPLEMENTARY RULE FOR CANYONS OF THE ANCIENTS NATIONAL MONUMENT

Special to the Mirror

CORTEZ – The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has finalized a supplementary rule that will guide the visitor experience in Canyons of the Ancients National Monument. The final rule focuses on protecting public health and safety and preventing resource damage and addresses recreational sporting activities, camping, travel management, and collecting of geological and biological materials on nearly 175,000 acres of BLM-administered public lands in Dolores and Montezuma counties.

“Last year, more than 98,000 people from all over discovered the public lands and world-class resources of Canyons of the Ancients, including popular sites such as Lowry Pueblo and Sand Canyon,” said Monument Manager Ray O’Neil. “In most

cases, the final rule applies only to public lands that receive the highest levels of visitor use or where sensitive archaeological resources are present.”

The rule will facilitate the implementation of management decisions approved in 2010 as part of the Canyons of the Ancients National Monument Resource Management Plan (RMP).


The rule implements the RMP decision to authorize transportation on designated routes in the Monument to provide reasonable access while protecting CANM’s resources. In addition, the rule prohibits recreational target shooting (although hunting is still allowed), camping in archaeological sites, and the collection of materials without a permit or appropriate written authorization and limits campfires

to fire pans and formal fire rings.

The [Final Supplementary Rule for Canyons of the Ancients National Monument in Dolores and Montezuma Counties, CO](#) will

publish in the *Federal Register* on November 14, 2024. For further information, contact Supervisory Staff Law Enforcement Ranger Tyler Fouss at (970) 882-1120.

The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land located primarily in 12 western states, including Alaska, on behalf of the American people. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of subsurface mineral estate throughout the nation. Our mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of America’s public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.



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GAIL MARVEL
Montrose Author & Reporter

Where Wallflowers Grow is available online at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) and [wingedpublications.com](https://www.wingedpublications.com).



REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MARILLACHEALTH COMPLETES TRANSITION FOR THE PIC PLACE WITH NEW SIGNS

Special to the Mirror

GRAND JUNCTION — MarillacHealth has announced the successful transition now of The PIC Place in Montrose, Colorado, by replacing the exterior signage with MarillacHealth. Earlier this year, MarillacHealth announced the acquisition of The PIC Place and temporarily renamed the Montrose clinic to The PIC Place, a Marillac Health Clinic. Now, the company has officially renamed the Montrose Clinic to MarillacHealth, making it one of eight locations Marillac operates in serving Mesa and Montrose Counties. The Montrose community will see the PIC Place building signage, marketing materials, and website renamed to MarillacHealth. You will still find the same great staff and the same convenient location, now with a new name.

“Our nonprofit, community health center offers a comprehensive range of primary healthcare services to residents, regardless of their income or insurance status. Our model of integrated care is patient centered, bringing medical, behavioral health and dental together in one location”, says Dan Prinster, Board Chair for MarillacHealth.

Everyone is welcomed to these clinics and new patients are accepted. Call 970-200-1674 for more information and to schedule an appointment.



MarillacHealth signage.
Courtesy photo.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DELTA HEALTH EARNS AN 'A' HOSPITAL SAFETY GRADE FROM THE LEAPFROG GROUP

Special to the Mirror

DELTA— Delta Health earned an “A” Hospital Safety Grade from The Leapfrog Group, an independent national nonprofit watchdog focused on patient safety. Leapfrog assigns an “A,” “B,” “C,” “D” or “F” grade to general hospitals across the country based on over 30 performance measures reflecting errors, accidents, injuries and infections, as well as the systems hospitals have in place to prevent them.

“I am incredibly proud of our Delta Health team for earning an “A” in Hospital Safety,” said Jonathan Cohee, MHA, OT, Delta Health Chief Executive Officer. “Our Quality and Patient Safety Departments have done a phenomenal job continuing to raise the bar for standard of care for Delta Health patients. They have remained committed to providing the highest quality of care that our community can trust, and this grade exemplifies their dedication to that mission.”

“Achieving an ‘A’ Hospital Safety Grade is a significant accomplishment for Delta Health,” said Leah Binder, president and CEO of The Leapfrog Group. “It reflects enormous dedication to your patients and their families, and your whole community should be proud. I extend my congratulations to Delta Health, its leadership, clini-



Delta Health earned an “A” Hospital Safety Grade from The Leapfrog Group. Courtesy photo.

cians, staff and volunteers for their tireless efforts to put patients first.”

The Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade stands as the only hospital ratings program focused solely on preventable medical errors, infections and injuries that kill more than 500 patients a day in the Unit-

ed States. This program is peer-reviewed, fully transparent and free to the public.

Grades are updated twice annually, in the fall and spring. To explore Delta Health’s full grade details and to find valuable tips for staying safe in the hospital, visit HospitalSafetyGrade.org.



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RED HAWKS VOLLEYBALL FALLS SHORT AT STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

By Cliff Dodge

MONTROSE-The Montrose Red Hawks volleyball season came to an end at the venerable Denver Coliseum last weekend as they battled several of the elite teams competing for a state championship and took their measure. The team did not go down without a fight. Coach Shane Forrest's players capped a successful season with a trip to Denver and acquitted themselves very well, winning one tournament game and losing two. The Red Hawks ended their season with 18 wins and 10 losses overall and posted an 8-2 record in league action.

The Red Hawks tangled with the Mead Mavericks in their opening round as they dropped the match 3-0. The Mavericks prevailed by scores of 28-26, 25-20 and 25-23. This moved the Red Hawks into the consolation bracket where they drew the Palisade Bulldogs. The Red Hawks shut the Bulldogs down 3-0 and won their match by the scores of 25-17, 25-22 and 25-17.

The Red Hawks then took on the Lutheran Lions from Parker. The Lions prevailed 3-0 and posted scores of 25-14, 25-23 and 25-21, thus ending the Red Hawks' tournament run in 2024. The Red Hawks hosted a regional to gain entry to the big dance, defeating both Pueblo East and Grand Junction.

The Red Hawks lose seven seniors to graduation., They are Avery Kingsbury, Brooke Williams, Mackenzie Freeland, Abbie Hines, Leydi Contreras, Maggie Cross, and Ashlin Mitchum. Six underclassmen will be returning as will a dozen players from the junior varsity team this year. The future looks bright for the Red Hawks.



Red Hawks Volleyball qualified for State. Photo by Cliff Dodge.

The Mirror:

For coverage that never leaves
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www.montrosemirror.com

RED HAWKS RUMBLE, ADVANCE TO 4A FOOTBALL QUARTERFINALS



The Red Hawks defenders stop a potential touchdown near their goal line. Photo by Cliff Dodge.

By Cliff Dodge

MONTROSE-The Montrose Red Hawks football team took another major step toward the coveted 4A state championship with a 44-22 victory over the Frederick Golden Eagles at the Montrose stadium on Saturday afternoon. The Red Hawks improved their record to 11-0 with the win and set up a rematch with the Grizzlies of Mesa Ridge either next Friday evening or Saturday afternoon. The Colorado High School Activities Association (CHSAA) has not disclosed the dates and time for the quarterfinal games as yet.

The Red Hawks won the coin toss and elected to defer and kicked off to the Eagles. The visitors set the tone for their offense as they threw the football all over the field in their first possession. The 10-play drive ended with an incomplete pass on 4th and 6 from the Red Hawks 7-yard line.

The Red Hawks then set the tone for their offense by running the ball seven plays with junior Chase Mehan lugging the rock for a touchdown from 11 yards out. The 2-point conversion was successful and the Red Hawks took an 8-0 lead.

Frederick came storming back as they aired out the football and mixed in a couple of running plays that featured a couple of speedy running backs to complement their air game. It took the Eagles just eight plays to score the tying touchdown on a pitchout around the left side,

making the score 8-8.

The quarter ended as the Frederick defense forced the Red Hawks to run three plays and turn the football over on downs. The Red Hawks defense then returned the defensive favor and forced the Eagles to turn the ball over on downs deep in Red Hawks territory at the 13-yard line.

The Red Hawks then saw junior Elijah Womack rip off a 33-yard scamper to set the Red Hawks up deep in Eagle territory. Disaster struck as the Red Hawks fumbled and the Eagles recovered deep in Red Hawk territory. The Eagles moved from their own 10-yard line to the Red Hawks 3-yard line before fumbling. The Red Hawks Elijah Womack scooped up the errant football and sprinted 90 yards for the go-ahead touchdown and a 2-point conversion, putting the Red Hawks lead to 16-8.

It then took the Eagles just over one minute to score the tying touchdown as Quarterback Gavin Ishmael scored from a yard out on a quarterback sneak tying the score at 16-16.

With just over three minutes remaining in the second quarter, the Red Hawks used up most of the remaining time to drive from their own 40 yard line to paydirt with Womack scoring on a 5-yard run, making the score 22-16 in favor of the Red Hawks at half time.

The Red Hawks took the second half kickoff, erased six minutes from the clock and

saw Womack score his third touchdown of the afternoon on a 9-yard run upping the tally to 30-16. The Red Hawks defense then forced the Eagles to run three plays before the Red Hawks took over on downs. The rest of the third quarter saw both teams each have one possession. The Red Hawks drove deep into Eagles territory only to give up the football on downs at the 10-yard line. The Eagles then used most of the minute and half to drive 90 yards to score from 24 yards out to close the gap to 30-22 heading into the Fourth quarter.

The Red Hawks defense then asserted itself as the Eagles had opportunities but were unable to score and the Red Hawks added two touchdowns to their total to make the final score 44-22. A last ditch drive by the Eagles got to the Red Hawks 13-yard line but four passing attempts were unsuccessful and the Red Hawks took over the football with just under a minute left to play.

The quarterfinals of the Colorado High School Activities Association have four outstanding games. Number 1 ranked Dakota Ridge hosts Ponderosa. Palmer Ridge hosts Broomfield. Pueblo West hosts Heritage and Montrose hosts Mesa Ridge. Dates and time will be announced early next week.

Winners keep playing and the losers go home.

Stay tuned.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

GRAND JUNCTION MAN SENTENCED TO 71 MONTHS IN FEDERAL PRISON AND 48 MONTHS IN STATE PRISON IN CONNECTION WITH FENTANYL OVERDOSE DEATH OF A MINOR

Special to the Mirror

GRAND JUNCTION – The United States Attorney’s Office for the District of Colorado and the 21st Judicial District of Colorado announce that Nathaniel Matheny, 23, of Grand Junction, was sentenced to 71 months in federal prison after pleading guilty to one count of possession with the intent to distribute a substance containing a detectable amount of fentanyl and to 48 months in state prison after pleading guilty to one count of removing human remains. The sentences will be served concurrently.

According to the federal plea agreement, on May 20, 2021, Grand Junction Police responded to a call about a young woman who was not breathing in an area home. When they arrived, police found an unresponsive minor victim. Toxicology reports attributed the minor’s death to an overdose of fentanyl. The investigation led to Matheny, who admitted to doing drugs with the minor and taking her body back to her home after she overdosed.

“This is a tragic story of a young person whose life was cut short because of fentanyl,” said Acting United States Attorney for the District of Colorado Matt Kirsch. “Coloradans need to know that this is a serious problem in our communities and that our office is working hard to prosecute people who are distributing fentanyl in our state.”

“Justice was delivered for the victim of this terrible tragedy,” said Dan Rubinstein, District Attorney for the 21st Judicial District of Colorado. “I hope these sentences send a message that fentanyl crimes have extremely serious consequences.”

“The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) helped bring justice to a young woman and her family. I am extremely proud of the investigative team who meticulously pieced this investigation together from the smallest of details and delivered a comprehensive account of the victim’s final hours which helped hold the defendant accountable for his actions,” said DEA Rocky Mountain Field Division

Special Agent in Charge Jonathan Pulen.

“The sentencing of Nathaniel Matheny underscores the commitment and dedication of law enforcement to protecting our communities, especially its youngest and most vulnerable members, from dangerous drugs,” said Grand Junction Police Department Chief Matt Smith. “Our department is grateful for the collaboration between local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies in this ongoing fight against the devastating impact of dangerous drugs on our communities.”

United States District Court Judge Gordon P. Gallagher presided over the federal sentencing.

Mesa County District Court Chief Judge Brian Flynn presided over the state sentencing.

The case was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Agency and the Grand Junction Police Department. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Peter Hautzinger.

20  **CONGRATULATIONS to ALL our**  **24**
Newly-Elected Republican Officials

We recognize your hard work and appreciate your time, dedication and service to our communities and state.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

COLORADO LEAP PROGRAM IS TAKING APPLICATIONS NOW *Federal funds are in place to help with home heating costs*

Special to the Mirror

SAN MIGUEL COUNTY --- The Colorado Low Energy Assistance Program (LEAP) is a federally funded program for eligible families, seniors, and individuals that will help defray heating costs as winter temperatures dip. LEAP assistance is available now through April 30, 2025.

LEAP works for eligible applicants by paying a portion of your heating bill directly to your vendor.

Qualifying applicants will receive a notice

of the amount being provided. LEAP also has funds for repair or replacement of furnaces or woodstoves, however portable or temporary space heaters do not qualify.

If your income is up to 60% of the state median income level, you may qualify for heating assistance through LEAP. The state median income level used for the 2024-25 LEAP season was released by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in April 2024.

The amount of the energy assistance benefit varies depending on a variety of factors, including the primary heating fuel costs and income.

The San Miguel and Ouray County Human Services departments can help with the application process. For assistance, call Amy Efurd at 970-729-9712 in San Miguel County. In Ouray County, call Charlene Willis at 970-708-8867. Visit cdhs.colorado.gov/LEAP for complete program details, FAQs and other information.

US 550 RED MOUNTAIN PASS TO CLOSE FOR APPROX. TWO HOURS NOV. 18

Special to the Mirror

OUTHWEST COLORADO — The Colorado Department of Transportation will perform winter maintenance operations on US Highway 550 between Ouray and Silverton on Monday, November 18. Operations will require intermittent highway closures between 10 a.m. and noon. Motorists should plan for lengthy delays to take place for much of the morning.

The closure is needed to allow for motorist safety during helicopter operations and preparations of avalanche mitigation equipment above the highway.

Traffic Impacts

-Winter maintenance operations are scheduled for Monday, November 18 between 10 a.m. and Noon

-Northbound travelers will encounter a closure near Ironton Park (Mile Point 87)

-Southbound travelers will encounter a closure at the Bear Creek Bridge (Mile Point 90.5)

-Motorists will be guided by flaggers through the closure points

-Visit COTrip.org for the latest information on road closures and conditions.



Last year's winter maintenance preparations occurred on Dec. 7; crews performed equipment testing after a helicopter transported multiple avalanche mitigation units to their permanent foundations above US 550 Red Mountain Pass. CDOT courtesy photo.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

US 550 PACO - BILLY WILDLIFE & SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT COMPLETION

Special to the Mirror

REGIONAL-CDOT and Contractor FNF Construction have completed the US 550 Paco -Billy Wildlife and Safety improvements project north of Ridgway. Crews made wildlife and mobility safety improvements to an eight-mile section of US 550 bordering Ridgway State Park from Mile Point 109 to 117. Work included the installation of wildlife mitigation features and shoulder widening for a southbound passing lane just south of the Pa-Co-Chu-Puk Campground.

Wildlife mitigation features included an underpass, fencing, jump outs, and deer guards throughout the corridor. These improvements are expected to reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions by 85 percent. Additionally, the project connects three miles of new deer fencing to existing features and has created seven miles of wildlife safety corridor. Vehicles can now pass safely with the addition of a southbound passing lane near the Pa-Co-Chu-Puk Campground. FNF Construction thanks the public for your patience and support during this project.



Crews made wildlife and mobility safety improvements to an eight-mile section of US 550 bordering Ridgway State Park from Mile Point 109 to 117. CDOT courtesy photo.

Stay Informed

For additional information about this project, contact the project team.
-Project Hotline: 970-360-1411

-Project Email: us550wideningproject@gmail.com
-Project webpage: www.codot.gov/projects/us550pacobilly

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

NOVEMBER WAS TOP MONTH FOR ANIMAL-CAUSED CRASHES IN COLORADO IN 2023

Colorado State Patrol

COLORADO – Colorado State troopers investigated 256 crashes involving animals on roadways in the Colorado Rockies and western slope last year. Seeing the reflection of two eyes from an animal on the road in front of you can send a wave of adrenaline and fear through even the most experienced drivers, so the Colorado State Patrol would like to assist by providing some general recommendations to lower the chance of a critter collision.

Two of the most important things a motorist can do is to drive the speed limit and use your high beams when not around other motorists in rural areas or neighborhoods adjacent to open space areas. Increase your chances of seeing wildlife crossing up ahead or on the side of the road by staying alert. You can give yourself the time to adjust your speed or stop if no one is behind you.

“The worst choice you can make is to swerve outside your lane or slam on your brakes with vehicles behind you,” explained Major David Rollins, District 4 Commander for the Colorado State Patrol. “People can end up in serious crashes when they let their emotions take over to save Bambi or his friends.”

Be prepared to make a tough decision when encountering animals. If you have time and no one behind you, you can sound your horn and slow down in a straight line, coming to a stop. However, if there is little time and traffic behind you, the right choice is to drive through, keeping in the lane, but with a slight angle towards the butt of the animal ONLY if by the white side lane line. Never swerve or jerk the wheel. As a resource to visitors in the area, the Colorado State Patrol has updated its [Super Cruising in Colorado web resource](#) to help prepare visitors for the scenic byways and mountain roadways throughout the area.

Driving Tips to Avoid an Animal-Involved Crash

- Slow down if you see animals nearby and always drive the speed limit.
- Stay alert and reduce distractions.
- Pay attention to “deer crossing” and other animal signs.
- Brake in a straight line, if you have time and no one behind you.
- When you see wildlife on the road or near the road, warn motorists behind you by honking your horn and tapping your brakes.
- Don't swerve. If a crash with an animal is inevitable, maintain control of your vehicle and drive through before pulling over when it is safe to do so. Use high beams. Flicking your high beams on wildlife may cause the animal to scurry away.
- Be aware of peak season. Animal crashes happen most often during hunting and mating season, which runs from October through December. Watch for animals on the road between dusk and dawn.
- Watch for herds. If you see one deer or elk, there are probably more nearby.
- A collision is a crash, whether with an animate or inanimate object.
- If you do hit an animal while driving, make sure you and your passengers are okay. Call 911 if the animal is large and still there after you hit it, and follow the emergency dispatcher's instructions.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

TURKEY TROT RETURNS ON THANKSGIVING DAY *Free 5K Fun Run/Walk registration is open*

Special to the Mirror

SAN MIGUEL COUNTY --- We know a great way to have a guilt-free Turkey Day feast — go for a run! San Miguel County’s Parks & Open Space Department is once again hosting the annual Turkey Trot on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 28.

“This is a great way to kick off your Thanksgiving holiday, as this event has become an annual family tradition for many locals and visitors alike” said Janet Kask, Director of Parks & Open Space. “We’re always excited to see our participants dress up in creative costumes and begin their holiday in such a fun way with their families”.

Registration is now open for the FREE 5K Fun Run/Walk held in Ilium Valley at the intersection of Ilium and Sunshine Roads (adjacent to the old Ilium Church Camp). Registration forms are online at bit.ly/SMCTurkeyTrot2024 and are due by 2 p.m. Wednesday, November 27. Pre- registration is strongly preferred. Dogs on a leash are welcome.

Participants will receive a raffle ticket for pre-registration. Race day registration takes place from 9-9:25 a.m. The pre-race raffle, only for those who pre-registered online, is at 9:30 a.m. with the official race starting at 9:45 a.m. Costumes are encouraged — of course!

The Turkey Trot will have prizes awarded for the fastest female, fastest male and fastest kid 12 and under, as well as for the best costume.

For more information or to volunteer call 970-729-1829, or email richh@sanmiguelcountyco.gov



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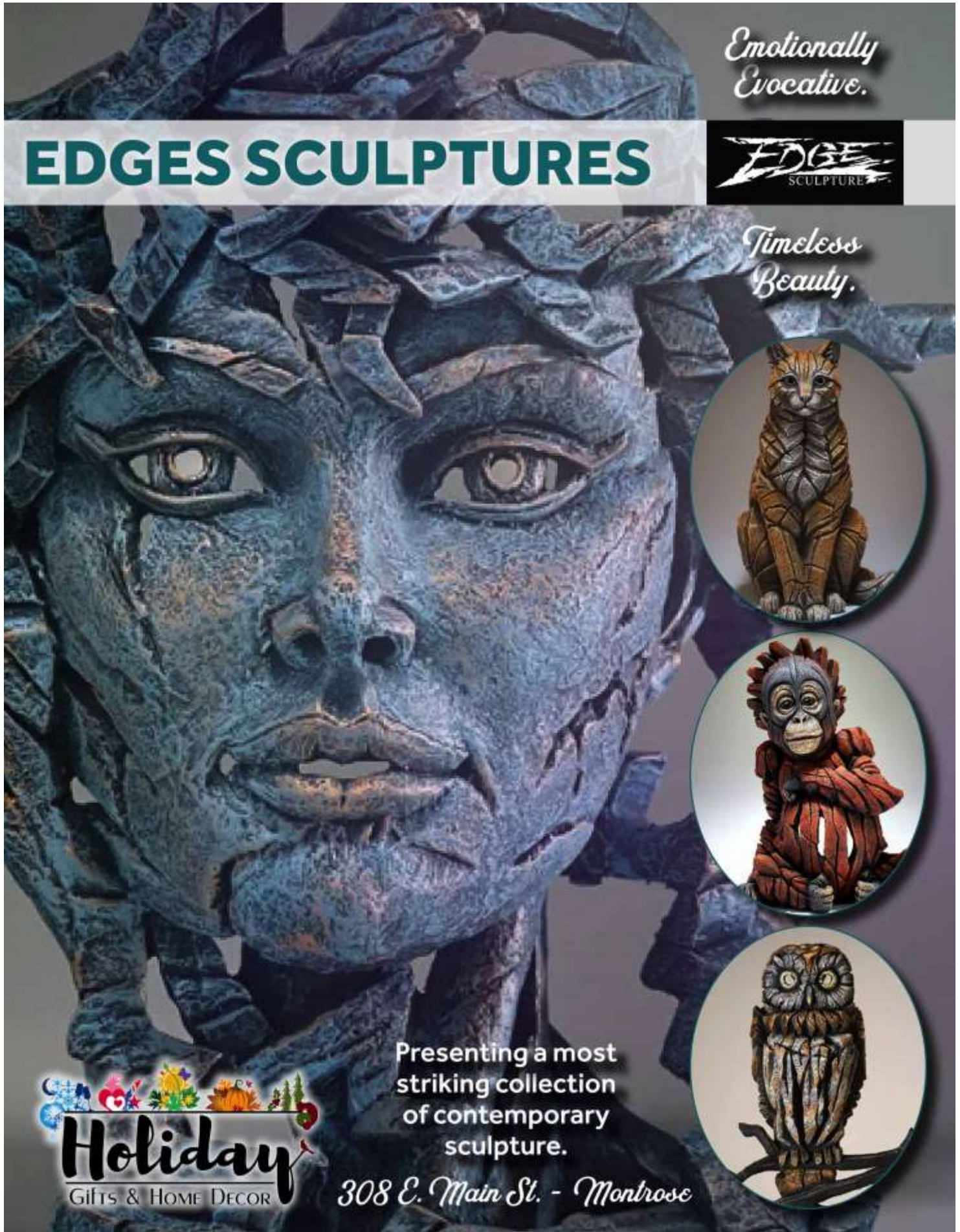
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Holiday
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OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

TURNING A POLITICAL CORNER

Changes Coming to the City and County of Montrose – Buckle Up! The Spending Spree is About to get Real Taxpayers

By David White

We're now two weeks past the November 5th General Election where we saw Colorado, as a whole, move more to the left than it had previously been positioned. Thank you, citizens of Denver, Boulder, Ft. Collins and the Mountain communities along with pockets of support in Southwest Colorado, for dragging us in a direction most of the country rejected.

While I wasn't able to comment on the election in last week's *Mirror*, a recap of some of what happened is in order before the election results fade into history and we adapt to the outcomes (positive and negative) of it – outcomes that will affect all parts of our lives.

On a positive note, one of the most dangerous ballot questions this year was **Proposition 131**, establishing a jungle primary and ranked choice voting. It was soundly **defeated with a 7% margin**, which was a surprising defeat, given the heavy promotion of the measure. The proponents spent nearly **20 million dollars** and opponents spent less than **one million dollars**.

A jungle primary puts all candidates in one big, complex primary election. This dangerous policy could have essentially **eliminated our two-party system**. The main purpose of a political party is to choose their candidate for each elected office in general elections. The jungle primary eliminates this exclusive role for the parties, rendering their main purpose **moot**. What that leaves is people with money and power who can buy their election. Defeating 131 was a vote that preserves a **legitimate place at the political table** for the average voter. Details are provided by former State Senator Kevin Lundberg here: ([LUNDBERG REPORT](#))

Proposition 127 failed. It would have virtually banned the hunting and killing of mountain lions, bobcats, lynx, et al. thereby creating the potential for the deer, elk, moose and other populations to be decimated by a proliferation of these cats.

While cases of self-defense were excluded, questions remained as to how much good such a ban would have done. The voters obviously felt that leaving things alone was best for all concerned.

Proposition KK passed statewide which will provide \$39M for funding of a state mental health program that will be funded by taxes on firearms, ammunition, firearm accessories as well as on the firearm manufacturers. All of this is yet another attempt to do an end run around the Constitutionally protected right to keep and bear arms, aka, the 2nd Amendment. There's no doubt that we have a mental health crisis in this state as well as nationally, but the State of Colorado chose to close all of the State Mental Hospitals thereby turning folks out onto the streets for local governments and non-profits to try and deal with. That was patently unfair to all of us, so here comes Prop KK to the rescue (NOT!) which levies an additional tax of 6.5% on top of the state and local taxes currently in effect. Barring lawsuits to stop it, it will go into effect on April 1, 2025.

For clarification purposes, the new 6.5% excise tax translates into \$33 in new taxes on a \$500 handgun, or \$65 in taxes on a \$1,000 rifle; \$20 worth of ammunition will cost an extra \$1.30. Much of those costs will likely be passed on to consumers. **It will not apply to businesses with less than \$20,000 in annual sales**. Gun purchases by law enforcement agencies as well as police and active-duty military officers will be exempt. **Private sales from one individual to another will not be subject to the tax**, either. For more information, see: [Proposition KK: Colorado voters approve gun excise tax](#)

In Montrose County, the Republican slate of candidates for all offices handily won the support of not only Republicans, but also the unaffiliated voters. Overall, Montrose County will remain somewhat conservative in nature through its representa-

tives at the State and County levels. New County Commissioners (Rick Dunlap and Scott Mijares) are going to have their hands full cleaning up after the current commissioners leave office in January.

The two local ballot questions we were asked to vote on (both tax increase measures), brought forward a lot of community discussion. The \$397,000,000 request by the RE-1J School District for a new Montrose High School (principle & interest) went down in flames and did so in a spectacular fashion – 73.4% against with 26.6% for it. While the voters opposed this question, they inversely supported a **66% INCREASE** in the lodging tax levied by the City of Montrose on anyone in the hotel/motel/BnB, etc. industry – 51% for and 49% against. I was surprised that it was that close, yet it passed with the ramifications of that vote to be left to the City management to rightly utilize the funds generated as directed.

The City of Montrose stated on the ballot that if passed, the following percentages of the taxes collected would be used for: **a) twenty-five percent (25%) for right-of-way maintenance; (b) seventeen percent (17%) for childcare services in Montrose; (c) thirty-three percent (33%) for incentives for affordable housing; (d) twenty percent (20%) for the Tourism Promotional Fund; and (e) five (5%) for public transit services.**

My question is, why? Why are we giving the City permission to tax our tourists for more money for right-of-way maintenance? They've been funding that from the General Fund budget for years. What are they going to do with the extra money? Divert it to increase wages? Hire more employees which will eat up the revenue in short order with not only wages but also benefits.

Why is the City trying to get into the childcare business when the County Health & Human Services Department already does this? Do they plan to funnel the money to the County? Not likely.

TURNING A POLITICAL CORNER-CHANGES COMING From previous pg

Moving on...33% of the collected monies go to incentivize "affordable housing." The Basecamp Apartments were to be "affordable" which is why the City funded construction related aspects of the project by over \$1,000,000 of your money. The "developer" of the complex, before it was even fully complete, flipped the property and made millions of dollars in profits at taxpayer expense on the deal along with the "affordable" component going out the window and market rate rents becoming the norm. **A one-bedroom/one bath apartment there (719 sq. ft.) starts at \$1,585 PER MONTH. Want a 2-bedroom/2-bath unit measuring 995 sq. ft.? You're going to pay \$1,955 or more PER MONTH depending on a number of factors!** Is this the City's idea of affordable housing? (1 - 2 Bed Apartments - Check Availability | Basecamp)

Lastly, the balance of 25% of collected tax revenue is to go to promote tourism (i.e., come to Montrose so we can tax the crap out of you? That's a great way to treat the tourists you so covet, Mr. City Manager and Council). The small balance left over goes to public transit services, however that's defined.

In the midst of all of the election related distractions, the City and County have been working on their 2025 budgets. Guess what? They're going up and so are the number of employees that the City is employing or going to employ. Government salaries and benefits are already generous and are going to be even more so come January 1, 2025.

The City of Montrose's proposed 2025 budget is \$111,747,777 reflecting revenue from multiple sources with expenses set to equal revenue. Montrose County's proposed budget is \$103,260,699 which also reflects revenue from multiple sources. Their projected expenses for 2025 are \$116,468,882 (yes, they're spending more than they expect to collect, but will rely on reserve funds and other sources for clearing the deficit).

According to City Manager Bill Bell's October 15, 2024 budget transmittal letter to the City Council, he states that:

"Our local job market remains very competitive and challenging, with extremely low unemployment. Therefore, it is important to be a responsible employer to recruit and retain a highly productive and impactful workforce. We are proud to say that we have built an amazing team of highly educated and experienced employees by offering a competitive Wage and Compensation System based on both Individual Performance and the city's comparable market of organizations with similar budgets, number of employees, community population, etc." (Ed. Note - **CODE FOR EXCLUSION OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN CALCULATING WAGES AND BENEFITS**)

The wages that the City pays (as well as the County's) are substantially higher than what the private sector is able to afford to pay their employees. In addition, local government is growing again this coming year with the City hiring 10 new employees (for a new total number of 208). The County is REDUCING their staff by six employees (while slashing the Sheriff's staff levels by 10 in order to bring compensation levels up to a reasonable level for the rest of the department and to help staunch the loss of deputies to the City of Montrose and others) bringing total County employees to 380 from a current 386.

The City states that their employee package includes *"benefits for full-time employees include employer portion of Medicare and social security, 401a defined contributions, medical insurance, dental insurance, life insurance, disability insurance, vision insurance and an HSA contribution."*

The City has not clearly stated in their budget proposal what the percentage increase in salaries is going to be, but you can be sure it will be close to or greater than what the County is planning. According to County documents and sources, Montrose County is planning to increase, across the board, employee wages by 5.1%. This follows a 4.3% increase for 2024. The County will be increasing their match for employee benefit/retirement plans to 5% (they will match the percentage of contributions an employee makes

to their retirement plan by up to 5%). Health insurance costs for County employees (paid by the County) will top \$1,300 next year. This amount is similar to what the City has disclosed their health insurance benefit is going to cost taxpayers in 2025.

As if these generous salary and benefit increases weren't enough, the County is going to be "gifting" to each current employee, a \$1,000 bonus as a "retention" incentive just in time for the holidays! Unbelievable and totally disconnected from the fact that spending almost \$400,000 of taxpayer money is a fiscally irresponsible thing to do.

If you'd like to get your blood boiling, check out this website where you can find all of the salaries of both City and County employees (current through 2023): [Colorado State Employee Salaries](#)

With those of you on Social Security or a fixed income trying to make ends meet, your 3.2% increase in benefits this year and a 2.5% increase planned for next year (most of that substantially reduced due to increases in Medicare), seeing and learning of the wasteful decisions being made by your local elected officials and their managers, should have you up in arms. At some point, we will all bleed out financially as these entities, disconnected as they are, keep raising the cost of government to cover wages that the private sector can ill afford to pay. The system is rigged. Government today is thinly disguised American Socialism. As former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher once said, "The problem with socialism is that you eventually run out of other people's money." That day is coming.

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

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

SCHOOL DISTRICT'S PRE-ELECTION TALKING POINTS WERE DISINGENUOUS AT BEST

Editor:

The massive 73% NO vote on the school bond issue this year was a total rejection of the School Superintendent and the majority of the school board as well as a vote of no confidence in the district's leadership.

The district's pre-election talking points were disingenuous at best. The bond question noted a cost of \$195 million but the fine print of capping the bond at \$395 million was not emphasized. Additionally before proposing the bond the District failed to consult the County Assessor to determine the effects of such a huge bond on all aspects of our local economy.

With over \$1 million already spent in the planning process it was the height of irresponsibility on the part of our school district to even consider putting this question before the voters in an economy such as none of us have experienced in many years. Before resurrecting this issue and expecting taxpayers to further encumber themselves the school board would be advised to concentrate on closing the student achievement gap that has existed far too long.

Dee Laird, Montrose



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

DRILL BABY DRILL WILL NOT IMPACT OUR ENERGY COSTS BUT WILL IMPACT OUR ENVIRONMENT AND OUR LIVES

By Sue Schmidt

In November 2024, residents in West Texas experienced a series of earthquakes, including a magnitude 3.4 which struck near Toyah, TX, home of 61 people. A mysterious 100ft geyser of chemical water recently sprung into the air near that town resulting in a rotten egg smell after an abandoned well exploded. There is no solution to contain the geyser. Residents are concerned that leaks and blowouts will contaminate their water, and they will be impacted by toxic chemicals being blasted into the air including methane.

The Railroad Commission of Texas has spent \$25 million to plug known orphaned wells and has plugged 737 wells (10% of the number of estimated orphaned wells in Texas.) Regulations are lax allowing companies to simply abandon non-producing wells without properly sealing them.

Seismic Activity and Gas and Oil Production

According to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) which monitors seismic events nationwide, this quake was part of a larger trend of frequent earthquakes in Texas, including a 5.1 magnitude earthquake in September that was felt as far away as San Antonio and Austin.

Some experts believe injecting high-pressure fluid into underground rock formations to extract oil and gas (fracking) and injecting wastewater from these operations back into the ground could be linked to the surge in earthquakes.

"Earthquakes hit Texas town plagued by rotten egg stench," James Gordon, Dailymail.com, November 12, 2024, <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-14070525/Earthquakes-hit-Texas-town-plagued-rotten-egg-stench-mysterious-geyser.html>.

Oil and Gas Operations Cleanup Costs Falls to Taxpayers

Colorado has 312 oil and gas well operators in Colorado that own 52,000 wells. Colorado Oil and Gas Conservative Commission (COGCC) groups them as follows: (1) High producing wells (28%), (2) Stripper Wells (21%), (3) Low-producing Wells (17%), (4) Uneconomic Wells (33%), and (5) Orphan Wells (1%). It costs about

\$92,000 per well to plug and clean up a well site.

If a company owning these wells goes bankrupt, **Colorado taxpayers** will assume that cost currently estimated at **\$8 billion** per Carbon Tracker. So is the other option to let geysers spew rotten egg smells from blown up abandoned wells? Current estimates are that Colorado will have \$654 million on hand in five years to ensure that cleanup occurs.

Currently, large companies sell interest in these non-producing sites to small companies that often go out of business and abandon these wells. Another option for large producers is to keep them open to avoid cleanup costs letting them rust and go into disrepair. "43% of CO Oil and Gas Companies Exclusively Own Inactive, Leaky Wells, Sean Price, February 1, 2022, Colorado Times Recorder, <https://coloradotimesrecorder.com/2022/02/colorado-oil-and-gas-exclusively-own-inactive-leaky-wells/42752/> and Colorado's oil and gas rules put taxpayers at risk, according to study, Nick Bowlin, June 28, 2024, High Country News, <https://www.hcn.org/articles/colorados-oil-and-gas-rules-put-taxpayers-at-risk-according-to-study/#:~:text=Colorado%20has%20nearly%2048%2C000%20unplugged%20oil%20and,not%20include%20the%20cost%20of%20removing%20surface.>

Health Risks from Oil and Gas From Fracking and Air Pollution

When we lived in Garfield County, CO, a large volume of gas and oil wells sprang up, all using fracking technology. Researchers at the Colorado School of Public Health at the University of Colorado-Denver did an analysis of air samples near well pads based on mounting health issues. It found that both non-cancer and cancer risks increased for residents living within a half-mile of wells. "The study said the well completions result in exposure to trimethylbenzenes, aliphatic hydrocarbons and xylenes, which can have neurological and respiratory effects such as eye irritation, headaches, sore throat and difficulty breathing. Some Garfield County residents have complained of such symptoms in connection with nearby oil



Flaring, Silt, CO, February 2013. Courtesy photo.

and gas development." At that time, Antero Resources planned to drill 200 wells in the residential community of Battlement Mesa. Setbacks at the time of that study were as little as 150 feet from homes. "Fracking study warns of air pollution threat," Dennis Webb, March 20, 2012, updated Sept 28, 2017, The Grand Junction Sentinel. https://www.gjsentinel.com/news/western-colorado/fracking-study-warns-of-air-pollution-threat/article_94bd3003-6639-5d6c-85e3-fb73c1678ba8.html.

Active oil and gas wells in Colorado almost doubled from 22,228 in 2000 to 43,354 in 2010. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) notes 95% of the new wells in Colorado use fracking to access natural gas. Guess that's better than the test they did in Rulison, CO on September 10, 1969 when a 40-kiloton **nuclear bomb** was exploded in the subterranean depths of the Piceance Basin. Ninety-percent of the cost was funded by Houston, Texas-based Austral Oil and CER Geonuclear Corporation in the hope of extracting gas and oil from shale.

With respect to fracking, industry data indicated in 2009 that 430 million gallons of chemical-laced fluids had been injected into more than 9,000 oil and gas wells in Colorado. In a 2013 Western Organization of Resource Council's report, fracking at that time was using 7 billion gallons of water a year in four western states: Wyoming, Colorado, Montana, and North Dakota. Water used in fracking is lost forever due to contamination. A 2013 study published in Endocrinology, "Estrogen and Androgen Receptor Activities of Hydraulic Fracturing Chemicals and Surface and

DRILL BABY DRILL WILL NOT IMPACT OUR ENERGY COSTS *From previous pg*

Ground Water in a Drilling-Dense Region” found that water samples near Colorado gas drilling in Garfield County using hydraulic fracturing showed the presence of chemicals linked to infertility, birth defects, and cancer at higher levels than areas where fracking did not take place.

Wikipedia, https://www.gem.wiki/Colorado_and_fracking

“Flaring results in the release of substantial volumes of potent GHGs, including methane, black soot and nitrous oxide” and has a negative impact on climate change and human health. Around 140 bcm of natural gas is flared globally each year. The volume of natural gas flared in 2022 was around the same levels as in 2010. There are options available to reduce and avoid flaring but not being used by producers. International Energy Agency, <https://www.iea.org/energy-system/fossil-fuels/gas-flaring#tracking>

The gas resulting from flaring consists of mostly methane along with volatile organics, sulfur compounds, and hazardous air toxins like benzene. Methane warms the planet. An estimated 18 million people live within 2 km (1.24 miles) of oil and gas wells and 500 million live within 5 km (3.11 miles) of an active flare in Texas, New Mexico, North Dakota, and Montana. Flares and their emissions are known to cause preterm births, pediatric asthma, exacerbates pulmonary problems, and forms smog linked to cardiovascular, nervous system, and reproductive health issues. Gas like benzene are known carcinogens linked to birth controls. Where Gas Flaring is Endangering Communities, April 24, 2024, Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI), <https://rmi.org/where-gas-flaring-is-endangering-communities/>.

On August 3, 2024, Colorado Energy and Carbon Management Commission approved Civitas Resources 32,000 acre plan to permit 156 new oil and gas wells at seven drilling locations in Arapahoe County none to be closer than 3,000 feet from the nearest subdivision satisfying the 2,000-foot setback requirement adopted

by ECMC in 2020. Opponents say it is still too close to neighborhoods, schools and recreation areas and environmentally hazardous sites like the Lowry Landfill. Colorado regulators approve oil and gas drilling plan on state land east of Aurora, Chase Woodruff, August 7, 2024, Colorado Newline, <https://coloradonewline.com/2024/08/07/colorado-approve-oil-gas-drilling-aurora/>.

Facts About US Production

1. The United States now produces nearly all of the natural gas that it uses. Natural gas explained, US Energy Information Administration, <https://www.eia.gov/energyexplained/natural-gas/where-our-natural-gas-comes-from.php>. Natural gas is processed to remove petrochemicals and impurities and results in “dry” gas which is shipped in pipelines or cooled to form liquified natural gas (LNG) which can be transported overseas via ocean-going tankers. “How the US Oil and Gas Industry Works, Lindsay Maizland and Anshu Siripurapu,” August 11, 2022, Renewing America, <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/how-us-oil-and-gas-industry-works>. So additional production of natural gas will not be used in the US but shipped overseas to higher priced markets driving prices up for everyone.

2. The United States is the top oil producer (21.91 million barrels per day in 2023) – Saudi Arabia is second (11.31 million barrels per day in 2023) <https://www.eia.gov/tools/faqs/faq.php?id=709&t=6> Oil is refined into gasoline and diesel, jet fuel, and petrochemicals. “How the US Oil and Gas Industry Works, Lindsay Maizland and Anshu Siripurapu,” August 11, 2022, Renewing America, <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/how-us-oil-and-gas-industry-works>.

3. In early 2020 with global energy prices collapsing due to COVID-19 restrictions choking demand, the US government granted companies billions of dollars in tax benefits (your taxpayer dollars) as a part of a massive fiscal stimulus program and by 2022 the industry was banking

hefty profits as the economy recovered and prices soared amid Russia’s war in Ukraine.

“How the US Oil and Gas Industry Works, Lindsay Maizland and Anshu Siripurapu,” August 11, 2022, Renewing America, <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/how-us-oil-and-gas-industry-works>.

4. Fossil fuel industry’s wish list – more taxpayer subsidies, more land opened for dirty drilling, and fewer environmental and health safeguards – none of these will help your gas prices and grant them free rein to lock the US into decades of higher and more volatile energy prices, higher toxic emissions, and greater climate destruction. Cap 20, 5 Reasons why the United States Can’t Drill Its Way to Energy Independence, March 10, 2022, <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/5-reasons-why-the-united-states-cant-drill-its-way-to-energy-independence/>

5. The US produces enough oil to meet its own needs BUT (1) the cost of getting the oil out of the ground is cheaper overseas and (2) since the US use to rely on crude from other countries that produced heavy crude, our refineries are geared toward using heavier oils while most of the oil produced in the US fields are light and sweet crude.

We ship light crude oil out and ship heavy crude in. “American Produces Enough Oil to Meet Its Needs, So Why Do We Import Crude?”, Martin Tiller, March 8, 2022, Nasdaq.

Increasing production will not be used in the US to balance our energy needs but will instead be shipped overseas to increase the oil and gas industry’s profits. It will not decrease our energy costs but will instead increase them as Americans will need to compete with higher prices paid throughout the world for the energy resources we are depleting from our own stockpile.

Environmental impacts will have a long-lasting impact on our own health and well being, and drilling will have a lifetime impact on the pristine areas we hold sacred.

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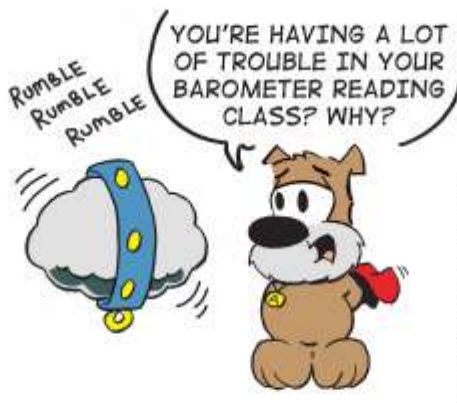
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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

DEMOCRATS CAN LIE WITH IMPUNITY AND RARELY FACE ANY CONSEQUENCE

Editor:

It is no secret that one-sided media coverage means that Democrats can lie with impunity and rarely face any consequence for their subterfuge. In the 2020 election Donald Trump faced media interference, suspicious ballot dumps, politicized censorship of information, low-security election laws, polling place issues, etc. (Somehow Biden got 81.4 million votes in that election, but Obama only got 69.5 million in 2008 and 65.9 million in 2012, and Kamala got 66.4 million in 2024?) The fact that Trump succeeded in making the 2024 election "too big to rig" doesn't make those problems any less threatening to self-governance. He faced the same problems in 2024. States automatically registered residents to vote without requiring proof of citizenship. Overly broad laws governing overseas voters allowed people to vote in critical swing states despite never setting foot there. States with mass mail voting regimes sent ballots to the wrong places. Laws allowed undated ballots to be turned in after election day. Many states didn't require ID to vote, or treated non-citizen licenses as qualifying ID. Election officials decided to keep dead, moved, or otherwise unqualified "voters" on their voter rolls. Our esteemed DOJ even sued Virginia to keep that state from removing noncitizens from their voter roles.

In our own state of Colorado, Secretary of State Jena Griswold's actions are painful to watch, but the media repeats her lies

without question. Entire passwords were revealed online for four to six months for 664 pieces of election equipment in 63 of 64 Colorado counties. Griswold lied that they were only partial passwords. She lied when she said it took two passwords to get into the systems. She lied when she indicated remote access cannot happen. She distorted the facts when she claimed there is no evidence the systems were accessed, knowing that even an average hacker could compromise the system and leave no trace they had been in the machines. She lied when she declared a password change is sufficient, when cyber experts warn the systems must be quarantined pending a total forensic investigation. Griswold's aide admitted that they tried to keep the security breach a secret from election clerks because it would create a media frenzy of bad publicity. Further, the passwords were only changed after the breach was made public and Griswold was forced to respond. She then insulted the intelligence of every Colorado citizen by launching her own investigation and calling it "independent." She first employed a law firm with deep ties to the Democrat Party and which had donated to her political campaign. When she was called out on that, she hired another law firm. Don't count on Griswold being held accountable for her incompetence and coverup as long as Democrats control our state House, Senate, and governorship. Meanwhile election machines across the state remain compromised.

One further comment on accountability. Now that the \$200 million Montrose High School ballot issue has been soundly defeated, where is the accountability within the Montrose County School District for the several instances of questionable behavior on the part of individuals within the District?

Did the person or persons responsible for breaking state law by using taxpayer funds to advocate for passage of the ballot issue receive any consequence for their actions? Was Superintendent Stephenson penalized in any way for insulting the 16,701 Montrose County people who just voted for Trump in the 2024 election by calling them either racist or OK with racism?

A major school district talking point for the ballot issue was school safety, indicating that the multiple access points to the high school compromised students' safety.

Now that they have admitted that they have a problem, what are they going to do about it? Also, I have yet to see where MCSD has addressed the questions regarding its administration staffing levels compared to other area school districts. The continued silence leads me to believe the reports that MCSD has twice the number of administrators as Mesa County School District and half the number of students are true. It would seem that Superintendent Stephenson and the school board should either address the question or address the problem.

Ed Henrie, Montrose





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

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE REPUBLICAN WOMEN PRESENT 2024 CIVIC AWARDS HONORING LOCAL VOLUNTEERS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Montrose Republican Women honored volunteers during its 2024 Giving Thanks Civic Awards Ceremony. The 8th annual celebration recognized four local citizens for their unwavering efforts and talents to support our community and nation.

MRW President Kerri Catlin spoke of how these volunteers use their gifts and talents to protect and improve our society. With passion and dedication, they themselves foster hope and encouragement, restore faith and bring direction into our lives.

During the Thanksgiving luncheon, MRW members recognized these individuals with a certificate of appreciation and a brief biography focusing on details of volunteer work each contributes to our community.

Thank you all for your resolve and hard work to make our community and nation a better place to live.

The 2024 MRW Civic Award Recipients:

Air Force Veteran Lt. Col. Peter Barnes was recognized for his service and being instrumental in the secret research and development of the "Stealth" aircraft series. As a pilot, Barnes tested and flew these aircraft and the deployment of the advanced high-altitude weapons system. Presented by MRW Vice President Cherie Whiteford.

Montrose Rancher/Farmer John Field volunteers his time and knowledge on local, state and national boards which focus on agriculture and natural resources. He is instrumental in educating and directing policy to positively impact productive ag. Presented by Former State Senator Don Coram.

Liz Mauch volunteers in many capacities. She is currently the President of the Montrose Botanical Society and oversees its many events, including the Garden of Lights. She helps in the education of youth and is part of the Montrose Veterans Memorial project, to name a few of her endeavors. MRW member Pat Brown, presenter.

Ray Langston volunteers his time and talents on various community and political boards. Langston advocates, educates, and fundraises for multiple organizations. He is a gun enthusiast and purports gun safety and education for young and old. He currently is a youth mentor and faithful church-goer. MRW Treasurer Diane Carabetta, presenter.



Montrose Republican Women honored volunteers. Courtesy photo.

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COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

VERA L. BACA

February 28, 1950 — November 9, 2024



VERA L. BACA, 74, passed away of natural causes on Saturday November 9th, 2024 at her home in Naturita, CO. She was surrounded by her children and made the transition peacefully.

Vera was born the seventh child of Benjamin and Ruth Dunning in Scottsbluff, Nebraska on February 28, 1950. She attended her primary and secondary education in Englewood, CO. After a successful career, Vera retired from the Defense Finance and Accounting Office in Aurora, CO and shortly after relocated to the Western Slope to be closer to her grandchildren and enjoy that part of the country. She enjoyed caring for and decorating her home, and especially enjoyed any opportunity to spend time with her grandchildren, family, and friends. Vera never ceased to welcome people with her great smile, and she will be sorely missed.

Vera is preceded in death by her parents, her brothers Larry Dunning, Michael Dunning, David Dunning, and Ben Dunning. She is survived by her sisters Judy Ross of Longmont Colorado and Veronica Manuel of Seal Beach, California; two sons, Gale Sinks (Shannon) of Houston Texas, Joshua Sinks (Shawna) of Nucla, Colorado; six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

CAROL HENDRIX DAVIS

CAROL HENDRIX DAVIS was born in Merced, California on Jan 13, 1943, returned HOME to Colorado with her Mother at Age 2. Over her lifetime, she lived in many towns, but all roads lead home to Southwest Colorado because the LORD lives here: in the mountains, canyons, rivers, forests, sunrises, sunsets, changing of the seasons and interesting cloud displays. No place on earth can bring the indescribable peace one can feel here.

School and learning were a privilege, graduating Durango High in 1961, but mostly, life's useful lessons were learned from Carol's Dear Mother.

Being a secretary was her goal, after four years of working the school office, her career began professionally in 1962 at Beneficial Finance in Durango.

While living in Eastern CO, she worked in several Farmers Insurance offices. Later in her career she was the secretary at the United Methodist Church of Montrose, retiring in 2012, 50 years later.

Wife, Mom, and Grandma were her favorite titles, family was her greatest joy, along with her long-time marriage, her Catholic Faith and her hobby, (gathering friends).

Carol's best friend, (her husband of 57 years), Gary Davis, survives, along with their son, Brian and wife Jody, daughters, Donna, Diana, aunt Ardis and cousin, Bill Wolgram. Grandsons, Nicholas, Brent, James Benjamin, Brady and Garrett brought very much joy into her life. Many pets have come and gone, she loved each one dearly, said they loved her back and understood her when no one else did.

Cremation was Carol's wish, a family and friends gathering to spread her ashes will be held, date to be announced. NO other services are planned, and she requests those who knew her would think fondly of her and recall a quote from Actor, Michael Landon, "Remember me with smiles and laughter, for that is how I will remember you: If you cannot remember me with smiles and laughter, then don't remember me at all."

Arrangements are in the care of Crippin Funeral Home, Montrose, CO 970-249-2121



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COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

MONA JONES

August 21, 1932 — November 5, 2024

With a heavy heart, we announce the passing of Mona Marie Jones. She was a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, sister, aunt and friend who touched the lives of many with her kindness, generosity, and gentle spirit.

Mona was born to William Roy & Lydia (Alvey) Woods on August 21, 1932 in Texhoma, Oklahoma. Roy and Lydia homesteaded on Summit Point, Utah but traveled back to Oklahoma to be with family for the birth of their first child. They returned to Summit Point when Mona was a few months old.

Her sister, Wanda June was born a few years later in Monticello, Utah. The family remained on the homestead, farming and building a life together for nearly 20 years. On November 17, 1952, Mona married Ira Custer Jones in Gallup, NM. Together they lived in many places as Ira worked in various Uranium mines in the four corners area. Upon moving to Bedrock, CO in 1972 they found the place to call home, where they spent the remainder of their lives.

Mona lived a life of hard work, loving

care, and cherished moments. She was dedicated to her role as a homemaker and took pride in caring for her family's needs, home, and yard. Everyone in her circle received love as she provided physical and emotional care to all.

While Mona was never a member of a particular church, she lived Christian values throughout her life. She had respect for all who shared their beliefs with her. She was preceded in death by her parents, Roy and Lydia, her husband Ira Jones, her sister Monica Zimmerman, and Paul & Viola Nixon, her father and mother-in-law whom she loved dearly.

Mona is survived by her children, Sherry Pribble (James), Tommy Jones (Ramona), Tammy Moyer and Chad Jones (Brenda) and grandchildren: Candace Knotts, Jamie Joslin, Colby Chiles, Timothy Jones, Stacy Dominquez, Shaylene Randolph, Cassie Miller, Nick Randolph, Shawna Yos, Ashley Warn, Casey Jones, Cody Jones. She has 26 great-grandchildren, her brother David Wells, sister Wanda Hemphill, numerous nieces and nephews, and individuals



whom she considered family. She also leaves behind a community of friends who will miss her dearly.

We find comfort in knowing that Mona's spirit will continue to inspire us all. We will all strive to live a life as honorable as hers.

- The Family

CARLOS LEE KILLE

May 31, 1941 — November 6, 2024

CARLOS LEE KILLE passed away peacefully in his home Wednesday November 6, 2024 surrounded by his family.

Carlos was born May 31, 1941 in Brookfield, Missouri to Frank and Mabel Kille. He was the 14th of 16 children. When Carlos was 10 years old the Kille's moved to Grand Junction, Colorado. Carlos graduated from high school in 1959. After graduation he moved to California.

Carlos married Susan Palmer in 1961 in Santa Rosa, California. He was skilled in many trades but being a lifelong baker was his true talent. Carlos enjoyed the mountains, camping and hunting with his family. Together they had two children, LeeAnn (Derek) and Brian (Karia).

In 1976 the family of four moved to Montrose, Colorado, where they have resided for 48 years. They have five grandchildren CJ Inda (Kerri), Kasie Macri (Robert), Jessica Parker (Trent), Kyla Kille (Jake) and Brianna Kille (Alex). They also have seven great grandchildren.

Carlos was preceded in death by his parents, nine brothers, four sisters and one great granddaughter. He is survived by his family and two sisters.

Please join us for a celebration of Carlos's life on Saturday November 30th at Montrose Elks Lodge from 3-5.



COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

WESLEY GENE ASHLEY

June 24, 1937 — November 4, 2024

WESLEY GENE ASHLEY passed away peacefully at his home in Montrose, Colorado, on November 4, 2024, after a long struggle with chronic pain and complications from heart and lung illnesses. He died in the tender care of his wife and family.

Gene was born in the old St. Luke's Hospital in Montrose, Colorado, on June 24, 1937, to Wesley Leonard Ashley and Doris Mae Calloway. He was the oldest of three children and was raised with his sisters Donna and Sue in the Montrose area before the family moved to Ouray County where Gene spent most of his youth. He graduated from Ridgway High School in 1955 which he never let his wife Wanda or her brothers forget, all graduates of rival Ouray High School.

From an early age, Gene was drawn to the outdoors. He learned farming, ranching, and hunting from his father and fishing from his mother. He spent countless hours tracking deer and elk, casting in worms for rainbow trout, and riding horses. As he was known to frequently share (with a sparkle in his eye), he always caught the most and biggest fish, shot elk and deer with the widest antlers, and rode the most dangerous trails of the San Juans. In his later years, his yard and garden were his pride and joy. He had no

rivals when it came to the size of his onions or the heat of his jalapenos.

When it came to winning, he always did! As a youth, he and his partner Wanda, later to become his wife, were on the team that won the Colorado state square dancing championship. As family members will attest, he seldom lost in cribbage, his favorite card game, and was almost impossible to beat in horseshoes. Gene always had a regulation-size horseshoe pit in his backyard and challenged anyone to a game. Oh yes, he never let a difficult word puzzle conquer him.

While in Germany during his three-year service in the Army, Gene gained a love of country and was a proud veteran and patriot throughout his life. Old Glory always flew on the family flagpole in the front yard, and he wasn't shy about letting you know who he was going to vote for in the next election.

He was a man of many professions and never shied away from a hard day of work. Ranching was his first love and he spent much of his life raising cattle and breeding horses.

He started an Appaloosa ranch in Colorado and eventually moved it to Montana where he spent many years. When not ranching, he was operating heavy equip-

ment for county governments, running a logging operation with his dad in Colorado's Sanborn Park, and working for the ski resorts in Aspen, Colorado. He was even a team calf roper on the rodeo circuit for many years.

Gene amazed his family with his memory. Had he pursued an academic career, he would have been the envy of his class. Up until the very end, he never forgot a person, place, or thing. He remembered the name of every childhood friend and every experience he had with them, every road he had ever driven, every home he had ever lived in, and every person he had ever met. He easily recalled every fact and figure he ever learned and was the family's walking encyclopedia.

He is survived by his four children from his first marriage and many grandchildren. He will be missed by his wife Wanda and the family he inherited from her including her three children, her brothers and sister, and many nieces and nephews. His family expresses appreciation to all of Gene's caregivers with a special thanks to Wendi Sorden of Hope West Hospice. Gene will be interred in Grand Junction at the Veterans Memorial Cemetery of Western Colorado. A memorial service for friends and family will be held at a future date.



COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

BETTY ARLENE SMYLE

December 1, 1939-November 3, 2024

BETTY ARLENE SMYLE went to be with the Lord Sunday November 3, 2024.

Betty was born to Clint and Freda Driscoll on December 1, 1939, in Ogden, Utah. She was the youngest of six children and the only daughter.

Betty was married to Chuck Frey in 1957. They had two children. They later divorced. She met and married Pete Smyle in 1993.

They were married until the time of his death in March 2023.

Because Chuck was in the Air Force and Pete did construction Betty got to travel and live in numerous places in her life but since she was raised in Hotchkiss, CO she always called Hotchkiss home.

One of her greatest joys was spending time with family and friends. She loved working in her sister-in-law's flower shop and designing flower arrangements. She enjoyed crafting and decorating her home. Pete and she loved to gamble while living in Nevada.

Betty is survived by her daughter Bonnie (Mike) Steely of Montrose, Co, son Billy (Theresa) Frey of Crescent Valley, NV, three stepchildren Brian (Naomi) Smyle of Bowman, ND, Lisa (Howard) Rice of Burlington, ND, Kyla Wolford of Bismarck, ND and numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren.

There will be a small family gathering at a later date.

The family would like to thank the staff at Montage Creek and Hope West Hospice for the amazing care she received.



SUNDRA MAE HECHT

September 16, 1950-November 3, 2024

SUNDRA HECHT passed away peacefully Sunday morning surrounded by her family. Although she was born in Cortez CO, she was a long-time resident of Montrose CO.

Sundra and Her husband Martin Hecht had many adventures together during their 40 years of marriage.

Sundra and Martin shared five children; Jerry Hecht and his wife Mona, Leroy Hecht and his wife Elizabeth, Ray Sanderson, Kelly Tunget and her husband Richard Tunget, and Jennifer Wilkins. They also shared 15 grandchildren and many great-grandchildren.

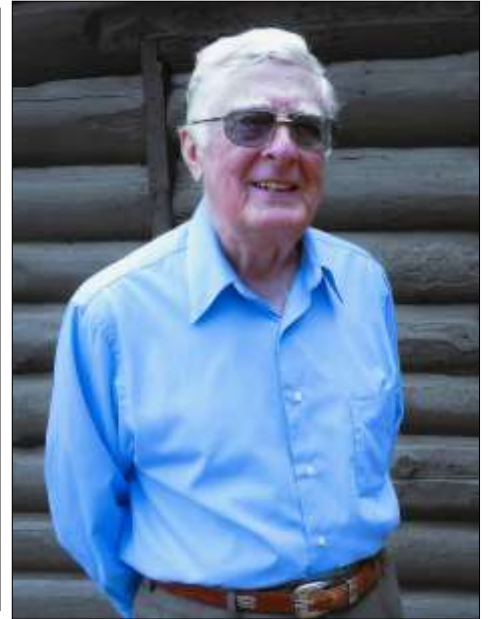
Sundra fondly remembered her niece Crystal Godfrey, all her cousins, both extended families, and her friends and co-workers.

Sundra was preceded in death by her parents, Albert Godfrey and Lucille Beene Godfrey, her brother AC Godfrey, and her son Ray Sanderson.



COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

DONALD (DON) RADOVICH ***January 3, 1932 – November 9, 2024***



Artist and naturalist Don Radovich passed away peacefully of natural causes at home in Montrose, Colorado, on November 9th to a chorus of Sandhill Cranes—a symbolic tribute to a man who spent much of his 92 years championing the conservation and enjoyment of birds and wildlife through his paintings.

Born in Nazareth, PA, to Serbian/American parents, Angelina and Zivan Radovich, Don grew up with his older sister, Olga (McDonald), in Ecorse Michigan. He spent summers at his uncle's Swan Creek farm where he discovered the wonders of a natural world and began sketching colorful warblers and songbirds observed on daily walks. Upon high school graduation, he enrolled in classes at the University of Michigan and eventually transferred to the University of New Mexico, majoring in art and biology. After serving with the Army's First Division (1954-56), Don returned to work for New Mexico Dept of Game and Fish as an illustrator and field biologist. In 1960, he en-

rolled at University of New Mexico graduate school and earned a Master of Fine Arts Degree, then took a position in 1964 in Gunnison, Colorado, as professor at Western State College (now Western Colorado University). Shortly thereafter, he met and married Sheryl Nash and together they started a family with the birth of sons Steve (1970) and Nick (1974). Teaching in the Art Department became his dream job and gave him the opportunity to mentor talented students.

Along with teaching, he opened Los Pinos Art Gallery and Frame Shop in Gunnison and illustrated numerous scientific journals and books including *Birds of North America*, *Birds of the West Indies*, and *Birds of Colorado's Gunnison Country* (Western State College Foundation). He retired in 1988, to prepare for a one-man show at the National Wildlife Gallery in Washington DC.

Don and Sheryl moved to Ouray in 2001 to establish the Canyon Creek Gallery and purchased a winter residence in Tucson's

Sonoran Desert. In 2005, they relocated the summer home to Montrose, where Don could grow his fruit trees, watch wildlife along the backyard seasonal stream, and paint in his small studio. He derived greatest pleasure when visited by family, friends and fellow artists.

Don is survived by his beloved wife Sheryl, son Nick and wife Linh, daughter-in-law Kate, grandchildren Henry, Alex, Eddie, Tanner and Brody, and his best dog buddy, Mojo.

He was preceded in death by his parents, sister Olga and son Steve.

Sheryl would like to express gratitude to the Audubon Book Club, the Art Boys, family friends, Woodgate neighbors, and Hope West for their many acts of kindness. Gifts in Don's memory can be made to the Black Canyon Audubon Society. A private memorial will be held at a future date.

The spirit of this kind and gentle man, who loved the natural world, has taken flight!

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

DR. VIOLA HARRISON 1937 - 2024

The Harrison clan is sad to announce the loss of an amazing woman, Viola Harrison. We also have the privilege of celebrating the life of Grammy, Mama-son, Mom and Dr. Viola Harrison. Viola gifted all who were in her life with unwavering support and unconditional love. And she had plenty to give. With each new member of our family, she grew another branch of her tree of worry, unconditional support and love.

Viola Russell was born and raised in Medford, Oregon. She attended Lewis & Clark College where she met her husband, Dr. Tom Harrison. Viola Harrison received her Masters degree in rhetoric, then her PhD in Feminist Linguistics from The fielding Institute. In 1958, she drove the AICan highway to Alaska in a pickup truck and camper with her husband and three small children. Alaska would remain her home for the next 50 years.

For a time, she was a teacher among Eskimo teachers in Kotzebue, Alaska. Later, at the University of Alaska Anchorage, then Dr. Viola Harrison was a teacher spreading knowledge, self-confidence, and explora-

tion of self. She continued her work after retirement through volunteering in literature classes in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Viola was also an accomplished musician. She played viola in the Anchorage Symphony Orchestra, Tucson Symphony Orchestra and Los Alamos Symphony

Her family in Alaska, Washington, and Colorado continue her tradition of cooking. Around the kitchen we all show our love and connect because this is where Viola was a master. Viola was an intrepid adventurer! From small Eskimo villages above the arctic circle, to the rugged coastline of Halibut Cove and Katchemak Bay, to Santa Fe and Tucson in the Southwest and finally coming to rest in Montrose, Colorado. Viola loved the outdoors whether hiking,

boating, picking blueberries, harvesting mussels or sitting around a fire of driftwood on a beach. She has left a legacy of taking calculated risks, independence of action and thought and appreciation of experiencing the present moment. Viola, Mom, Grandma, your love will live inside all of us for the rest of our days. Thank you for being you and thank you for loving us.



Now more than ever...

Thank you for reading

THE MONTROSE MIRROR

ISSUE 495 Nov. 18, 2024

ART & SOL

YOUR BRAIN ON NATURE: DARK NIGHT



Greetings Mirrorites!

By Dr. Lauren Hall Ruddell, Ph.D. Courtesy Photo.



Black Canyon night sky. Photo Courtesy of Greg Owens, 2015.

Although I seldom see sunsets because I am in bed so early in the summer, I often see the night sky in the pre-dawn hours. It always fills me with a sense of wonder, awe, and curiosity. I feel my breathing slowing and deepening involuntarily and a sense of curiosity about 'what's out there' growing.

Scientists estimate around 80 per cent of people live under light-polluted skies. The Milky Way is no longer visible to a third of us. I am fortunate to live on the edge of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison International Dark Sky Park, with views to the east so clear and free of light pollution that I can sometimes make out the Pleiades. For those of you who don't know the significance of that, being able to see this star cluster is supposed to be a test of

good eyesight. This group of stars in the Taurus constellation is often referred to as the "Seven Sisters." Legend has it that seven daughters of the gods Atlas and Pleione were companions of Artemis, the goddess of the hunt. Zeus turned the Pleiades into a group of stars in the night sky to save them from Orion, the hunter. Ancient Greek legend has it, that is. I always feel grateful for my optometrist whenever I spy them.

My sense of curiosity, relaxation, and awe are not unique to me. A [2024 study](#) by Dr. Chris Barnes in the UK found that out of 400 participants surveyed, those that reported a stronger connection to the night sky scored better on mental health and happiness scales. Dr Barnes says, "...The higher the connection that someone had to the natural environment at night, they felt happier and had a more positive outlook and a more positive wellbeing." A

[2014 American and British collaboration](#) found similar results for people who have experience star gazing and who also love watching wildlife at night.

That sounds pleasant enough, but does it really provide measurable benefits to us? One astronomer associated with The Astronomy for Mental Health project states that, "Feelings of awe have been shown to reduce inflammation, lower the heart rate and increase the presence of the hormone oxytocin, boosting positive emotions." Awesome! (pun intended). Even better for those around us because when engaged in awe we enter a state of perspective known as the 'small self', which I have addressed in earlier articles. This engenders prosocial behaviors such as an increased sense of community, kindness, generosity and even patience. To really get the most of naked-eye stargazing, you have to give yourself about 15 minutes for

Continued next pg

YOUR BRAIN ON NATURE: DARK NIGHT *From previous pg*

your eyes to adjust. And unless you see meteors, things really don't speed up much after that. You can't rush the cosmos to suit your schedule.

Veteran stargazers report increased capacity for patience and while the science on this is lacking at this time, there seems to be agreement among celestial devotees that certainly some patience is required from the outset, but it also improves with hours spent staring upward at what is now being referred to as Dark Nature.

We are insanely fortunate in this area to have such amazing access to awe inspiring nightscapes when the weather permits. I feel privileged to be granted this bounty and I want to encourage families to get outside at night, even bundled up, to absorb the beauty and wonder that so many other humans are excluded from. You may even be able to stimulate your star brain

cells.

What did you just write, you ask? Star brain cells? Yep, we have them and they are called astrocytes. Once overlooked as being sort of irrelevant, there's been increasing amounts of evidence that astrocytes can listen to chemical messages sent between neurons at synapses, and can respond with their own signals, providing an extra layer of complexity to how our brain receives and responds to information.

They were discounted for many years because they seemed to be about ten times slower than signals seen in neurons. Scientists therefore believed the cells were too slow for effective information processing.

However, by developing a new tool that allows the study of astrocyte activity in awake mice with unprecedented detail,

certain researchers have discovered that assumption may have been wrong and have found for the first time that astrocytes generate signals which are just as fast as those of neurons. This activity seems to traverse from one region to another upon demand, apparently for memory imprintation. These activity 'hotspots' could represent memory engrams -- a pattern that represents a specific behavior or a memory, like which stars make up Orion and his belt.

Memory engrams are still theoretical, and highly controversial, but so what, it's fun to speculate. So give your star cells something to remember and encode this winter whenever the mood strikes you for 'star bathing' as the South Koreans call it, and revel in the splendor of Dark Nature when the skies are clear and the cold is not too brutal.

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

MAGIC CIRCLE THEATRE SUPPORTERS JOIN RIBBON CUTTING CELEBRATION



Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE Joining the celebration were David Tabor (Volunteer), Mike & Angel Cantanese & Paul (Montrose Signs), Steve Metheny (DMEA/Elevate), Gayla Warner (Designer), Doug Glaspell (City of Montrose, City Council), Lisa Rediger (Magic Circle Executive Director) Courtesy photo.

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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

SAN JUAN WEAVERS GUILD SHOW & SALE TO BE NOV. 23

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The San Juan Weavers Guild presents its 46th annual Show and Sale Saturday, Nov. 23, at the Ute Museum, 17253 Chipeta Rd., in Montrose, CO, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Guild members offer their handmade items for sale, providing unusual and distinctive gifts for the holiday season. Educational opportunities include demonstrations and hands-on experience for all ages, as well as displays of guild projects. Admission to the sale is free, and the facility is wheelchair-accessible.

CHIPETA ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY TO MEET NOV. 20

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-It's Potpourri Night! Please join us for three short presentations including Hawaiian Petroglyphs, Champion Mines above Ouray and Chipeta Archaeology Society history. Nov. 20 at 7pm at the United Methodist Church 19 S Park Avenue Montrose. Free.

REBECCA FOUST WINS FISCHER POETRY PRIZE

Special to Art & Sol

TELLURIDE- The Telluride Institute's Talking Gourds Poetry Program is proud to announce the winner of the 28th Annual Fischer Prize for Poetry: Rebecca Foust of Minnesota for her poem, *Polaris*.

"The poem unfurls on the page like the galaxies in our open skies," noted Judge Juan Morales. "It also affirms the stars belong to us all with its native connections."

Foust was delighted to learn of the award, adding: "My poem *Polaris* is from a longer sequence inspired by a re-reading of George Orwell's *1984* during the pandemic. Some of these are collected in my new chapbook, *You Are Leaving the American Sector*, that was released this fall from Backbone Press."

This year 284 poets submitted 566 poems in the Fischer contest. In addition to the first place \$1000 prize, the contest features five \$250 Outstanding Finalist prizes, plus nine Honorable Mentions. Poems, photos of poets and bios can be accessed at www.tellurideinstitute.org/2024-fischer-cantor-prize-winning-poems

The five Outstanding Finalists for the 2024 Fischer Prize are Kelly Rowe of Arizona with *Waiting for Sunrise*, Liza Patrick of Colorado with *How You Hold*, Mary Buchinger of Massachusetts with *Gentian*,

Julia Liu of New Jersey with *Fortune Cookie*, and former Fischer Prize winner Carlos Andrés Gómez currently of Georgia with *Aperture*.

The nine Honorable Mentions include Dawn Dupler of Missouri with *My hometown carved out a golf course from 2,000-year-old Native American ceremonial earthworks*, David Allen Sullivan of California with *To Eat a Peach*, Samantha Russell of Oregon with *Burnt Edges*, Rafaella Del Bourgo of California with *Winter, Lower Longley, Tasmania*, Gary V. Powell of North Carolina with *First Kill*, Kelly Houle of Arizona with *The Basket of Apples*, Junxin Tang of Indiana with *Portrait of My Grandfather in the Korean War (1952)*, multiple Fischer Prize finalist Partridge Boswell of Vermont with *Stick Up*, and Wisteria Deng of Connecticut with *Past Lives*.

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



Rebecca Foust . Courtesy photo.

"Our national poetry contests are the primary way poets can help us support the many poetry projects we do on Colorado's Western Slope," said Talking Gourd Director Art Goodtimes, "with the bonus that one might also win a prize. Additionally, we offer feedback on submissions, if desired." For more information on the Talking Gourds Poetry Program and its national Fischer and Cantor poetry contests, visit tellurideinstitute.org/talking-gourds



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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH BECOMES A RECONCILING CONGREGATION

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE— Montrose United Methodist Church is excited to announce that, as of October 27, 2024, we have officially become a Reconciling Congregation.

This significant step affirms our commitment to inclusivity and community for all individuals, regardless of identity or background.

As part of this decision, we adopt the following foundational statement:

"We celebrate God's gift of diversity and value the wholeness made possible in community equally shared and shepherded by all. We welcome and affirm people of every gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation, who are also of every age, race, ethnicity, physical and mental ability, level of education, and family structure, and of every economic, immigration, marital, and social status, and so much more. We acknowledge that we live in a world of profound social, economic, and political inequities. As followers of Jesus, we commit ourselves to the pursuit of justice and pledge to stand in solidarity with all who are marginalized and oppressed."

While Montrose United Methodist Church has always been a welcoming space, this affirmation reinforces our ongoing commitment to embrace **all** people. Rev. Kevin Young shares, "This decision underscores our gratitude for God's love



Montrose United Methodist Church has become a Reconciling Congregation. Courtesy image MUMC.

for all.

The decision links our congregation to a global network of Reconciling Congregations, communities and individuals who share a vision and commitment to a world of equity, inclusion, and intersectional

justice."

We invite everyone to join us for our Sunday services at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m., with Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.

All are welcome to be part of our growing and inclusive faith community.



Get The Mirror delivered directly to your email. Sign up at montrosemirror.com

MIRROR IMAGES: OUT & ABOUT



Photos by Harry Switzer. MONTROSE-The Montrose United Methodist Women welcomed community members to the annual Down Home Country Bazaar for craft vendors, Coffee Shop, Bake Shop, Granny's Attic, lunch and fresh Georgia pecans on Saturday, Nov. 16.

MAGIC CIRCLE THEATRE CELEBRATES FAÇADE REMODEL WITH RIBBON CUTTING

By Lisa Rediger

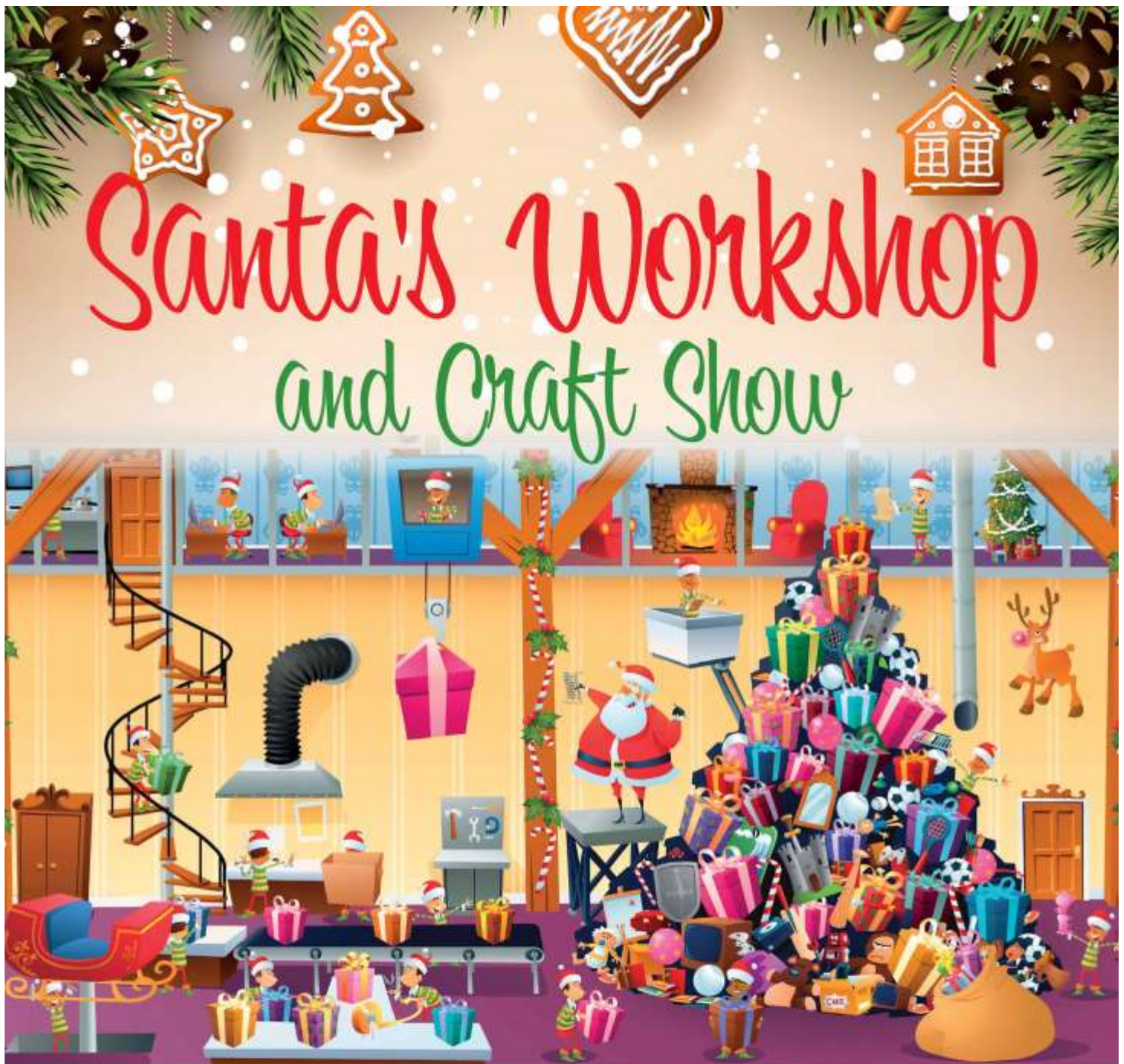
MONTROSE-Wednesday, November 13, 2024 was a beautiful fall afternoon, the famous "Colorado blue" sky clear, warming sunshine beaming down on a crowd of Magic Circle Players sponsors, volunteers, and patrons, as the ceremonial ribbon, signifying the completion of a façade remodel, was cut by long-time board member, Judy Wind and new board member, Rich Burt. The inception of this project was a donation made by Magic Circle veterans, Tom Chamberlain and Mark Smith, who had a vision for an exterior that would transform the unremarkable metal building into a distinguishable theatre. The Board engaged the design services of Gayla Warner and Erin Porteous, their enthusiasm translated into a vision of community, welcome, warmth, and classic art deco lines. Phil Motley, of Motley Architecture & Design, and Stryker & Company Construction came on board, with Brian Stahlin and Zane Brown managing the construction in this multi-month endeavor. The City of Montrose DART Façade Improvement Matching Grant was the launching point for additional grants awarded by the El Pomar Foundation and the Gates Family Foundation, grants skillfully written by Margaret McCaffrey. Magic Circle Board members during the Façade project (Allyson Crosby, Kenny Easton, Kevin Innarelli, Renee Lee, Kim Redman, Merrilee Robertson, Dru Weaver, and Judy Wind) appointed a remodel committee, Kenny Easton, David Ta-



Sponsors, volunteers, and patrons celebrate ribbon cutting. Courtesy photo Lisa Rediger.

bor, Lisa Rediger and Gayla Warner to guide the decision making. Montrose shouted its support with thousands of dollars in donations- from the "Sweeten the Pot" fundraiser, filling honey jars with coins- to large donations, the project was fully funded, and in no small part that is due to the largesse of the patrons, volunteers and community. With the façade being re-created, Montrose Signs (Michael and Angel Cantanese) joined the upgrade efforts, creating a masterpiece digital mar-

quee, made possible through the generosity of the City of Montrose (Doug Glaspell and Michelle Wingfield in attendance), DMEA/Elevate (Steve Metheny in attendance), Montrose Community Foundation and Montrose Signs. A building that was once mistaken for an adult book store now stands as a signpost, a work of art that announces, "The magic of live theatre is here!", while the magnificent front doors extend the welcome, to one and all to *COME PLAY WITH US!*



Santa's Workshop and Craft Show

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

Montrose County Fairgrounds Friendship Hall

For Vendor Information call

Debbie 970.531.2438 or email montrosefootwear@aol.com

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/](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.

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Pastor Gabe Skillo

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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 Spiritual and Interfaith Community
Address: Services at Lions Park Community Building, 602 N. Nevada, Montrose
Office hours: Tues-Fri, 9 am to 4 pm, Home Office – 970-252-0908
Contact information: Rev. Dr. Arlyn Macdonald, 970-252-0908, arlyn@spiritaware.org, www.spiritaware.org
Name of current pastor: Rev. Dr. Arlyn

Macdonald, Senior minister; Rev. Ruby Salaz, Assistant Minister. Spiritual Counseling available.
Worship service times: In-person Sunday Unity Service at 11 a.m., (Social Time begins at 10 a.m.); Quiet Meditation at 10:30 a.m. Virtual Afternoon Service on Zoom at 2:00 p.m., 2nd Sunday of each month; Chai Chats, a Wednesday morning midweek informal spiritual gathering at 10:30 a.m. at Pun Hill Himalayan Restaurant, Mont-

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

ST. STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

Denomination: Anglican-Reformed Episcopal Church (REC)
Address: 2405 Sunnyside Road, Montrose 970-249-4868
Contact: 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 Mirror Editorial Staff MONTROSE-As a way of serving the faith community in Montrose, the Montrose Mirror is in the process of establishing a Church Directory. If your congregation or fellowship would like to be included in the directory, please supply the following</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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CIMARRON CREEK
Welcome Home

New Champion Home

- ⇒ 1155 SF
- ⇒ 3 Bedroom/ 2 Bathroom
- ⇒ Lovely open concept home
- ⇒ Kitchen Island with High Top Bar
- ⇒ Stainless Steel Appliances
- ⇒ Large walk-in closet in primary bedroom
- ⇒ Split Floor Plan
- ⇒ 8x8 matching shed



If you're looking for your Home Sweet Home, now is a great time to purchase that home at Cimarron Creek!

We have fantastic deals on all our model homes and only \$1,000 down will hold a home for you!

Schedule a Tour Today!



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Where Quality Meets Affordability

Our community offers large open common areas, scenic walk paths, playground, community center, dog parks, RV storage, and on-site management.

970-249-0493 MONDAY-SATURDAY 8 AM TO 5 PM 901 6530 RD MONTROSE, CO 81401

MANAGER@CIMARRONCREEKCOMMUNITY.COM

WWW.CIMARRONCREEKCOMMUNITY.COM

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

THE 4TH ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF TREES SPARKLES WITH HOPE TO SUPPORT PEER KINDNESS



Scenes from the Third Annual Festival of Trees. Courtesy photos.

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE— Twinkling lights and tinsel will serve a greater purpose this winter as the Fourth Annual Festival of Trees returns to turn holiday décor into hope to support PEER Kindness's mission of reducing bullying in schools.

The Mountain Group, Keller Williams Realty Southwest Associates, LLC., in partnership with the Monroe Group, is proud to host another year of this festive fundraiser. Each year local businesses and organizations are invited to sponsor or donate a tree or wreath as part of a silent auction that benefits the non-profit, PEER Kindness.

PEER Kindness is dedicated to reducing incidents of bullying by increasing awareness among school-aged youth. Their mission is to work in partnership with schools, businesses/community leaders, families, and youth to reduce bullying and to foster a PEER (Positive, Encouraging, Empathetic, and Respectful) stance.

The bidding for this year's event starts on

Friday, Nov. 29 until Saturday, Dec. 7. The trees and event are being held inside the Beaumont Hotel Ballroom located at 505 Main Street in Ouray.

The Main Festival of Trees Event is happening on Saturday, Dec. 7 from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. There are festivities happening throughout the day in Ouray for the annual Yule Celebration with a holiday parade at 6 p.m. on Main Street. Bidding on trees will end at 8 p.m. and winners will be announced soon after. Community members are invited to stop by for refreshments and to view and bid on trees.

"Each year we are thrilled at the opportunity to host this fundraiser for such an amazing cause," said Beckie Pendergrass, Owner/Realtor for the Mountain Group, Keller Williams Realty Southwest Associates, LLC. "It's a fantastic event with a chance to give back while bidding on some of the most spectacularly decorated trees on display. It's an opportunity to spotlight the amazing work that PEER Kindness does to create safe and inclusive environ-

ments for all."

This year there is also a Festival of Trees Special Event happening on Thursday, Dec. 5 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. There is a chance to mingle with the Festival of Trees Sponsors, members of the Peer Kindness Team and more. Refreshments will be served. For organizations sponsoring or donating a tree, decorating will happen on Nov. 25 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. and on Nov. 26 and 27 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

If you are interested in sponsoring or donating a tree for this year's festival or have questions, please contact Beckie Pendergrass at 970.275.1256, Deanna Jakino at 970.749.0770, or Mark Monroe at 970.596.0770. All trees that are being donated will be decorated on Nov. 25, 26, and 27. Winners of the trees can pick them up Monday, December 9 from the Ballroom of the Beaumont Hotel in Ouray.

For more information, visit mountaingroupproperties.com/festival-of-trees.

FUN LOUNGEWEAR FOR ADULTS



328 E. Main St. • Montrose, CO
970-249-8323



Lazy Lone.

is here to keep you warm at

Colorado-ology

Alcohol Ink Ornaments

Thursday, December 5. 5:30-7:30 pm



**Make it a Paint Party!
Have fun with us!**

with Kate Burke

Make some for yourself or a special gift. Give (or gift) a class for family and friends. Everything provided, including ornaments, inks, metallics, glitter, decals, all tools and detailed instructions. Includes a snack and a drink.



Mosaic Montrose

21 N. Cascade Avenue

Group discount when you register for 6 or more on same ticket.

Register at <https://kathrynrburke.com/product/120524M>



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

1563 Ogden Rd Montrose, CO 81401



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SAVE THE DATE! LOCAL EVENTS CALENDAR

ONGOING-

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

MONTROSE FARMERS MARKET (970) 249 0705 Centennial Plaza, 433 S. 1st St. Montrose, CO 81401

www.valleyfoodpartnership.org. Year Round Farmers Market, Saturdays 9am-1pm (Summer), every other Saturday 10am-1pm (Winter). Accepts SNAP and Double Up Food Bucks.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MONTHLY

Nov.20-It's Potpourri Night! Please join us for three short presentations including Hawaiian Petroglyphs, Champion Mines above Ouray and Chipeta Archaeology Society history. Nov. 20 at 7pm at the United Methodist Church 19 S Park Avenue Montrose. Free.

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

Nov. 23-The San Juan Weavers Guild presents its 46th annual Show and Sale Saturday, Nov. 23, at the Ute Museum, 17253 Chipeta Rd., in Montrose, CO, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Guild members offer their handmade items for sale, providing unusual and distinctive gifts for the holiday season. Educational opportunities include demonstrations and hands-on experience for all ages, as well as displays of guild projects. Admission to the sale is free, and the facility is wheelchair-accessible.

Nov. 28-Montrose Community Dinners-Friendship Hall, Noon to 3pm.

Nov. 29-30-Basement Boutique Craft Show 9am-4pm Montrose Pavilion Event Center.

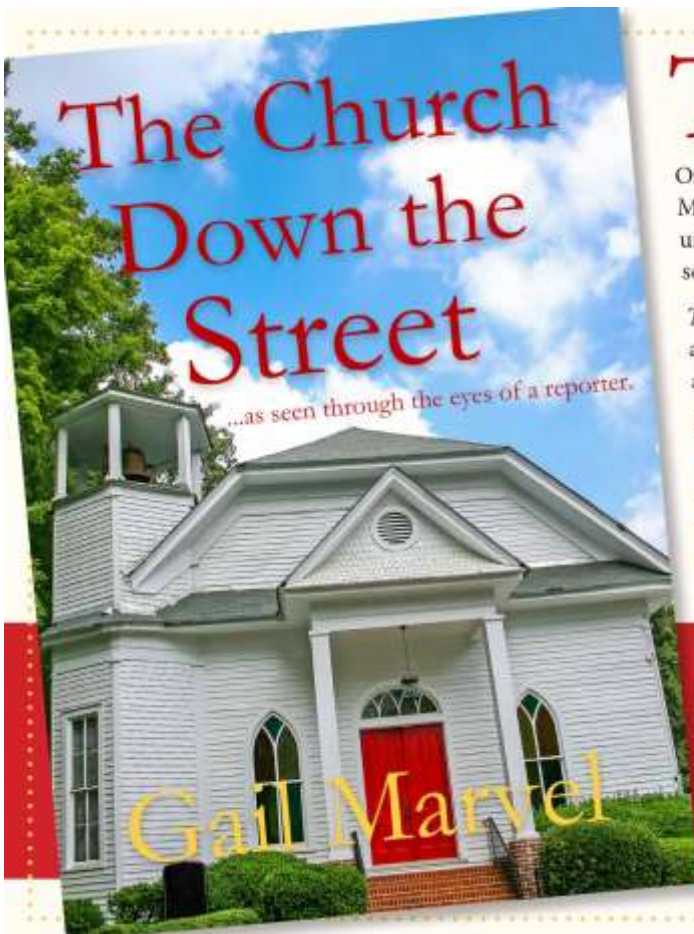
Dec. 7-City of Montrose Annual Parade of Lights, the illuminated tour of historic Main Street, begins at 5:30 p.m.

Dec. 13-Community Creche Festival, 4-8pm. Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 1521 South Hillcrest Drive. All are welcome to join us.

BLUE RIBBON BAR-B-CUE UNDER NEW OWNERSHIP



Mirror staff photos
MONTROSE-The excellent Blue Ribbon BBQ truck is now under new ownership! Tyler plans to keep the delicious mobile meal unit open through the winter too - and he is taking orders for Thanksgiving as well. [Follow them on Facebook to learn more!](#)



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

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

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

Readers will:

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

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

GAIL MARVEL
Montrose Author & Reporter

