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# the Montrose Mirror

## COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF CHRISTMAS! MRS. CLAUS FOR A CAUSE



Mr. and Mrs. Claus at the 2023 Mrs. Claus for a Cause event. Courtesy image.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-Thanksgiving has come and gone, and the holidays are in full swing!

The City of Montrose Parade of Lights on East Main Street is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 7 at 5:30 p.m.— be sure to dress in layers to stay warm as you cheer for your favorite floats.

Santa's Cabin is now located at 526 East Main Street. Santa welcomes visitors on Wednesday, Dec. 4 from Noon to 2 p.m., on Saturday, Dec. 14 from 4 to 6 p.m., and on Friday, Dec. 20 from 4 to 6 p.m.

And while other communities also celebrate the holiday season with parades and lights and parties, there is one home grown holiday tradition here that you won't find anyplace else. That's because, like many who have been drawn to Montrose, Mrs. Claus now makes her home here.

By day, Mrs. Claus works a full-time job in auto financing as alter ego Leah

**Continued pg 10**

## VISITING WITH THE CHAUTAUQUA

By Bob Cox

MONTROSE-The word 'Chautauqua' according to many sources is a Haudenosaunee word, but most refer to it as an Iroquois word. Actually, it is the same thing. The Haudenosaunee are made up of the six nations of which the Iroquois are a part. If one is talking about those things, it is so much easier to pronounce Iroquois. For the purposes of this article, the only reason it is mentioned is because the word 'Chautauqua' was the name given by the indigenes people to a lake in southwest New York, and the Chautauqua



The Chautauqua Auditorium in Boulder still stands as a memorial to a movement that lasted for decades and is still going to some extent in many communities. Photo from the National Archives.

Institution, which was formed as an educational assembly was named for the lake in 1870. A discussion of Chautauqua in Colorado would not be complete without mentioning the

**Continued pg 12**

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[Your Right to Nature!](#)

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# 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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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## LOCAL HISTORIAN BOB COX TO HOST PRESENTATION FOR MONTROSE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-The Montrose County Historical Society will be hosting a presentation by Bob Cox, a local historian on *The Businesses of the Past in and around Montrose*. What a wonderful way to go down memory lane in 1955 Montrose. On Dec. 4 starting at 7 pm, This presentation is at the Montrose County Fairground Event Center. Open to the public and is free to attend.

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1393 S. Cascade Ave Apt #20, Montrose,  
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All contents of Unit A1

## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### UTE INDIAN MUSEUM TO HOST HOLIDAY ARTS & CRAFTS FESTIVAL

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-Enjoy the work of Colorado artisans and be merry at the Ute Indian Museum's **Holiday Arts and Crafts Festival!** This seasonal event will take place at the [Ute Indian Museum](#) Dec. 7, from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. The Holiday Arts and Crafts Festival is the perfect opportunity to explore various arts and crafts vendors while warming up with fresh fry bread, bidding at the silent auction, and supporting Native American artists! No tickets or reservations are needed for this holiday event. So come on down to the Ute Indian Museum and join us in celebrating the holiday season at this free event.



## COMMUNITY CRÈCHE FESTIVAL

*Friday December 13th 4-8PM*

**CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS**  
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All are welcome to join us at this free event to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ with a display of nativities and musical presentations.

# Dear Santa,



Sharing Ministries Food Bank has been very busy this year! Our volunteers have filled boxes, served clients, pushed carts, mopped floors, stocked shelves, delivered food, pulled weeds, fixed trucks, repaired freezers, stuffed envelopes, laughed and cried as we shared with our communities.

We have shared our bounty with soup kitchens, food pantries, schools, churches, veterans, children, grandpa's & grandpa's, the homeless and disabled, single moms, your neighbors and mine.

We know you are making your lists and checking them twice. We hope you know we have not been *naughty but we have been very nice.*

So during this holiday season while you are busy with all the hustle & bustle we ask that you assist and put us on your list!

## PLEASE HELP US FEED A FAMILY THIS SEASON

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**THANK YOU & HAPPY HOLIDAYS  
FROM OUR FAMILY TO YOURS!**

# RED HAWKS ROLL: 4A TITLE GAME NEXT UP



Red Hawks take the field. Photo by Cliff Dodge.



Red Hawks move the ball away from their own goal line. Photo by Cliff Dodge.

By Cliff Dodge

MONTROSE-The football field was surrounded by piles of snow but the Red Hawks didn't care. All that mattered to Coach Mertens and his football team was that another victory over Pueblo West would punch their ticket to a state championship game versus the Broomfield Eagles next Saturday in Fort Collins. The Red Hawks prevailed 18-7 over the Cyclones, giving the Red Hawks the opportunity to compete for the 4A state championship next Saturday.

The Red Hawks won the coin toss and elected to kick off. The Cyclones put a scare into the home team as they ran the ball to mid-field. The Red Hawks defense immediately settled things down by forcing the Cyclones to punt.

The Red Hawks took over the football at their own 7-yard line and moved the ball to the 37-yard line but fumbled and the Cyclones recovered. The visitors then drove from their own 35-yard line to the Montrose 4-yard line where a fourth down passing attempt fell incomplete and the Red Hawks took over on downs. The first quarter ended with the score 0-0, setting the tone as both defenses stood out.

The Red Hawks started at their own 5-yard line and put together a 59-yard drive in 12 plays, only to turn the football over

on downs at the Pueblo West 36-yard line. The Cyclones continued to struggle with the Red Hawk's outstanding defense and were forced to punt.

With 5 minutes and 14 seconds on the scoreboard clock, the Red Hawks began an 11-play drive that took the better part of five minutes and saw Junior Fullback Elijah Womack score the Red Hawks first touchdown on a 6-yard scamper. The PAT was not good and the Red Hawks led 6-0 at half time.

The Red Hawks received the second half kick-off and made the Cyclones pay. It took the Red Hawks just 8 plays as Womack ripped off a 14-yard touchdown run to make the score 12-0.

The Cyclones then put together their longest drive of the day as they took over the ball at their own 27-yard line. The Red Hawks defense grudgingly gave up yardage to the Cyclones and ate up six minutes of time before Junior Maverick Power stepped in front of a wide open receiver and intercepted a slightly underthrown forward pass to quell the Cyclones offensive effort. The 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter ended with the Red Hawks leading 12-0.

The 4<sup>th</sup> quarter would prove critical to both teams. The Cyclones took only two minutes to move deep into the Red Hawks territory and Quarterback Gavin Lockett,

unable to find an open receiver, scrambled for 17-yards and a touchdown to narrow the Red Hawk's lead to 12-7.

The Red Hawks then took possession of the football with 10 minutes remaining in the game.

The Red Hawks used 8 minutes off the clock and ran 14 plays to score. Sophomore Quarterback Cade Saunders floated a perfect pass to Junior Chase Mehan for a 21-yard touchdown increasing the score to 18-7. The pass completion put the game out of reach as the Cyclones tried but failed to dent the scoreboard, turning the ball over on downs with less than one minute to play as the Red Hawks ran out the clock.

The other side of the championship bracket was a major surprise as number one ranked Dakota Ridge fell to the Broomfield Eagles by the score of 45-7. Dakota Ridge ended their season with an 11-2 record.

The Broomfield Eagles go into the championship game sporting a 12-1 record. The 4A championship game will be played at Canvas Stadium on the CSU campus.

The kick-off is scheduled for 2 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 7. The Red Hawks' last state championship was in 1950.

Go Red Hawks

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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## CELEBRATE THE SEASON AT RIDGWAY'S ANNUAL NOEL NIGHT

*Special to the Mirror*

RIDGWAY—The Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce is excited to announce the return of its beloved Annual Noel Night, taking place on Friday, Dec. 6, from 5-9 p.m. This festive evening is packed with holiday cheer and offers something for everyone! Free to the public, the event kicks off with the Christmas tree Lighting at Hartwell Park near the corner of Lena Street and Highway 62, setting the scene for a magical winter celebration accompanied by carolers from the United Church of the San Juans. Families can enjoy a winter parade, professional photos with Santa, a real-life nativity scene and rides on a whimsical holiday train located at the Ridgway Railroad Museum!

Guests can also take advantage of this special night to shop local and find the perfect holiday gifts at more than 40 participating locations! Adults (21+) can savor the festivities with libations offered at various locations around town. Childcare will be provided by Voyager Youth Program from 5-7:45 p.m.

Noel Night Highlights include:

- 5-5:30 p.m.- Christmas Tree Lighting in Hartwell Park and Christmas caroling
- 5-8 p.m.- 21st Annual Holiday Art and Gift Sale
- 5-6 p.m.- Winter Parade Downtown Ridgway
- 6-7:30 p.m.- Photos with Santa at Town Park gazebo
- 6-8 p.m.- Holiday Train Rides located at the Railroad Museum weather permitting
- 6-8 p.m. - Living Nativity Scene at the Ouray County Ranch History Museum
- 8 p.m - Late Night Ugly Christmas Sweater Party at STEPS Tavern

This year's event is made possible through the generous support of our top and mid-level sponsors: The Ridgway at Chipeta Lodge and Spa, Mountain Market, Alpine Bank, Landscape and Irrigation Team, The Million Roadhouse, True Grit Cafe, Taco Del Gnar, Roger's Real Estate and Ridgway Liquors. Special thanks to our other sponsors including RIGS Fly Shop, Kurt Works Inc, Floating Lotus Brewery, Bo Dirt Inc, Timber Creek Gallery and Greenwood's Restaurant. In-kind donations for tree lighting provided by Aspen Savatree Services.

"Noel Night is one of our most cherished traditions in Ridgway," said Michi Countryman, owner of Ridgway Liquors and Vice President of the Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce. "We invite everyone to come out, celebrate the season, and experience the warmth and charm of our beautiful community."

Mark your calendars for this unforgettable evening of holiday magic!







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# COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF CHRISTMAS: MRS. CLAUS FOR A CAUSE From pg 1

Cole. But for the past six years, she has dedicated her free time to making the holidays brighter for the littlest residents, with three days set aside to help children and families. It began with a chance encounter while shopping, when Cole over-

heard a father with children talk about being hungry over the holidays. "It hit me right in the heart," Cole said, "I bought them groceries."

The first "Mrs. Claus for a Cause" event was held shortly thereafter in Cole's drive-

way. "I got a bunch of toys," she said, "And the first little boy who came had Downs Syndrome."

This year, the 501 (c) 3 non-profit "Mrs. Claus for a Cause" celebrates its sixth annual Christmas event at Friendship Hall Dec. 13-15. There will be an extreme gaming video game truck present this year as well, adding to the fun.

All children are welcome for the first two days, with Dec. 15 set aside exclusively for kids who have special needs. As noted on [the web site](#), no registration is needed for Friday or Saturday, but attendees must register for the special needs day on Dec. 15--please email

[mrsclausforacause@yahoo.com](mailto:mrsclausforacause@yahoo.com) or call/text 619-987-2617 to register.

"Last year we helped 2,000 people and our goal for this year is 3,000," the web site states, "and the fundraising goal for this year's event is \$15,000."

Those who wish to help the cause can make a donation at any time. There is also a [fundraiser/rum dinner](#) at the Stone House restaurant on Dec. 4. RSVP to attend- 1(970)240-8899.

In the future, Mrs. Claus hopes to be able to devote all of her time to the cause so dear to her heart. "My goal is to do this forever."

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# VISITING WITH THE CHAUTAUQUA *From pg 1*

the Colorado Chautauqua. Actually, some Texas educators founded the Colorado movement in Boulder in 1898. One can still take advantage of their presence just south of the city.

The Institute recognized that small towns and villages often did not have the resources to expose their citizens to various forms of arts and entertainment. Within a few years, several Chautauqua groups began touring the rural areas, often bringing world famous actors, singers and lecturers, but the practice was not without its problems. The groups had some significant overhead and often required contracts from the towns or villages they visited. The mining towns and agricultural communities in Colorado were well-fitted for the Chautauqua experience.

The City of Ouray formed the Ouray Commercial Club for the primary purpose of promoting Chautauqua programs. A well-known person in the history of Ouray, William Rathmell, headed that committee. After some serious negotiations the acceptance of the first contract was finalized and the *Ouray Herald*, in the March 19, 1916 edition, reported:

**CHAUTAUQUA CONTRACT ACCEPTED BY BUREAU**

*Secretary Rathmell Received Notice to this Effect - Will Probably Be Held the First Part of July, and those signing the guarantee will constitute committees to conduct it to a successful conclusion.*

The paper reprinted the letter received by Rathmell. It explained that the Chautauqua would consist of a five-day program during the summer of 1916. At the time, a contract with Montrose was also being finalized.

The Chautauqua movement had its ups and down for the next few years, but with improved transportation and more talent becoming available, the celebrations began to become very popular.

On April 4, 1919, the *Montrose Daily Press* announced that the Chautauqua group which was scheduled for Ouray had also finalized plans, at least to some extent, to visit Montrose. The article read: *This year's Chautauqua program will start about July 18, altho (sic) no definite notice has been given. The program will be very*

*interesting and will last six days. Among other interesting numbers will be the noted Italian Bersagliere band. There will be the same taxes on the admissions as last year, but the government is making some changes in the method of handling the program.*

The Bersagliere band was a well-known Italian marching band that featured a wide range of brass instruments and a lively marching demonstration.

In 1923, one of the more popular Chautauqua troupes started becoming very popular. Known as the Cousin Mary Company, and associated with the Redpath-Horner Circuit, the group took a keen interest in rural Colorado, New Mexico, and Texas. Their tour was scheduled to begin on May, 24, 1923 in Carlsbad, New Mexico. Early advertisements showed planned stops in 26 communities. The very tight schedule included Lamar, Trinidad, Canon City, Grand Junction, Delta, and Paonia. They concluded their tour in Montrose.

On July 25, 1923, the crowd at the Chautauqua in Montrose was asked if the people wanted another event in 1924. The *Montrose Daily Press* published the crowd's response:

**CHAUTAUQUA CONTRACT WILL BE SIGNED FOR 1924 - VOTE OF HUGE CROWD IS UNANIMOUS.** Part of the succeeding article read:

*John C. Bell stated the city should, by all means, have the Chautauqua. He said the people should demand the splendid entertainments next year—that all human beings needed such recreation as the Chautauqua afforded to offset the constant grind of business and housework. The Chautauqua affords this entertainment at only a few cents a program better than any other forms of amusement. He moved that the audience, without words or contention, unanimously approve.*

The 1924 Chautauqua season hit a few snags. The *Daily Journal* in Telluride highlighted one of the problems in their April 28, 1924 edition:

**NORWOOD FAILS TO CANCEL CONTRACT FOR CHAUTAUQUA**

*Because of the general financial condition of the community and the further fact that many of the guarantors for this*

*year's Chautauqua have moved away, an effort has been made to cancel the contract for 1924, says the Norwood Post. A letter was recently 'received from the company in which it refused to cancel the contract, so Norwood will have Chautauqua sometime during the summer.*

The Norwood Chautauqua overcame the problems and the Chautauqua became a reality in July of 1924 and, according to both the *Norwood Post* and the *Daily Journal* of Telluride, it was enjoyed by all, but there were few details in either paper.

Based on the success of the touring Chautauqua's popularity, many local communities held their own Junior Chautauqua programs. These groups of youngsters did not travel. The performances were typically held in a local park or at a fairground. As early as 1919 Cedaredge held the youth events, encouraging children to meet every morning for a week in the early summer to both listen and to tell stories. The practice caught on in several small towns and persisted for several years.

In 1924 the Junior Chautauqua in Delta garnered attention from several newspapers. The organizers invited all children between five years and 12 years of age to participate. The event was held in Delta under the direction of Martina Davis, who was assisted by Edith Kurz. The group, upon their formation, created a motto that was reprinted and recognized statewide. The motto was first printed in the July 25 edition of *The Delta Independent*. The poetic capitalization of certain words highlights the intentions and still rings true today:

**"I am proud of my town— Is my town of me? What she needs is citizens Trained in Loyalty. When we work, when we play With our fellow-men, Good citizens we will be, Then I'll be proud Be proud of my own town, And I'll make her proud of me."**

The Delta paper published a lengthy article about the Junior Chautauqua. In part, it read:

*Under the able leadership of Miss Martina Davis, assisted by Miss Edith Kurz, the juniors ranging from five to twelve years*

# VISITING WITH THE CHAUTAUQUA *From previous pg*

of age are enjoying a week's program filled to the full of activities that make for patriotism and good citizenship. At a preliminary meeting held on the Court House lawn Sunday afternoon, a season ticket to the Chautauqua was offered to the Junior securing the largest number to attend the Booster parade to be the opening event of the Junior Chautauqua.

For a number of years the communities around Montrose hosted a variety of Chautauqua events, but those held in Montrose always seemed to be a little bigger and last a day or two longer. The Chautauqua of 1925 epitomizes those efforts. In the July 15, 1925 edition of the *Montrose Daily Press* an editorial comment readily demonstrated the interest Montrose had in their celebrations. The first part of the editorial read: *For the next few days, starting Monday, let us give thought to the annual Chautauqua. The pioneer Chautauqua institution has again brought us a premier program comprising a variety of high class attractions, and the community should feel fortunate that once a year, for six or seven days, the Chautauqua favors us with entertainment that is not possible by any other means. We must appreciate that Chautauqua is not entertainment alone but much of it is educational and young and old alike and every body finds something of unusual merit and interest in the programs.*

That year the Montrose Chautauqua, under the direction of the Redpath/Horner troupe, presented performances in music, drama, and lectures that captivated a record audience over an entire week. Tickets for the performances were \$2.50 each and were sold out, or nearly sold out for every event. The week started with a performance by Herbert Leon Cope, who was known nationwide, both for his service in World War One and his comedic routines. The second day, a Tuesday, a capacity audience witnessed a performance on stage of the comedy farce, Give and Take.

The rest of the week, people from Montrose and surrounding areas were graced with such well-knowns as harpist Marcia Jones, Chicago Art Institute's Clayton H. Staples and Nebraska governor, Chas. Bryan. Judge George D. Alden, one of the nation's outstanding lecturers, wound the week up with a lecture on the law. The *Montrose Daily Press* had this to say about the speech:

*This is not a dry lecture couched in legal terms, but a living, breathing message which is heard with interest throughout.*



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# YOUR BRAIN ON NATURE- THE RIGHT TO NATURE



By Lauren Hall Ruddell, Ph.D.

## Greetings Mirrorites!

When I arrived in Dublin this summer, one of the first things I noticed were the government issued tents along the River Liffey and in almost every public park.

They were an attempt to accommodate the chronically homeless and new immigrants. There was one park that was free of homeless accommodations and children, moms, and pensioners were using it freely and joyfully. When I returned a month later, that park had become an encampment. There was no open drug use nor threatening individuals, or even panhandlers. Just row after row of silent tents in a silent park. Gone were the park users who lived in permanent housing nearby. Gone was their opportunity to enjoy trees, grass, and benches where squirrels could be fed. Gone their right to nature.

We know that access to green spaces can positively affect humans' physical and mental health. For instance, noise pollution, such as that present in downtown Dublin, which can harm peoples' general well-being by causing stress, is reduced through open green spaces. I know how it affects me, and I get the heck out of that fair city just as fast as the train will take me. Other benefits to mental health can be created by viewing nature, being in it, or being nearby to it. Green spaces [positively affect mental health](#) by allowing for socialization, community cohesion, and relationship-building, in addition to providing respite for those experienc-



**A mini-city underneath a San Diego interchange. No endangered birds or random pedestrians there, I can assure you!**

ing stress.

I am not blaming the homeless for this threat to our right to nature. God knows there are plenty of other threats to green spaces, like building shopping malls and hotels in scenic riparian areas. But this problem has been in the news a lot. It's real, and it's coming to a greenspace near you, unless conscientious and insightful preservation of those areas can be accomplished stat, toute suite, immediately, if not sooner.

We here on the Western Slope are in a very good position to preserve our citizens' rights to the mental and physical health benefits that access to nature brings. For instance, one forward thinking city with notable green spaces is Reykjavik, the capital of Iceland. Reykjavik has 4,400 square feet of green space per resident. There are botanical gardens, farms, and parks. Nature reserves make up 10% of the city proper! Right now, the Uncompahgre Valley open space, parks, and preserves are a lot like this icy garden spot.

However, without diligence, in a decade we might instead resemble Buenos Aires, the capital of Argentina. If you count the scrubby patches of grass in front of houses and on the streets, they have an average of [67 square feet](#) of green space per person, with one district even having just [2.2 square feet](#) of green space per

person.

That's a shocking and apocryphal example that is a world away. But how about a personal tale that is only a few states away?

In the early 1990s, I was an endangered species biologist for the California Department of Transportation in San Diego. One area in 'my patch' was the riparian zones under some of the freeway overpasses. I was on the hunt for the tiny, elusive, and endangered least Bell's vireo. They had historically nested all along the San Diego River and the Sweetwater River. Hundreds of thousands of dollars were spent on riparian mitigation for highway impacts to habitat for this bird and many others. I never found any vireos under the bridges, but I can attest that there was some homeless presence. Not much, but some. Along the Sweetwater River, where I did manage to find the species of concern, there was no homeless presence. Those areas are now informal mini-cities and almost all wildlife that is sensitive to human presence is gone. And according to my sources, it is no longer safe for housed pedestrians and their families and canine pals to walk there. In that formally lovely setting, the right to restorative nature is gone.

Closer still, the city of Carbondale found itself with more than 100 Venezuelans

**Continued next pg**

# YOUR BRAIN ON NATURE- THE RIGHT TO NATURE From previous pg

Venezuelans living under bridges last winter. Concerned citizens and community leaders wisely and humanely provided them with emergency housing, which they have no plans to do this winter, since they reason that the homeless will live in vehicles under the bridges and therefore be out of the elements. Will an encampment in the form of vehicles and RVs arise that preclude winter (or eventually summer) use of parks and other open spaces? I dare not speculate.

It is a conundrum. People need warmth, food, shelter, and safety. They also need green spaces, and not just to camp in. Civic authorities will have their hands full with preserving the citizenry's right to safe enjoyment of the outdoors. A colleague of mine, writing about the situation in Salt Lake City along the Jordan River says, "... *The symptomatic impacts of homelessness, such as trash, camps, and the ongoing presence of people experiencing homelessness, often upset housed park users and drove many of them to voice public complaints to park management, police departments and health departments. Complaints to park departments included requests to remove trees, restrooms, vege-*

*tation, pavilion walls and benches used by people experiencing homelessness."* [Jeff Rose](#), 2019. Further...*Invested community members of park advisory boards also urged park management to quickly eliminate homelessness within their parks. However, a daunting task like homelessness has proven almost impossible to eliminate, especially for park managers who are well outside of the social services realm. Constant public pressure regarding homelessness was reported to be stressful and costly for park departments, and often felt beyond the scope of their professional duties and training.*

I totally get that this must be a nightmare for those in underfunded positions of government authority and park stewardship. But that doesn't mean that the public shouldn't express concern. They will plainly need to be a part of the solution, however.

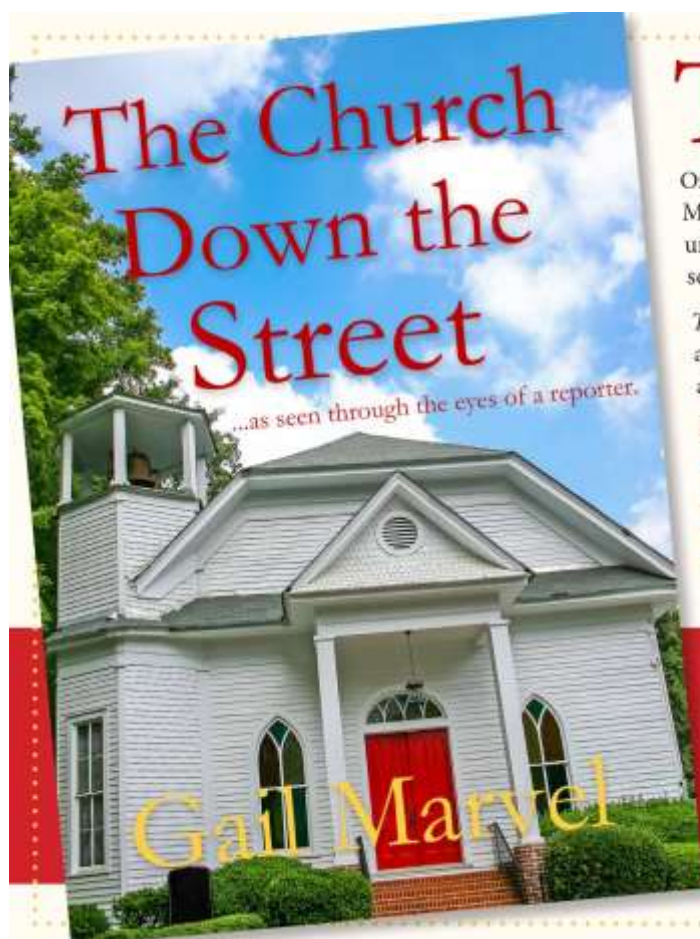
The right to experience nature, regardless of class status, is critical for healthy societies and healthy individuals. Without diligence on prevention of unwise development projects, gravel quarries, homeless encampments, etc. there will be nowhere for our children, moms, and pensioners to

stroll, breathe deeply, or sit on a bench gossiping in the quiet sunshine. Many organizations and programs know this. For instance, the Sierra Club's [Outdoors for All](#) 'is working toward a just, equitable, and sustainable future where all people benefit from a healthy thriving planet and a direct connection to nature. A future where all people breathe fresh air, drink clean water, and regularly spend time outdoors'.

A laudable sentiment for getting marginalized and even disabled individuals into nature. But there has to be nature to get them into, at the end of the day.

I have no answers to the homeless situation or a bunch of other societal hairballs. But I am paying attention, staying informed, and engaging in occasional gentle and diplomatic activism. For those of you readers who will be searching for great New Year's resolutions pretty soon, advocating for the preservation of greenspace with your local representatives might be a very, very good idea. Your brain 10 years from now will thank you for it.

Comments on this rather controversial topic can be offered (politely please) to myself, The Mindful Naturalist, at [planet-goatpress@gmail.com](mailto:planet-goatpress@gmail.com).



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

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

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

**Readers will:**

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

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

**GAIL MARVEL**  
Montrose Author & Reporter





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# COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

## USPS UPDATE ON PEAK HOLIDAY SEASON PREPARATIONS AND READINESS

*Special to the Mirror*

COLORADO — The United States Postal Service is primed and ready to deliver exceptional service during the 2024 holiday rush thanks in large part to the investments and strategies identified in its 10-year Delivering for America plan. Today, the Postal Service provided updates on its peak holiday season preparations, as well as its readiness to deliver another successful holiday season of extraordinary service.

“Thanks to the substantial progress we have made under the Delivering for America plan, we are ready and confident to handle the holiday surge,” said USPS Chief Retail and Delivery Officer and Executive Vice President Dr. Joshua Colin. “Our ability to move packages and mail throughout our network has never been stronger. USPS continues to be the most affordable and reliable way to ship packages and mail this holiday season and year-round.”

Throughout the year, USPS has maintained strong service performance while engaging in numerous transformational initiatives across the organization and the country. Because of the ongoing implementation of the Delivering for America strategic plan, 98 percent of the nation’s population currently receives their mail and packages in fewer than three days. The nation’s postal network is operating effectively without any major reported disruptions.

“The United States Postal Service’s portfolio of shipping products make holiday shipping easy,” said Steve Montieth, USPS chief customer and marketing officer and executive vice president. “Both USPS Ground Advantage and USPS Priority Mail are priced lower than competitors, meaning customers can save more this holiday season. So, ship early and enjoy your holiday season.”

### Key Investments Ahead of 2024 Peak Season

Specifically, key Delivering for America

investments in the Postal Service’s workforce, package processing, and delivery operations ahead of the 2024 peak holiday season include:

**Using 83 revitalized sorting & delivery centers:** In alignment with the Delivering for America plan, the Postal Service is re-vamping its network of nearly 19,000 delivery units, which are the final stop for mail and packages before they are delivered by letter carriers. These revitalized sorting and delivery centers have allowed USPS to expand its daily package processing capacity, increase its efficiency and deliver more value to its customers.

**Implementing 506 new package sorting machines:** These new machines are strategic investments in the local community’s postal infrastructure, enabling postal workers to sort and process packages of all sizes more quickly and reliably. Since the previous peak season, 158 new sorting machines have been installed across the nation. This is part of the organization’s \$40 billion investment in new technology and facilities under the Delivering for America plan.

**Increased daily processing capacity to approximately 60 million:** An expanded daily processing capacity, stabilized workforce, improved operating precision, and well-planned transportation practices has allowed for packages to move through the postal network more quickly and helps eliminate the need for short-term annexes.

**Moving more than 95 percent of volume via more reliable ground transportation:** More precise operating and logistical strategies have positioned the Postal Service to handle the high mail and package volumes anticipated during the peak holiday season. USPS continues to transition more volume from expensive air transportation to its redesigned ground transportation network. Currently, nearly 95 percent of First-Class Mail and more than 95 percent of first-class packages are moved

through the improved, more reliable ground transportation system.

**Hiring 7,500 seasonal employees:** Because of its experienced and stable workforce, USPS anticipates the need for less seasonal employees this holiday season.

**The initial release of the new next generation delivery vehicles:** This holiday season will also mark the initial release of the brand-new BEV Next Generation Delivery Vehicles, which will be on select roads and routes this winter.

Additionally, this holiday season, there will be more than 27,000 new vehicles on the road with more than 500 being battery-electric.

### USPS Makes Holiday Shipping Easy for Consumers

In addition to key investments, USPS is simplifying the process and reducing customers’ cost to ship packages this holiday season.

**USPS Ground Advantage:** This enhanced shipping solution provides a simple, reliable and more affordable way to ship packages this holiday season in just 2-5 business days across the contiguous United States.

USPS Ground Advantage provides America’s businesses and the public with a compelling ground shipping option, using the Postal Service’s unparalleled last-mile delivery route system and improving the integrated mail and package postal logistics network.

**The most affordable rates:** Priority Mail is an offering included in USPS Ground Advantage that provides a fast and affordable way to deliver mail to every address in the United States.

During peak season, Priority Mail offers a price that is on average 35 percent lower than similar competitor services.

For tips on preparing shipments, including recommended mailing and shipping dates, packaging guidelines, ordering free shipping supplies and information on local Post Office location hours, visit [usps.com](https://usps.com).



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This single-story Colorado home backs onto the Montrose Golf Course, offering scenic views of the course, lush grounds, and mature trees. The home features a covered deck, granite countertops, a spacious living room with a large window for ample natural light, and a dining area with views of the course. The kitchen, complete with a cozy nook, also overlooks the course. Additional amenities include in-floor heating, an evaporative cooler, Leaf guard gutters, a two-car garage, a radon mitigation system, a roof that's only ten years old, extra insulation throughout, and a convenient doggie door. Located in a peaceful neighborhood, the home is close to all the amenities Montrose has to offer. It boasts a split floorplan with three bedrooms and two bathrooms, with large closets, an open kitchen layout, and all appliances included. Come visit...it is all about lifestyle!

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# COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

## 7TH ANNIVERSARY OF MAGGIE LONG HOMICIDE-\$75,000 REWARD

Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI)

BAILEY— As we approach the 7th anniversary of the Maggie Long homicide, the Colorado Bureau of Investigation wishes to remind the public there is a \$75,000 reward for information that leads to an arrest in her murder.

The 17-year old was found murdered in her burned home near Bailey, CO which is in Park County on December 1, 2017. The home was burglarized and set on fire. Several items were stolen from the home at the time of her death to include guns, ammunition, jade figurines, and a safe. Investigators have reason to believe more than one person may have been involved in her death.

"We believe someone knows something that could help solve this case and bring a measure of justice to Maggie's family and the Bailey community," said Park County Sheriff Tom McGraw. "It could take just one person to help our investigation and we are determined to bring a resolution to one of Colorado's most high-profile cold cases.

The \$75,000 reward is being offered in this case on behalf of the Park County Sheriff's Office, Maggie Long's family, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI). Anyone with information is asked to call the Maggie Long Task Force tip line at (303) 239-4243 or email: [maggie.long.tips@state.co.us](mailto:maggie.long.tips@state.co.us). Those providing tips can remain anonymous.

**Colorado Cold Case - Homicide**  
 Maggie Long - December 1, 2017 - Bailey, CO

**\$75,000 REWARD**



It has been 7 years since Maggie Long was found murdered in her home.

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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## SEASONAL CLOSURES IN BLM UNCOMPAHGRE FIELD OFFICE

### *Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE— The BLM will implement annual winter closures in the Uncompahgre Field Office beginning December 1 to prevent road and trail damage and reduce stress to wintering wildlife. A number of animal species, including elk and mule deer, have been found to be more vulnerable to disturbance during winter months.

“Public lands provide critical winter habitat during a stressful time for deer and elk when resources are limited,” said Uncompahgre Field Manager Dan Ben-Horin. “The presence of humans or dogs can disturb wintering wildlife, impacting their reproductive fitness and ability to survive.”

Uncompahgre Field Office seasonal closures apply to all or portions of:

### **Burn Canyon Special Recreation Management area**

*December 1 to April 30:* Burn Canyon trail system and all BLM routes are closed to motorized and mechanized travel.

### **Dry Creek Special Recreation Management Area**

*December 1 to March 31:* Routes north of Transfer Road within the Sandy Wash and Roatcap area are closed to motorized and mechanized travel.

*December 1 to April 15:* Routes south of Rim Road, beginning with the route that drops into Shavano Valley and south and east of Rim Road until it connects to 90 Road, then north of 90 Road, are closed to motorized and mechanized travel.

*December 1 to April 15:* Electric Hills routes south of Highway 90 are closed to all modes of travel, including mechanized, foot, and equestrian. This closure does not include the Montrose County staging area.

### **Jumbo Mountain Special Recreation Management Area**

*December 1 to April 15:* Routes east of the Powerline Connector (RMZ 2) are closed to all modes of travel, including mechanized, foot, and equestrian.

*December 15 to July 15:* Jumbo Ridge, Rock n Roll, and Shitake Ridge routes are closed to all modes of travel, including mechanized, foot, and equestrian, to protect golden eagles throughout their breeding cycle.

### **Ridgway Special Recreation Management Area**

*December 1 to April 30:* Routes in the Ridgway Area Trails (RAT) system are closed to all modes of travel, including mechanized, foot, and equestrian.

### **Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area**

*December 1 to May 15:* Portions of Black Ridge and Fruitland Mesa east of the Gunnison Gorge Wilderness, west of the Black Canyon Road, south of the Smith Fork drainage and north of Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park are closed to motorized and mechanical uses.

*March 15 to May 15:* Portions of Black Ridge and Fruitland Mesa east of the Gunnison Gorge Wilderness, west of the Black Canyon Road, south of the Smith Fork drainage and north of Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park are closed to all human use during Gunnison sage-grouse lekking season.

### **Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area**

*December 1 to April 30:* Routes north of 25 Mesa Road and lands in Gibbler Gulch, Wagon Park, and Sawmill Mesa areas are closed to motorized and mechanical uses.



**A locked gate marks the seasonal closure at Electric Hills. Photo: BLM**

# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## SUPPORT GOVERNMENT FUNDING FOR CULTIVATED-MEAT RESEARCH

*To the editor,*

With the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention confirming the first child in the United States has tested positive for bird flu, our political leaders should, among other things, consider a massive increase in public funding for cultivated-meat research. For those who don't know, cultivated meat is grown from livestock cells. Since animals are removed from the process, the risk of zoonotic pandemics would be dramatically reduced.

Though the new protein has been approved by the United States Department of Agriculture and the Food and Drug Administration, it is currently too expensive to mass produce. Further development in the field of cellular agriculture could overcome these cost barriers. Any politician, at either the state or federal level, who cares about preventing future pandemics, should support government funding for cultivated-meat research.

*Jon Hochschartner*







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# COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

## SEASONAL WILDLIFE CLOSURES IN BLM TRES RIOS FIELD OFFICE



**A dog crosses a closed section of trail shortly after a mule deer passes through. Seasonal closures in the Tres Rios Field Office protect historic wintering grounds for elk and mule deer and offer some of the few remaining places for wildlife to spend winter months undisturbed by humans and domestic animals. Courtesy photo.**

### Special to the Mirror

DURANGO— Annual seasonal closure of wildlife winter range goes into effect on Dec 1 for public lands in the Durango area managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). These closures will remain in place through April 30 to protect wintering mule deer and elk that move down from higher elevations to ride out harsh winter conditions. Closures may be lifted earlier if mild conditions permit. The BLM coordinates with Colorado Parks and Wildlife and the City of Durango to identify key wildlife areas for protection while continuing to offer areas open for winter recreation. “Lands under BLM jurisdiction provide critical wintering areas that enable wildlife to make it through the tough winter months,” said Tres Rios Field Manager Derek Padilla. “It’s important that we work with our partners to protect this important resource.”

Colorado Parks and Wildlife data on deer and elk movements throughout the year indicates that closing areas to human activity protects critical foraging habitat and enables animals to conserve energy for winter survival. The following Durango area trails are closed to public use:

- Grandview Ridge
- Big Canyon and Sale Barn trailheads (access located east of U.S. Highway 160)
- South Rim Trail, portions of Sidewinder

and Cowboy trails on BLM accessed from Carbon Junction Trail or Crites Connect Grandview BLM trails (access from Three Springs)

Animas City Mountain - BLM lands above the lower loops (approximately 1.5 miles above the 32nd Street trailhead).

Twin Buttes Area - All upper trails as marked.

Bodo State Wildlife Area - Exception: Smelter Mountain Trail is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; dogs are prohibited. Small game hunting is allowed in the area south of La Plata County Road 210.

In addition, the Perins Peak area east of County Road 208 and west of Hogs back is closed through July 31 to protect nesting peregrine falcons. Closures near Cortez include the Aqueduct, Chutes and Ladders, the Summit areas within the Montezuma Triangle Recreation Management Zone and a portion of the Cortez Special Recreation Management Area.

The following Durango area trails will remain open for hiking, biking, snowshoeing, and skiing:

Horse Gulch, Telegraph, Crites, and Skyline areas

Meadow, Stacy’s, Mike’s, Telegraph, Crite’s, and Sugar trails

All of the Raider Ridge Trail to Medicine Ben’s Down and Out and Charmed trails  
Carbon Junction trailhead at Highway 3 to

Telegraph via Crites Connection are open.  
Lower Twin Buttes trails - Access off of Highway 160 West; upper loops are closed.

All of Dalla Mountain Park - Access off of Junction Creek Road.

Overend Mountain Park - Access at Leyden Street, Montview Parkway, Crestview Drive, and Hidden Valley Circle.

Trails around Fort Lewis College and along the Rim

Lions Den, Chapman Flow, and Jump Line The Rim, Squawker, Tawker, and Skyline trails (accessed from the Powerline Trail).

The Colorado Trail - Access at Junction Creek.

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When recreating on public lands in winter, remember to observe wildlife from a distance and keep dogs under control at all times. Maps and a complete list of areas affected by winter closures are available online at <https://www.blm.gov/programs/recreation/recreation-activities/colorado/closures/tres-rios-field-office> and at both Tres Rios Field Office locations: 15 Burnett Court in Durango and 29211 Highway 184 in Dolores. For additional information, call the BLM Tres Rios Field Office at (970) 882-1120.



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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## DEMS FOCUS ON TRUMP AND IGNORE TOTALLY DESTRUCTIVE ACTIONS ACTUALLY TAKEN BY THEIR OWN PARTY

*Editor:*

I just scratch my head as I continue to see "Trump Bad" letters in our local newspapers from Democrats. David Fromm pointed out that: "People need to understand that in Washington, the process is the punishment." Lies are fabricated and told to the press, who gladly spread them without question. People accept the lies in part because of the repetition. Over the last eight plus years people formed opinions about Trump based on the mostly false information that was maliciously spread. A prime example is the Russian Collusion Hoax. Millions of dollars and countless hours of investigation and testimony produced no evidence of any crime committed by Trump, but there was plenty of evidence of criminal behavior on the part of the Clinton campaign, the FBI, and journalists. Tulsi Gabbard is today experiencing this same thing. She left the Democrat party, joined the Republicans, and endorsed Trump. Suddenly allegations arise that she is a Russian asset and she is put on a TSA watch list.

Too many people get their information from what is laughingly referred to the "mainstream media," and only hear the initial story repeated over and over. They never hear the correction, which is the plan. The damage is done. Something Trump allegedly said or did is ingrained in people's brains regardless of the truth and regardless of whether or not Trump's statements/actions actually affected anyone. Our local Dems can now focus on that evil Trump and ignore totally destructive actions actually taken by their own party. Biden can travel the world with his son committing treason by accepting million dollar payoffs from our enemies. He

can illegally open our borders and invite an invasion of millions of unvetted illegals, many of which are dangerous criminals and potential foreign agents. Biden can invite a nuclear WWII by giving Ukraine approval to shoot US made long range missiles into Russia. If we are convinced Trump is an immoral degenerate, we can keep Bill Clinton on his pedestal in spite of his having sex with Monica Lewinsky in the White House and taking multiple trips on Epstein's jet to Epstein's pleasure island. We can play like we don't know that Kamala succeeded in California politics because of her affair with married king-maker Willy Brown.

Dems can try to ignore the fact that Trump in his first term fostered economic growth and stability through sensible policies that benefited a broad spectrum of Americans, and that his agenda promises a return to lower taxes, reduced federal government spending, and a robust energy sector --- all key to driving down inflation and the restoration of economic stability. With their TDS, Democrats won't have to think about the fact that their once-great party is now totally controlled by radical leftists that have abandoned any plans to make America safer, stronger, more prosperous, and more united. Quite the opposite, in fact. Their primary tactic is to divide America into smaller groups of victims and oppressors and turn us against each other.

All of that is OK, because we watch Joy Reid on MSMBC and she continually confirms what a monster Trump is. Never mind that she and the anti-American moonbats on the "View" (along with Obama) are agents of racial hatred and division of the most toxic kind. Never

mind that they spew endless vitriol against anything conservative -- old fashioned values and anything remotely Christian, patriotic, or generally decent. Never mind that if Kamala had won we would have increased federal government control over every aspect of our lives, increased censorship, Gestapo-like lawfare perpetrated against political opponents, an endless invasion of illegals from third-world nations, and ever-escalating wars worldwide.

On the lighter side, to say this country dodged a bullet in this election is an understatement. We may never have to hear Kamala's cackle again. She has been revealed once and for all to be unfit for any public office, whether that be a state attorney general or a major party presidential nominee. The corporate media have been exposed as the biased Trump-deranged hatemongers they are. Wokeness and DEI have been exposed as the nation-destroying catastrophes they are. Meritocracy and colorblindness are re-emerging as national ethics. America may now stop paying Iran to foment terrorism around the world. Persecuted Christians, pro-lifers, and parents will hopefully get a reprieve from an out-of-control FBI.

And most importantly, Americans may no longer have to tolerate an ever-expanding federal bureaucracy that holds them in contempt and only makes their lives more difficult.

Writer Joseph LoBue's words are appropriate: "Americans sent Trump back to the White House to make sure that government of the bureaucrats, by the bureaucrats, and for the bureaucrats shall perish from this earth."

*Ed Henrie, Montrose*



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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### CPW PROVIDES UPDATE ON ZEBRA MUSSEL VELIGERS IN THE COLORADO RIVER AND GOVERNMENT HIGHLINE CANAL, AND HIGHLINE LAKE ERADICATION PLAN

*Special to the Mirror*

GRAND JUNCTION— Colorado Parks and Wildlife concluded sampling efforts in the Colorado River and Government Highline Canal for 2024. As of Nov. 1, CPW staff collected nearly 450 water samples from the Colorado River, Government Highline Canal, James M. Robb-Colorado River and Highline Lake State Parks, as well as additional areas throughout the Grand Valley. In addition to samples collected by CPW, the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), and the Grand Valley Water Entities collected additional samples within the canal system. No additional veligers or adult zebra mussels have been found in the Colorado River or Government Highline Canal since veligers were first found through routine testing in early July.

In addition to sampling, CPW continued the increased education efforts on the Colorado River, including voluntary watercraft inspections. Since July, CPW worked with our local government and BLM partners to post signage and conduct education outreach at multiple water access points from the De Beque Canyon to the Utah Westwater boat ramp. Since July, CPW staff made more than 4,000 face-to-face educational contacts on the Colorado River. During one multi-day operation in July, staff talked to close to 600 people regarding the importance of [cleaning, draining and drying](#) their watercraft and equipment.

In early September, CPW ANS staff partnered with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) to install an autonomous sampler on the Colorado River near the Grand Valley Water Users Canal diversion. The sampler was programmed to collect eDNA samples from the river once per day and store them for up to eight days. Technicians collect the filters that the samples were collected on and replace them with new filters once a week.

“While we have concluded our sampling efforts for the year, our work is not done,” said Robert Walters, Invasive Species Program Manager. “Staff will continue to look for opportunities to educate the public on simple steps to prevent the spread of zebra mussels or any invasive species in Colo-

rado waters.”

Invasive species sampling will resume in the spring of 2025 once water temperatures are suitable for veliger production. With the designation of “positive” bodies of water, the increased sampling in the Colorado River and Government Highline Canal will continue for the next five years. On Monday, Nov. 18, Colorado Parks and Wildlife completed draining Highline Lake at Highline Lake State Park as part of the [plan to eradicate zebra mussels](#) from the lake. Small areas of water are expected to remain but are expected to evaporate with sun exposure or freeze with the colder temperatures. The lake will stay empty throughout the winter to expose as many areas as possible on the lake bed and shoreline, eliminating any remaining veligers or adult zebra mussels. During routine inspections in early November, park staff discovered five adult mussels, all of which were dead.

Highline Lake State Park staff does anticipate Highline Lake refilling and being open to boating in the spring of 2025. In anticipation of the upcoming boating season and in order to take advantage of low lake levels, the original boat ramp located on the west side of the park received much-needed repairs, including a new concrete pad.

Recreational boaters and anglers can expect to see similar boating protocols in place for the upcoming 2025 boating season that were in place at [Highline Lake State Park](#) in 2023. These changes were put in place after the discovery of zebra mussels in September of 2022, prompting CPW to designate Highline Lake as Colorado’s first infested body of water.

*What to expect for the 2025 boating season:*

Boats launching at Highline Lake will continue to be subject to inspection and decontamination protocols before launching.

All boats must be clean, drained and dry prior to launching at Highline Lake or they will be decontaminated.

Upon exiting the lake, all boaters will have their boats inspected and decontaminated, and they will be issued a green



*Colorado Parks and Wildlife ANS Technician samples the Colorado River during increased sampling efforts on Sept. 4, 2024. CPW courtesy photo.*

seal and a blue receipt that indicates it was last used on a body of water with a known aquatic nuisance species. The zebra mussel infestation is being fought at the source, and boats will not be permitted to leave the lake until they have been decontaminated by our team.

CPW will begin restocking Highline Lake following the return of normal water levels. Initially, catchable trout will be harvestable for anglers.

Our longer-term plan is to develop a robust and diverse warm-water fishery that offers a variety of fish targeted by anglers and encourages ecological balance to enhance fish growth for memorable fishing and quality harvest.

After the [discovery of zebra mussels in the Government Highline Canal and Colorado River](#), CPW initiated the Invasive Species Rapid Response Plan and increased sampling efforts in the Colorado River from Glenwood Springs down to the Colorado-Utah border and within the Government Highline Canal.

CPW staff will continue working closely with our partners at the Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Grand Valley Water Users Association on sampling efforts as we continue to learn more about the extent of zebra mussels in these locations and educate the public on prevention.

Questions from the media for the Bureau of Reclamation can be directed to BOR Public Affairs Specialist Justyn Liff at 970-248-0625 or [jliff@usbr.gov](mailto:jliff@usbr.gov).



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# OPINION/EDITORIAL:COMMENTARY

## The Fire is Out at Montrose County! One can only hope it doesn't start back up!

By David White

Over the course of the last two editions of The Montrose Mirror, I've written and opined about the discussions that were taking place within the halls of the Montrose County Administrative offices regarding their salary and benefits package for County employees for the 2025 budget year.

With a planned across the board 5.1% increase in salaries, an 11+% increase in health care benefits and an increase in the County's employer maximum match of the employee's contribution to their retirement plan rising from 4% to 5% (the employee can now contribute to their retirement plan a range between 3% - 5% of their paycheck and receive a 100% match by the County, i.e. with your tax dollars), the County Manager and the County Commissioners were planning to add an additional \$1,000 per employee year end bonus to the package. That has apparently been cancelled.

According to sources, all of this talk of a year-end bonus had its genesis in the Sheriff's Office where retention of employees has been a problem. When brought to County Management, the idea was deemed unfair to the rest of the County employees and the proposal was expanded to include all County employees. Support was apparently garnered by the County Commissioners; however, the other elected officials were not enamored with the idea given all of the other increases in salaries and benefits.

For now, it looks like the previous reporting of this scheme which had set County management's collective hair on fire has been extinguished. Let's hope that it's out for good, otherwise, you'll be reading more about it later.

*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 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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# COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

## DEPT OF JUSTICE SUES TO STOP UNLAWFUL FENCING ON FOREST SERVICE LAND

*US Attorneys Office Colorado*

DENVER—The United States Attorney’s Office for the District of Colorado announced that it has filed a lawsuit alleging that Patrick Pipkin, Brian Hammon, and a group of unidentified persons unlawfully placed fencing, without permission, on federal public lands near Mancos, Colorado. The lawsuit, which was filed in the federal district court in the District of Colorado, seeks to clarify that such activity is not permitted and to prevent future unlawful fencing of the area.

In its complaint, the United States alleges that in October 2024, Mr. Pipkin, Mr. Hammon, and other unidentified individuals erected miles of fencing on public land in the San Juan National Forest that is owned by the United States and managed through the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service. The public uses this land for many purposes, including recreation and grazing. The defendants used fenceposts and barbed wire to erect the fencing, which obstructed free passage across a large area of this land. While much of the fencing materials were later removed by members of the public, some of those materials, including barbed wire, remain on the land. The lawsuit also alleges that since that time, Mr. Pipkin has regularly posted notices in the town of Mancos, signed by him as a representative of a group called the “Free Land Holder Committee,” which purport to exercise authority over the public’s use of this land and set deadlines for members of the public to act to protect their rights.

The complaint asserts claims under the Unlawful Inclosures Act of 1885 and for civil trespass. The lawsuit seeks a court order to prevent further obstruction or intimidation of lawful users of this popular area and further harm to the land and the public, and to ensure continuing free and lawful access to public land.

“Public lands belong to all of us, not to any individual person or group. It is unlawful to construct fences on Forest Service

lands without the Forest Service’s permission,” stated Matt Kirsch, Acting United States Attorney for the District of Colorado. “We have filed this lawsuit to make clear that these federal lands remain open to the public for all lawfully permitted uses, and to prevent anyone from obstructing that public access.”

The claims made in the complaint are allegations that, if the case were to proceed to trial, the United States would need to prove by a preponderance of the evidence.

This case is being handled by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Jennifer Lake and Bill Scarpato.

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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

## CORPORATE CONTROL OF THE MONTROSE ECONOMY GROWS LARGER BY THE MONTH *Conflicted City Leadership is Unable to Balance Growth & Local Small Business Viability*

By David White

Tomorrow night, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Montrose City Council will hold its first meeting of the month and, among other agenda items, will consider transferring to Dillon Companies, LLC (a subsidiary of The Kroger Company), doing business as City Market No. 40 (this is the South City Market near Wal-Mart) the liquor licenses that they have been in the process of purchasing from Cork's Fine Wines & Liquors and Drive-In Liquor and will complete should the Council vote to transfer the ownership of the licenses to them. Their request is encompassed in a 68 page application for a "Colorado Additional Liquor-Licensed Drugstore (LDDS) ([City Council Meeting](#) • [Montrose Public Meetings Portal](#) • [CivicClerk](#)).

The loss of these two businesses comes about, in part, as a result of Proposition 125 which was approved by Colorado voters in the November 2022 General Election which allowed for the expansion of alcohol licenses in the State of Colorado. This measure passed statewide by the narrow margin of 50.6% in favor with 49.4% opposed. In Montrose County, the measure failed by a margin of 44.4% in favor and 55.6% opposed. Prop 125 created a new fermented malt beverage and wine retailer license to allow grocery stores, convenience stores, and other businesses that are licensed to sell beer to also sell wine for off-site consumption. Thus marked the beginning of the end of many Mom-and-Pop liquor stores to be able to compete against the likes of The Kroger Company, Safeway, Walmart, COSTCO, Sam's Club, Target, etc.

With newer changes to liquor licensing in Colorado, grocery stores can acquire liquor licenses from already licensed retailers (at least two with each application) which, if a transfer is approved by the local licensing authority, would allow them to sell hard liquor as well as the already approved sale of beer and wine in a defined store. There is a limit though, by

County as to the number of grocery stores that can do this, and it appears that Dillon Companies/City Market will be it. With the buying power of The Kroger Company (which has a market cap of \$44.19 billion dollars – see [Kroger \(KR\) - Market capitalization](#)), the ability for small liquor stores to compete with City Market will only become more difficult as margins dwindle on the sale of every product they sell. As things stand right now, by 2030, this licensing process will have gone away and the competition from the big powerhouse corporations will have a crushing effect on these small businesses.

Should the City Council choose not to approve this transfer for reasons that are within their scope of authority, they'll be sued barring any zoning or land use issue that would not permit the sale of such beverages in their store (which probably isn't the case since Cork's was located on the same property as the South City Market store and sold hard liquor, wine and beer). As cited in their application, Kroger does point out that "applications in Greenwood Village were denied due to lack of needs and desires of the neighborhood; license was later granted due to a successful appeal to the Arapahoe County District Court." Such a denial is a bona fide reason for denial in Montrose as the City of Montrose defines "the neighborhood" as being the entire City. The case can be made that, notwithstanding a survey of 124 individuals conducted by City Market, that a "need" exists in the City, that the "need" is already satisfied with the retailers that exist today. That's not likely to happen though.

All of this brings me to the point of this article as reflected in the title and that is the City's leadership has been "courting" and "incentivizing" businesses and individuals with large sums of money (millions of them) to come into our community to "invest" in it while working against already established local businesses who have derived no such benefit from the

taxpayer funded largesse that our City Manager and Council continue to bestow upon certain entities.

In reviewing the liquor license application by Kroger as described above, one of the questions asked on it (pages 52-53) is: **"Did the applicant have at least twenty percent (20%) of gross licensee's gross annual income derived from the total sale of food during the prior twelve (12) month period?"** Of course, being a grocery store, they did. For the period August 1, 2023 through August 1, 2024, the South City Market generated \$53,361,757 in food sales. The sale of beer and wine added an additional \$2,206,285 to that total. All told, just this one store generated sales for all departments (fuel, prescriptions, food, over the counter drugs and general merchandise, beer and wine, etc.) of \$89,332,707!!

With a combined City, Public Safety and Rec District sales tax rate of 3.88%, the sales tax collected on food, liquor and other taxable merchandise (fuel, cigarettes and prescription drugs are not taxed by the City - [CHAPTER 5-15. - SALES AND USE TAX | Code of Ordinances | Montrose, CO | Municode Library](#)) sold at just this one store for this 12-month period was approximately \$2,384,016. Montrose County would have received roughly \$1,075,2656 in sales tax given their tax rate of 1.75%. No wonder neither of these local governments want to give us a tax holiday on the sales tax on food!

Since neither the City nor the County release gross sales numbers for any businesses they collect taxes on (sales, excise, use, etc.), this is a rare chance to look into what the grocery stores are generating in the way of sales. If Safeway, Walmart and the downtown City Market are generating (lets presuppose 60-70 percent of what the South City Market is generating in sales tax), the City and County are collecting millions of inflation driven dollars every year to fund their operations. And that includes the giveaways.



## CORPORATE CONTROL OF THE MONTROSE ECONOMY GROWS LARGER BY THE MONTH

### From previous pg

Having said all of this, it is unlikely that Kroger/Dillon Companies/City Market are going to be turned down for their liquor license.

As a matter of fact, not only will they get it, but they'll most likely get all of the building permits they need for the major expansion that is coming next year to this store where not only will every kind of liquor be sold, but also other merchandise most likely in keeping with the Fred Meyer chain of stores Kroger owns in the Pacific Northwest. And if history is any indicator, they'll be on the receiving end of some kind of "incentive" money with your tax dollars paying for parking lot improvements or landscaping or waiving various tap or permit fees. The City has a gift catalog that they bring out to folks like this, all funded by you.

When you look at where we've been over the last few years, corporations or developments such as Marriott Hotels (franchisor owner of the new Fairfield Inn); Dutch Brothers; Colorado Outdoors; Basecamp Apartments; The Rathbone Hotel (previously owned by Telluride developers and now a Hong Kong based owner group operating under a Colorado corporation); The Association, Storm King Distillery; Tesla; Discount Tire; Les Schwab Tire Stores & their Scottsdale, AZ based land developer, Bert Hayenga; Indianapolis, IN based Real America who recently opened the "affordable housing" apartment building complex known locally as The Residences at Dry Cedar Creek (they're planning another complex here just so you know which is why the bridge over the Loutzenhiser Canal is being re-

placed on Ogden Road just east of the Rec Center) and numerous other companies.

Of course, there's more to come. The City received a \$2,000,000 grant from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) under their "More Housing Now" initiative ([More Housing Now and Land Use Initiative | Department of Local Government](#)) to put towards a new high density affordable housing project to be constructed on 6600 Road north of Locust Road (6600 Road south of East Main Street is known as Hillcrest Avenue) on land owned by Hilltop Health Services Corporation of Grand Junction, CO ([Hilltop Health Services Corporation - GuideStar Profile](#)). Hilltop provides many services in the area as well as having two senior housing projects in Grand Junction. Their Montrose operations are located directly across from Chow Down Pet Supply on South 1<sup>st</sup> Street and S. Park Avenue.

According to their site development plan, Hilltop plans to construct 205 townhomes and 240 apartment units (a total of 445 dwelling units) on their 6600 Road property. The City will construct 1,900 feet of curb, gutter and sidewalks as well as extend a City water line 2,400 feet up 6600 Road to just north of the planned project. While grant money is all well and good, this grant, according to the DOLA website, requires a 25% match on all infrastructure to be paid for by the City, i.e., you and me.

I'm going to stop here for now. There's so much more coming that one can hardly keep up with it as these aforementioned taxpayer subsidized projects are mostly in the private sector, yet the City is still working on their \$3,000,000 City Hall fa-

cade renovation and the debt financing for their soon to be constructed \$58 - \$60,000,000 public works complex that will see millions in sunk costs being expensed off for the construction of S. Rio Grande Avenue from East Oak Grove Rd. by the old Russell Stover candy factory with a new roundabout south to the new medical building next to Hobby Lobby.

While the naysayers out there don't appreciate this dissemination of public information (it's too negative so I'm told), the City isn't putting together a monthly list of what they're up to with regard to how tax dollars are being spent on these projects and neither is the County. It takes time to weed through it all.

The public deserves to know what's happening in their community. If you don't like how things are being run or the growth that is turning our main thoroughfares into parking lots at certain times of the day, then you should say something. If you do, that's okay. Growth keeps us viable as a community, but only as long as it's organically driven. Greasing the skids artificially can't go on forever. Call your City Councilmembers and voice your support or opposition to what they're doing. Right now, they're listening only to vested parties and others that dwell inside the echo chamber that is Montrose government leadership.

*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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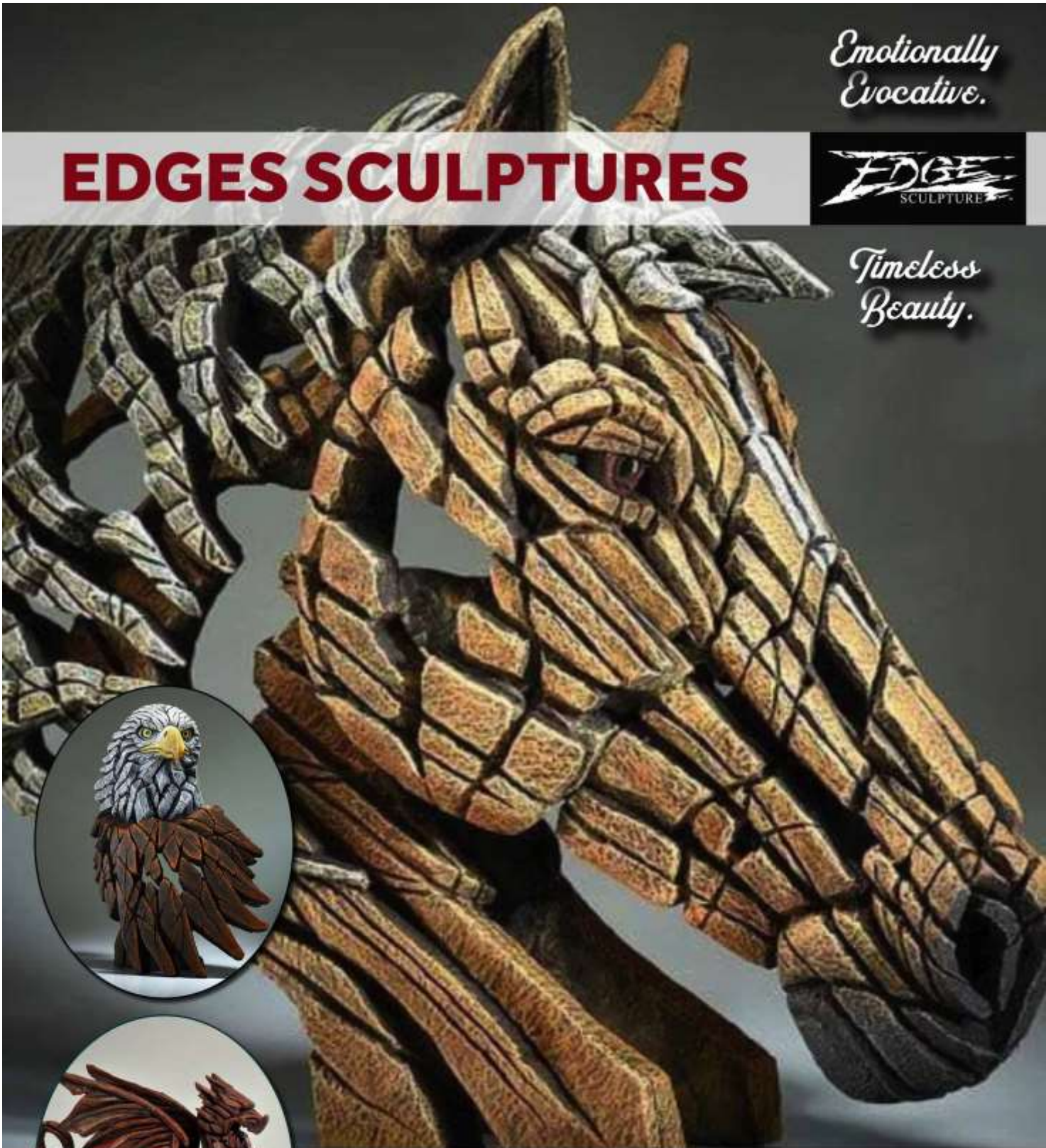


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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## MONTROSE POLICE RELEASE OFFICIAL STATEMENT ON ACTIVE INVESTIGATION: *Montrose High School – Hate Speech Investigation*

Montrose Police Department

MONTROSE-On November 26, 2024, the Montrose Police Department received two separate reports of alleged hate speech occurring at Montrose High School on Saturday, Nov. 23, 2024, during a high school playoff football game.

The Montrose Police Department takes any and all allegations of hate speech seriously. We are committed to investigating this incident fully, in cooperation with the Montrose County School District, Montrose High School officials, Mesa Ridge High School officials, and affected students.

The Montrose Police Department encourages anyone with information related to, or who may have witnessed this incident, to contact the Montrose Police Department at 970-252-5200 or WestCo Dispatch at 970-249-9110.

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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## RE-1J SCHOOL DISTRICT RELEASES STATEMENT ON ALLEGATIONS OF HATE SPEECH

26 November 2024

Official Statement from Montrose County School District

Montrose County School District (MCSD) is deeply troubled by the allegations regarding inappropriate and hateful language found written in dust in the visitor’s locker room at Montrose High School prior to last weekend’s football playoff game. We take any claim of racism or hate speech seriously, and we are committed to fostering an environment of respect, character, and sportsmanship at all our schools and events.

In response to these allegations, MCSD conducted a comprehensive investigation, including a review of 24 hours of surveillance footage covering the entrances to the locker room in question. The footage confirms that the only individuals who entered or exited the locker room during that time were Mesa Ridge players and staff and the Montrose High School Athletic Director. No Montrose High School football players were in the area.

Despite the seriousness of these claims, we find the timing and handling of the matter concerning. Mesa Ridge had multiple opportunities to report this issue to Montrose staff, coaches, or the athletic director before, during, and directly after the game. However, no such report was made. Mesa Ridge notified Montrose High School staff of the discovery of the pictures hours after they had left Montrose; Colorado Springs reporters then inquired about the issue later that evening. This approach raises questions about the intent and motivations behind the allegations.

The Montrose High School football team has consistently exemplified integrity, respect, and sportsmanship. Beyond their success on the field, these young men are active contributors to the Montrose community, volunteering their time and demonstrating the values we uphold as a district. We are incredibly proud of their accomplishments this season and the way they represent our school and town.

We are also disappointed that unrelated and misleading references to past events in our community were included in media coverage of this incident. These references are entirely disconnected from our students, staff, and school culture and unfairly tarnish the reputation of Montrose High School and our community.

While we will not speculate about the source of the hateful language found in the locker room, the surveillance evidence and circumstances surrounding this claim raise significant doubts that this was in any way targeted against Mesa Ridge. We have escalated our school district security team investigation to now include the Montrose Police Department and will work with law enforcement to find who is responsible for writing the hate speech in the lockers.

The contentious history between these two teams, including previous incidents where the opposing team demonstrated poor sportsmanship, further underscores the need for a balanced and thorough understanding of the situation. Montrose High School has consistently upheld a standard of respect and integrity, and this incident should not overshadow the values our team embodies.

As we prepare for Saturday’s semi-final football game, we stand united in support of our students, coaches, and community. Montrose High School is proud to represent a tradition of excellence, integrity, and respect. We wish our team continued success as they compete for a spot in the state championship and encourage our community to remain steadfast in supporting these outstanding young people.

Let this be a moment to reaffirm our commitment to fostering environments where respect, character, and sportsmanship prevail. Together, we will continue to build stronger communities rooted in understanding and trust.

*Go Red Hawks!*

*Dr. Carrie Stephenson*

*Superintendent*

*Montrose County School District*

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Delta: Pour Ernie's  
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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

## HENRIE'S DEMOCRATIC RHETORIC CONTINUES

*Editor:*

In response to Henrie's latest editorial in the November 24, 2024 issue of The Montrose Mirror, again, Trump won. What is he accomplishing? Focusing as far back as Obama is ridiculous! And, as always, his comments are often inaccurate or misleading. So here is my rebuttal to some of his points.

### **Trump Had a Landslide Election Victory**

**FALSE:** Hate to pop his bubble. Trump received 76.9 million votes (49.9%) and Harris received 74.4 million votes (48.3%) per the US Federal Electoral Commission, NEP/Edison via Reuters report – hardly a landslide.

"By historical standards Trump's victory is unimpressive . . . His margin of victory in the popular vote is the fifth smallest of the thirty-two presidential races held since 1900." Transition 2025: Did Trump Win an "Unprecedented and Powerful Mandate"?, James M. Lindsay, Council of Foreign Relations, November 22, 2024, <https://www.cfr.org/blog/transition-2025-did-trump-win-unprecedented-and-powerful-mandate>.

What about swing states which were key to the election?

Arizona: Trump 1,770,242 (52.2%) and Harris 1,582,860 (46.7%)

Georgia: Trump 2,663,117 (50.7%) and Harris 2,548,018 (48.5%)

Michigan: Trump 2,816,636 (49.7%) and Harris 2,736,533 (48.3%)

Nevada: Trump 752,205 (50.6%) and Harris 705,197 (47.5%)

North Carolina: Trump 2,898,429 (50.9%) and Harris 2,715,382 (47.6%)

Pennsylvania: Trump 3,543,532 (50.4%) and Harris 3,423,100 (48.7%)

Wisconsin: Trump 1,697,626 (49.6%) and Harris 1,668,229 (48.8%)

### **Uneducated or Non-College Educated**

Henrie points out Hostin's quote on The View: ". . . what we do not have is white women, who voted about 52 percent for Donald Trump — uneducated white women is my understanding." She was reporting on exit polls. Hostin later correct-

ed herself to say the term she should have used was "non college-educated white women."

### **Women's Studies and Music Appreciation – Interesting Comment**

Henrie notes: "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."

**FACT:** As of 2024, a majority of the college-educated workforce in the US are women with a larger portion of women than men holding a bachelor's degree. Per a general search, the most popular majors for women in 2024 were: (1) Health professions; (2) Business; (3) Education; (4) Social sciences and history; (5) Biological and biomedical sciences; (6) Liberal arts and sciences; and (7) Psychology.

Didn't see anywhere "women's studies or music appreciation." **HENRIE, are you from the dark ages?**

### **Where Did the Garbage Comment Start?**

Henrie notes that "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."

**FIRST:** Biden said that he used that term to describe the comedian, Tony Hinchcliffe, who in a joke at a Trump rally at Madison Square Garden called Puerto Rico a "floating island of garbage."

**SECOND:** Guess it's okay at a Trump-authorized rally to allow a guy to call American citizens in Puerto Rico garbage. Hinchcliffe's words need no interpretation. It is perfectly clear what he meant and was never rebuked by Trump.

And what does "moral authority whatsoever" have to do with any of this?

### **National Revulsion to Untruth**

Henrie states: "The election displayed our national revulsion to untruth --- we don't like being lied to." REALLY????

-The Washington Post's fact-checkers doc-

umented 30,573 false or misleading claims during Trump's presidential term.

-The Toronto Star tallied 527 false claims from January 2017 to June 2019.

-Historian Douglas Brinkley states that U.S. presidents have occasionally "lied or misled the country," but none were a "serial liar" like Trump. Wikipedia, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/False\\_or\\_misleading\\_statements\\_by\\_Donald\\_Trump](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/False_or_misleading_statements_by_Donald_Trump).

### **Obama and Racial Animosity**

Henrie states: "Obama chose to sow racial animosity and pit Americans against one another . . . They told us that America is 'systemically racist' and that our country must be 'fundamentally transformed.'"

**FIRST:** Really. Obama was President from January 2009 to January 2017. Are we going back that far. Why not go back to Clinton or maybe Kennedy.

**SECOND:** On June 17, 2015, Dylann Roof entered the Mother Emanuel AME Church, a Black South Carolina church, and killed nine people. The massacre was racially motivated. When he entered the church, he said, "You people are taking over." Obama gave the eulogy for Clementa Pinckney, a victim of the shooting, who was a state senator and pastor of the church. During that eulogy, Obama noted for the first time in his presidency: "This is racist. This is wrong. This is against American values. This will undercut us together. And together, we must remake this nation." Jason M. Breslow, Race in the Obama Era, PBS, January 17, 2017, <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/interactive/divided-states-of-america-the-frontline-interviews/moments/race-in-the-obama-era.html>.

During Obama's presidency, civil rights activists turned the hashtag #BlackLivesMatter into a call for social justice movement. Obama had nothing to do with the establishment of that movement.

**THIRD:** Shortly after Obama's election, the Tea Party held its first rally on February 27, 2009 to voice opposition to Bush and Obama spending sprees. Southern

# HENRIE'S DEMOCRATIC RHETORIC CONTINUES From previous pg

Southern Tea Party rallies included images of protest signs such as "A Village in Kenya Is Missing Its Idiot: Deport Obama!"

**FOURTH:** Even today in our own community, we are dealing with issues surrounding this topic.

The Montrose High School football team (allegedly) left a litany of homophobic and racist slurs lockers for Mesa Ridge football players to find ahead of Saturday's playoff game including the N-word, a swastika, and a slur for members of the LGBT+ community.

### ICE non-detained Docket Data is Over 40 Years Old

Henrie noted that "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."

**FALSE:** "The data goes back decades; it includes individuals who entered the country over the past 40 years or more, the vast majority of whose custody determination was made long before this Administration," DHS spokesperson Luis Miranda said in a statement to CBS News. While not in ICE's custody, many are incarcerated in federal, state or local custody serving their sentences or awaiting trial. But since ICE is tracking them, they are part of its non-detained docket. Not every immigrant with a criminal record on ICE's non-detained docket arrived in the US under Biden's tenure but, in fact, offi-

cial figures indicate many arrived here years or even decades before. Trump and allies mischaracterize data on immigrants with criminal convictions. Here's context on what the numbers actually show., Camillo Montoya-Galvez, September 30, 2024, CBS News, <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/immigrants-criminal-convictions-trump-ice/>.

### Force Federal Workforce to Show Up For Work – NOPE Stop Working Remotely

"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.' . . . Ramaswamy has come up with the totally radical idea that we should actually make the bloated federal work force show up for work."

**FIRST:** Musk and Ramaswamy forcing federal employees working remotely to return to office is a strategy that presumes they will opt to quit rather than a sensible plan to improve productivity.

**SECOND:** Returning to work has a cost to employees and to government – increased office expenses for their employees, increased commuting costs, increased pollution from use of office space and commuting, and increased demand for child care and reduction in employee wages due to added expenses.

**THIRD:** Not all jobs require in-person

presence.

The Office of Management and Budget's August 2024 report noted that only a small share of employees work fully remotely. OMB directed agencies in 2023 to substantially increase **meaningful** in-person work at Federal offices. It also noted that the option to work remotely is an important tool in talent recruitment and retention.

I am sure Henrie never worked remotely so certainly has no expertise in this area. I worked for four years virtually for a company in the Denver area. I only needed a computer, an Internet connection, and a phone to do my job effectively. I interacted with seven organizations located in five States – one being Alaska. I only met with my customers face-to-face at an annual workshop. I generally worked far more hours than I would have in an office. After all, it was easy to get to my office if I thought of something that needed action. I was measured by results not by someone being able to stand over me to insure I did my job. That is today's model for those jobs where it makes sense to work remotely not how much "seat time" you have in the office.

It will be a welcome change, as stated before, to stop the mud slinging and focus on Trump's achievements that meet the needs of those who voted for him.

*Sue Schmidt, Montrose*



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# COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

## PATRICIA (PAT) ANNA HUFF

### *May 17, 1947 - November 10, 2024*

PATRICIA A. (PAT) HUFF, age 77, of Montrose, Colorado, passed away peacefully on November 10, 2024, of complications prior to neurological surgery. Pat was born in Gunnison, Colorado, May 17, 1947, to George and Peg Sievers. Pat is survived by Kenn Huff, her husband of 56 years, and brothers George (Tina) and Dick (Dianne) Sievers, niece Betsy Fisher and family, and nephew Brock Sievers and family. She was preceded in death by son Matthew and her parents.

Pat grew up in Montrose, Colorado, and graduated from Montrose High School where she was very active in music and marching band. Pat graduated from Western State College in 1969 with a degree in Elementary Education Music. She and Kenn met at Western State College and were married September 1, 1968. They

moved to Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, where her elementary teaching career began and later returned to Englewood, Colorado, in 1975. In 1985, Pat and Kenn adopted 3-year-old Matthew.

Pat thoroughly enjoyed her work at Flesher-Hinton Music in Denver, retiring in 2009. She also performed with Rocky Mountain Brassworks.

One of the joys of Pat's life was being a member of P.E.O. She held every office in her local P.E.O. Chapters in Englewood and Montrose and served on various Colorado State P.E.O. Committees. In 2007, she was elected to the Colorado State P.E.O. Executive Board, serving as Colorado State President from 2013-2014.

In 2012, Pat and Kenn relocated to Montrose to retire, where she was active in San Juan and Friendship Quilt Guilds and at All

Saints Anglican church. She enjoyed monthly lunches with fellow 1965 Montrose alums. Family ties held a special place in Pat's heart and life, and she will be greatly missed.

Donations in honor of Pat may be made to Hope West Hospice at [hopewestco.org](http://hopewestco.org) or by making out a check to P.E.O. Chapter FJ, 3612 Woodward Avenue, Montrose, CO 80401. Funds sent to Chapter FJ will be directed to the P.E.O. Cotter College, a place of great importance to Pat.



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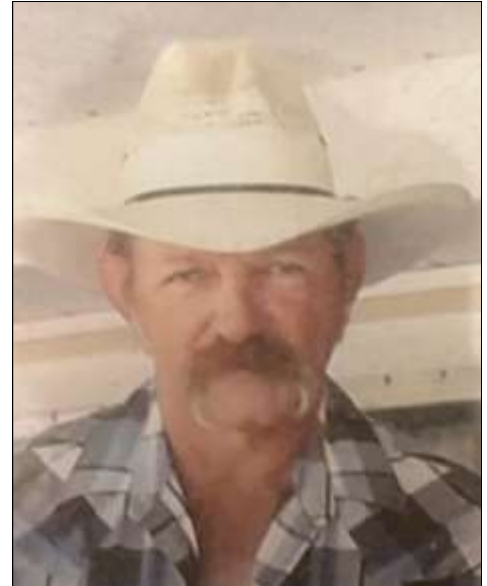
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# COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

## RAYMOND LOREN MOON

***July 16, 1953 — October 31, 2024***

RAYMOND L. MOON was born July 16, 1953 to Harry L. and Helen J. Moon in Montrose, CO. He graduated from Montrose High School in 1971. He started a career in law enforcement working as a deputy sheriff for Montrose County and then in Ouray County. He left law enforcement and followed in his dad's footsteps and drove big rigs cross country until his health would bring him back home to help care for his mom. Raymond loved his horses and leather working. Ray never met a stranger. He loved meeting people and could carry on a conversation with anyone. He made many friends. In most recent months he found a great love with Lynne. They were enjoying traveling and were making plans to go camping and spend the holidays together. Raymond was at the family cabin - hunting camp at the time of his passing. He had told everyone how excited he was to be able to go hunting. It truly was one of his favorite spots and hobbies. Raymond loved his family deeply. He was a very proud Dad and Papa. Raymond is survived by his sisters:



Kathy (David) Roberts,

Bev (Paul) Castle,

Sons:

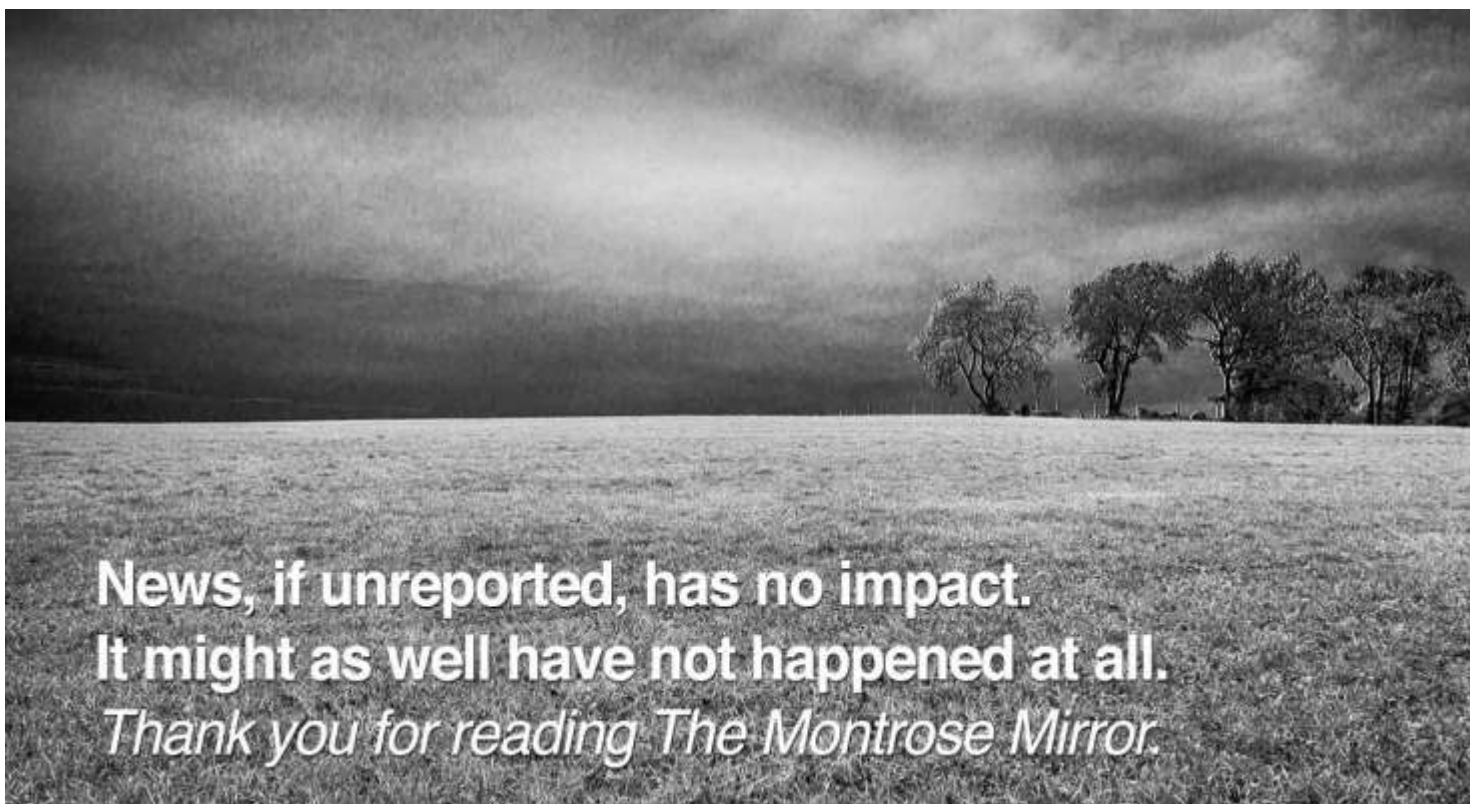
Dustin (Jamie) – Emerson, Easton

Robert (Amber) – Mason, Aleczandyr, Wren, Madyson, Aubrey

Jamie (Barb) – Zach

Ernie (Beth) – Ashton, Iesha, Isaac

As well as many nephews, nieces, Aunts, Uncles and cousins. He will be greatly missed. There is solitude in knowing he had found GOD.



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

# COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

## ERNEST FREDRICK KUHLMAN

***September 13, 1941 - October 14, 2024***



ERNEST FREDERICK KUHLMAN, 83, Silverton Colorado, passed away peacefully on October 14th, 2024, surrounded by his family.

Ernie, as he was affectionately known, was born on September 13th, 1941 in Cripple Creek Colorado to Charles and Gladys Kuhlman.

Ernie is survived by his wife Judy, daughter Shelly, (husband Bobby) Rummell of Ouray Colorado, son Kevin, (wife Christina) Kuhman of Temecula California, and daughter Krystal Kuhlman of Montrose Colorado. Ernie was preceded in death by his daughter Kimberly Kuhlman. He also is survived by seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Brother Carl (Janet) Kuhlman of Grand

Junction, CO was by his side the day he passed. He was preceded in death by brothers John Kuhlman and Paul Kuhlman. Ernie will be remembered for his many accomplishments. Ernie attended and completed barber school in the Denver area in the early 1960's. He then returned to Cripple Creek to begin a career in barbering. During 1964-1965 Ernie made plans to head west to California to visit his brothers Paul and John. En route, he made a stop in Silverton to visit high school friend Billy Anderson, who was at the time working alongside Andy Archuleta hauling ore for CB Johnson trucking company. Billy convinced Ernie to stay in Silverton and learned to drive semi-truck and work alongside Billy, Andy, and Danny Glenn. This decision for Ernie would lay the roots for what would be his next 60 years of life as a Silvertonian.

Ernie continued to work for CB Johnson and took the lead as shop manager until the mid-1980s. During this time, he began what would be a long and respected career in politics. In the early days, Ernie served on the City of Silverton Town board, was a member of the TV association, and then eventually was elected to a seat as San Juan County Commissioner. This role was the one that Ernie took the most pride in and in doing so, helped shape Silverton and San Juan County into what it is today. Ernie would serve the citizens of San Juan County for a total of 33-plus years as a commissioner. He would also serve a term as Mayor of Sil-

verton.

After his time at CB Johnson, he would work for the Colorado Dept of Transportation maintaining roads and plowing snow. Ernie truly loved his time with CDOT and took pride in keeping Red Mountain, Mo-las, and Coal Bank passes open and safe for citizens and visitors alike. He would spend a total of 20 years with CDOT.

Ernie also worked numerous years for P&G Mining in Silverton. He would manage the mill in Howardsville and oversee the reclamation of the North Star and Pittsburgh mines. This job also took him along with Silverton native Zeke Zanoni to the Superstition mountains in Arizona in search of the Lost Dutchman mine- one that is still unfound today.

After the closing of the Sunnyside mine in 1990, many people looked for jobs in and around Silverton. Ernie hired on with the Old Hundred Mine Tour, and during that time took a newly created mine tour to new heights as he made the tour what it is today. People from all over the US and other visitors sought out the Old Hundred Mine tour, and more specifically Ernie as their tour guide. He would eventually work a total of 25 years for the Old Hundred. Ernie truly loved Silverton. He loved the mountains, he embraced the history, the people, and he loved just being there. He established himself as a Silverton icon, one who cared for those in and around the town and was a person who would place the town, and what was best for it, above himself. He will be missed by many.



ISSUE 497 Dec. 2, 2024

# ART & SOL

## STORIES & POEMS TELLURIDE DEBUTS FOUR SUNDAYS IN DECEMBER



Art Goodtimes. Courtesy photo.

### Special to Art & Sol

TELLURIDE- Live Talking Gourds sessions are happening again in Telluride for four Sundays in December.

Teaming up with Telluride Arts and thanks in large part to a CCAASE grant, the Telluride Institute’s Talking Gourds Poetry Program is once again holding live performance events in town.

*Stories & Poems Telluride* debuted Sunday Dec. 1 with Art Goodtimes and Karen Bellerose as featured performers.

“It’s exciting to bring a live program back to Telluride after the pandemic interrupted our long-standing in-person poetry series,” explained Goodtimes, Talking Gourds director. “We’ve changed the name to reflect our successful marriage of storytelling and poetry that’s been happening in Norwood and Naturita for the last two years. While we remain com-

mitted to providing a platform for poetry, we also recognize that while poets may be few in small communities, everyone tells stories.”

“We encourage people of all ages to bring stories of any nature or finished poems to share,” said Goodtimes. *Stories & Poems Telluride* will continue on Dec. 8 with Elle Metrick and Bob Mckeever, Dec. 22 with Ruth Duffy and Mike Olschewsky and Dec. 29 with Peter Waldor and Paulo Munguia – all on Sundays starting at 4 pm.

The performance half will run from 4-5 pm at the Telluride Arts HQ, and the Gourds Circle half will run from 5:30-7 pm at Mangala Yoga.

For more information, text 970-729-0220 or email Goodtimes at

<[art@tellurideinstitute.org](mailto:art@tellurideinstitute.org)>. To visit the website: <[www.tellurideinstitute.org/](http://www.tellurideinstitute.org/)>





# Wrap it up!

Thr. Dec. 12, 5:30-7:30 pm

Mosaic, 21 N. Cascade Ave., Montrose



With Kate Burke

**Decorate**  
holiday gift boxes.  
Everything included.  
Papers, ribbon,  
add-ons, & bling.

Plus holiday cookies  
and adult beverage  
or soft drink.

**Welcome Back!**  
**Discount**  
if you've been to my  
classes before.

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<https://kathrynrburke.com/product/112124>



# COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS



## JAMES MASON NAMED TO DEAN'S LIST AT PALMER COLLEGE OF CHIROPRACTIC

*Special to Art & Sol*

DAVENPORT, IA-- James Mason of Montrose, CO, has been named to the 2024 summer trimester Dean's List at Palmer College of Chiropractic's Main Campus in Davenport, Iowa.

[Palmer College of Chiropractic](http://Palmer College of Chiropractic), the first and largest college in the chiropractic profession, has campuses in Davenport, Iowa; San Jose, California; and Port Orange, Florida.

Above, Partners Mentoring held its annual Chili Bowl Fundraiser at the Temple on Saturday, Nov. 30. Photo by B. Switzer.

**The Mirror:**  
 For coverage that never leaves our readers out in cold ...

[www.montrosemirror.com](http://www.montrosemirror.com)

*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.

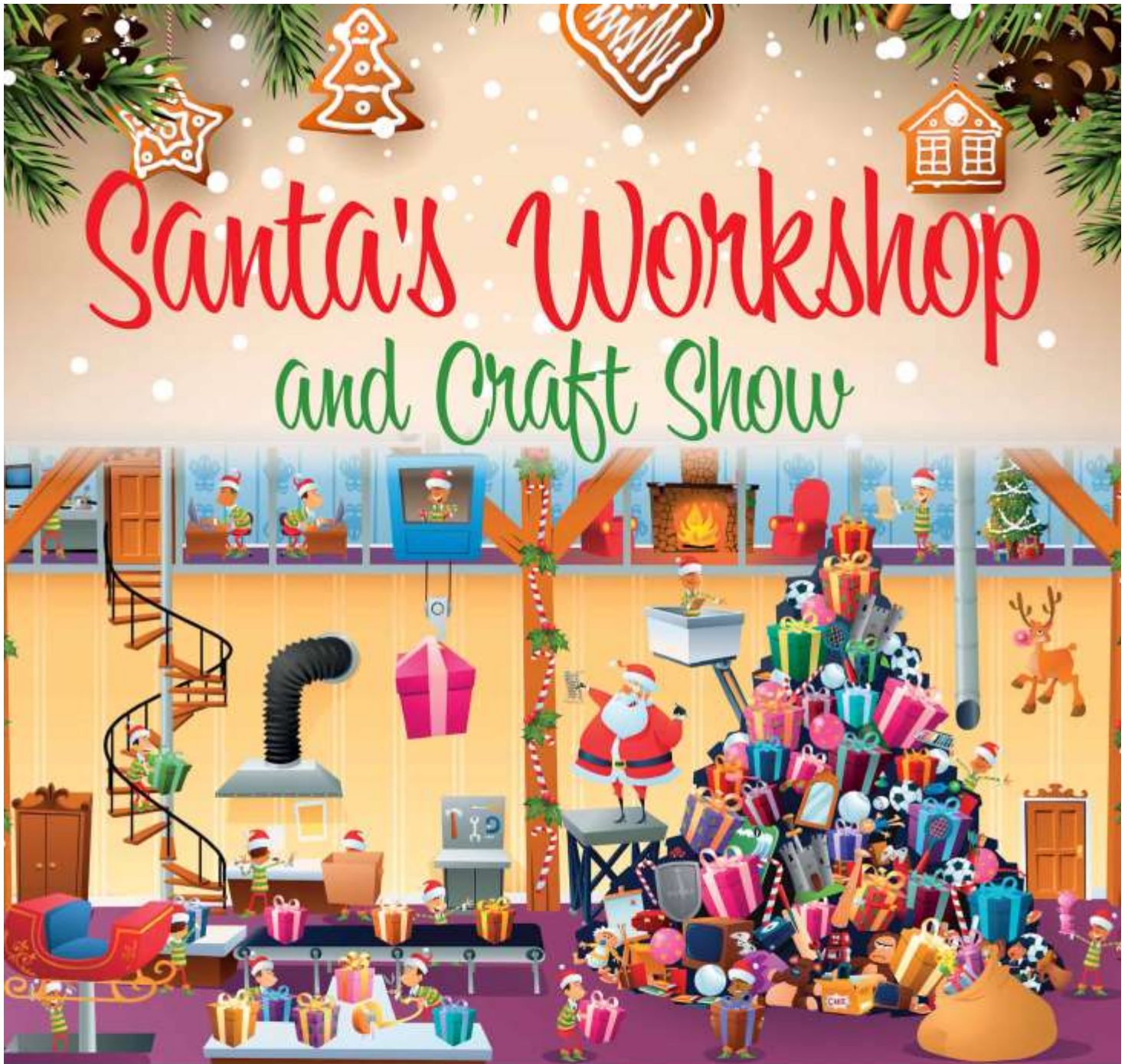
The Shelly Boarding House, located in rural southeastern Colorado, was home to male pensioners and Social Security recipients who themselves were loners and had nowhere else to go.

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](http://Amazon.com) and [wingedpublications.com](http://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](mailto: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/> Rec-  
tor: The Rev Preston Gordon, [pgor-  
don@allsaintsmontrose.org](mailto:pgor-<br/>don@allsaintsmontrose.org)

**Worship Service Times:** Sundays 9AM,

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

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

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

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

## BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH

Independent Baptist

112Main St.

P.O. Box 262

Olathe, Co 81425

Tuesday-Friday Phone: 970-808-1021

[www.biblebaptistchurcholathe.com](http://www.biblebaptistchurcholathe.com)

Pastor Gabe Skillo

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Sunday 6 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Study/Prayer 7 p.m.

## CELEBRATION CHURCH

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

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

**Office Hours:** By appointment

**Phone:** (970) 497-4925

**Email:** [celebrationmontrose@gmail.com](mailto:celebrationmontrose@gmail.com)

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

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

**Worship Service Times:** 9am and 10:45am

**Senior Pastor:**

Pastor Brandon Mathis

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

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

**Demographics:** Multi-generational

**Celebration Kids:** (age birth to 5<sup>th</sup> grade)  
programs offered both services.

**Student** (middle & high school) at 9am.

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

## CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

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

**Contact:** 970-633-0226

**Website:** [www.montroselutheran.org](http://www.montroselutheran.org)

**Email:** [montroselutheran@gmail.com](mailto:montroselutheran@gmail.com)

**Pastor:** Tim Onnen

**Worship:** Sundays at 9 AM

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

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

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

## COMMUNITY SPIRIT CHURCH

**United Church of Christ (UCC)**

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

**Office hours:** Call or text for appointment

**Phone:** 970-765-7070

**Email:** [spirit@communityspiritucc.org](mailto:spirit@communityspiritucc.org)

**Website:** [communityspiritucc.org](http://communityspiritucc.org)

**Current Pastor:** Rev. Wendy Kidd

**Worship service:** Sundays at 11am

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

where everyone can live freely and au-  
thentically.

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

## COVENANT HEBRAIC FELLOWSHIP

**Denomination affiliation.** No affiliation

**Address Office hours** N/A

**Contact:** 720-951-9941,  
[office@ccfmontrose.net](mailto:office@ccfmontrose.net),

[www.ccfmontrose.net](http://www.ccfmontrose.net)

**Name of current Senior Pastor.** Led by  
elders

**Worship service times.** Noon on Satur-  
days. Children's Church will be offered as  
needed.

Covenant is a Hebraic roots community

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

# MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY *From previous pg*

## FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

**Denomination:** Church of the Nazarene

**Address:** 705 South 12th Street

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

**Contact Information:** Office Phone 970 249 -9213, [mncfirst@gmail.com](mailto:mncfirst@gmail.com), [www.montrosenazarenechurch.org](http://www.montrosenazarenechurch.org)

**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](mailto:info@fpcmontrose.com), [www.fpcmontrose.com](http://www.fpcmontrose.com)

**Pastor:** Rev. Dr. Jesse G. Mabanglo

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

*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](mailto:office@montroseucc.org)

Website: [montroseucc.org](http://montroseucc.org)

**Current Pastor:** Rev. Wendy Kidd

**Worship service times:** Sunday, 10 a.m.

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

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](mailto:office@montroseumc.org), [mont-](http://montroseumc.org)

[roseumc.org](http://roseumc.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 den-tures.*

*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](http://www.RosemontBaptist.org)

email: [office@rosemontbaptist.org](mailto:office@rosemontbaptist.org)

**Senior Pastor:** Rolland Kenneson

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

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](mailto:arlyn@spiritaware.org), [www.spiritaware.org](http://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., 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month; Chai Chats, a Wednesday morning midweek informal spiritual gathering at 10:30 a.m. at Pun Hill Himalayan Restaurant, Mont-

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:** [ststephensmont-](mailto:ststephensmontrose@yahoo.com)

[rose@yahoo.com](mailto:rose@yahoo.com)  
[www.ststephensmontrose.com](http://www.ststephensmontrose.com)  
**Rev. Dec.** Garrett Agajanian  
St. Stephen's is a community of caring Christians rooted in the godly traditions of the past, focused on the challenges of the

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

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

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

Church Directory  
*Mirror Editorial Staff*  
MONTROSE-As a way of serving the faith community in Montrose, the Montrose Mirror is in the process of establishing a Church Directory. If your congregation or fellowship would like to be included in the directory, please supply the following information to the Montrose Mirror:  
Name of church  
Denomination affiliation  
Address Office hours  
Contact information (phone number, email address, website)  
Name of current Senior Pastor  
Worship service times  
Please give a one sentence description of your church and its mission in the Montrose community.  
Brief description of your current church demographics (predominately family, youth, seniors, singles).  
Do your church services include Sunday School and childcare?

# HIDDEN LAKE COMMUNITY 2024



December 2024 ONLY!!

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Only \$1,000 down will hold a home for you!

(restrictions apply)

Our community offers  
 breathtaking views, a fully  
 stocked fishing lake, play-  
 ground, zip line, pickle ball  
 court, dog parks, RV storage  
 and onsite management.



## Hidden Lake

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(970) 615-9412 OPEN, MON-SAT

[www.TheHiddenLakeCommunity.com](http://www.TheHiddenLakeCommunity.com)



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December 2024 ONLY!!

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Only \$1,000 down will hold a home for you!

(restrictions apply)

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



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

**MONTROSE 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](mailto: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](http://www.montrosehistory.org)

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

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

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

**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**

**Dec. 4**-The Montrose County Historical Society will be hosting a presentation by Bob Cox, a local historian on *The Businesses of the Past in and around Montrose*. What a wonderful way to go down memory lane in 1955 Montrose. On Dec. 4 starting at 7 pm, This presentation is at the Montrose County Fairground Event Center. Open to the public and is free to attend.

**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. 6**-The Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce hosts Noel Night on Friday, Dec. 6, from 5-9 p.m. Visit our events landing page at [www.ridgwaycolorado.com/events](http://www.ridgwaycolorado.com/events) or follow us on social media @ridgwaycolorado on Instagram or Ridgway Colorado on Facebook.

**Dec. 7**-Enjoy the work of Colorado artisans and be merry at the Ute Indian Museum's Holiday Arts and Crafts Festival! This seasonal event will take place at the [Ute Indian Museum](http://Ute Indian Museum) Dec. 7, from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. The Holiday Arts and Crafts Festival is the perfect opportunity to explore various arts and crafts vendors while warming up with fresh fry bread, bidding at the silent auction, and supporting Native American artists! No tickets or reservations are needed for this holiday event. So come on down to the Ute Indian Museum and join us in celebrating the holiday season at this free event.

**Dec. 7**-Montrose Library Book Club, 9AM Montrose Library Meeting Room. Book: Ragged Company by Richard Wagamese.

**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](http://deltacountymuseum.org) or phone 970 874-8721.

# MIRROR IMAGES: WHERE TURKEYS RUN FREE



B. Switzer snapped this image of wild turkeys on Spring Creek, boldly running free on Thanksgiving Day.



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