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the Montrose Mirror

RED HAWKS ADVANCE TO CLASS 4A SEMI-FINALS

By Cliff Dodge

MONTROSE-The Montrose Red Hawks football team took a major step forward in their quest for an opportunity to compete for a berth in the 4A state championship game two weeks down the road in Fort Collins, as they dominated all phases of the game and defeated the Mesa Ridge Grizzlies by the score of 53-21 Saturday afternoon at the Montrose stadium.

The Red Hawks won the coin toss and elected to receive the football at the opening of the second half. The Grizzlies found their offense immediately and drove the length of the field and scored the first touchdown, as the Red Hawk defenders seemed unable to cope with the visitors running and passing attack and fell behind 7-0 halfway through the first quarter of action.

The Red Hawks then shook off the uncertain start, took seven minutes off the clock, and drove 65 yards in 10 plays with Junior Elijah Womack scoring from 12 yards out. The 2-point conversion saw the Red Hawks take an 8-7 lead in the opening minutes of the second quarter, a lead which they never relinquished.

The Grizzlies then mis-handled the ensuing kick-off and the Red Hawks recovered the ball



Junior Elijah Womack scores from 54 yards out as the Red Hawks advance to the 4A semi finals next weekend. Photo by Cliff Dodge.

Continued pg 27

LARGE AG BURNS INTENDED FOR BIOCHAR, LANDOWNER SAYS



By Steve Middendorp

MONTROSE-Many Montrose residents have expressed concern regarding the continuous burning of trees on an agriculturally-zoned property owned by real estate developer and farmer Matt Miles. Miles has been burning trees every day on the 40-acre tree farm which qualifies for an agricultural burn exemption. The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment [states](#), "Agricultural burning is the burning of water conveyance ditches and/or fields to prepare land for the planting of commercial crops. Land zoned as "agricultural" does not automatically provide exemption from open burn permitting."

Matt Miles told *The Mirror* that he is burning pine trees to make bio-char for the land and will be planting hay on the field. There is suspicion that Miles is clearing the land to make way for another development, but Miles said the

Montrose residents have expressed concern regarding the continuous burning of trees on an agriculturally-zoned property in Montrose County. Mirror staff photo.

Continued pg 17

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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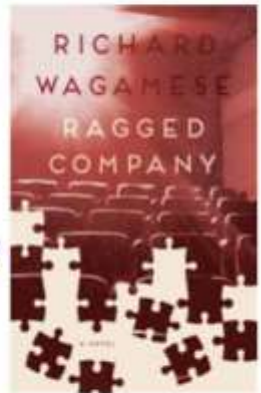
HAPPY THANKSGIVING!



Happy Thanksgiving! Photo by B. Switzer.

Looking for a book club?

The next meeting of the Montrose Library Book Club will be Saturday, December 7 at 9:00 a.m. in the Library Meeting Room



The book to be discussed is

Ragged Company by Richard Wagamese.

The Montrose Library Book Club for adults meets on the first Saturday of the month (except for holiday weekends and closures). Email lmclean@montroselibrary.org for more info.

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All contents of Unit A6

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All contents of Unit A3

Unit A17- Hurston Tillett
210 Kingwood Drive, Sparta, TN 38583
All contents of Unit A17

Unit A12- Marcela Cestaneda
marceladelhol.mdhc@gmail.com
All contents of Unit A12

Unit A1- Denise Fierro
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CRYSTAL CREEK ROAD CLOSURE DURING WINTER LOGGING

Special to the Mirror

DELTA— The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests' Paonia Ranger District announce the closure of National Forest System Road (NFSR) #713-Crystal Creek road from Nov. 25 through April 30. The road will be closed to all traffic including over snow vehicles to ensure public safety. This closure is expected to continue each winter for approximately five years.

The closure is necessary to allow plowing operations and safe transport of logs from the Bald Timber Sale to Montrose, Colorado. NFSR #713-Crystal Creek road will be temporarily closed from the Forest boundary near NFSR #713.3A to the Bald Mountain Reservoir. Please adhere to the closure and follow all signage.

"We recognize that the road would otherwise be a groomed over snow vehicle route. However, shared traffic by wheeled vehicles and over snow vehicles on plowed roads is unsafe and illegal in Colorado," said Levi Broyles, Paonia District Ranger. "We regret the inconvenience to winter recreationists, and we appreciate everyone's patience and support of multiple uses of National Forest System lands."

Although there are no groomed routes parallel to Crystal Creek road, over snow vehicle access into the upper Bald Mountain area is still available via groomed route NFSR #716 to NFSR #717 from the Crystal Creek winter trailhead and groomed route NFSR #719-Corral Gulch to NFSR #717.

Summer access to all roads in the area is available from May 1 to Nov. 24. However, visitors should anticipate encountering log trucks on the upper sections of NFSRs #713, #717 and #719 throughout the summer.

For more information, contact the Paonia Ranger District at (970) 527-4131. Additional information about forest closure orders can be found online at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/gmug/alerts-notice/?cid=stelpdb5395575>.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

CMU-MONTROSE: EXCITED ABOUT THE FUTURE, DOWNTOWN

Dear Editor:

A recent letter writer suggested the City of Montrose should consider purchasing the Montrose High School property in order to sell it to Colorado Mesa University for the purpose of building a new campus in Montrose. On behalf of a busy 17 member advisory committee helping shape the future of the Colorado Mesa University Montrose Campus, we feel compelled to respond. First, over the past fifteen years, strong partnerships have been forged between CMU, the City of Montrose, Montrose County and countless other individuals and organizations focused on growing CMU-Montrose downtown. These partnerships have resulted in acquiring new buildings, closing streets to create campus quads, adding new academic programs like a summer-time police academy – and the list goes on.

To be sure, these projects are not happening in a vacuum. The list of downtown improvements and projects being undertaken by Montrose County and the City of Montrose make the current location of the CMU-Montrose campus ideal for future growth. In our view, the recent action taken by voters regarding Montrose High School provides a great opening to come back to the drawing board to forge partnerships focused on career and technical education and other early college offerings via CMU and CMU Tech.

Good things are happening at CMU-Montrose, and our committee is excited about our future, downtown.

Sincerely,

Steve Metheny, Director

CMU and CMU Tech-Montrose

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BOCC CONTINUES ZONING REGS AMENDMENT ON STANDARDS FOR POWER GENERATION FACILITIES TO DEC. 11

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) Chair Roger Rash and Commissioner Sue Hansen were present for the regular meeting of Wednesday, Nov. 10. BOCC Vice Chair Keith Caddy

was absent.

After Hansen led in saying the Pledge of Allegiance, Pastor Ben Garate of Calvary Church delivered the invocation. Garate reminded commissioners to call upon churches in time of need. He said, "Father

God, we are grateful that you give us an opportunity to invoke your name, to come to you for wisdom, to come to you for help...we pray that your hand of protection will be upon our country Lord, our city Lord, our citizens Lord...have your hands on our commissioners Lord, those who are going out and those who are going in..."

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no comments heard from the public on non-agenda items.

COUNTY MANAGER

County Manager Frank Rodriguez had no changes to the meeting agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda items were approved.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT GENERAL BUSINESS

Commissioners voted to approve the Red Wall Minor Subdivision [MI24-016] proposal to divide 35.03 acres into three lots at Parcel 399505100019, based on findings of fact and with conditions.

Commissioners held a public hearing before voting to move the second Planning and Development General Business item--the Zoning Regulations Amendment [AA23-001] proposal for the Amendment of Zoning Regulations to include use standards for Power Generation Facilities--to the BOCC meeting of Dec. 11, allowing time to consider further comment.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned.

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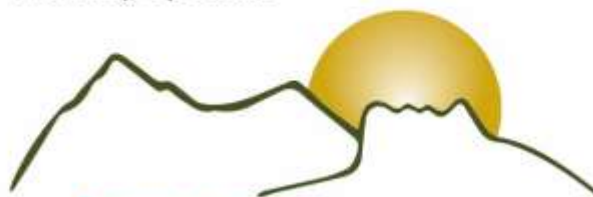
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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

SOCIAL CONSEQUENCES OF DUI: CHANCES ARE THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT YOU



CSP courtesy image.

Colorado State Patrol
 ACOLORADO – A DUI arrest is a serious matter in the eyes of the law and throughout your community. While not often considered before making a choice to drive impaired, the social stigma attached to a DUI charge can have a long-lasting negative impact on a person’s life.

“The penalties set by the court and Division of Motor Vehicles are clear and serious with the goal to stop this driver from driving intoxicated again,” stated Col. Matthew C. Packard, chief of the Colorado State Patrol. “As word travels, a DUI can have other consequences, including an effect on how a person is treated in all aspects of their life.”

A DUI conviction can easily undermine your position as a parent, a spouse, or a friend, not to mention impact your professional opportunities.

-Professionally – DUIs require extensive time in court, treatment and screenings. Since many of these services operate during business hours only, you will likely miss a considerable amount of time from work to meet court requirements.

-Professionally—Your company may have specific rules associated with DUI that could result in duty modification, loss of employment, or demotion.

-Professionally - DUIs are visible on background checks and could eliminate you from consideration for new employment.

-Socially—As word of your DUI spreads, a long line of social acquaintances could be impacted. PTAs, non-profits, and coaching

roles could ask you to step down from your responsibilities or distance themselves from you.

-Personal Relationships – A DUI strains relationships with many close friends and family members. A spouse may resent you for emotional and financial stress caused by the DUI. Children may question your authority and friends may no longer want to be seen with you.

“You can lose a lot with one decision,” explained Col. Packard. “Whether a felony or misdemeanor, a DUI gives you a crimi-

nal record, creating potential new challenges in employment, housing, and in your community.”

The Colorado State Patrol is highlighting the consequences an average Colorado driver experiences after being convicted of DUI this holiday season as part of their “Don’t Underestimate Impairment” campaign. Making a good decision “in the moment” while already intoxicated is unlikely. Don’t underestimate the consequences of this choice, and plan ahead for a sober ride.

A large advertisement for Delta Health. At the top left is the Delta Health logo, which consists of three stylized mountain peaks in blue, green, and yellow, followed by the text "DELTA HEALTH". Below the logo, the text "YOUR IMPACT MATTERS." is written in large, bold, purple letters. Underneath that, the text "BECOME A JUNIOR VOLUNTEER" is written in a white, outlined font. On the right side of the advertisement is a close-up photograph of a young woman with long dark hair, smiling warmly. At the bottom, a purple curved banner contains the text "TO APPLY, VISIT: deltahealthco.org/volunteers/ or call 970.874.2291" in white.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

AUTHOR AND HISTORIAN DAVE FISHELL TO PRESENT IN DELTA

Special to the Mirror

DELTA-Delta County Historical Society (DCHS) and Museum, in celebration of 60 years, is pleased to present Monday, Dec. 9, 7 pm at the Delta Library Community Room, author and historian, Dave Fishell. Fishell will be presenting a fascinating program on the Fort on the Old Spanish Trail known as the old path. (1828-1844) Fishell will also share information on John W. Gunnison and other members of the Stansburys' first Expedition in 1849. Gunnison repurposed portions of the historic Old Spanish Trail in western Colorado as the first wagon route. The expedition was Gunnison's first adventure west of the Mississippi River, and the one that would create in him a longing for the west for the remainder of his career. Doors OPEN 6:30 pm please use the Meeker Street Entrance. The Delta County Museum will be open through the winter. Wednesdays by appointment only. OPEN Thursday-Fri-Sat 10-3pm. Saturday's FREE Family Day. The Museum is located at 251 Meeker Street, Delta. For more information go to deltacountymuseum.org or phone 970 874-8721.



Happy Thanksgiving Day!

Just want you to know how thankful we are for all your support!

Remember:

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Thanks to friend John "Turkey" Staub for turkey graphic.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

MR. WHITE...HOW ABOUT SAYING SOMETHING POSITIVE ONCE IN A WHILE

Editor:

Week after week the Mirror publishes the ranting and ravings of David White. At the end of each article they list David's biography making it sound like he's God's gift to Montrose.

To hear Mr. White tell it, he's been the only competent elected official in years. Respectfully I disagree. I've been around here for 52 years and have known many of the people that he regularly criticizes for more years than he's lived here. So please allow me to put in a good word for several public officials that I believe are doing a good job.

On top of my list is David Reed. He and his wife Debbie have called Montrose home probably as long as I have. Wonderful people. Thank you Mr. Reed for your willingness to serve our community. It's really appreciated.

I've also known Doug Glaspell and Judy Ann Files for many years. They too deserve our thanks and support for donating their time and talents to help make Montrose the wonderful city it is.

Keith Caddy and Roger Rash are outgoing county commissioners. In this week's writing David White alludes to the "mess" these two are leaving. Boy oh boy, is that ever the pot calling the kettle black! Thank you Mr's Caddy and Rash for your efforts over the last eight years. You two along with Ms. Hansen have repaired all kinds of debacles left behind by White and Ron Henderson, particularly with regards to our hospital. You're leaving the county in far better condition than you found it. Your hard work is appreciated.

One last thank you to Rick Dunlap, another of White's criticism targets. I'm so glad that you are willing to step up and keep

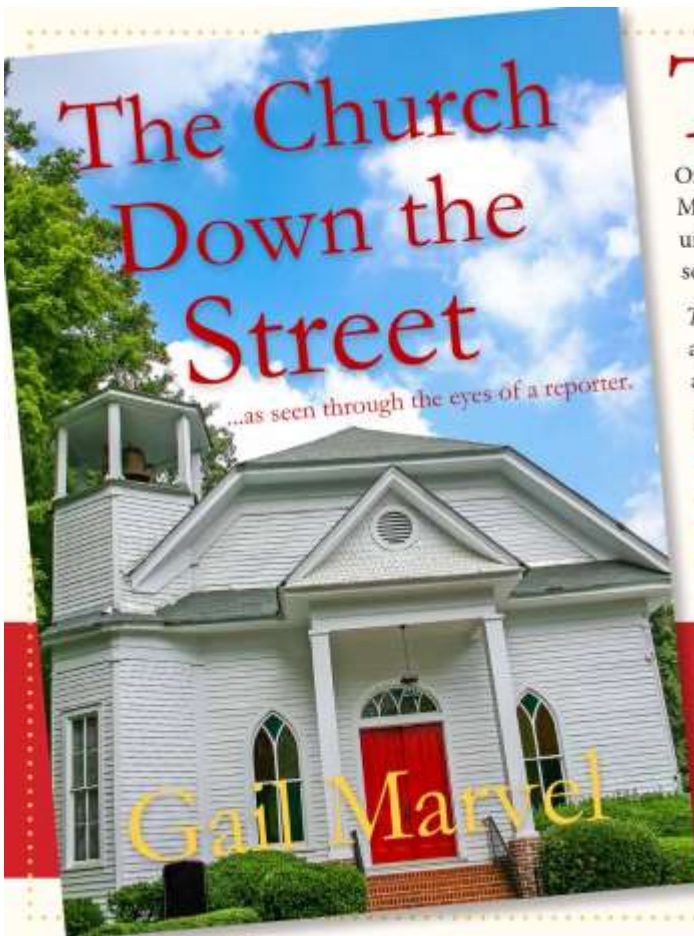
our county on a steady course forward. Good luck, I'm sure you'll serve us well with your proven honesty and integrity.

I'm so thankful that our community has people like the one's I've mentioned above that are willing to do what are often thankless jobs and do those jobs to the best of their abilities. Do we always agree with all their decisions? Obviously not, but I surely don't agree with the pointless criticism that David White constantly spews out.

Here's a suggestion Mr. White...how about saying something positive once in a while. I bet you could if you tried.

Thank you for letting me express my opinions and my appreciation to some great people.

*Sincerely,
Don R. Gladwell*



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



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LARGE AG BURNS INTENDED FOR BIOCHAR, LANDOWNER SAYS From pg 1

the short-term plan is to grow hay for the horses that will be pulling Santa's sleigh. He said he would not rule out potentially developing the property in the future because he has a right to do so.

The Montrose County Sheriff's Office has visited the property and verified that there are no illegal items being burned on site. The MCSO [posted](#) on Facebook that they are "aware of the large amount of smoke in the area." The post continued, "We have investigated the smoke and went to the state level as well. Per the DPHE, this fire is classified as "agricultural open burning." With that being said, the MCSO has no authority to stop the individual from burning. Please know we will continue to work with the CDPHE, the BOCC and others to try to find a solution to this."

A few residents have complained about difficulty breathing, asthma-related symptoms, migraines, and one person reportedly lost her voice.

The fire department told *The Mirror* that they don't have jurisdiction over open burns outside of the town of Montrose, because Montrose County "has not adopted an ordinance for open burns." Delta County allows agricultural open burns but requires citizens to contact the Delta County Communications Center to notify when and where the burn will be taking place.

Tree burning results in particulate matter (pm2.5) which can cause health effects for individuals with prior existing conditions or those who experience prolonged exposure. A 2021 [study](#) published in Nature states "Long-term exposure to ambient (outdoor) fine particulate matter less than 2.5 µm in diameter (PM2.5) is the largest environmental risk factor for human health, with an estimated 4.1 million attributable deaths worldwide (7.3% of the total number of global deaths) in 2019."

According to the study, 47,000 deaths occur in the United States each year from

long-term PM2.5 exposure. That includes PM2.5 that comes from agriculture, energy, industry, transportation, windblown dust, and other causes. Agriculture accounts for less than 10% of the PM2.5 exposure in the United States. Energy, industry, and transportation make up equal or greater shares of the total PM2.5 exposure. The U.S. has a slightly higher percentage attributable to agriculture when compared to the global average.

Colorado is considered a right-to-farm state, which protects farmers from nuisance lawsuits as a result of farming-related activity. The whole state is protected by these provisions that were passed in 1981. In March 2022, the Board of County Commissioners passed a [resolution](#) affirming the right-to-farm in Montrose County.

That resolution states "Landowners, residents and visitors must be prepared to temper their urban sensitivities and accept the activities, sights, sounds and smells of rural Montrose County as a normal and necessary aspect of living in a county with a strong rural character and a healthy agricultural sector." The resolution states smells and smoke shall not be deemed a nuisance "as long as the activities and operations employ methods and practices commonly used or associated with agricultural production."

Furthermore, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment weighed in on the [definition](#) of an "Agricultural Open Burn," which is exempted from the requirement to obtain an air quality permit. The definition is "The open burning of cover vegetation for the purpose of 1) preparing the soil for crop production, 2) weed control, 3) maintenance of water conveyance structures related to agricultural operations, and 4) other agricultural cultivation purposes."

The document further explains that land that is "used for grazing domestic animals or cultivated at least once every 10 years"

is presumed to be an agricultural open burn.

Miles is turning the overgrown trees into biochar which is beneficial for the health of the soil and plants. It also helps to sequester carbon and can stay in the soil for thousands of years. Miles is using the land for grazing horses, so the burning is protected as an agricultural burn in a right-to-farm state. Miles explained the reason the burn is taking place now and why there is so much smoke coming from the property.

"One of the things in talking to the state, because I did have conversations with them about this being non jurisdictional, the right time of the year to burn is now," Miles explained. "When you get into stacking material up and burning it in the spring, you've got all of that wildlife that's in it. You're creating a habitat for all kinds of stuff. You stack it up, the wood dries, you light it on fire, it burns the wings off the baby birds and the tails off the baby chipmunks. Part of the reason for all the smoke is that material is green. The problem is if you let it dry out, you have all of that wildlife in it. It's not something I'm interested in doing."

Miles said he has been living at the property since 1987 as part of the farming community. He said he gets a bad rap for being a developer, but doesn't get recognized for the thousands of acres of green space that he has in the county.

"We were the first guys here," Miles said. "This is why areas urbanize. When they drive the farmers out because farming and agricultural uses become economically obsolete because you can't take your tractors and farm equipment up and down the road. You can't aerial spray because of all the complaints. You can't burn your tree field and turn it into an alfalfa field because of all the complaints. That's when property because economically unfeasible for agriculture and has to be converted into some kind of development, some kind of residential use."



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JUSTIFIABLE HEDONISM

“Before you marry someone; find out if their family drinks mimosas or runs 5ks on holiday mornings.”



Twyla Righter-Photo by Jess Pollard.

By Twyla Righter

MONTROSE-I hate cardio - in all of its forms. So many of my friends are NOT like me in this way. Sarah Lokey, Amerson Woodie, Mary Drakulich, Emily Maxwell - these people choose running... like on purpose. My friend Terri Motley has formed a rucking group that I've been a part of for a couple years. Rucking is carrying weight and walking around and I cannot even manage walking half the time. I often have to ask them all to slow down

for me... not because they are running - just that the pace of the walk is all too much for me.

On a slightly different note: Do you ever wonder if people pretend to like things that they don't actually like in order to impress others? For example - classical music, or bitter dark chocolate, or chess. People swear they like chess. But I cannot help but wonder if they really like it or if they like being someone who likes it? They imagine they have a smoking jacket and an old fancy library with dusty books and a fire and they are crazy high IQ, and sip tea and play chess. When you could play checkers and it's way faster and easier and more gratuitously fun would you really like chess? Apparently so.

Our family is mostly people who like things I don't actually understand in that way. I know if you've met us that you've seen my family out rock climbing and kayaking and being walking Patagonia advertisements. And so maybe you'd think I like those things as well. But I don't really. I am not cool. I just like being cool person adjacent. I like standing near them while they rock climb (while eating snacks and chit chatting.) I'm cool in locality only. I like going down the river until the big scary wave and then getting out and watching other people go through the big scary wave while praying for their safety and then getting back in the river on the other side... and maybe thinking about eating tacos later. I am a native girl - I

grew up here, but the Kansas kid I married fits in as a Colorado person more than I do.

So this leads me to being careful who you marry and what your Thanksgiving will look like.

I married into ADHD athlete people and as much as it seems like they must be faking their desire to be cold and scared and tired and sore - they truly believe they are having fun. It's not fake. They are enjoying themselves.

But, in spite of the fact that the thing I hate most in the whole world is cardio - I am the one who suggested that we do the local Turkey Trot up at the Oak Grove school on Thanksgiving mornings.

In an effort to never portray that I like anything for the sake of a phony desire to look cool to all of you legitimately cool people - I never ever ever want to go.

But - I do go because of something I genuinely like. Eating a lot of fat and sugar all day long on Thanksgiving.

And this is my invitation to all of you, who like me, hate waking up early, hate running or even fast walking, hate being cold, and maybe even hate being social - if you really love guiltless eating you absolutely should consider joining me with all the actual cool outdoorsy people and do the community turkey trot.

It is a great tradition and it makes all the slothful hedonistic laziness of the rest of your day feel justified.

And - who doesn't love that?

December 10



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KEYNOTE ADDRESS



Nathan Perry, PhD

CMU Associate Professor of Economics
2025 Economic Outlook

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

OUR CONSTITUTIONAL FORM OF GOVERNMENT IS BEING ECLIPSED BY ADMINISTRATIVE BUREAUCRACIES

Editor:

Since Trump's landslide election victory, Democrats have continued to reveal how absurdly out-of-touch they really are. They are working hard to put blame on those dastardly folks responsible for destroying all their election dreams – the American people. Typical of the many asinine statements coming from the left was the "View's" Sunny Hostin blaming "uneducated white women" for Trump's success. These elitists like to refer to the "uneducated" as anyone not having a college degree, as if a degree in women's studies or music appreciation somehow makes you smarter or better informed than the average Joe on the street. This is the same education system we're spending a fortune on to produce students who can't read or write and know nothing about our country --- our history, our economic system, our generosity, or the fact we have always been a moral country. Those so-called "uneducated" Americans are more essential to this country than any of these pseudo-intellectual elitists will ever be.

Those people Biden referred to as "garbage" now clearly understand that the elitists in total control of the Democrat party have no moral authority whatsoever. In our representative republic, the government must rule by the consent of the governed, and Democrats no longer have that consent. The election displayed our national revulsion to untruth --- we don't like being lied to. This is the Democrat party that Barack Obama built. When Obama was elected in 2008, all Americans looked forward to a new era of national unity and racial harmony. Instead of taking the opportunity to heal and rejuvenate the country, Obama chose to sow racial animosity and pit Americans against one another. After decades of improvement, race relations steadily degraded under

Obama. They told us our founders are all irredeemably evil and our history is nothing to celebrate. They told us that America is "systemically racist" and that our country must be "fundamentally transformed." Starting with Obama and continuing through Biden / Harris, Democrats have been consumed by their dour pessimism and hatred for the country they want to control.

The incredibly tolerant American people have had enough of Democrats destroying this country. Included in the multitudes of illegal aliens invited into our country during Biden's time in the White House are over 22,000 criminal migrants. That only includes the number of criminals confirmed by federal law enforcement data. Laken Riley's illegal alien murderer was housed in a NYC hotel and flown to Georgia at taxpayer expense. FEMA ordered relief workers to skip hurricane-ravaged homes with Trump signs. The Biden-Harris administration has so far piled on over \$1,780,000,000,000 in regulatory costs to Americans. Democrats continue to "champion women" by mandating that men identifying as women dominate women's sports and invade their locker rooms. Biden continues to profess support for Israel while stabbing them in the back. Most alarming, the Russia-Ukraine war could very well turn into a nuclear war as a result of Biden's actions this week. Vladimir Putin does not have a history of bluffing. For months now, he has left no doubt that he will launch a retaliatory nuclear response if Ukraine launches US and NATO-manufactured long-range missiles into Russia. Biden just gave Ukraine that permission, and Ukraine has now fired volleys of those missiles into Russia. Totally insane.

After the Constitution was signed, Benjamin Franklin was asked whether we have a republic or a monarchy. His famous re-

sponse was; "A republic, if you can keep it." We are in real danger of permanently losing that republic with the exponential growth of the administrative state. Our constitutional form of government is being eclipsed by the administrative bureaucracies that are, in effect, an unelected fourth branch of the government. The 2024 election pitted Trump versus Harris, but it can more correctly be labeled "Trump versus the federal bureaucracy." Trump's proposed Department of Government Efficiency, headed by Elon Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy, has been tasked to "slash excess regulations, cut wasteful expenditures, and restructure Federal Agencies." All that would not be possible if Trump had not exposed for all the world to see how out-of-touch and useless the political and "intellectual" elite are. Whatever influence the American elitest class thought they had, from bureaucrats to media to academia to entertainers, has been greatly diminished with Trump's election. The tolerant and sometimes silent majority have put up with extreme leftist nonsense for far too long, and aren't going to be insulted anymore by the pseudo-intellectual elites calling the shots in today's Democrat party.

This week's chuckle: Ramaswamy has come up with the totally radical idea that we should actually make the bloated federal work force show up for work. The idea is a wild one alright, but only to bloated bureaucrats who do nothing all day, take three-hour lunch breaks, don't bother to show up for work, and think so highly of themselves that they consider themselves the only thing that can "save" this country. Funny that the country managed to survive and prosper in the years before the great expansion of those bureaucracies by Biden and his predecessors in the Democrat party.

Ed Henrie, Montrose

COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

DYNAMIC TOLLING STARTS TODAY FOR I-25 SOUTH GAP, WESTBOUND I-70 MTN EXPRESS LANE CORRIDORS

Special to the Mirror

DENVER – Starting Monday, Nov. 25, motorists on the I-25 South Gap and I-70 Mountain Express Lane corridors will see real-time pricing in effect on the 18-mile stretch of the I-25 Express Lanes between Monument and Castle Rock and the westbound, 12-mile stretch of I-70 Express Lanes between the Veterans Memorial Tunnels and Empire.

The new pricing is called “dynamic tolling” and automatically adjusts tolls throughout the day according to real-time traffic conditions instead of simply by time of day. The new system is meant to better manage demand during peak hours to maintain free flow traffic in the South Gap and Mountain Express Lanes. Dynamic tolling was introduced earlier this year on the Central 70 Express Lanes and will eventually take effect on all Express Lanes in the Colorado system.

Tolls on both the South Gap and Mountain Express Lane corridors will be similar to the time-of-day pricing drivers are accustomed to seeing on each corridor, ranging from \$1.50 to \$4.75 for South Gap and up to \$9 on the Mountain Express Lane. The only difference is the toll rates may change throughout the day to respond to changing traffic conditions, meaning tolls may be somewhat higher or lower than drivers have been accustomed to.

Rates may be updated as often as every five to 15 minutes, and overhead signs will display current toll prices. The price displayed when vehicles enter the Express Lanes is the price drivers will pay if they have an ExpressToll pass, even if the toll changes while the driver is traveling in the Express Lanes. License plate fees will continue to apply for drivers who do not have an ExpressToll pass.

“Our studies have shown dynamic tolling is helping maintain minimum speeds on the Central I-70 Express Lanes between I-25 and Chambers Road in Denver,” said Piper Darlington, director of the Colorado Transportation Investment Office, the division of CDOT that owns and operates Colorado Express Lanes. “With the amount of traffic that the South Gap sees, we want to ensure that minimum speeds are maintained and drivers have reliable travel times.”

Dynamic tolling is designed to better maintain a free-flowing level of traffic and ease traffic congestion across all lanes in a dedicated corridor, including the untolled, or general purpose, lanes. The I-25 South Gap Express Lanes remain free to motorcyclists, commercial transit vehicles and vehicles with three or more passengers and a switchable HOV transponder.



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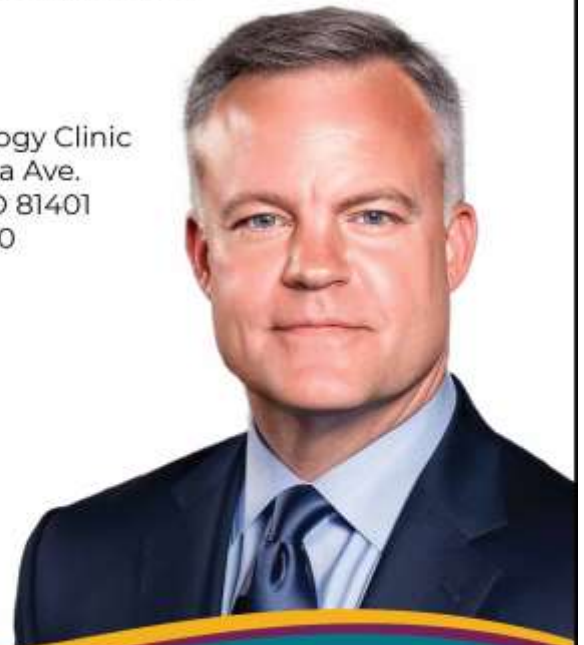
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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

START TALKING ABOUT WHAT TRUMP IS DOING TO ADDRESS THE ISSUES HE HAS PROMISED TO FIX

Editor:

Stop the ridiculous bantering about Democrats, stolen elections and comments that Trump won only because it was “too big to rig” – Trump’s slogan.

My comments are in response to Ed Henrie’s most recent editorial, “Democrats can lie with impunity and rarely face any consequences.”

Obviously Some Believe It’s Only Fair and Honest If They Win – Do You Hear Democrats Refusing to Accept the Results?

It is very clear that **winning** is the key for some in accepting an election as fair and honest rather than the votes cast. Before Trump won, he was preparing to yet again dispute the results of the 2024 election if he lost.

“We caught them CHEATING BIG in Pennsylvania. Must announce and PROSECUTE NOW! THIS IS A CRIMINAL VIOLATION OF THE LAW. STOP VOTER FRAUD!” Trump post, <https://truthsocial.com/@realDonaldTrump/posts/113402418656741972>

“A lot of talk about massive CHEATING in Philadelphia. Law Enforcement coming!!!” Trump posted on Truth Social at 4:39 p.m. on Election Day. <https://truthsocial.com/@realDonaldTrump/posts/113432510587738535>

“Anytime you have a mail-in ballot, there is going to be massive fraud. Trump statement in interview with Dr. Phil, <https://www.rev.com/transcripts/dr-phil-interview-with-donald-trump-on-08-27-24>

On April 19, 2024, Trump posted on Truth Social: “Absentee voting, early voting, and election day voting are all good options.” Hmm, did he change his mind? Trump post, <https://truthsocial.com/@realDonaldTrump/posts/112300168902589359>

In Pennsylvania, Republicans cast 586,764 via mail in ballot while 995,674 Democrats used this method. Trump received 3,539,699 votes while Harris received 3,417,108 votes.

So, since Trump was publicizing “massive CHEATING” in Pennsylvania and he won Pennsylvania, does that mean Harris actually won???

People Who Were Ineligible to Vote

ed

Henrie states in his editorial: “States automatically registered residents to vote without requiring proof of citizenship.” He also states: “Many states didn’t require ID to vote, or treated non-citizen licenses as qualifying ID.”

Trump won 55% of Hispanic men voters nationwide, up 19% from a 2020 exit poll. Trump won 38% of Hispanic women voters nationwide, up 8% from a 2020 exit poll.

Results of national exit poll on US presidential election, Reuters, November 6, 2024, <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/results-nevada-exit-poll-us-presidential-election-2024-11-05/>

In 2022, 44% of US immigrants (20.4 million people) reported having Hispanic or Latino ethnic origins. From Henrie’s statement, with the largest percentage of US immigrants being Hispanic and the largest percentage of Hispanics voting for Trump in this election, are they among those who have not proved citizenship and should not have been allowed to vote? Would that have impacted the election results? Henrie states that many states kept unqualified voters on their rolls including people who were dead, who had moved, or were otherwise unqualified “voters.”

“There is no evidence to back claims that dead people vote on an impactful, widespread or organized.” That means the number, having been identified, are so insignificant as to have no impact. Are Dead People Voting in Large Numbers in US Elections? Here Are the Facts, Taija PerryCook, Noember 4, 2024, <https://www.snopes.com/news/2024/11/04/dead-people-voting/>.

Henrie states “Our esteemed DOJ even sued Virginia to keep that state from removing noncitizens from their voter rolls.” The question, in my mind, is why?

A federal court in the Eastern District of Virginia entered the order to cease a program to remove VOTERS from Virginia’s voting rolls between that date’s order and November 5 general election alleging a maintenance program, as announced by Virginia’s Governor on August 7, violated Section 8(c)(2) of the National Voter Reg-

istration Act of 1993 by conducting a program intended to **systematically remove ineligible voters within 90 days of a federal election** . . . <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/preliminary-injunction-entered-justice-department-suit-stop-virginias-systematic-removal> The removal was **based on a law signed in 2006** but not acted upon until shortly before the election. The ruling was in response to an earlier lawsuit by the League of Women Voters and the Virginia Coalition of Immigrant Rights which challenged Governor Glenn Youngkin’s Executive Order 35 signed in August 2024 authorizing daily updates to Virginia’s voter rolls.

Would you want to be removed from a voter list a few month’s before an election with little time to correct the error if you were, in fact, eligible to vote. The concern was why a 2006 piece of legislation was acted upon so close to the election? Was this an attempt to disenfranchise voters or just government acting like a sloth?

Isn’t It Time to Focus on Your Party’s Results Or Is There Nothing Good to Say?

This rhetoric about the Democrats is getting quite old and think some are tired of pointing out facts versus fiction. So, rather than focus on unfounded and untrue statements about the election, why not instead focus on the 47th President’s accomplishing the promises he made to millions of Americans who voted for him when he takes office in January 2025 or about his visions crowding the news space since he was elected.

Remember, Republicans now have a Republican President and have complete control of the House and Senate. I am sure they will “Make America Great Again” or is it “Make America Greater Again”?

I would suggest you start talking about what Trump is doing to address the issues he has promised to fix such as reducing inflation, lowering food prices, cutting gas prices, protecting Social Security, and helping struggling American’s by reducing their tax loads and improving their life. Isn’t that what those who voted for him want?

Sue Schmidt, Montrose

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

BLM ESTABLISHES NEW RECREATION FEES FOR THE UNCOMPAGHRE FIELD OFFICE



Lower Beaver campsite in the Uncompahgre Field Office, Colorado. Courtesy photo BLM.

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE – The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) intends to charge new recreation amenity fees within the Uncompahgre Field Office (UFO) in Delta, Gunnison, Mesa, Montrose, Ouray, and San Miguel counties, Colorado.

Beginning May 21, 2025, the BLM will assess an expanded amenity fee of \$12 per campsite per night at five existing

campgrounds (Lower Beaver, Caddis Flats, Fall Creek, Ledges Cottonwood, and Ledges Rockhouse) and three proposed campgrounds (Electric Hills Rim, Nucla, and Paradox). A standard amenity fee of \$4 per vehicle per day at eight day use areas was also approved in the plan, but will not be implemented immediately. The BLM plans to offer a site-specific Standard Amenity Pass/Annual Day-Use Pass of \$20 per year for all day use sites when day use fees are implemented.

“Collecting fees will provide a way for the people who use and enjoy these amenities to help cover the cost of maintenance and improvements, protect natural resources, and improve visitor safety and services,” said **Uncompahgre Field Manager Dan Ben-Horin**. “This in turn enables the BLM to continue providing high quality recreation experiences on public lands.”

A [Notice of Intent to Establish Recreation Fees in the Uncompahgre Field Office, Colorado](#) published in the *Federal Register* yesterday. The draft business plan was released for public comment from August

12 through September 16 and updated to reflect substantive input where appropriate.

At their meeting on November 14, the Southwest Resource Advisory Council approved a motion to support the current version of the business plan, with camping fees implemented as stated and day use fees approved but their implementation tabled pending further discussion.

Fees collected would be used specifically to manage recreation in the Uncompahgre Field Office. To stay current with rising management and maintenance costs, the BLM will use the Western U.S. Consumer Price Index to gauge future fee adjustments. Outdoor recreation is a major economic driver in Colorado, and recreation on BLM-managed lands in Colorado generated \$1.4 billion in economic contributions in fiscal year 2021 and supported 11,000 jobs.

The business plan is available for review at <https://www.blm.gov/programs/recreation/permits-and-fees/business-plans>.

Our aim is true

the montrose mirror

RED HAWKS ADVANCE TO CLASS 4A SEMI-FINALS

From pg 1



The Red Hawks defense rises up to snuff out the Grizzlies scoring bid. Photo by Cliff Dodge.

and drove 65 yards in 10 plays with Junior Elijah Womack scoring from 12 yards out. The 2-point conversion saw the Red Hawks take an 8-7 lead in the opening minutes of the second quarter, a lead which they never relinquished.

The Grizzlies then mis-handled the ensuing kick-off and the Red Hawks recovered the ball at their 40-yard line. The Red Hawks took advantage of the short field and saw Junior Chase Mehan rumble into the end zone from nine yards out. The 2-point conversion increased the score to 16-7, which set the tone for the rest of the afternoon.

The Red Hawks' defense stepped up and forced the Grizzlies to turn the football over on downs at the Montrose 45-yard line. The Red Hawks wasted little time in using the running game to score as Senior Aiden Grijalva ran the football in from one yard out, with Womack adding the 2-point conversion to up the score to 24-7.

The defense then forced the Grizzlies to punt and the Red Hawks offense went back to work. The running of Elijah Wom-

ack and the pass receptions of Aiden Grijalva moved the ball to the Red Hawks 15-yard line where Womack bulldozed into the end zone for his third touchdown of the afternoon. The 2-point conversion increased the margin to 32-7 at the half. The Red Hawks scored four times in the second quarter while forcing the Grizzlies to punt twice and turn the ball over once on downs.

The Red Hawks received the opening kick-off in the second half and immediately drove 52 yards to paydirt with Womack scoring his fourth touchdown of the afternoon. The PAT was no good, making the score 38-7.

The Grizzlies mounted their best scoring drive of the afternoon as they moved 65 yards with their quarterback scoring on a 7-yard bootleg for their touchdown making the score 38-13 as the visitors were unsuccessful as they attempted a 2-point conversion.

The Red Hawks then took less than one minute to score again. Senior Aiden Grijalva took a pitchout from Quarterback

Cade Saunders and rumbled 52 yards for his second touchdown of the afternoon. The point after was successful, increasing the score to 45-13 at the end of the third quarter.

The Red Hawks then scored their final touchdown of the afternoon as Elijah Womack was untouched as he rumbled 54-yards to increase the score to 53-14. The Grizzlies scored their third touchdown late in the fourth quarter to make the final score 53-21.

The semi-finals of the 4A state championship are now set. Next week Dakota Ridge will host the Broomfield Eagles and the Montrose Red Hawks will host the Pueblo West Cyclones. Dakota Ridge defeated Ponderosa 14-0, and Broomfield knocked off Palmer Ridge 32-23 while Pueblo West took the measure of Heritage by the score of 42-28.

The Colorado High School Activities Association (CHSAA) will release the dates and times of the semi-final contests early this week.

Stay tuned.

COUNCILORS GIVE THANKS, CITIZENS ONCE AGAIN TURN OUT TO COMMENT, OFFER SUGGESTIONS AT CITY MEETING

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-Engaged citizens have increasingly been showing up for meetings of the Montrose City Council to offer comments and make suggestions, and last week's regular meeting was no exception.

All councilors were present as Mayor J. David Reed opened the meeting of Tuesday, Nov. 19. Reed gave thanks.

"...Thanksgiving is a time for us to join together and to give thanks. I am thankful for my family, I am thankful for the opportunity to live in and serve this wonderful, beautiful community. I am thankful for the citizens of this community because you are the strength that makes this city what it is.

"I am thankful for all of our city employees who are committed to providing our citizens with the very best services and who go the extra mile to make our lives better.

"I am thankful for our city manager, his staff, and all of our department heads for that extra sense of dedication and perseverance that distinguishes us from an ordinary city and makes us a one-of-a-kind extraordinary city.

"I would be remiss if I did not ask you to remember those less fortunate," Reed said. "Please reach out to them with the spirit of giving and compassion. This is truly the mark of a great and loving community...I want to wish you and your family a very happy, safe, and healthy Thanksgiving..."

CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

First to speak was Ken Otto. He expressed concern over a change to city codes; the proposed revisions to the residential zoning code R-2 are problematic, he said. Otto read a portion of the proposed code, which would add duplex dwellings as a use-by-right.

"This change clearly allows via use-by-right for a builder or developer to erect duplex residences in what has historically been a low-density, single-family zone."

In a developing subdivision the change would allow up to twice the density of residences as were planned and approved when the subdivision was zoned and

platted, Otto said.

"...This is unfair to those who have built or purchased homes in and adjacent to R-2 zoned neighborhoods," he said, adding that the proposed change would destabilize existing neighborhoods, significantly increase density in neighborhoods that are designed for low density housing, and could lower property values. Otto asked council to address the issue with planning staff and protect property owners.

Next to speak was Fernando Belaire, who said that he agreed with Otto.

Belaire also said that city notification procedures for changes require 500-foot guidelines.

"...That gets us one, maybe two, sometimes three homes that get notified..."

He asked Council to address the issue or perhaps face a ballot initiative asking for a 300-foot notification requirement. "...We really would like the council to address this as soon as possible," Belaire said.

"Because as you mentioned, Mayor, you represent this great community of people. And if you don't inform the people of what's going on, then you really don't represent them..."

Tricia Winslow spoke next, "The primary reason I am here is in reference to the code enforcement issues in our beautiful community..."

Winslow said that she has owned a home in Montrose for 15 years but had previous experience helping to create a neighborhood services department in Gunnison.

"They now have three civilian employees for a town of 6,500 people."

Neighborhood services officers provide enforcement of animal violations and code violations, she said. Common calls include parking problems, neighborhood complaints, animals running at large, and illegal dumping. "They also provide inventory control of all the properties seized by the police department, and they handle auctions for abandoned property," Winslow said, noting that the neighborhood services officers are trained in the use of defensive weapons including tasers and pepper spray.

She suggested that the City of Montrose consider a similar expansion. "I know it

costs a little more money, but I think that having these civilian patrols, more eyes around the community, they could really help our police officers as well."

Winslow suggested more traffic patrols too, and improved response to noise complaints and other things. She provided [a handout to Council for review](#).

Next to speak was Lisa Thomas, who celebrated the recent passage of ballot measure 2A. As a member of the Uncompahgre Valley Alliance (UVA), she said, "Keeping to our word we worked to educate voters in the City of Montrose about the lodging tax and its benefits to our city. We knocked on over 250 doors, to talk with fellow City of Montrose residents...about the lodging tax...all in all, canvassing was a worthwhile experience."

Kendra Stucki, also a member of UVA, said that it was really great to see that the lodging tax actually passed by 242 votes. "...As Lisa mentioned, 250 doors were knocked on by us...many people were grateful for the time that we took to explain 2A...we do know how to run a grassroots campaign by listening to community members and by giving them a voice...we will continue to organize for various causes that ensure Montrose to be a healthy and just place for all, as our mission states, and we also look forward to the City working with All Points Transit to continue to improve public transportation which is our current campaign..."

Chris Trujillo spoke next. He said that the North 9th roundabout is pretty close to where the Escalante and Dominguez expedition crossed the river. Trujillo asked that a landmark or a cairn be placed in the middle of the roundabout.

The United States will celebrate its 250th anniversary of 1776, Trujillo said. "Which is also the year that Escalante and Dominguez came through here."

Next to speak was Ron Smith. Smith said that he had attended the work session on Monday, Nov. 18. "...It's clear by the quality of new hires that we desire to make Montrose a better and safer community for our families, visitors, and legal citizens. And kudos to Police Chief Hall and his Direct Assistant Chief Cox--surely this is an

COUNCILORS GIVE THANKS, CITIZENS TURN OUT *From previous pg*

an extension of our leadership and City Manager...hearing the voices and desires of our citizens...I also witnessed a presentation for a public facility project totaling \$71 million dollars. The debt presentation had some math discrepancies, nonetheless it was a \$53+ million dollar debt burden presented yesterday. Hundreds of thousands of dollars have already been spent recently. Our school bond issue was overwhelmingly rejected by our taxpaying citizens.

"This followed nearly \$1 million dollars of taxpayer money wasted with designers, developers and contractors, leaving nothing but blueprints as abysmal fruit of the school board's initiative.

"In the case of (the) public facilities project, I must applaud and recognize the great work that was done for that project by those that are in charge of it. But I do believe our leadership here is clearly oblivious to the will of the people in our community on this particular subject. I, we, and thousands have recently expressed zero appetite for additional taxation or unnecessary long-term debt and exceeding an additional \$53+ million dollars of debt to this community that we don't need.

"Tax and spend, spend and tax has no appetite on the back of our taxpayers and our future generations for a prettier facility. This project places an annual debt payment reaching nearly \$3.3 million dollars for many years to come.

"I highly recommend we cease and desist any further expenditures on this project until our community has a chance to review this in a town hall position and presentation...let us not forget the massive increase in consumer goods and services these past four years....let us resist building this local government empire

with money we don't have...those who can least afford it are those hurt the most at the grocery store and the gas pump."

Next to speak was Matt Goldasich. "...the Montrose area is blessed with some beautiful scenery. Unfortunately, it's marred by a lot of junk...neighboring properties are also affected...who wants to buy next to a junk yard...at a recent city council meeting Bill said, when he was talking about unauthorized campers, they don't have the right to tear up other peoples' property, and you were right Bill, right on. "But a parallel to that is junk property owners don't have the right to affect their neighbors' property rights also..."

Goldasich shared ideas for raising awareness of the junk problem and addressing it. "...It's an area-wide problem. Harmonize city and county ordinances, so that you can work together. Actually, I think the problem is more prevalent in the county...I'd like to get some feedback, [please read my handout.](#)"

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the [November 4, 2024](#), special City Council meeting and the [November 5, 2024](#), regular City Council meeting as presented.

APPROVAL OF THE 2025 BUDGET

Mayor Reed opened the floor to public comment on the budget, but there were no speakers. Council voted unanimously to adopt the 2025 proposed budget, approving [Ordinance 2674](#)--Budget Appropriations for 2025--on Second Reading, and [Resolution 2024-18](#), adopting the 2025 Municipal Budget.

ORDINANCE 2675 - SECOND READING

Mayor J. David Reed recused himself from consideration and left Council Chambers prior to hearing Ordinance 2675 on second reading, for the annexation of the

Leonard Farm Addition. Council voted to adopt [Ordinance 2675](#) on Second Reading with Reed abstaining.

ORDINANCE 2676 - SECOND READING

Council voted three to two to adopt [Ordinance 2676](#) on Second Reading, zoning the Leonard Farm Addition as an R-3A, medium high density district. Mayor Reed abstained from the vote, and Councilor Ed Ulibarri voted "No."

STAFF REPORTS

Sales Tax Manager Leeanne Whittaker presented the [Sales, Use & Excise Tax Report](#) for September.

3rd QUARTER BUDGET REVIEW

Finance Director Shani Whittenberg presented the [Third Quarter Budget review.](#)

YOUTH CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS

Youth Council Liaison Briceida Ortega said that nine Youth Councilors attended the National League of Cities conference last week, where they engaged in workshops and networked with youth city councilors from across the United States. "They had a great time...thank you for your support."

CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Pro Tem David Frank said that he traveled to a South American Country with a population in excess of 200,000. "It was amazing to me to see that a city of 21,000 has better infrastructure, better streets, and a better airport, and nicer houses, and much nicer living conditions.

"I just think that that contrast is something that we sometimes take for granted, that we live in a place and in a country and an environment and a city that are just so far above the standard that most of the world has to live in... I'm thankful to live in a country where we have a city like Montrose."

With no further business, "We will stand adjourned," Mayor Reed said.



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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

PROP 127 SPURS DIVERSE PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT, GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY AT CPW MEETING OVER MOUNTAIN LION MANAGEMENT

Special to the Mirror

LAFAYETTE — Animal wellness groups are pleased to see evidence Friday that Proposition 127 is already resulting in greater public engagement, awareness, and government accountability over the just treatment of ecologically important native mountain lions of Colorado. Voters rejected Prop 127, but much of the opposition did not express opposition to halting trophy hunting and commercial trapping of lions and bobcats, but they urged proponents of these reforms to seek redress by giving Colorado Parks and Wildlife and the Colorado Wildlife Commission first crack at necessary changes.

Dozens of citizens who supported Prop 127 commented on record Friday over a new “East Slope Mountain Lion Management Plan” at CPW’s November meeting in Lamar. The plan was voted to progress forward.

Many citizens expressed disapproval in hounding as that flouts CPW’s own fair chase policy, given that Colorado trophy hunting guides paid \$8,500 send dog packs out first to contain a mountain lion in a tree for shooting like fish in a barrel. The shooter is not part of the hunt, and

follows behind to catch up just to shoot the animal that has nowhere to go. And that it is a guaranteed kill for on-call killing.

CPW does not legally allow guaranteed killing in recreational hunting, yet Colorado lion hunts are routinely advertised as “guaranteed.”

Commissioner Dr. Karen Bailey, an ecologist, stated on record Friday that she heard these concerns and is interested in investigating this further, noting that it is possible that holding a cat in a tree with dogs, waiting for the shooter to arrive, would indeed violate CPW’s own policy.

Prop 127 supporters also raised the issue that the East Slope Plan is called “management” in the title, “for stable populations,” but pointed out the best peer-reviewed and published science informs commissioners that recreational hunting is not necessary or even management, because lions are territorial predators who will manage their own populations naturally, without hunting. Just as they do in California, which bans hunting and has a stable lion population.

When called to testify to this precise statement, CPW longtime retired carni-

vore manager Jerry Apker confirmed to commissioners that lion populations are self-regulating, which means their populations do not require hunting as a “necessary” tool to regulate them.

“The ideas behind Prop 127 are solid and broadly supported,” said **Julie Marshall a native Coloradan and public relations director for Animal Wellness Action**, one of the leading organizations behind Prop 127. “We want to give CPW and the Colorado Wildlife Commission an opportunity to dig into the issue and then to institute these needed reforms.”

Animal wellness groups are now calling on CPW to invest more heavily in managing mountain lions for their proven role as ecosystem engineers, who boost the health of deer herds and whole ecosystems. They also note that hounding and orphaning of lions are unacceptable outcomes from the highly commercialized, unsporting trophy hunts that are now conducted – and that have nothing to do with proper management of lions or bobcats.

You can listen to the meeting here: [Parks and Wildlife Commission Meeting: November 14-15, 2024 | Colorado Parks and Wildlife](#)

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

TRI-STATE RATE INCREASE TO BE COVERED BY ACCESS FEE INCREASE, RATE STABILIZATION FUNDS: SMPA BOARD APPROVES TIME-OF-USE RATES TO START IN MAY, 2025.

Special to the Mirror

RIDGWAY – November 19, 2024 – San Miguel Power Association (SMPA) announced the increase of the consumer access fee for the majority of members, from \$25/mo. to \$28/mo.--still one of the lowest access charges in the region among similar electric cooperatives. The board also approved a proposal to implement a time-based rate structure, beginning in May of 2025. Under this new structure, a Time-of-Use rate will offer members a discount on energy for 19 hours of the day, 11¢ / kWh instead of 13.5¢ / kWh. During the 5 hour “Peak” period of 4 PM to 9 PM, members will see a higher rate (22¢ / kWh). The Off-Peak/On-Peak combination will have minimal impact on the overall cost for most members, and it will better reflect the actual cost of energy throughout the day. The Access Fee increase was driven by a 6.2% rate increase in wholesale power costs, imposed by Tri-State Generation and Transmission (Tri-State), wholesale power provider for SMPA. To cover these increased costs, SMPA approved the \$3 fixed monthly increase to all members. Expected revenue from this change will not cover the added cost completely. To supplement the new revenue, SMPA will access previously deferred rate stabilization funds. The increase is set to take effect in January of 2025. Within the new time-based rate struc-

ture, members are incentivized to shift their electricity usage to off-peak hours, when demand and wholesale energy costs are lower.

Managing flexible loads like EV charging, water heating, and electric heat tape can save room for essential electricity uses on the grid. The new time-based rate also includes a Time-of-Day “peak power” rate option to give flexibility to members whose energy use profile positions them to take advantage of it.

These changes will be beneficial to SMPA members because they have the potential to lower capacity costs, reducing upward pressure on the end-consumer rates. It can also provide an opportunity for members to save money by shifting discretionary loads like laundry, dishwashing, EV charging, snow-melt systems, or water heating to the off-peak period. This shift would also bolster the market for solar energy plus storage, aiding the transition to a cleaner energy system.

Here's how time-based rates help:

Off-Peak Hours: Lower prices apply during times of low electricity demand.

Members can have more cost-effective energy by:

- Running appliances like dishwashers and washing machines during off-peak hours.
- Charging electric vehicles overnight.
- Pre-heating homes before peak hours.

SMPA offers a variety of programs and services to help members understand and

adapt to time-based rates, including:

-Online resources: Detailed information about time-based rates, including rate plans and peak/off-peak hours, is available on www.smpa.com.

-Member support: Member service representatives are available to answer questions about time-based rates and help members.

-Smarthub: The hourly kWh data available to members in Smarthub provides members with near real-time data on their energy usage, allowing them to track their consumption and identify opportunities for savings.

SMPA is committed to providing customers with the tools and resources they need to manage their energy usage. SMPA offers numerous rebates for efficient appliances and beneficial electrification, including home batteries, induction cooktops, smart thermostats, and electric thermal storage, etc. Options for on-bill-repayment (OBR) may help low-income members access these money-saving technologies, spreading out payments, rather than buying all at once. “Our board has taken a bold step that puts SMPA on the cusp of a more flexible and effective power grid,” said SMPA CEO, Brad Zavorski. “As we move forward with our members, we look forward to realizing these benefits together, for the good of all electric consumers in our service territory.”



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CITY CONSIDERS NEW PUBLIC WORKS FACILITY, COMMUTER TRANSIT

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE—Along with the City of Montrose’s executive team, members of the Montrose City Council were joined by six fresh faces at the work session of Monday, Nov. 18. Mayor Pro Tem David Frank was absent from the meeting; all others were present.

Mayor J. David Reed welcomed all to the work session. The first order of business was the introduction of six new employees.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW CITY STAFF

Joining the city team are:

Police Officer Tim Long;

Police Officer Christian Cardenas;

PO Detective Ryan Hess;

Incident Report Taking Technician Taneya Gilliland;

Community Programs Assistant Jeanette Oslund;

Parks and Special Projects Worker Jeremiah Maynard.

“Thank you all and welcome to the City of Montrose,” Mayor J. David Reed said.

“We’re really glad and fortunate to have you.”

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Public Works Director Jim Scheid briefed councilors on the current state of the new Public Works Facility, with a Project Update and Funding Discussion. Also present for the discussion was Kyle Thomas of DA Davidson, who reviewed funding options for the project.

Background—A memo from Scheid to Council states, “There has been significant progress in the design process and project development since the last update that was presented at City Council Work Session in September of 2024. The items we would like to discuss at this work session are:

- Project scope and anticipated sequencing with preliminary cost estimates for the anticipated milestones;
- Current procurement in process for project elements;
- Construction Manager General Contractor;
- Site Fill/Irrigation Relocation;
- Project Site Plan and updates since last



Preliminary rendering looking East from the perspective of Rio Grande Ave (future). Courtesy image.

meeting;

- Renderings of the Facility;
- Funding options and recommendations presented by DA Davidson;
- Next Steps for the project and what to expect over the next few months.”

The project is still in the very early stages, Scheid said. Mayor J. David Reed said that there will be plenty of time to discuss the public works facility as it moves forward, and thanked Scheid and Thomas for the information. “I know we’ll be diving deep into the woods on it in the future.”

Council also reviewed a proposed Update to Multiple Chapters of Title 11 (Land Development Regulations) of the Montrose Municipal Code. Community Development Director Jace Hochwalt gave a detailed presentation, with proposed ReDo boundaries and redlined chapters.

Mayor Reed said, “I think you guys have done an amazing job...it’s been an important, productive, and good process.”

Council met with Kari Distefano of the San Miguel Authority for Regional Transport Workforce Bus Line. City of Montrose Community Development Director Chris Ottinger said that the City has been looking at ways to transport workers between Montrose County and the Telluride, Mountain Village, Rico, and Dolores County communities.

“We have been engaged in planning this for quite a while,” DiStefano said, and shared slides with information on stops, funding, and transit propensity.

“The rural nature of the community and

service area skews population density...this is based on census data...a lot of this is based on our economy which has a high percentage of service jobs...housing in our resort community is very unaffordable for most people who are working these jobs...”

A number of households have just one car or no car, she said. “We want to make it affordable for folks.”

The system is open and available to anybody, although they mostly serve commuters, Distefano said.

The plans will come before the city council on Dec. 2, she said.

GENERAL CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Councilor Judy Ann Files said she was glad to see progress on the canal bridge at Ogden Road. “It was cool to see it—it’s a big project...it looks safer already.”

Councilor Doug Glaspell said that he had attended the Magic Circle Theatre ribbon cutting and visited the new fourth floor of the River Landing Medical Facility.

“What a super job they’ve done with that...”

Police Chief Blaine Hall said that Montrose officers cited ten drivers during a recent crosswalk safety enforcement. Police will be targeting jay walkers as well, Hall said.

Community Development Director Jace Hochwalt said that the City has received a \$2M grant specific to major infrastructure improvements.

With no further business the work session was adjourned.

COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

TWO MEN INDICTED ON CHARGES CONNECTED TO VIOLENT ROBBERY OF MAIL CARRIER

U.S. Attorney's Office, District of Colorado
DENVER – The United States Attorney’s Office for the District of Colorado announces that Marquis Taylor, 28, and Elijah Woods, 21, were indicted by a federal grand jury on one count each of conspiracy, assault with intent to rob a U.S. Postal Carrier, and mail theft. According to the indictment and connected court filings, in September of 2023, Taylor, Woods, and a third man, Dravell Emon Ross, 28, committed a strong-arm robbery of a postal carrier while she was on duty in her mail truck taking her lunch break. The robbery occurred near Utah Park in Aurora in the middle of the day. The three men attempted to obtain a universal mailbox key from the postal carrier in order to access community mailboxes. The men were unable to steal the universal key, but did steal various pieces of mail, packages, and a postal scanner. The postal carrier suffered minor injuries as a result of the robbery.

On July 17, 2024, Ross was sentenced to federal prison for four years in connection with his role in the robbery. On November 13, 2024, Taylor was arrested and is detained pending trial. Woods was released on bond while the charges remain outstanding. The trial for Taylor and Woods is currently scheduled in federal district court for March 31, 2025.

The case is being investigated by the United States Postal Inspection Service. The prosecution is being handled by Assistant United States Attorney Tim Neff.

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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

WHAT IS A SECONDARY CRASH? AND, HOW TO AVOID ONE: COLORADO STATE TROOPERS SHARE HOT ZONES AND TOP CAUSAL FACTORS

Colorado State Patrol

GOLDEN – If you drive daily, seeing and passing a crash is a regular experience. These incidents can be frightening and disruptive to your commute, but they also can lead to additional crashes. A secondary crash is a crash that occurs because of another crash. And, secondary crashes are a major cause of line-of-duty deaths for emergency workers.

In honor of Crash Responder Safety Week, the Colorado State Patrol wanted to share some of the hot zones across Colorado where secondary crashes are most prevalent and some of the top driving behaviors that lead to these crashes.

Looking at the secondary crashes investigated by the Colorado State Patrol from 2021 through November 13, 2024, troopers have handled over 880 secondary crashes. Approximately 35% of these secondary crashes occurred during poor, active weather conditions (e.g., snow, fog, freezing rain, strong winds, etc.), while the majority of crashes took place during clear conditions, with the peak months being November through January.

According to Colorado State Patrol investigation data of secondary crashes from this same time period (2021 – Nov 14, 2024), the top highways are:

1. I-25 (330)
2. I-70 (208)
3. I-76 (29)
4. Hwy C470 (26)
5. Hwy 24 (20)

“First responders are well aware of the risks posed to them as they work on crash scenes,” explains Col. Matthew C. Packard, chief of the Colorado State Patrol. “They work to investigate thoroughly and clear a scene as quickly as possible, despite how long it can feel to motorists caught in traffic related to a crash.”

Colorado State Patrol secondary crash data also revealed the top three causal factors for crashes during this same time period:

1. Following too close (292)
2. Inattentiveness – distracted driving (195)
3. Speeding (172)

The Colorado Move Over law was one step in adding protection to emergency workers while handling the duties of the crash. This law has increased protections over

the years, with the most recent expansion happening in August of 2023 when the law expanded to include any vehicle with emergency lighting activated on the road or on the shoulder.

Colorado Drivers have two choices when they see an emergency/tow/ maintenance vehicle or passenger vehicle with emergency hazards on:

-Move over at least one lane from that vehicle.

-If they cannot safely move over, then they must slow down to a safe speed.

-Safe speed means Drivers must slow down to 25 MPH or less in 40 MPH zone.

-Drivers must slow by at least 20 MPH in a 45MPH or higher zone.

“It is up to all of us to improve the safety on our roadways,” stated Col. Packard.

“Do your part by putting the distractions down and driving with safety at the forefront.”

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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

RIFLE STOLEN FROM BLANCA POLICE CAR

Colorado Bureau of Investigation

CBI – BLANCA, CO – The Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and Blanca Police are looking for two suspects who allegedly broke into a fully marked Blanca Police Department vehicle and stole a black patrol rifle.

The burglary happened on November 21, 2024 at approximately 2:30am in front of the police department at 601 Main Street where the patrol car was parked.

The suspects arrived on foot and were last seen walking eastbound from the police department.

The picture attached of the rifle is not the exact rifle but all Blanca PD rifles are identical. Also attached are the best available pictures of the suspects.

Anyone with information is encouraged to contact Blanca Police Chief Ricky Rodriguez at 719-589-5807.

The Blanca Police Department is offering a \$500 reward for the recovery of the firearm and/or information leading to the arrest of the suspects.



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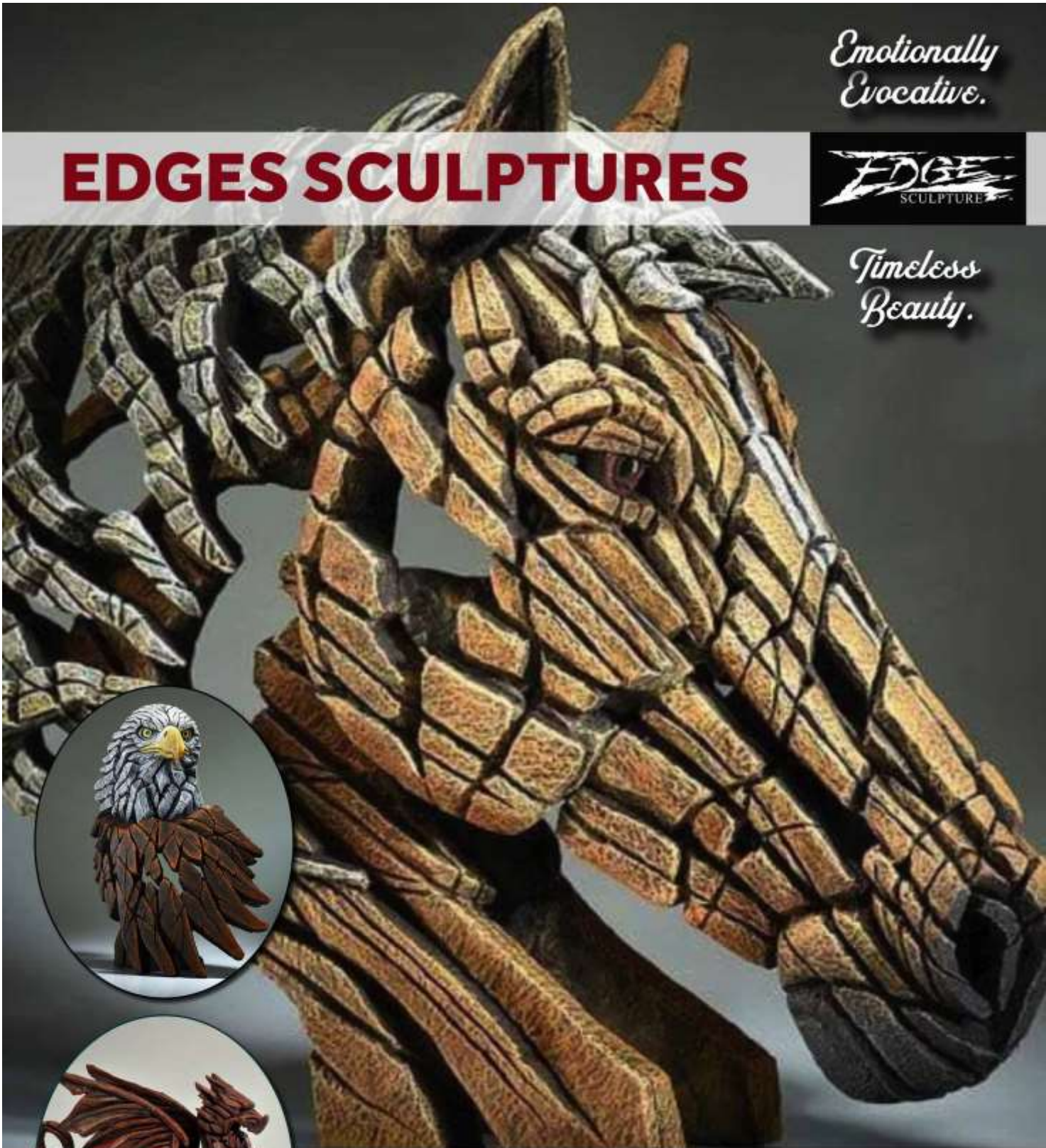
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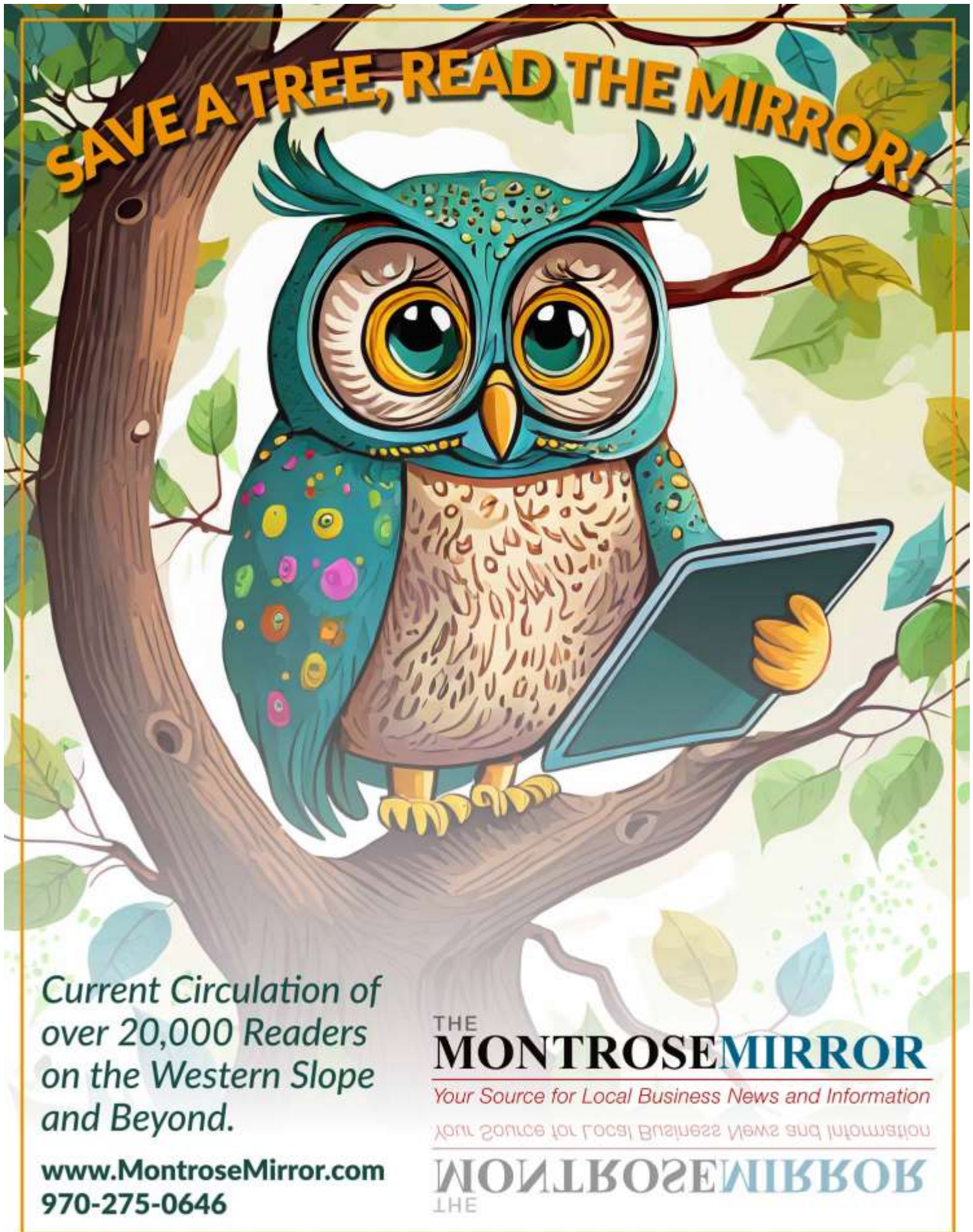


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OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

PROJECT 7 - CAN WE AFFORD WHAT THEY HAVE PLANNED? *Drinking Water is valuable – BUT, at what price?*

By David White

I had the opportunity to attend The Forum community information program last Wednesday, November 20th where Miles Graham, spokesperson for Project 7, made another community presentation on the plans for a new backup water treatment plant that will supplement the existing water treatment plant that provides treated drinking water to the Uncompahgre Valley.

In the October 7th issue of The Mirror, I reported and opined extensively on the history of Project 7 and the composition of the organization and the purpose it was established for along with details of the planned backup treatment plant. See the back issue of The Mirror here: ([MM606.pdf](#) – page 54).

New details have emerged on the planned plant and the site chosen for it. Some of them are worth taking a look at, hence this update.

As background, the dam construction for the Ridgway Reservoir began in 1978, was completed in 1987, and filled in 1990. Ridgway Dam is a 227-ft-tall embankment dam with an outlet structure intake at an elevation of 6,741 ft. above sea level. The proposed plant is planned to be fed water for treatment by a 5.5 mile long, 2 ft. diameter, pipeline from the Ridgway Reservoir to a site already purchased by Project 7 for the treatment plant just south of Colona on Highway 550 and north of the reservoir.

Because of the high mineral and alkali content along with nitrogen and other dissolved gases in the reservoir ([Dissolved Gas and Fishery Investigations at Ridgway Dam – Phases 1, 2 and 3 Report](#)), the water is much more difficult to treat and will require a pellet softening system which is more expensive than the current treatment plant's system. A potential positive outcome of treating this water is that a by-product of treating the mineral rich water from the reservoir is the production of calcium carbonate which is used as a dietary supplement for farm animals ([Calcium Carbonate in Animal Feed: Benefits & Uses](#)]).

The treated water coming from the proposed plant (up to 6 million gallons a day at full capacity) will be transported north into the Project 7 system by another pipeline similar in size and length as the one feeding the plant from the Ridgway Reservoir. The existing treatment plant, located east of Montrose on Highway 50, can treat up to 27 million gallons of water per day. In order to be able to “blend” the treated water from both facilities, the more expensive pellet softening treatment system will be required as the water we consume might taste peculiar unless treated in this fashion.

While all this sounds good and appears to be well thought out, the cost to build the new facility and pipeline, which will only, at capacity, produce 22% of the water currently treated at the existing facility, has reached an estimated \$172,400,000 which is down from a previous worst-case estimate of \$185,000,000. The unelected (by the citizens) Project 7 Board of Directors will meet on December 19th to hear what the numbers look like as they move (presumably) ahead with the construction of this facility. On January 25, 2025, the Board will learn what the Guaranteed Maximum Price for the facility will be along with financing options, which, as discussed in my October 7th article, could easily pass \$500,000,000 in principal and interest payments over the life of the debt financing needed to build this plant. A final decision by the Project 7 Board to move ahead or not will come in either February or March of next year.

If you're interested in learning more about this planned facility or at least feel that the cost to the ratepayers (you and me) is more than we can afford, I suggest you contact the Project 7 Board as follows: Board Of Directors

- City of Montrose- David Bries (970-240-1484 - dbries@cityofmontrose.org)
 - City of Delta- Kevin Carlson, Mayor (970-874-7566 - kevin@cityofdeltanet.net)
 - Town of Olathe- Jake Foreman, Mayor (970-323-5601 or 970-581-5919 - jacob.foreman@geocities.com)
- Tri-County Water Conservancy District-

Vicki Ripp (970-874-5127 or 970-249-3369 info@tricitywater.org)

- Menoken Water District- Randy Meaker (970-249-5118 or 970-249-3242)
- Chipeta Water District- John McCollum (970-209-5137 - jmc-collum@rvemontrose.com)

Interestingly, the argument always made in support of this immensely expensive facility revolves around threats from potential terrorists who could shut down the existing plant leaving us all without drinking water or threats from environmental disasters such as forest fires and other events that could cause a catastrophic loss of Project 7's ability to process water.

Unfortunately, every scenario thought of is fraught with flaws. As an example, who says that if terrorists want to take out one plant that they couldn't plan for the simultaneous destruction of two plants or that forest fires can't occur in two separate areas to have the same effect to cause both plants to be unable to treat water? Obviously, a mechanical breakdown could occur at one or both and that would create an issue.

The real question comes down to both a philosophical as well as a financial one. Project 7 has a problem with its credit worthiness, one that makes financing this project enormously complicated. The Ridgway Reservoir holds 28,000-acre feet of water with ownership divided up between the members. Project 7 currently uses 9,000-acre feet of member owned water a year which they wholesale back to the member entities after the water has been treated. That translates into 48 million gallons of water a day owned and 20 million gallons a day processed according to Mr. Graham.

When it's all said and done, we have a huge asset being left unused – namely 19,000-acre feet of water annually. Why not lease or sell some of the excess water to pay for this project? Perhaps there are stipulations in place that prevent this or other drawbacks, but it certainly is worth considering rather than hiking our water rates into the stratosphere in order to preclude a “what if” worst case scenario

PROJECT 7 - CAN WE AFFORD WHAT THEY HAVE PLANNED? From previous pg

that may and probably will never come to pass?

Project 7 Board – you were not elected by the public to the positions you hold. You were appointed. In some cases, appointments were made by the political subdivisions you represent on Project 7 board (City of Montrose, City of Delta & Town of Olathe) and others by quasi-governmental water districts. A decision of this magnitude that carries a significant financial impact and risks violating Federal guide-

lines for a fair and reasonable water rate structure, needs to be considered when you're making this decision ([Pricing and Affordability of Water Services | Sustainable Water Infrastructure | US EPA](#)). That goes for the City Councils and water company boards of directors when they set their rates.

If this project goes too far and costs too much, I foresee the potential for legal action to be taken to bring not only the pricing in line, but also for justification for

such an enormously expensive project to be made with the impact on the population given a lot more weight than it is at this time.

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: COMMENTARY

MONTROSE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS – ILLUSORY TRANSPARENCY

If it's true, don't try to hide it!

By David White

In last week's letter/opinion piece, I discussed the large increases that our local governments have been giving their employees – last year and another proposed for this year. Included in that letter, I discussed a \$1,000 year end “bonus” for each Montrose County employee to be given by the outgoing Board of County Commissioners ostensibly in order to give their employees an incentive to stay employed with the County.

Apparently, news of this employee bonus at the County set the Commissioner's hair on fire as they say. Sources that I have around the community seem to think that Commissioner Hansen (who is staying on the Board for another 2 years) needs a perception boost and that this is one way to do it. Commissioner's Rash and Caddy are heading out the door in a few weeks and what better way to leave a goodwill legacy than to “gift” almost \$400,000 of your tax dollars to the County employees. News of this bonus has angered many community members, yet I suspect that they're going to do it anyway – damn the torpedoes – full speed ahead!

Whatever! They dare not do this as their mismanagement of County finances is becoming more and more clear. This Board, collectively, plays the Joe Biden “blame it on Trump” card every chance

they get by blaming the previous Board of County Commissioners (who left office almost 8 years ago) for many of their problems. They need to own their decisions – good ones and bad ones and stop the blame game. Commissioner Rash is the poster child for his public comments on this subject.

Commissioner Hansen, accused of being the “Queen Bee” politician running Montrose County during last June's Primary Election season for her open support of candidates “Big Lou” Stark and former Sheriff Rick Dunlap as well as her and the other Commissioner's violation of their own 2018 resolution (No. 67-2018) which pledged that the Board of County Commissioners would not interfere in elections, only exacerbates their perception problem ([Resolution-67-2018_1](#)).

Now, as host of the Montrose County YouTube Channel Podcast “**County Talk: Boring But Important**” ([\(82\) Montrose County, Colorado - YouTube](#) which has 169 subscribers to date), Commissioner Hansen has a new taxpayer funded platform to push out information that suits the County's desire to find credibility in the eyes of the taxpayers by touting the “good” things the County is doing but fails to disclose, in a transparent manner, the things they don't want you to know.

Some might call it propaganda mixed

with truth. While the goal is admirable (inform the citizenry of certain services and County operations), it needs to include the Commissioners stating why they are voting the way they are; why their meetings, where dozens of decisions and millions of dollars are spent, are only given an average of 20-30 minutes of their time every other week when they hold their board meetings. Where public discussion or dialogue is not accepted after 3 minutes of citizen time during “the call to the public” portion of their meetings and where current BOCC Chair Rash rudely gavel citizens down with the statement that “your time is UP!” and never addressing the concern brought forward.

In the waning days of the almost 8 years that Commissioners Rash and Caddy have been in office and are soon leaving (due to term limits) and Commissioner Hansen's almost 6 years, all I can say is that if it's true, don't try to hide it.

Transparency is more than a word, it's a promise you made to the public, so keep it.

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.

**The Mirror:
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COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

ROBERT "BOB" RAYMOND RIFLEY ***February 15, 1939 — November 15, 2024***

ROBERT RAYMOND RIFLEY (BOB) passed away peacefully at the age of 85 at home with family on November 15, 2024, after a courageous battle with cancer.

Born in Columbus, Ohio, on February 15, 1939, to Raymond Rifley and Florence Ross-Rifley, Robert's early years were marked by his family's move to Lakewood, Colorado. He attended Lakewood High School and later pursued studies at the University of Colorado in Boulder for two years before joining the Air Force. There, he attended Cadet Training for the 100th Air Refueling Squadron (SAC) and earned the rank of Captain.

After completing four years in the Air Force, Robert returned to Denver, Colorado, to complete his college education. He went on to establish a CPA firm and pursued a Master's Degree in Public Administration. His upbringing in the motel and

restaurant business endowed him with keen business acumen, enabling him to spot opportunities and create many successful ventures, always with his loving wife and business partner by his side.

A cherished member of the Fraternal Order of Elks in Gunnison, Colorado, for many years, Robert developed lifelong friendships through his involvement in the organization.

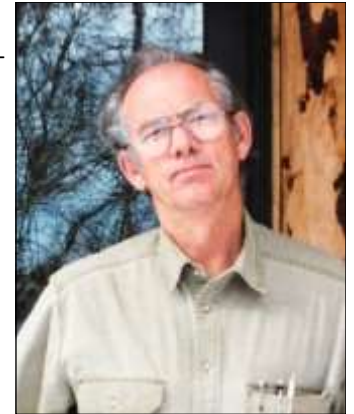
Robert was the most loving husband, great friend, and devoted father to eight children. He always put family first, brought laughter to his family, and guided his children with faith, wisdom, and kindness. He relished playing games with family and friends and never missed an opportunity to enjoy a good game of poker.

Preceded in death by his daughter, Perri Ann Rifley, Robert leaves behind a loving wife, Donna, seven children, seventeen

grandchildren, twenty-one great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren.

A vigil will take place at 6:30 PM, Thursday, December 5th at Crippin Funeral Home and a funeral service will be at 11 AM, Friday, December 6th, at St. Mary Catholic Church in Montrose, CO.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Hope West Hospice, 725 S. 4th Street, Montrose, Co. 81401. (p) 970-240-7734



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

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

RICHARD WAYNE DALEE

November 24, 1947 — November 14, 2024



RICHARD WAYNE DALEE was born in Upland, California in 1947 to Mary and Allen DaLee during a family vacation for Thanksgiving. Richard spent the first nine years of his life growing up in Grand Junction, Colorado. In 1959, his family moved to Montrose, Colorado where he graduated from Montrose High School in 1965. After graduation, Richard attended UCLA trade school where he obtained his professional

license to be a certified dental technician prior to enlisting in the U.S. Navy. Serving four years in Southern California, Richard was assigned to the 3rd Marine Air Wing. During his time in the Navy, Richard met the love of his life, Bette Ann Simpson, at the local bowling alley where friendly competition grew into a life-long relationship. Richard and Bette married on February 14, 1970 in Lakeside, California. In 1972, the happy couple relocated to Montrose, Colorado where Richard worked alongside his father at DaLee Dental Lab. In 1988, Richard took over as owner of DaLee Dental Lab and worked there until he retired in 2019.

Richard was an active servant in the Montrose community for much of his life. He was a life-time member of the Elks club, he was a founding member of the local Kiwanis chapter, and he served nine years on Montrose County School Board including being the Board Secretary. Richard was most honored by the opportunity to lead the efforts to plan, fundraise, and build the new high school gym and baseball field lights. His desire was to ensure that his kids, and all the kids of the community, had the best facilities for their

academic and extracurricular careers.

The pride and joy of Richard's life was his daughter, Jenelle, and his son, Jason. He spent all his free time supporting them and watching them in their various sports, performances, and award ceremonies. He never missed the opportunity to spend time with his family as he felt that there was nothing more important in the world. This support of his kids carried over into Richard being the adoptive father to many of Jenelle and Jason's friends.

Known for being a great story and joke teller, Richard was best known by his friends and family as the one who would give the shirt off his back to help them. Simply, he was a man with a huge heart for people.

Richard is survived by his wife of 54 years Bette DaLee, his daughter and son-in-law Jenelle and Steve Adams, his son and daughter-in-law Jason and Christine DaLee, his grandchildren Raegan and Andrew Adams, and his siblings Donna Kunz and Ron DaLee. He was preceded in death by his parents.

A Celebration of Life will be held in early Summer for family and close friends with details to come at a later date.

Now more than ever...

Thank you for reading

THE MONTROSE MIRROR

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

DIANE REDD

April 18, 1946- November 14, 2024

DIANE REDD, 78, of Paradox, Colorado, passed away on the evening of Thursday, November 14th, 2024, surrounded by her family. Marjorie Diane Redd was born to Archie and Marjorie Bowden on April 18, 1946, in Chicago, Illinois, the first of four children (Diane, Brent, Gwen, Mark) born to a medical student and a Navy nurse. The Bowden's moved to Provo, Utah where Diane attended and graduated from Provo High School and later attended Brigham Young University where she studied nursing.

Diane and Paul met in Provo while attending college and she knew Paul was "The One" right away, after only one date! Diane married Paul D. Redd on September 1, 1966, in Salt Lake City Temple. The Redd's moved to Paradox, Colorado, and though raised a city girl, Diane blossomed in the desert and became an integral part of Redd Ranches. Her contributions to the success of the ranching operation are immeasurable. Diane spent 56 fulfilling years as a rancher's wife, and was an amazing mother to her seven children. Diane was truly a woman of many talents; she was a phenomenal cook, an avid gardener, an artist with a paintbrush, a caring nurse, and a master seamstress who gifted dozens of beautiful quilts to her friends and family.

Diane held a special zest and love for life which was easily discernible by her quick smile, quicker wit and a warmth never far from the surface, often using her creativity and general know-how to improve and enrich everything she touched. She spent her life serving others, both in her home and in her community. Diane loved spending time in the mountains and her favorite place to vacation was the beach. She loved feeling the sand between her toes, hunting for seashells and jumping giant

waves and she shared her love of swimming with her children and grandchildren as she taught them to swim and dive and even participated in a triathlon. Diane was a wonderful artist and enjoyed teaching her grandchildren how to paint aspen trees and landscapes. Christmas, Birthdays and the Holidays were magical because she made every event spectacular with family traditions and delicious food. We will forever cherish the precious memories of our childhood made possible by our darling Mother. Although Diane had many difficult health trials, she never lost hope and her positivity was contagious. If there ever was an example of perseverance and determination, Diane was it! She was indeed a world-class wife and mother, a title she wore with pride. Her dedication to enriching lives extended to sharing her recipes and creating cookbooks for not only friends and family but for the Lone Cone Cattlewomen Association's cherished cookbook. Diane taught her children to walk in faith and love The Lord Jesus Christ. Her faith was a guiding force in her life as she served in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in many roles including; Scout Leader, Primary teacher, Young Women's Leader, Relief Society, and lastly, a Senior Missionary where she and Paul served remotely, tutoring employees of The Church in China and Taiwan with their English via Skype. It's often been said that Diane really knew how to "magnify" her calling and was never content with a half effort on anything she did. She was willing to put in the extra effort to make others



feel loved and special. Diane cherished her devoted husband Paul who has been her main caregiver for over 22 years. Diane's love for her family is a testament of her caring nature.

She lived a life of complete sacrifice and selfless service, giving all she had to serve the Lord and her family until the very end. We are forever blessed because of her guiding influence and unconditional love. Diane is survived by her husband Paul David Redd, Her seven children, Krista (Lee) Chadwick, David (Jennifer) Redd, Debra (Alan) Stevens, Steven (Aleigh) Redd, Penny (Duane) Hager, Joshua Redd, and Jennifer Westfall. Her twenty eight grandchildren, fourteen great-grandchildren, and Her parents, Archie Bowden and Marjorie Schipper, preceded her in death.

Diane's life was a testament to the verse, "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ" (Galatians 6:2). She bore the burdens of many, always striving to make life better for everyone around her. We invite you to leave your memories and upload photos of Diane on the memorial page. May we remember her goodness, her love of life and the kindness she carried and shared with others all her life. Her spirit, generosity, joy, and unwavering love for others, will forever live in our memories and in our hearts.

ISSUE 496 Nov. 25, 2024

ART & SOL

SAN JUAN HOMESCHOOL EDUCATORS NOW A 501 (C) 3 NON-PROFIT

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE-The San Juan Homeschool Educators (SJCHE) have been in existence for more than 20 years; however, it was only in the last few months that they achieved their 501 (c) 3 nonprofit status. For some, SJCHE has the appearance of a club where homeschooled students come together for sports and extracurricular activities. For others, the organization is a resource and support system for parents. The organization exists to encourage parents in their homeschool journey by:

“**Informing** parents of pertinent homeschool legal issues, homeschool current events, seminars or conferences; **investing** in families by providing an atmosphere for exchange of teaching techniques, curriculum information, volunteer-led group activities such as: family and high school socials, educational field trips, sports, and senior graduation; **exalting** the Lord Jesus Christ as we represent His Name in our homes and in the community.”

President Carl Kelly said, “We have about 75 to 100 families who participate. We don’t just do sports; we do activities like field trips, graduation parties, and social events. We need more outreach. We will soon start a drive for business sponsorships.” Currently there are an estimated 150 to 200 students who participate in the various activities.



Reminiscent of the biblical account of David and Goliath, the local homeschooler Knights basketball team stand shoulder to waist with a visiting team from Grand Junction. (Mirror file photo).

Kelly said, “We hope to have a girls varsity basketball team this year, so we want to get the word out.” Although the basketball season will not begin until after the first of the year, basketball practice starts the second week of December.

Membership in SJCHE occurs annually and the suggested donation is \$30 per family. Information can be found on the website, <https://www.sjche.net/home>, or those interested in joining, volunteering, or donating can contact April Kelly at (970) 275-4507 or

april@ckplumbingandheat.com.

According to SJCHE board member April Kelly, “Our short-term goal is to be able to provide student scholarships. Our long-term goal, our dream, is to have a gym with a couple of classrooms. We have a hard time finding and scheduling an open gym for our sports and activities.”

SJCHE has no paid staff per se, although they do hire referees for sports. The volunteer organization is open to increasing their volunteer base and adding additional programs that will benefit their students.

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

RIDGWAY AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE SECURES \$20,000 TOURISM MARKETING GRANT TO PROMOTE LOCAL BUSINESSES AND EXPERIENCES

Special to the Mirror

RIDGWAY— The Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce (RACC) is proud to announce it has been awarded a \$20,000 tourism marketing grant from the Colorado Tourism Office (CTO). RACC was one of 16 destinations awarded the tourism marketing grant in 2024. This significant funding will support a targeted marketing initiative aimed at promoting Ridgway as a vibrant destination and showcasing the unique businesses and experiences that make Ridgway an exceptional place to visit year-round. Situated along the San Juan Skyway Scenic and Historic Byway and located between Ouray and Telluride, Ridgway offers a distinctive blend of history, creativity, outdoor adventure, and natural beauty. The grant will enable RACC to spotlight these qualities through a comprehensive campaign, encouraging travelers to make Ridgway an essential stop during their travels.

"This grant is an opportunity to elevate Ridgway as a must-see destination," said

Ashley Perkins, Executive Director of RACC.

"We're excited to promote the incredible businesses, creative community, and rich history of Ridgway while encouraging responsible visitation that protects our unique character. Given our relatively limited resources, we're extremely grateful for the continued support and partnership with the CTO."

The campaign's centerpiece is a set of professionally produced video commercials designed to capture the story of Ridgway. It will showcase local businesses, creative endeavors, outdoor experiences, and historical attractions while highlighting the community's dedication to sustainability. The video will be promoted across multiple platforms, including advertising at the Montrose Regional Airport and on select Telluride news channels. Shortened versions of the video will be used on digital and social platforms to reach broader audiences, delivering Ridgway's message to potential visitors plan-

ning trips to Colorado. Responsible Visitation at the Heart of the Campaign In alignment with Ridgway's commitment to destination stewardship, the campaign will emphasize responsible and respectful visitation. By fostering an appreciation for Ridgway's natural and cultural resources, the initiative aims to ensure that tourism benefits the local community while preserving its character for future generations.

The grant program awards funding to eligible applicants for projects that promote the state as a tourism destination, supporting CTO's mission to "empower the tourism industry by inspiring the world to explore Colorado responsibly and respectfully."

Additionally, these grants may be used for marketing projects that support destination stewardship such as educating visitors on how to recreate responsibly. For more information about this initiative or to learn more about visiting Ridgway, please visit www.ridgwaycolorado.com.



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THE POWER OF SAYING, "THANK YOU"

By Rev. Dr. Arlyn Macdonald

MONTROSE-You wouldn't think that a small thing like saying "thank you," would be one of the most powerful forces in the universe, but it truly is! It's not just the words that have power, it is the appreciation and feelings of gratitude that can change your life.

"Thank you" is the first phrase we are taught as children along with "I'm sorry." The lessons we learned about saying "thank you" to someone who gives us something stay with us all the rest of our lives. Saying "thank you" becomes a life-long habit. Saying "thank you" shows that our parents taught us to be courteous and respectful.

But there is so much more behind those simple words. Gratitude is one of the major spiritual principles of life, along with compassion and forgiveness. It has the power to change your life.

For example, when we purposefully make the shift from feeling sorry for ourselves to counting our blessings, the power of gratitude brings us back to our balance point. Being grateful uplifts our spirit, gives us new space in which to take a deep breath of life, and we realize that we are okay, we are worthy.

Scientific research on the power of gratitude proves that being grateful improves your health, your mood, and your mind.

Gratitude also brings happiness and joy and changes our outlook on life.

Within gratitude we find appreciation. When we choose to appreciate, we are filled with grace.

"Grace is an action of our soul that is being raised up. Grace is life becoming more life. It is the soul developing itself from within." F. W. Robertson gives us those thoughts about grace.

There is a story about a four-year-old boy who saw his neighbor sitting on the porch next door. The child's mother watched as he stopped playing with his toys, went out the front door, and started down the sidewalk to go next door. She decided to see what he would do. The child approached the neighbor and climbed into his lap. They just sat there together quietly for some time. Then the boy climbed down from the man's lap and came home. The mother asked him what he had said to the neighbor and the little boy said, "Nothing. I just helped him cry." The neighbor had just lost his wife a few days before. This is what happens when our souls are uplifted into grace.

Gratitude is not something we can hold in our hands, or something we can direct by just saying the words, we have to feel it. And when we add the feelings of appreciation and love to our gratitude, that's when the power is activated. Gratitude is

a power from the heart.

Saying "thank you" is an action of the mind and is at the beginning of the gratitude scale.

Feeling grateful is in the middle of the scale and is an action of the heart. *Being* grateful is on the end of the scale and is an action of the soul. Just as we can "be the peace," we can also "be the gratitude." We can breathe in that feeling of gratitude, pulling it into each and every cell of our bodies until we radiate gratitude.

What happens when we begin to radiate gratitude? Our lives change and we start attracting more for us to be grateful for. This power of gratitude is magnetic. It brings more of what you are grateful for into your life without effort.

And what you attract are not just things. You also attract spiritual blessings such as happiness, grace, goodness, love, joy, peace, and more. You attract all that nourishes your soul.

Gratitude is a gift, one that changes our life and a gift we can pass forward to help change someone else's life. This Thanksgiving, as you express your gratitude for your blessings, as you say, "thank you," let your heart swell with appreciation and love until you begin to radiate with soul gratitude. May this experience of Thanksgiving be with you every day.

THANK YOU FOR READING.



#montrosemirror



Hygiene Drive

Items most needed for clients.



- Shampoo/Conditioner
- Bodywash
- Razors
- Toothpaste/Toothbrush
- Deodorant
- Feminine Hygiene Products
- Depends
- Laundry Soap
- Dish Soap



Katie (970) 240-8385



office@sharingministries.com



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Email: realtor@pegevanoika.com



COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

MORALES TO BE FEATURED GUEST POET FOR BARDIC TRAILS

Special to Art & Sol

TELLURIDE- Juan Morales of Colorado College will be the featured poet for Talking Gourds' final online poetry gathering of 2024 on Tuesday Dec. 3 at 7 pm.

Morales was the judge for this year's Fischer and Cantor Prize contests. He is the son of an Ecuadorian mother and Puerto Rican father and grew up in Colorado.

"Juan has been a great poet, teacher, editor and advocate for poetry in Southern Colorado," said Art Goodtimes, Talking Gourds director. "I got to know him through the poetry magazine *Pilgrimage*, and he's been a friend ever since."

Morales has authored four poetry collections, including *The Handyman's Guide to End Times* and *Dream of the Bird Tattoo*, which is forthcoming from University of New Mexico Press in 2025. Recent poems have appeared in *Crazyhorse*, *The Laurel Review*, *Breakbeats Vol. 4* *LatiNEXT*, *Acentos Review*, *terrain.org*, *South Dakota Review*, *Sugar House Review*, and *Poetry*.

Morales has received fellowships from CantoMundo, Macondo, Longleaf Writers Conference, and he has served as the editor/publisher of *Pilgrimage Press*. He lives in Pueblo, Colorado and is now an Assistant Professor of English at Colorado College in Colorado Springs.

The Telluride Institute's Talking Gourds Poetry Program hosts the Bardic Trails virtual zoom series on the first Tuesday of each month. The Wilkinson Public Library continues as our collaboration partner and fiscal agent, with town support from Commission for Community Assistance, Arts & Special Events. This month current San Miguel County Poet Laureate Joanna Yonder recommends as prompt: "Unanswered" -- if any participant desires a prompt.

No longer needing to register with the library, participants are encouraged to visit <https://www.tellurideinstitute.org/western-slope-calendar> to get the zoom link each month, if they aren't already on our mailing list. Thanks to the Cantor Family, the Guttman Family Foundation, CCAASE and our Fischer and Cantor contest participants for supporting our pro-

gram and projects.


Bardic Trails is a project of the Telluride Institute's Talking Gourds Poetry Program in collaboration with the Wilkinson Public Library. For more information, visit the website: <https://www.tellurideinstitute.org/western-slope-calendar>.

Other Talking Gourds projects include the Stories & Poems Norwood live reading series in collaboration with the Lone Cone Library on the third Wednesday of every month, the Stories & Poems Naturita in collaboration with the Naturita Community Library on the third Sunday of every





month, the national Fischer Poetry Prize contest and the state/national Cantor Poetry Prize contest (both now closed until April), the Western Slope Poet Laureate award in collaboration with Grand Junction's Center of the Arts (given every two years), the San Miguel County Poet Laureate collaboration (given every two years), the annual Karen Chamberlain lifetime achievement award given in collaboration with the Mountain Words Festival of Crested Butte, and the Mycolicious MycoLuscious MycoLogical Poetry Show in conjunction with the annual Telluride Mushroom Festival.

Bardic Trails Virtual Poetry Series

December 3, 7-8:30 pm MT on Zoom



Featured Poet Juan Morales

Get the free Zoom link

↓

[tellurideinstitute.org/western-slope-calendar](https://www.tellurideinstitute.org/western-slope-calendar)

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

VSA ADDS A FAMILY MATINEE TO THEIR ANNUAL HOLIDAY CONCERTS AT THE MONTROSE PAVILION WITH 'SNOW! A WINTER WONDERLAND'

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE – The Valley Symphony Association (VSA) is excited to present their holiday concerts: “SNOW! A Winter Wonderland”—and add a family matinee to their traditional line up.

The concerts will be held at the Montrose Pavilion on Saturday, December 7 at 7 PM, and Sunday, December 8 at 3 PM.

Generous support for the entire season comes from Cimarron Wealth Management and the David Mize Family. This year’s new family matinee concert partner is Delta Health Pediatrics.

DMEA/Elevate is the concert partner for the traditional holiday SNOW! concert performances.

“Delta Health Pediatrics is honored to be the family matinee concert partner for Valley Symphony Association’s ‘SNOW! A Winter Wonderland,’” said Delta Health Chief Executive Officer Jonathan Cohee. “There is nothing like music to nourish the

spirit and enhance mental and physical wellbeing. The VSA embodies enrichment and community connections; we couldn’t be more proud to partner with them.”

DMEA/Elevate is the concert partner for SNOW! A Winter Wonderland. “DMEA is excited to be a sponsor of the VSA Concert Series to support and celebrate local talent,” said DMEA/Elevate Community Relations and Engagement Specialist Paige Berry. “Music has the power to unite and uplift communities, and we’re thrilled to be a part of bringing these exceptional performances on stage. This partnership reflects our commitment to enhancing the cultural vibrancy of our community.”

Season 53, themed PLAY!, is the second year for Artistic Director and Orchestra Conductor Troy Raper. “Whether you’re a longtime fan of our holiday concerts or a newcomer to the tradition, this year’s performances promise to be a joyous and festive experience for all,” he said. “We

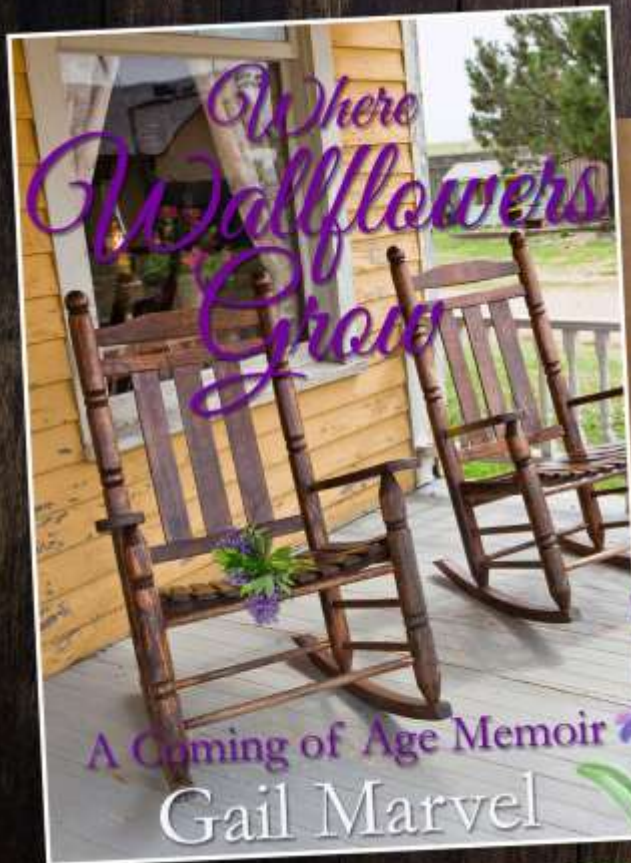
look forward to playing in the snow with you as we usher in the holiday season with music, laughter, and community spirit.”

VSA Chorus Conductor Katy Kristoffersen is excited to see her idea of a holiday family matinee come to life.

This first ever 45-minute concert will start at 1 PM. and feature the most joyful selections from the full concert performances.

“Our mission is to connect with our younger audience through our words, music, and intentions,” Kristoffersen said. “We know kids love exciting music, interactive experiences, and holiday cheer—along with shorter performances and earlier bedtimes due to spontaneous wiggling! So, wear your favorite pajamas or fanciest holiday clothes and get ready for surprises.

“It’s our delight to delight you!” Concert tickets are \$20 for adults and \$5 for students



Where Wallflowers Grow is the coming of age story of a shy, introverted, 12-year-old girl. A 1960’s latch-key kid, Gail’s mom agreed to let her leave her home-alone existence and live in her grandma’s boarding house.

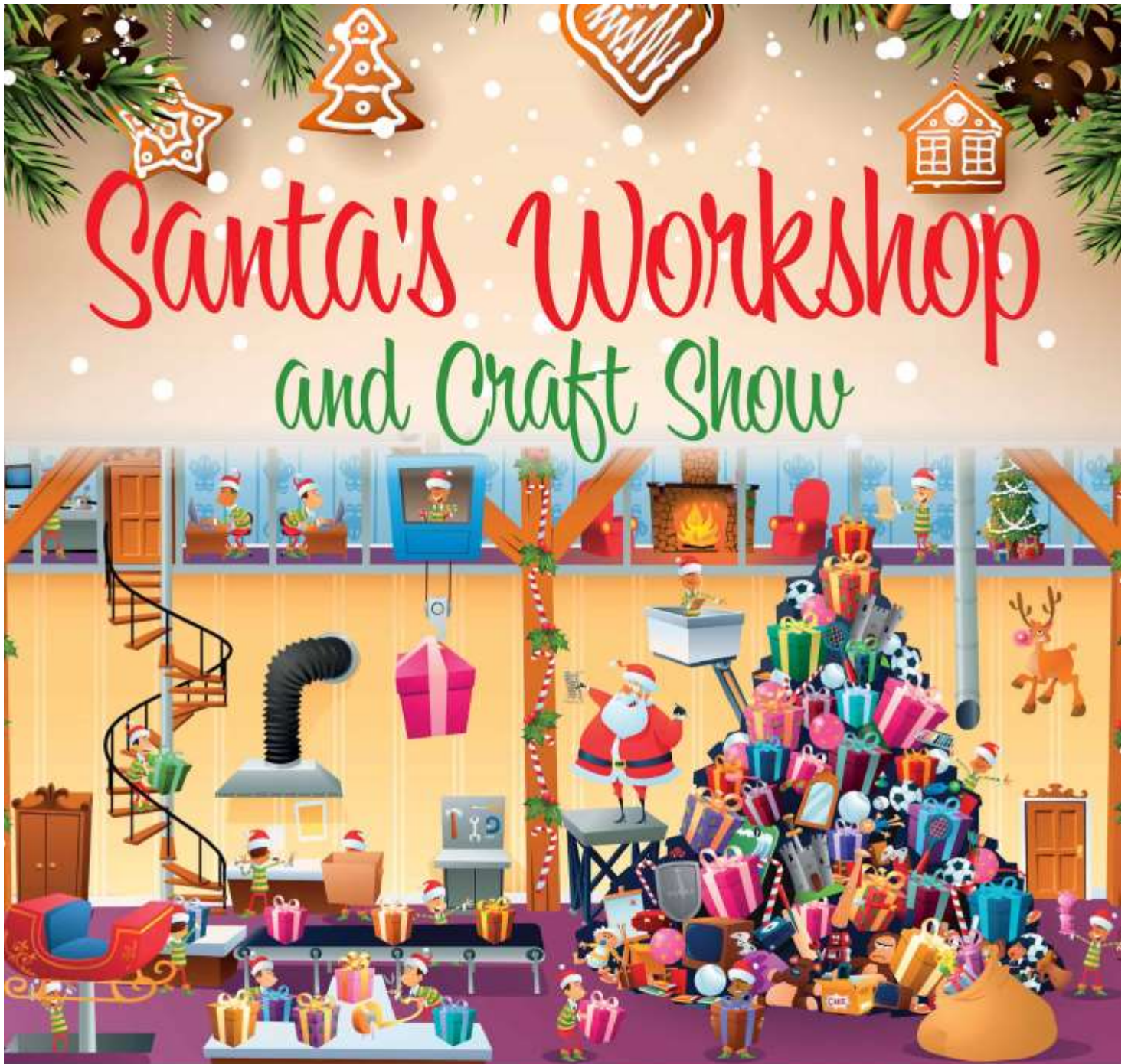
The Shelly Boarding House, located in rural southeastern Colorado, was home to male pensioners and Social Security recipients who themselves were loners and had nowhere else to go.

For three years Gail lived in this unconventional family environment where she comes of age, while the old-timers age in place.

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).





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.

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH

Independent Baptist

112Main St.

P.O. Box 262

Olathe, Co 81425

Tuesday-Friday Phone: 970-808-1021

www.biblebaptistchurcholathe.com

Pastor Gabe Skillo

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Sunday 6 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Study/Prayer 7 p.m.

CELEBRATION CHURCH

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

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

Office Hours: By appointment

Phone: (970) 497-4925

Email: celebrationmontrose@gmail.com

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

celebrationmontrose.org/

Worship Service Times: 9am and 10:45am

Senior Pastor:

Pastor Brandon Mathis

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

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

Demographics: Multi-generational

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

Student (middle & high school) at 9am.

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

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

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

Contact: 970-633-0226

Website: www.montroselutheran.org

Email: montroselutheran@gmail.com

Pastor: Tim Onnen

Worship: Sundays at 9 AM

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

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

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

COMMUNITY SPIRIT CHURCH

United Church of Christ (UCC)

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

Office hours: Call or text for appointment

Phone: 970-765-7070

Email: spirit@communityspiritucc.org

Website: communityspiritucc.org

Current Pastor: Rev. Wendy Kidd

Worship service: Sundays at 11am

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

where everyone can live freely and au-
thentically.

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

COVENANT HEBRAIC FELLOWSHIP

Denomination affiliation. No affiliation

Address Office hours N/A

Contact: 720-951-9941,
office@ccfmontrose.net,

www.ccfmontrose.net

Name of current Senior Pastor. Led by
elders

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

Covenant is a Hebraic roots community

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

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY *From previous pg*

FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

Denomination: Church of the Nazarene

Address: 705 South 12th Street

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

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

Pastor: Buddy Cook

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

Wednesday: Prayer Boot Camp - 7 PM

Mission Statement: *Montrose First Church of the Nazarene exists to make Christlike*

disciples in Montrose Colorado and around the world.

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MONTROSE

Affiliation: Presbyterian

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

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

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jesse G. Mabanglo

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

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

HILLCREST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Denomination affiliation: United Church of Christ

Address: 611 South Hillcrest Drive, Montrose, CO 81401

Office hours: By appointment

Contact information:

Phone number: (970) 249-9047

Email address: office@montroseucc.org

Website: montroseucc.org

Current Pastor: Rev. Wendy Kidd

Worship service times: Sunday, 10 a.m.

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

on life's journey.

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

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

MONTROSE MISSION OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH

Affiliation: Orthodox

Meets: 2057 S. Townsend, Montrose, CO

81401 and Cimarron Creek Clubhouse.

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

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

MONTROSE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Denomination Affiliation: United Methodist

Address: 19 S. Park Avenue Montrose CO. 81401

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

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

montroseumc.org

Current Senior Pastor: Rev. Kevin Young

Worship service times:

8:30 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual

9:45 a.m. Christian Education & Fellowship

11 a.m. Sanctuary

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

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

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

ROSEMONT BAPTIST CHURCH

Affiliation: Southern Baptist

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

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

Contact information:

Phone: 970.249.4887

website: www.RosemontBaptist.org

email: office@rosemontbaptist.org

Senior Pastor: Rolland Kenneson

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

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

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

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

matter what stage of life they are in.

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

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

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY From previous pg

SPIRITUAL AWARENESS CENTER

Denomination affiliation: Independent 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.

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| <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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bejeweled Grand Mesa to the north; Montrose Rec Center (the newest, largest recreation center on the Western Slope)

and expansive water sports park right in the middle of town. Montrose is surrounded by an endless variety of

prospects for exploration and adventure. A little something for everyone-shopping, fishing,

biking, photography, camping, swimming, motorsports-you get the idea!

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julie@thehiddenlakecommunity.com

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FRIENDS OF YOUTH & NATURE

WILD AND WONDERFUL WINTER OUTINGS WITH KIDS!

By Anita Evans,

Friends of Youth and Nature

REGIONAL-Winter is the most magical time to get children outside. The crisp mountain air calls to something deep in the soul. Snow blanketing the ground brings a fresh clean slate for creating memories together.

To have successful outings with kids in the winter takes a bit of preparation. There are things you can gather now that will make that first outing to the sledding hill more fun for all. It's time to make a list and gather essential items. Grab a box or backpack that you can use to collect essential items and put in an "out of the way" spot. Make a list of anything else you need but use on a regular basis and cannot put in your box.

When you take a trip to the Grand Mesa, or any other mountain destination, you need to remember that you are going to a completely different environment. Local mountain playgrounds are a mile higher in elevation than the surrounding valleys, and temperatures, sun intensity, and weather often are important considerations. Check the weather forecast the day before your outing to make sure you are properly prepared.

It is always good to have extra gloves, knit caps, socks, chemical hand warmers, sunglasses, sunscreen, lip balm, and sweaters in your car or pack to stay protected during a morning of winter fun! You can put a few old hats and gloves in your "winter gear box" that you take with you, and that way if someone in your party forgets something, you are good to go!

Sunscreen, sun protecting lip balm, and sunglasses are a must to protect against sunburn. Being in the mountains means a mile less of insulating atmosphere, and more intense reflection of the sun off the snow. Make sure your sunscreen is a broad-spectrum protection (protecting from both UVA and UVB rays) with at least 30 SPF, or 'sun protecting factor.'

Days are short in the winter, and darkness sometimes falls a little earlier than you expect. A headlamp in your pack will come in very handy (extra batteries in a ziploc). There are lightweight led lights

that will do the job as well and are easy to carry. It's always a good idea to have matches or a lighter and a space blanket with you. Many of these items can be stored in your car through the winter.

Dressing in layers, or "like an onion" on the day of your outing is very important! Having a wool or synthetic underlayer next to your skin will help absorb moisture and

keep you warm, even if it gets wet. The next upper layer should be a wool or pile sweater or sweatshirt, and then a light water and wind proof jacket over that is your outer onion layer! With this system, if you are working hard cross-country skiing or climbing that sledding hill, you can peel off a layer to prevent overheating, and put it back on when you are sitting around at lunch. The same layering system works well on your legs, with either long underwear or tights under your outer layer of wind pants or snow pants. Large bulky winter coats make it difficult to regulate your body temperature when you are being active outdoors, but they are important in protecting yourself from the wind and will keep you warm while you are less active.

Taking care of your hands and feet and head are important, too! Wear a warm pair of wool or synthetic socks – sometimes two layers work well if your boots are big enough. Most winter and ski boots have wonderful insulation, however, and one pair of warm socks is usually sufficient. Don't depend on your athletic shoes to keep you warm: heavier and more water repellent boots will serve you better. If you only have athletic shoes, a plastic sack outside your sock and inside your shoe will help keep you dry. Gloves are important when playing in the snow! Look for gloves that fit well, are not too snug,



Courtesy photo Friends of Youth and Nature.

and have modest insulation and a water repellent, yet breathable, synthetic outer layer. Some folks like to have a thin glove liner with them that fits well inside their regular glove in case the weather gets cold. And always bring a cozy knit cap made of wool or acrylic. You can lose up to 70% of your body heat through your head if it is uncovered.

In addition to what goes on your body to keep you comfortable, it is important to remember to bring food and water with you. Stay hydrated - frequent sips of water help stave off altitude headaches and will leave you with more energy. And it is important to bring healthy high calorie snacks like trail mix (aka gorp), cheese sticks, apples and peanut butter, and snack bars. Exercising outside, especially in the winter, takes energy! A thermos of hot tea or hot chocolate is also a welcome treat that warms your body from the inside out.

As with all outdoor experiences, when you are well prepared your wild winter outing will truly be wonderful!

Friends of Youth and Nature is a non-profit that promotes opportunities for youth and families to get outside, experience outdoor activities, and explore nature. Follow our outdoor news blog and receive monthly tips on connecting your children to nature. Learn more, visit: www.friendsofyouthandnature.org

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

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

Dec. 4-Citizens' Climate Lobby Montrose meets Wednesday Dec. 4 at 5pm at Montrose Safety Complex mtg rm off Centennial Plaza. Join us for positive local nonpartisan action for the environment. For info text 970-765-9095.

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

Dec. 9- Delta County Historical Society (DCHS) and Museum is pleased to present Monday, Dec. 9, 7 pm at the Delta Library Community Room, author and historian, Dave Fishell. The Museum is located at 251 Meeker Street, Delta.

For more information go to deltacountymuseum.org or phone 970 874-8721.

READER PHOTO SPOTLIGHT: DEB REIMANN



Deb snapped this photo of a wintry Top of the Pines vista near Ridgway.

A composite image with a red border. On the left, a black bear is sitting upright at a wooden table, holding a tablet computer. The background is a scenic view of a mountain range with snow-capped peaks and green hills. Overlaid on the right side of the image is the following text:

*Save a tree –
Read the Mirror!*

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